

STRATEGY OF JESUS SIMPLIFIED

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DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL

CELLULAR LEADERSHIP



LEVEL 3 • **MATURE**



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY
OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS



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APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY
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JESUS STRATEGY

School of Discipleship

Level 3 Maturity

1st Revision / September 2024

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Presentation

Bishop Felipe A. Salazar

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's church has received God's plan to rescue the lost, which is preaching the gospel. In other words, the Lord in His sovereign will decided that the church would be His fellow workers in this mission of rescuing the lost. No other institution has the power to reconcile the sinner to God. Hence the church, by God's will, is the body of Christ. In other words, we are His mouth, His hands, His feet. That's why the church is the one that sows the seed and waters it; only God can give the increase. The church builds up the body of Christ. Let us continue to sow the seed in people's hearts and let the Lord do the regenerating work that only He can do.

Therefore, the Mature discipleship module emphatically teaches the importance of serving in the body of Christ, under His vision to go and make disciples. We must do just as He and His apostles did: preach "daily in the temple, and in every house" so that the church can be edified.

In Christ,
Felipe A. Salazar
Bishop President and Senior Pastor
Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus

strategy 



THE STRATEGY OF JESUS

LESSON 1

BIBLICAL BASIS: ACTS 2:46-47

INTRODUCTION

The Lord's Church is going through "dangerous times", times of instability and pressures of all kinds that assail us from different angles and threaten to destroy the Church. And while it's true that this phenomenon isn't new, we've never experienced it before. However, all of the above has brought us a unique opportunity that challenges us to face the changes we need to embrace in order to avoid making the mistakes of other movements that did not know how to make the necessary changes in time.

Therefore, we want to present some arguments that will be a blessing. The first argument is:

I. LET'S RECAPTURE OUR LEGACY

"Then God said, Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens. So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth (Genesis 1:20-22)."

And God bless them, saying:

- a. Be fruitful. God has given every living being the blessing of multiplication for different areas of life. So, believe in what God has already given you. This is important because if you know this spiritual principle then you will stop seeking out someone to come and help you. The human being's greatest problem is that he or she tends to look around, seeking out someone to fix his or her problems, instead of looking up and thanking the Lord for the power he or she has already been provided to get things done and to multiply. Besides, God's department is what we cannot do, he is the Miracles Specialist.

- b. **Multiply.** If you keep looking for someone else to cover for your calling to multiply souls, you will continue to feel like a fraud. No bishop, elder or pastor is going to go to your church to win the souls God is calling you to save. There is only one expert in multiplication, he multiplied the "loaves and the fish": His Name is Jesus Christ.

"Then Jacob said to Joseph: God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession (Genesis 48:3-4)."

"(He) blessed me, and said to me, Behold, I will make your fruitful and multiply you." Joseph trusted what God had given him and this sustained him on his way to success. The difficulties he experienced from the moment he was thrown into the cistern, then sold as a slave, then sexually harassed and unjustly jailed did not cause him to lose faith. He did not lose faith because his hope wasn't in what others could do for him. His trust was in the power of God, in the promise he had received from Him, in the gifts God had placed in him and in the confidence that God is the one who multiplies.

Without a doubt it was those gifts that God used to guide Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and to make him the wisest man in the Egyptian Empire. Pharaoh even appointed Joseph as second only to him over the entire Egyptian Empire. In Joseph's, hands God multiplied harvests, livestock, food and riches through his own power working in Joseph and through those gifts he had given him for multiplication.

II. I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR DESCENDANTS

The blessing given to nature and to the human being God also gave to the patriarchs, the prophets, the apostles and to His children. He has given us his blessing, all that is left to do is to believe and to work in what God assigned us, on this earth. No one is here just by chance; God have every being a purpose. The Church is not a product of chance, God has provided her a structure for harvest, to witness the greatest harvests in all of history. There are gifts, talents, and much more; He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever (Exodus 32:13)."

