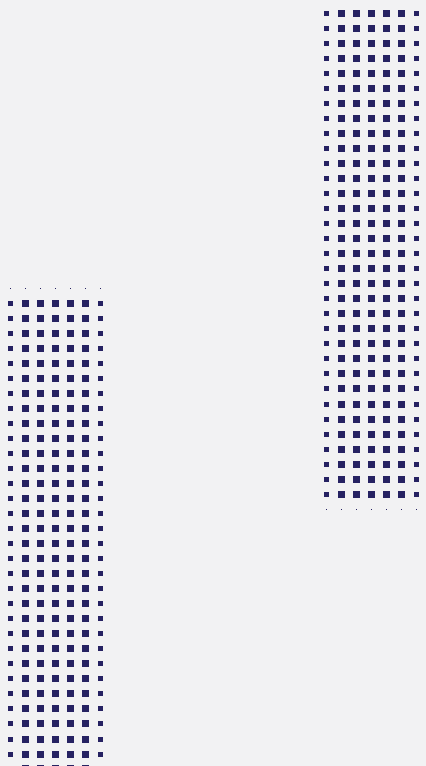




A SIX-WEEK
DISCIPLESHIP
MINISTRY
FOR STUDENTS

STARTING POINT



INTRO PAGE

WHY STARTING POINT?

Whether you have recently accepted Christ or you have been walking with Him for a while, we pray this six-week study will give you a foundation and an outline as you begin a discipleship relationship. When you are finished, we also pray that this will be something you can use to disciple someone else.

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

Let's define it by looking at one of the most well-known passages in Scripture, the Great Commission, in which Jesus says,¹⁹ *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

Here we are commanded to do three things:

- Evangelize ("make disciples")
- Baptize ("baptizing them")
- Teach ("teaching them")

Discipleship can be defined as "investing into others by teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded of us in order to multiply ourselves into them." This is what *Starting Point* is designed to do!

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM THIS?

First, you are going to get out what you put into it. If you invest yourself into this and read/study what you are supposed to each week, you will get much out of it. If you come unprepared and don't spend any time on it, you won't get much out of it.

Second, you will memorize a verse each week. You may be thinking, "I don't know how to memorize six different verses!" In order to help you accomplish this, scan the QR code to the right and you will find helpful apps and methods to aid you in your memorization.



Third, communicate. If you are going to be late or miss a session, text and communicate that. If you need to reschedule, call and let us know. If you have questions about something in this book, ask about it.

Lastly, you will be launched to disciple a younger believer after this. Begin thinking and praying about whom that will be.

CONTENTS

SESSION 1: *page 5*

Faith Formation

SESSION 2: *page 17*

Can You Trust the Bible?

SESSION 3: *page 43*

Can You Be Secure in Your
Relationship with Christ?

SESSION 4: *page 57*

Knowing Who You Are in Christ

SESSION 5: *page 71*

Talking with God

SESSION 6: *page 85*

Making Disciples

MAKING DISCIPLES

6

If you want to break this session into days, use this guide:

Day 1: 86-89 Day 4: 97-98
Day 2: 90-94 Day 5: 99-100
Day 3: 95-96

Student-led pages: Empower your students to lead by giving them the following pages to lead during this session:

- Pages 88-89
- Pages 91-94
- Pages 95-97

HERE WE GO

Be Accountable for Your Bible Reading

- Be sure to discuss your Bible reading time with your discipleship partner before you begin this session.
- What did you read?
- How did God speak to you?
- How did you apply your reading to your life?

In this session, we will discover the concept of spiritual multiplication. Then, we will discuss the biblical pattern of spiritual multiplication that is found in 2 Timothy. Finally, we will explore the basis of our motivation to multiply spiritually.

MEMORIZE *2 Timothy 2:2*

Write the verse to help memorize it.

Fill in the blanks to help memorize it.

*² and what you have _____ from me in the
_____ of many _____ entrust
to _____ men, who _____ be able to
_____ others also.*

Write the memory verse from last week on the lines below.



