

SIMPLE STEPS TOWARD DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENTS (DMM)

Lesson 1: DMM INTRO

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: (help people discover these points – if the principles are not emerging in group discussion, ask questions to bring these out – do not “lecture” to them)

- Drawing people to Jesus is the Father’s responsibility (phew!)
- The best way to help lost people to listen to and learn from the Father is to expose them to His Word.
- 2 Timothy 2:2 gives clues about how disciple making can lead to movements.

- 1) Welcome:** “We are here to talk about Disciple-Making Movements as a biblically-based strategy to reach people, families, ethnic groups & societies.”

Write the sentence above on a board or “flipchart” paper (or on a smaller sheet of paper with a small group if a board is not available) and keep it up there for the remainder of the training. Use it as a “compass” throughout and refer to it especially when people get off track or begin to think we are saying that all ministry must be done in this way.

Write **Disciple Making Movements**. Tell the group that our lessons will address all three aspects of this. Some of our lessons will be “**Disciple**” lessons that focus on how God has to shape us to be stronger disciples of Jesus. If God will reproduce us then He wants us to be the type of disciples worth reproducing. In “**Making**” lessons we will look at scripture related to how we can make disciples of lost people. “**Movements**” lessons will focus on how we help these new disciples multiply more disciples in ways that can continue to create many, many disciples and become a movement.

In these lessons we will be looking at Word, Works, and Wineskins. The foundation of this training is the *Word* of God. We will be examining scripture to see principles of DMM. First and foremost you have to discern if DMM comes from biblical principles. Second, we will also learn from the *works* of God – modern day “Acts of the Holy Spirit” around the world. DMM is just a modern way of saying we want to see the book of Acts happen among those we serve. Third, we will learn from some of the *wineskins* – various methods that God is using in different contexts around the world.

- 2) Pray** for the person on your right that God will use this time of training in their lives for His glory and His purposes. This is something we believe God is doing around the world in our day (Is. 43:18-19). But when God works, there’s always opposition—from within and from without. So let’s pray against it and for each other.
- 3) Introductions:** Please tell us briefly who you are and why you have joined us.
- 4) Vision-Casting:** Use or adapt this material as needed. If you can tell some real-life examples that is always helpful.

A Disciple Making Movement is when God uses ordinary people to start a Kingdom movement among a people/city/region. Forgetting tradition, people use simple Biblical

strategies so that every disciple is making disciples, groups of disciples (churches) birth new groups of disciples, and leaders reproduce leaders. It reaches the “movement” stage when this is consistently happening 4 generations and beyond. DMM is a new term to describe CPMs (Church Planting Movements). We are asking God for a movement of reproducing disciples, reproducing churches, reproducing leaders among those we serve.

The world will never be reached by addition, it has to be multiplication. We can see this in 2 Timothy 2:2 and what we see in the pages of the book of Acts.

Exercise: 2 Timothy 2:2

- Pick someone who can quote 2 Timothy 2:2 (or can learn it quickly!) This person will play “Paul”.
- Tell them to follow the verse’s pattern and find a “Timothy” and teach the verse to them. If they pick just one person as “Timothy” ask them if that is what the verses say. Keep asking until they or group realize Paul taught Timothy “in the presence of many witnesses” - Paul ministered in groups to groups who reached more groups.
- Timothy and his group should then find a group of faithful people and teach it to them.
- The faithful ones should find other people and teach it to them.

Only God can start a movement. This training is focused on learning Biblically how we can be more ready for Him to move by putting aside our preconceptions and our culture and returning to how they did it in the Bible. This is not a “silver-bullet” method, but a way to “get our sails up” so when God moves, we can catch the Spirit.

Today disciple making movements of “disciples making disciples, and churches planting churches” are occurring in more than 50 countries and more than 170 different people groups, including some of the most historically unreached Muslim and Hindu peoples in the world. We are seeing DMMs in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and recently we have seen them starting in Europe and the Middle East.

- Once a DMM has started (which usually takes some years) we see the following characteristics: Prayerful, Scripturally based, Indigenous, Holistic, Rapid Reproduction. (For more explanation of these terms as they apply to CPM and for a listing of some modern examples, see “Resource – Characteristics and Case Studies of DMM.doc”)

5) Discovery Bible Study: JOHN 6:43-45

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **God is the one responsible for drawing people to Jesus (phew!). GOD DRAWS!**
- **The best way to help lost people to listen to and learn from the Father is to expose them to His Word. GOD TEACHES!**

If the group is larger than 7 people break into smaller groups. In small groups, read **John 6:43-45** several times. Have each person restate it in their own words and then have the group discuss what they learn from these verses.