"I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven." God has given you his word of multiplication, and believing this makes the difference between staying stuck in your life, never achieving any advancement or multiplication in what you do or entering into a life of extraordinary multiplication. If you believe in the Word that God has given us, that he has blessed us with the power to be fruitful and to multiply, then multiplication is already yours.

III. MULTIPLICATION IS A BLESSING GIVEN BY GOD

"I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the Lord (Ezekiel 36:10-11)."

“I will multiply upon you man and beast, and they shall increase and bear young.” Growth is God’s issue, all our lives belong to God, whatever we do in any issue, we are only administrators of God. All our daily issues in life belong to the Lord. In all things God calls us to honor him. He continues to multiply livestock, sheep, bread, loaves, and his people, all that is left for us to do is to plant the seed. God has already given the seed the power to flourish and multiply. We sow the seed and He will continue to be faithful and to multiply it.

“But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt (Acts 7:17).”

IV. THE CHURCH MUST ALSO MULTIPLY

To multiply is a blessing that He has already given us. God ***“blessed them, saying, be fruitful and multiply.”*** The blessing has already been called upon us: the order to be fruitful. Each year nature obeys the Word of God. If his commandment is fulfilled by animals and vegetation, how much more should we multiply?

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).”

The human being is the only living being that has not learned, or that has trouble accepting this order; this is probably due to pride. God has so many areas where we can multiply: In anointing, gifts, and talents, to name a few, and to continue to multiply in an extraordinary way. That power that God has already given us many times we keep it hidden, just like the parable, and we don’t let it shine.

For this reason, many churches have so little of the Spirit to multiply and to go make disciples, to populate heaven for the glory of God. Instead of that we go on Sundays to just wait for people to come by themselves to the Lord, without ever going and spreading the Word of God.

“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10).”

In the whole world there is a tendency for Christian groups and churches to remain small due to the paradigms they have maintained based of keeping only “the holy few.” This shows the lack of willingness to work for the Lord to achieve greater multiplication with Him.

“But the Word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24).”

The most popular worship song sung by churches years ago was the “Cien Ovejas” (One Hundred Sheep). For decades few songwriters ever were inspired to compose hymns based on Acts 2, for example, maybe a song on 3,000 sheep. Or has there ever been a song of the 5,000 sheep baptized there. The majority identify with the one hundred sheep instead, 85% only aspire to this. Even when this is good and noble, this shouldn’t be taken as a pattern to limit growth and soul winning for the glory of God. For this reason, in the United States of America most Christian churches have an average of 85 members. This has been our average because this has been our cap in believing God.

CONCLUSION

God has granted in every organism's structure the blessing of multiplication. God has also structured his church to continue to multiply, at this level you shall be taught the structure that churches should follow by way of small groups to achieve multiplication.

1. **The way we organize** to achieve multiplication through small groups we have called the Jethro Strategy or the Model of Jethro. God revealed this Strategy to Moses for the organization and structure of his kingdom, for them to care for and watch over the great growth God had given the people of Israel in Egypt.

God revealed this model to Jethro and this is found in *Exodus 18:19*: *"Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens (Exodus 18:19-21)."*

2. **God designed this structure to produce multiplication.** The Lord Jesus used the organizational model employed by Moses, grouping people by fifty to improve the care over five thousand souls, who continued to follow him in groups.

"For there were about five thousand men. Then he said to His disciples, Make them sit down in groups of fifty (Luke 9:14)."

3. **Strategy and Structure.** The Jesus Strategy is what we have called the vision to win souls, it's not a change in doctrine, it's a change in the internal structure of the local church, to launch the church to properly care for and win over souls.





SPIRITUAL STRATEGY

LESSON 2

BIBLICAL BASIS: GENESIS 16:10

INTRODUCTION

God's vision for his people has never been a small or a stingy vision. God, being the greatest and most powerful being, thinks in orders of magnitude. He thinks this way because this is at his very essence. That is why whoever he calls, beginning with Abraham the father of faith, up to the Church of the Lord, his calling is always to greatly multiply his people. From eternity past God takes small things and makes them great things. He took the sterility of Abraham and Sarah and made them to be the source of entire people groups.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father (John 14:12)."