FAITH DEFINITION

“And without *faith* it is impossible to please him (God)...”

—Hebrews 11:6

“...whatever does not proceed from *faith* is sin.”

—Romans 14:23

“for we walk by *faith*, not by sight.”

—2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith definition:

CONSIDER THIS

Cooper sat in the pew and listened to the visiting preacher speak on Matthew 28:18–20. He had heard that this passage was part of what is called the Great Commission, but this preacher made it seem so urgent. He compared the Great Commission to a relay race in which members of a team must successfully pass the baton in order to complete the race. “The key to winning the race ...” he said, “... is to pass the baton. If we do not pass the baton to the next generation of Christians, our society will be in trouble.”

Cooper thought the Great Commission was for missionaries and preachers. It had never occurred to him that the Great Commission was meant for him. Now, he saw that he could leave a legacy and impact the next generation.

In fact, when you think of an evangelist, you probably think of a big, grey-haired preacher in a suit. The reality is, when you look in the mirror, you see an evangelist. You are a missionary. You are an evangelist. You can change the world. Here’s how...read Matthew 28:18–20. In this passage, the main verb “make disciples” is a command. The verbs “go,” “baptizing” and “teaching” tell you how to do the command.

This passage means that we make disciples by:

GOING

“Go” means being intentional about making disciples. We are to be intentional about making disciples as we go about our lives.

List two or three areas of your life where you can be intentional about making disciples.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

BAPTIZING

“Baptizing” addresses the principle of helping others to be introduced to and identified with Jesus Christ.

How does baptism identify us with Jesus?

Why is it important for believers to be baptized?

TEACHING

“Teaching” means that we should teach other Christians to obey God’s Word by faith.

Read the below verses and think about how they are similar to Matthew 28:18-20.

2 Timothy 2:2 - ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Acts 1:8 - ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.



Spiritual Multiplication Defined

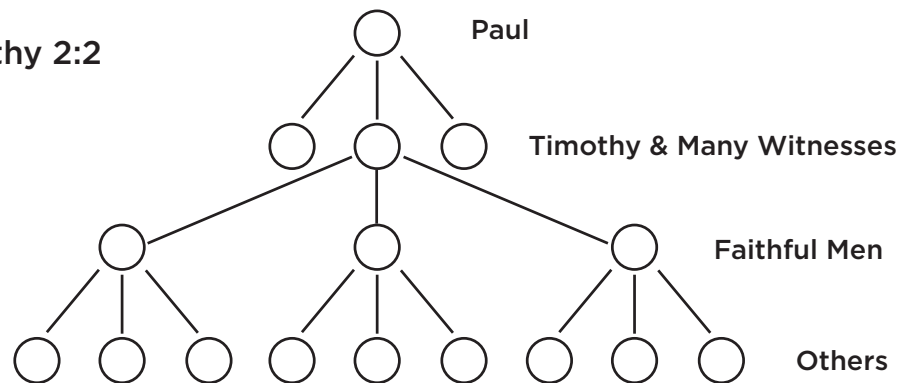
Spiritual multiplication is mentoring that equips a believer to evangelize and mentor others so that they can evangelize and mentor others, and so on, and so on. Spiritual multiplication is different from spiritual addition:

Spiritual addition: Leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ or helping a believer spiritually.



Spiritual multiplication: Mentoring and preparing someone to mentor and prepare others who will, in turn, mentor and prepare others.

2 Timothy 2:2



Anyone who wants to be involved in spiritual multiplication needs foresight as to how God wants to increase Himself through him or her. This involves fostering relationships, adhering to the truth, staying accountable, modeling godly living and having a desire to minister according to the pattern established in the New Testament.

» EXPLORE

If you are going to understand what it means to spiritually multiply, you need to look at it from Paul's perspective in 2 Timothy 2:1-10. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-10, and note the necessary principles of spiritual multiplication.