Then discuss these questions in the large group:

- (1) Who will teach us?
- (2) What kind of people will come to Jesus?
- (3) “What is the best way that **you** listen to and learn from the Father?”
- (4) Can the Father work the same way with lost people?
- (5) Why do you think we start trainings on DMM with these verses?

6) Invitation:

After this introductory training is over, we have found it helpful to make the following commitments. We invite you to consider these as we go through the training:

1. **Put aside** extra-Biblical traditions (Christian, denominational, cultural)
2. **Focus** only on God's Word – what can we learn about principles and practice?
3. **Pray** more. Seek to multiply prayer.
4. **Go** out among the lost & try to live out these ideas in your context. How will you gain access? The best way is through loving others and then discussing.
5. **Visioncast** to other believers about making multiplying disciples
6. **Train** believers – train those who respond (using these lessons) and model doing it (your best impact will be to multiply trainees and trainers so that many of you are going out instead of just you personally)
7. **Stay connected** - pray for each other, learn from each other, and stay accountable

Requirements for this training:

- Come to all the meetings.
- If you miss a session you need to ask a fellow trainee to do the lesson with you before the next meeting.
- Do the work we give each week.

7) Exercise: Aiming for the right goal

LEARNING OBJECTIVES for this exercise

- The tried and trusted way of doing things isn't necessarily the best way
- Busy-ness ≠ fruitfulness
- We are responsible to evaluate our actions, and choose high-value activities over low-value ones

Trainer's Preparation (this should be done before the session begins): For the game, you will need about 20 paper balls in a bag as well as three trashcans or buckets with numbers taped to the bottom of each – 0, 15, and 30. Put the 0 trashcan in the middle of the other two. Make a “line” several feet away from the baskets by using a stick or tape on the floor or use a table.

Game: Tell them the group is going to play a game and you need three volunteers. The goal is to score as many points as they can in 15 seconds.

The trainer demonstrates first, by standing behind the “line” and tossing mostly at the one in the middle with “0” on the bottom.

Have the three volunteers come up. Gather all the balls in the bag. Say “go” and time the first on as he/she throws. After the volunteer finishes, the trainer gathers all the balls from the trashcans. Show the points on the bottom and give the score – this should be exaggerated so that the next two participants can see the scores taped in the bottom of the cans and aim more intentionally. ----- Then let the next volunteer go. Add up his/her points.

Before the last volunteer goes, remind him/her that the only instructions given were to score as many points as possible. Most will realize they can take the whole bag and dump it in the trashcan marked 30. If he/she doesn’t realize it, tell him/her before the time is up. Thank everyone and have them sit down.

Ask the participants: “How does this game relate to our vision?” / What can we learn from this game in relation to church-planting/disciple-making?

After everyone has shared, point out the following – try to relate this to your work in the past as well as the high / low value activities lesson:

“When I first started trying to plant churches, I wasn’t sure how to start so I began doing what others around me were doing. Just like in the game, our first player followed the example he saw, but it wasn’t the best example. It wasn’t bad it just wasn’t high value. Once I knew what high value was, I began trying to do those things. Just like our second player. Sometimes I did things a certain way because others had rather than simply do what was best. As I learned, I was responsible to spend my time doing things that were most pleasing to God and of greatest value.”

Some work until the next training session:

Memorize: John 6: 43-45 in the version of your choice.

Field & Prayer work: Partner with someone else in the group and **PRAYER-WALK** around your target area of ministry/focus area where you’re seeking to make disciples.

- + Pray for the area, and the people you meet.
- + Specifically pray for laborers in obedience to Matt 9:38.
- + If natural, talk to people you meet and tell them what you’re doing (praying for the neighborhood). Don’t be “weird” but be open – perhaps you’re meeting someone God is drawing to Himself!
- + Do this at least once a week until the next meeting.

Bible Reading: If you have not finished reading Luke-Acts and noting how Jesus and the early disciples did evangelism and discipleship, please finish that pre-meeting assignment. The Bible is our source-book and strategy book! If it takes a long-time to do this task, that’s OK! It’s important!

Hand Gesture: Ask how could you summarize the main teaching of this lesson with a body movement or hand gesture? Have all participants stand up and do the gesture together. (Example for Lesson 1 – Raise up one hand to represent Jesus, then show your other hand with a finger outstretched being drawn up to the palm of your first hand. This represents that truth that the Father is the one that draws people to Jesus.)