If we think of only achieving small feats for God then we are found to be lacking faith and lacking trust in Him, in Him who calls us to achieve supernatural signs in His Name.

I. A MINDSET OF MULTIPLICATION

Belief that God will do great things moves the hand of God. God will reward the faith of those people who have unwavering belief that God wants to do great things among his people. God operates based on our faith; without faith it would be impossible to see the hand of God multiplying his church. So, we must challenge the church to believe in multiplication, for it will depend on faith. A local church's level of growth is determined by the faith of the leadership of that church. Leaders who don't believe that God wants to multiply them will never see exponential growth in their congregations.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)."

"And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. (Genesis 17:2)"

God's desire is to populate heaven. From the very beginning, God called Abraham and promised to multiply him. Even though he and Sarah were sterile the Lord did a miracle and fulfilled his promise,

he raised by faith a numerous people like grains of sand and stars in the sky. The people that would descend from Abraham's seed are not only the twelve tribes of Israel but also the Church born of Jesus Christ. This also from the faith of Abraham.

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to your Seed, who is Christ (Galatians 3:16)."

II. GOD'S DESIRE IS TO SAVE THE WORLD

God's purpose is to save the entire world, and he has delegated this enormous task to the church: To go into the entire world, and to reconcile the sinner to Jesus Christ. The church is called to spread the Word through preaching and through God's power, this will convert souls.

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)."

"Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (2 Peter 3:9)."

"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:27)."

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11)."

God's love for humanity is so great that in an indisputable way this love moves him to have mercy on all. He does not want anyone to be condemned but unfortunately men disregard the great love of God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:1-17)."

III. THE PASTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VISION

No church can go beyond the vision of its pastor given that in the small groups-based model, the pastor is the agent who casts the vision to the leadership. The leadership in turn can only run with the vision it has received. If his vision is exponential, then the church's growth will match the vision. Said a different way, the pastor's faith shall determine how far the church goes. What God rewards is faith and there is no multiplication without faith.

"Then Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn (Exodus 3:3)."

"You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your way (Job 22:28)."

Growth goals speak to the measure of our faith. So let us never place goals that are within our reach. Set goals that only the power of God can achieve ... and by faith, they shall materialize.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).”

The passion to win over great harvests for Christ must come from the pastor. He must be lit in the fire of passion to be able to spread that fire. If the church’s pastor does not believe in the vision, even if the leadership wants it and believes it, the cap has already been set by the house’s authority.

The pastor’s faith must grow:

- a. Grow in humility
- b. Grow in prayer and holiness
- c. Grow in dedication to the vision
- d. Grow in passion, vision and focus.
- e. Grow in knowledge

IV. THE FAITH OF LEADERSHIP

“But the men who had gone up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we (Numbers 13:31).”

Leaders that lack faith spread their doubts to all the people and discourage the leader. The ten spies convinced Moses that Canaan’s cities could not be conquered. All but two died in the wilderness. The two who reached the Promised Land were Joshua and Caleb. Their faith was rewarded in the end.

“Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it (Numbers 13:30).”

“But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it (Numbers 14:24).”

To see great multiplication, you need leaders that believe for it: You can’t reach great harvests with small thinking.

“And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses (Nehemiah 4:14).”

V. THE POWER OF A TIMOTHY

What guarantees that a small group multiplies is if that group has an Assistant or a Timothy.

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).”

If small groups only win souls and don't pass people through the four purposes of New Birth, Grow, Mature, and Multiply then the small group will be unable to multiply. For this reason it is important that at least one member of each group learn the purposes of the Strategy, even though the goal is to have everyone go through the discipleship training, the workshops and retreats, to achieve the greatest harvest of souls in the history of the Apostolic Assembly.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)."