1. Understand the motivation of grace.

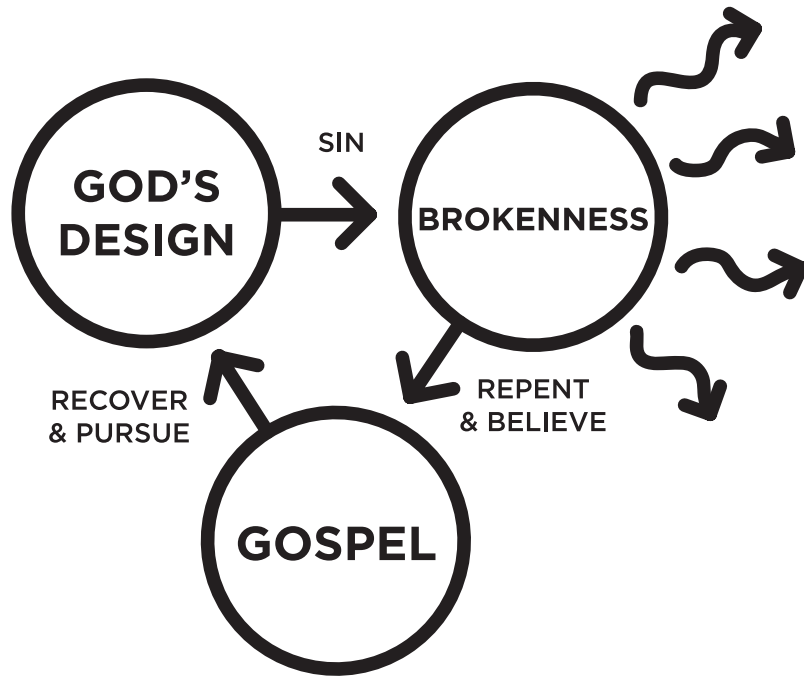
"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1).

Someone who is passionate about mentoring does not mentor only because he has been commanded to do so; he does it because this is what he desires to do. He understands that God has done an amazing work in his own life, and he wants to share that with others.

Why do some Christians not share the Good News of God's grace with others?

The following image sequence is a presentation of the *3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide from Life on Mission*. The illustrations have been created to be a tool to share the Gospel with other people, and have been designed so that they can be simple enough to draw on the back of a napkin. An illustration of the 3 Circles presentation and a helpful app can be found by scanning this QR code.



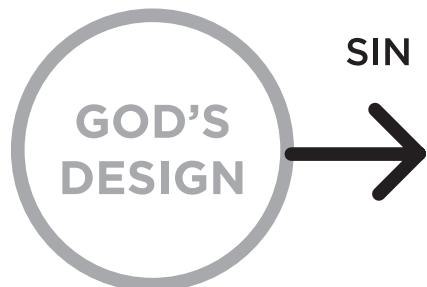


CIRCLE 1: GOD'S DESIGN

From the very beginning, God had a plan for humans. Not only did God have a plan for humanity at large, He had and has a plan for every human individually. God has a design for the way we should treat our families, work our jobs, and interact with friends and strangers; the plan is perfect. The Creator who knit together every being desires nothing more than for His plans to be implemented in every life.



The challenge is that there is something within people that pushes us to depart from God's design, to go in our own direction. The Bible has labeled that departure from God's design "sin."



Sin leads to a world of consequences. When we sin, we find ourselves in a place of "brokenness."

CIRCLE 2: BROKENNESS

The feeling of brokenness is the result of our poor choices or even the choices of others that negatively affect us. This state exemplifies itself in ruined relationships, addictions, unease, fear and a mountain of other negative circumstances and states of being. Our brokenness, the feeling of emptiness and desperation, leads us to look in many different directions for healing.



We turn to religion, success, beauty, substances, anger and many other seemingly filling solutions to fix the brokenness in our lives. The challenge is that none of the solutions we carve out for ourselves will work; the brokenness remains.

Although brokenness is bleak, God uses it for good. God uses brokenness to help people understand that there is a problem that needs a solution. When someone surveys his life and recognizes the destruction around him and acknowledges that his solutions have failed, he often becomes open to the idea of a different path. He becomes open to a genuine change. The Bible's word for change is "repent."