CONCLUSION

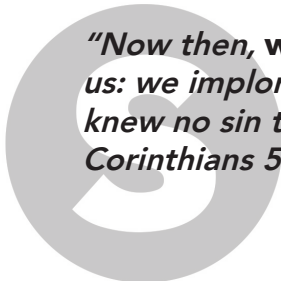
1. **A well-coordinated strategy** will produce a tremendous multiplication of souls. For this reason the church needs to improve how its organized to create space for growth. **Ephesians 2:21 says: "In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."**

"That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10)."

2. **Only constant discipleship will guarantee multiplication** of souls. Constantly sowing seeds shall guarantee that at least one of those seeds that we sow shall spring forth and bring abundant fruit. That is why churches cannot stop discipling its people, we do not know from among all the seeds we sow who will give that hundredfold fruit.

"But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred. And He said to them, He who has ears to hear, let him hear (Mark 4:8-9)."

3. **The leadership's faith and consistency shall be rewarded by the Lord.** When a church grows in faith and dedicates itself to the task of the great commission, that church will experience how pleased the Lord is with it. He shall move his hand and his power to show there his glory. We who have chosen to implement the biblical model of evangelism by homes and of discipling new believers have experienced unprecedented growth.
4. **The most interested party in the salvation of souls continues to be God.** We should not forget that the love of God has manifested itself powerfully for the reconciliation of sinners to Him. He has appointed us to be ambassadors in the work of reconciliation. Let us do our job for the Lord knows what He is doing.



"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)."



THE EVANGELISTIC CYCLE

LESSON 3

BIBLICAL BASIS: HEBREWS 6:13-15

INTRODUCTION

Our Creator has given us the promise of multiplication. God himself has sworn on his own authority that this will be the promise for his offspring. The true seed is that of Christ and his church, the church was in God's perfect plan since Genesis, and she was blessed with this promise. It is urgent to God that we take up this promise now.

What will provoke us to multiply? Only the power of God. Yet the power of God only moves by faith, so that the first step to stepping into multiplication is believing God for multiplication.

The Bible gives us proposals for us to believe in, these are presented to us in the forms of promises that we will see below.

The first promise is:

I. MULTIPLICATION COMES FROM GOD.

Abraham, Father of many nations. Abraham's calling from the beginning was to become the father of many nations. God wants to fill Heaven! Multiplication is in the heart of God. In Abraham's calling all the families of the earth are summoned, a work completed by Christ.

"I will make you a great nation, I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 12:2-3)."

"And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you (Genesis 17:2-6)."

The second promise is:

II. THE PROMISE WOULD COME FROM HIS SEED

“Blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice (Genesis 22:17-18).”

The seed is Christ and not the tribes of Israel. I believe that it is this confusion, on the right recipient of the promise, the reason many people are calling themselves Jews nowadays. They claim this because they believe that only the Jews can reach this promise. What a great mistake! These promises are all reached in Christ.

“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, And to the seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to your Seed, who is Christ (Galatians 3:16).”

The church was God’s hidden plan, a plan kept hidden through the ages, and only fully revealed in the end times. The Faith that was to be revealed is without a doubt the redemptive plan in Christ Jesus. That Christ would pay the price for our sins and only by faith in him would any be able to reach salvation.

At the same time, His salvation has joined us to His body called the Church.

“But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:23-24).”

When the faith came, we were no longer under the law for you are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus for all who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

The third promise is:

III. THE PROMISE WOULD COME FROM HIS SEED

We have preached for years that Israel is a blessed people, and I believe that this is only half the truth since now those that are truly blessed are those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. Abraham’s blessing now falls on the Seed, the Seed of Christ.

“So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith (Galatians 3:9-11).”

- a. The inheritance is from the promise, not from the Jews, not by the law.

“And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise (Galatians 3:17-18).”

b. One Body in Christ: The Church

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:27-29).”

c. The Church is the heiress of all the promises

“Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”

d. The allegory: Abraham’s Two Sons

“Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise (Galatians 4:21-23).”

“Which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all (Galatians 4:24-26).”

“Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world (Galatians 4:3).”

- The First Jerusalem of the Jews
- The New Jerusalem, from above, Christianity

The third promise is:

IV. THE CHURCH IS THE HEIRESS TO MULTIPLICATION

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours (1 Corinthians 1:2),” “That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge (1 Corinthians 1:5).”

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places (Ephesians 1:18-20).”

“Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel (Ephesians 3:5-6).”

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:17-21).”



THE CELL GROUP

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL BASIS: GENESIS 1:11

INTRODUCTION

All living beings created by God can multiply. God's order to creation is to multiply. So, God put potential within nature to accomplish this and power to fulfill this mandate. That is to say that nature, plants, birds, and animals, are enabled by God to reproduce and multiply by the power from God that they have.

a. **The Seed is to Talk about Multiplication**

The seed is full of the potential to multiply. The only thing the seed needs to be fruitful is to be sown to achieve its potential and to bear its fruits. The seed then shall multiply and produce more seeds, that in turn will produce more seeds.

b. **Multiplication is Life**

Reproduction maintains the life cycle. Without reproduction the process of multiplication ends. That is why it is vital that the seed is not sterile. If the seed is sterile, then multiplication ends. A healthy seed produces multiplication.

Multiplication has many important factors, that I shall now explain:

The first factor is:

I. THE ANOINTING OF MULTIPLICATION IN NATURE

"Then God said, Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens. So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth (Genesis 1:20-22)."

a. **Be Fruitful**

Without new fruit we can't have a new seed that follows in the process of multiplication. Such is the Kingdom of God: we will not advance greatly or have great growth if there is no

fruit. If new fruits produce new seeds, that in turn will restart the cycle, and generate great multiplication.

b. Multiply

Multiplication is the process by which the seed produces fruit, and fruit contains new seed. Multiplication is at our disposal if there is new fruit. Fruit follows the same cycle, and a great multiplication then arises.

The second factor is:

II. MAN WAS GIVEN THE ORDER TO MULTIPLY

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them,” “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:27-28) ...”

God’s order toward the human race still stands: Be fruitful and multiply.

God’s purpose has always been multiplication. Multiplication to what He has given life. Every member of the Animal or Plant Kingdom has the potential included in him or her of an anointing of multiplication. All beings can be fruitful and multiply.

“And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it (Genesis 9:7).”

- a. *The father of the faith Abraham was called to multiply
“And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly (Genesis 17:2).”*
- b. *Isaac was called to multiply
“And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake (Genesis 26:24).”*
- c. *God called Jacob to produce the same results
“Also God said to him: “I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body (Genesis 35:11).”*

The third factor is:

III. WHY MULTIPLY?

God wants to save everybody! Multiplication is not man’s desire, it’s God’s desire. Growth is not by human will, or for human benefit. Growth is to enlarge the Kingdom of God.

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).”

a. **That All Should Come To Repentance**

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4).”

b. **God’s reach is universal**

“All men.” “For there is no partiality with God (Romans 2:11).” His desire is the same, that we should all be fruitful and multiply.

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief (1 Timothy 1:15).”

The fourth factor is:

IV. GOD SEES THE MULTITUDES

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36).”

a. **When He Saw The Multitudes**

The church must see what Jesus sees. If our eyesight is limited then we are blinded to the great need that there is in this lost world, a world devoid of God and hope.

Let us leave the four walls and let us see the thousands of souls. There are millions of people in our cities who don’t have God. Let us see the multitudes.

b. **He was moved with compassion**

The second thing that the Lord did here after seeing the multitudes is that he saw them with eyes of compassion. Only compassionate people can feel the burden to save those doomed to condemnation: People without God and without hope.