We want to change and repent but we realize that we can't do much on our own (as evidenced by our own solutions to our brokenness). The good news is that God has a plan to fix the problem of brokenness; it's called the "Gospel."

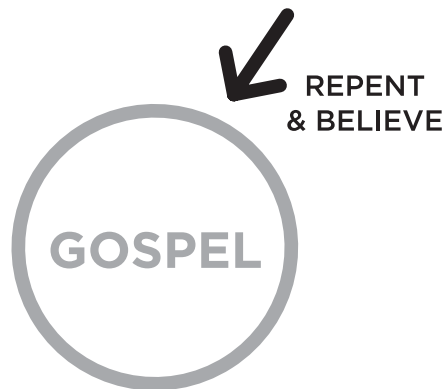
CIRCLE 3: GOSPEL

The Gospel is the story of what Jesus did for us. Jesus, who is God in flesh, came and lived a perfect life. He never departed from God's design; He lived a life completely without sin. He taught people about God's love for them and His design



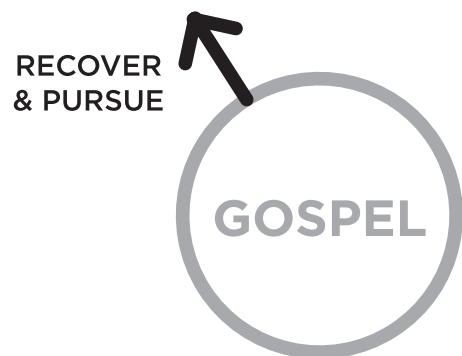
for their lives. He healed the sick, spent time with the poor, and sought the outcasts. When He was around 33 years old, people that He loved nailed Him to a cross and murdered Him. While Jesus was on the Cross, God did something incredible.

He took the sins of the world and placed them on Jesus. So in His death, Jesus paid the penalty for all of our sin. After He had accomplished His mission on the Cross (bearing the consequences of the world's sins), Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. In His conquering of death, Jesus proved that He was who He said He was, the Son of God. Jesus proved that He could do what He said He could do, forgive sin. And this is the Good News.



The death and Resurrection of Jesus opens up the path by which we might return to the design of God. God's provision means that we can do no good of our own to fix brokenness, nor can we lose that provision by making mistakes. The path to restoration and redemption is this: Repent and believe.

When we make the step of turning from our sins (repentance) and turning toward Jesus (belief), God restores us. He does a work in our hearts that helps us to recover and pursue God's design. No matter what our brokenness looks like or how deep we are in it, God restores us to a right relationship with Him through Jesus.



When we come to faith in Jesus and are restored to His original design for us, we begin to experience the good things that God intends for us to have: purpose, forgiveness, community, hope, joy. As we experience these blessings from God, He sends us back into the brokenness of the world to help others discover the Good News that we have found.

STAGE	SUPPORTING VERSES
GOD'S DESIGN	Genesis 1:31; Psalm 19:1
SIN	Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23a
BROKENNESS	Romans 1:25; Proverbs 14:12
GOSPEL	John 3:16; Colossians 2:14
REPENT & BELIEVE	Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9
RECOVER & PURSUE	Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10

Many people understand what their culture expects of them (what they should or should not do), and they try to live by those expectations. They give money, volunteer or go to church because they feel they are expected to do so. Even though God wants us to do these things, He wants us to do them out of the overflow of our hearts.