The fifth factor is:

V. THE EARLY CHURCH MULTIPLIED

The order to multiply still stands for the church of the Lord: Multiply! In other words: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”* God’s desire continues to be the same: A desire to leave no one outside of his salvation plan.

“And he said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).” The early church began with great multiplication, the Book of the Acts witnesses to this fact. Almost every chapter is a testimony to the great multiplication that the church had in those first years. Let us review some passages:

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty) (Acts 1:15).”

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them (Acts 2:41).”

"However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand (Acts 4:4)."

"And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women (Acts 5:14)."

"Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution (Acts 6:1)."

"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7)."

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized (Acts 8:12)."

"So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord (Acts 9:35)."

"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days (Acts 10:48)."

"And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21)."

"And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26)."

"Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:43-44)."

"And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (Acts 14:21)."

"So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily (Acts 16:5)."

"And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas (Acts 17:4)."

"Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men (Acts 17:12)."

We can conclude by saying that God's project has always defied us to achieve great things for Him. Not because we can or because we are great, but only because He is a specialist in making something small into something extraordinary.

"So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties. And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all. So they all ate and were filled. And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish. Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men (Mark 6:40-44)."





SPIRITUAL RETREATS

LESSON 5

BIBLICAL BASIS: ACTS 7:17

INTRODUCTION

God's people have always multiplied. Through different circumstances and challenges God's people have multiplied in each generation because growth has always been at the heart of God.

The Promise To Abraham

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you (Genesis 17:1-6)."

Abraham had no possibility of multiplying anymore. Multiplication can come against all predictions.

We shall continue to review other factors:

The first factor is:

I. THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL MULTIPLIED

"But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them (Exodus 1:7)."

Israel's multiplication in Egypt happens against every prediction:

- a. No freedom, they are slaves
- b. No free time, forced labor for 16 hours
- c. No available income
- d. No freedom to act
- e. No good circumstances

- f. No infrastructure
- g. No livable or even humane conditions

There was little to no chance that the people of Israel would multiply but against every prediction Israel multiplied exponentially. Multiplication is the Kingdom of God, it's not about our circumstances but its about God's power working within us to bring forth growth.

A slave people that had no freedoms, nor comforts, multiplied because they had a great God. The people of Israel never lost their faith even through all the circumstances they lived through. On the contrary, when they had little to no chance of growing, their faith was rewarded, and this period of oppression did not stop them. That is the lesson that every disciple must learn, despite the circumstances, we can have growth for the glory of God.

The second factor is:

II. THE ENEMY IS AGAINST MULTIPLICATION

"Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel (Exodus 1:11-12)."

The growth of God's kingdom through history has faced tremendous opposition, opposition from the minds of those people that the enemy inspires to halt growth. We can say without a doubt that great multiplication doesn't happen without opposition.

We find in the People of Israel like in the Early Church a common denominator: That the greatest spurts of multiplication took place at the worst moments. The Pharaohs in Egypt, the Caesars in Rome did their worst. However, we can see that against the power of God nothing can prevail.

The third factor is:

III. TO KILL MULTIPLICATION IS THE DEVIL'S WORK

"Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live (Exodus 1:15-16)."

Any great vision will have great opposition. Said differently, the enemy will attempt to kill God's vision for his people to stop the spread of Christ's kingdom. The enemy is merciless in his attack against the spread of the church, to so stunt it and destroy it.

"So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive? And the midwives said to Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them (Exodus 1:18-19)."

To be one step ahead of Satan in his own strategy, will help us to preserve the growth of God's kingdom. The church cannot continue to slumber, it cannot continue to ignore how the enemy has infiltrated into the church to stop God's kingdom.

We need leaders with revelation that can undo the enemy's plans and strategies that he uses against the kingdom. Leaders who can stand in the gap to struggle and to birth new believers, before the enemy comes and destroys them, people that God has begun to work within them by his word in their hearts.

The fourth factor is:

IV. GOD IS THE GIVER OF MULTIPLICATION

"He increased His people greatly, And made them stronger than their enemies (Psalm 105:24)."