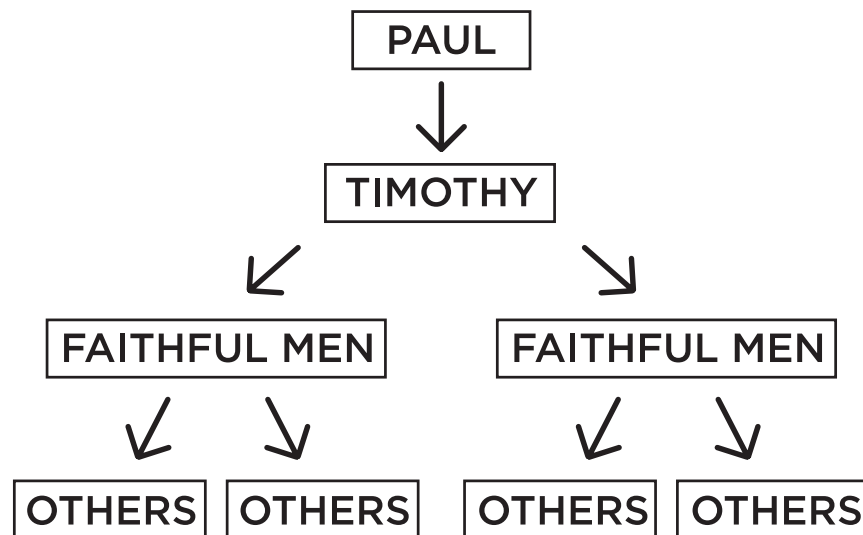
Once people are disciplined, and they understand grace, they are free to give money, volunteer and go to church because they are grateful to God. They are also excited about all He has done for them, and they are overwhelmed with gratitude.

For a greater understanding of this gratitude, go back and review the 3 Circles illustration. Practice presenting the 3 Circles below:

2. Commit to a life of multiplication.

"... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

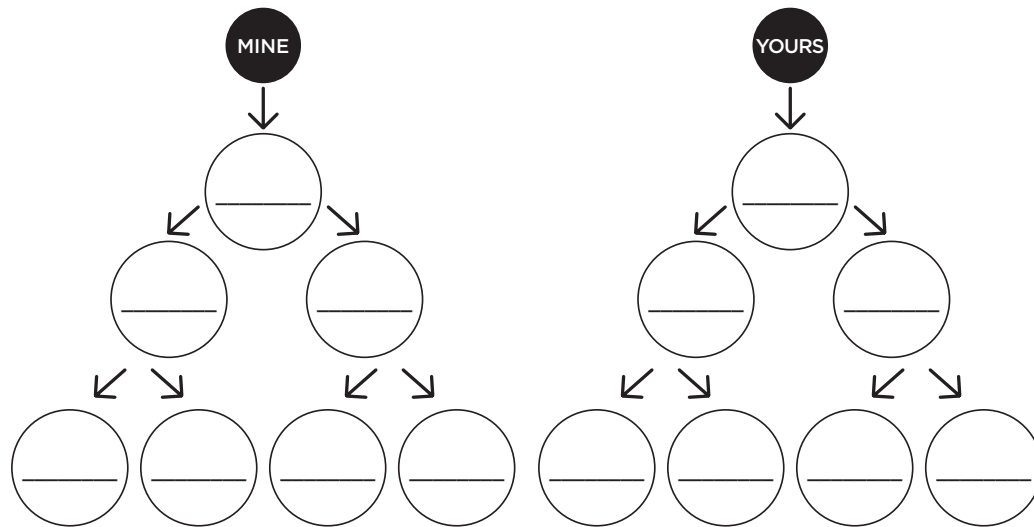
If you want to multiply spiritually, you must commit your life to investing in the lives of others and encouraging them to do the same. The chart below illustrates Paul's ministry of spiritual multiplication. Paul only needed to mentor Timothy. Then Timothy needed to develop disciples who would develop disciples. This chart also illustrates why the selection of those to be discipled is so critical. If someone decides not to share what he or she has learned with others by developing his/her own mentoring relationships, spiritual multiplication will stall.



Think about the influence you could have many spiritual generations into the future. Begin now to pray for the person you will mentor and for the people he or she will mentor, and so on.

In fact, let's begin to do this by prayerfully considering whom you will disciple. Take a moment to pray and ask God to give you names of friends, teammates, family members, etc.

Now, let's continue by putting pen to paper and writing it down. In the chart below, fill in the blanks with names of those that you would love to disciple once you are ready.



3. Look for the potential in others.

There are certain characteristics you should look for in someone you will ask to disciple. In fact, there are three main characteristics you should look for in the life of a person who is ready to be disciplined. These characteristics are:

- **Availability**
Someone who is available will desire to be disciplined and make it a priority above other things. He knows he needs to mature spiritually and is excited to start the process.
- **Teachability**
Someone who is teachable will desire to be disciplined and will be open to learning and applying what she learns. She knows she needs to be corrected and is wanting to change to become a better Christ follower.
- **Faithful**
Someone who is faithful will desire to be disciplined and will be hard-working and committed. She knows she needs to be where she's supposed to be and be there on time. She will come prepared having done what you have asked her to do. She will have spent the necessary time to do it well.

4. Be a model for change.

It is important to keep in mind that no one is perfect. As you begin mentoring others, you will likely encounter people whose lives are in need of certain changes. If you want to help someone change his or her life, then you have to be committed to be a model for change. In order to show someone how to allow God to change them, you must allow God to change you.

5. Commit to live a disciplined life.

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything (2 Timothy 2:3-7).

Paul uses three professions, the soldier, the athlete and the farmer, to illustrate the perspective and commitment that is needed to multiply spiritually. Note the principles that Paul teaches from these three professions.

TALK IT OUT

THE SOLDIER (vv. 3-4)

- A good soldier is single-minded in purpose. He is willing to say no to good things in order to please his ranking officials.
- A good soldier is willing to suffer hardship.

List some of the things you may consider to be “good things” to which you might have to say no in order to participate in spiritual multiplication.

THE ATHLETE (v. 5)

- The victorious athlete is disciplined. He knows that hours of rigorous training and discipline lie behind every victory.
- The victorious athlete knows and follows the rules of competition.

In what ways does one who wishes to participate in mentoring need to be disciplined?

THE FARMER (v. 6)

- The successful farmer is unafraid of the hard work and patience needed to produce a harvest.
- The farmer enjoys a fruitful harvest. His patience and hard work are rewarded when the harvest is brought in.

Describe how discipleship relationships require hard work and patience.

You must spend time studying the Bible and meeting with your discipleship partner. This will establish a great model for your mentoring partners, which will likely carry over into their subsequent mentoring relationships as well.

YOUR LIFE TODAY

Applying the Faith Principle to Spiritual Multiplication

REVIEW

Write out the faith definition below from memory.

ASK

Knowing that 2 Timothy 2:3-6 is true, how do you live it out?
Write your answer below.

PRAY

Through the ACTS prayer model, take a moment to ask God to make these biblical truths a greater reality in your attitudes and actions. Share your thoughts below.

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Your Ministry of Spiritual Multiplication

Take time to reflect on your ministry of multiplication. Answer the following questions:

1. Are you able:

- To be committed to spiritual multiplication?
- To be a model for change?
- To look for the potential in others?
- To be committed to live a disciplined life?
- To rely on the Holy Spirit to accomplish all of the above?

2. What can get in the way of your ministry of spiritual multiplication?

3. List some of the people you believe are ready to participate in spiritual multiplication:

Continue to pray that God would give you the opportunity to ask to disciple or begin discipling someone you listed out in this section. Be specific in your ask and watch God answer.

RESOURCES

After reading this guide, you may have further questions. That's not unusual! Salvation is just the beginning; most Christians spend the rest of their lives growing in their relationship with Christ. Below are some wonderful resources that will help you navigate this journey as a Christ-follower.

PRESTONWOODSTUDENTS.ORG

The Prestonwood Students website is a great resource when it comes to your walk with the Lord, the church, and other believers. With resources from salvation to baptism to devotionals, it's a one-stop shop for many of your questions and needs.

PRESTONWOOD STUDENTS DEVOTIONALS

Need somewhere to begin your daily walk with Jesus? Take out your phone and text DEVO to 74788. When you do this, we will send a short devotional to your phone every morning Monday through Friday. This is just the beginning but we pray it's a launching point for you each day.



PRESTONWOOD
STUDENTS

972-820-5000
prestonwoodstudents.org