- a. God's people always multiply
"So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly (Genesis 47:27)."
- b. God's people grew and multiplied
"But the word of God grew and multiplied (Acts 12:24)."

Our work is to do that which the Lord has commanded us to do: To make disciples. And the Holy Spirit's task is to grow His people. Let us do what the Lord has commanded us and he will give us growth.

- c. The parable of growth
"And He said, The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come (Mark 4:26-29)."

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel only needs to be sown within the heart of man, it has the power to give life and grow.

CONCLUSION

The paradigm that has set into the minds of Christian leaders is that this era is the most difficult one for the spread of the Gospel. They believe that growth is a complicated business. The truth is that in every era, for Israel, as for the Early Church, the circumstances were difficult, similar and many times worse than in the present.

The truth is that growth is the result of passionate leaders that go beyond their strengths and possibilities. They have a firm conviction that the Gospel must continue forward, despite every forecast, and they overcome negative forces, sometimes with their own lives.

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)."



THE DISCIPLESHIP SCHOOL

LESSON 6

BIBLICAL BASIS: MATTHEW 20:28

INTRODUCTION

Man comes to earth with a purpose from God, and that purpose is to serve. You were made to serve God, to serve your neighbor, to serve your church and to serve your community.

Your ministry and faithfulness on earth will determine your vocation in heaven. God expects each one of us to be useful in his hands. In fact, God only uses vessels of honor. People that surrender to God are used by him in the service of others.

Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 2:20-21: "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."

There are different leadership styles.

The first one is:

I. SECULAR LEADERSHIP

This leadership does not seek to serve. It seeks everything except service. It is necessary to learn what true kingdom leadership is so that we can become spiritual leaders:

a. **Leadership of power:**

The leadership that the world wields has to do with power and prestige. These leaders seek after leadership because they desire power, their leadership is limited by what they receive and not by what they can give.

b. **Leadership of superiority**

These leaders are placed in positions because they are supposedly better. They have better abilities, gifts, or resources. Many times they ascend in leadership because of favors or debts that are owed.

c. **Leadership of control**

The Word of God reveals to us this kind of leadership, a leader that wants to be more than everyone else: *“And He said to them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors. But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves (Luke 22:25-27).”*

The first one is:

II. RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

“Then Jesus said to them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees (Mark 16:6).”

a. **Leadership of power**

1. Position and entitlement are the dreams of a selfish leader.
2. Recognition is the need of such a leader, that seeks to be exalted.
3. Hollow and empty religiosity, they are completely unaware of God’s kingdom.

b. **Quick to take up a Sword**

1. I’m going to do things my way
2. Resist change
3. A spirit of wrath and vengeance
4. Competition
5. Division
6. Lack of availability and willingness
7. Insecure and doubtful

A leader with a pharisee spirit will be a great problem in achieving the vision. This is due to his nature: He is a taker, and not a giver. He wants to be great, he doesn’t want to serve.

Watch out for a pharisaic leader!

The Lord Jesus shows us true leadership:

III. SERVANT LEADERSHIP

True leadership has to do with service. Service shares this trait with love: *“It is not self-seeking (1 Corinthians 13:5).”*

a. **Jesus became a Servant.**

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Matthew 23:10-12).”

b. **Jesus Himself gave us the example of a servant leader.**

“So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say

well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you (John 13:12-15)."

c. **Service leads us.**

A servant is someone who elevates and supports others, a person given the responsibility to serve.

The fourth one is:

IV. SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep and was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption (Acts 13:36)."

The leader who works in a small group must be an excellent servant. Someone who places his benefits last behind the wellbeing of all his members. He should be the first to arrive to the home, he must always be ready, he must be aware of the needs of members, and must visualize opportunity in every member and need.

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant (Mark 10:43)."

The Lord always uses those people that are active. He never uses mediocre people nor people who are sitting around with their arms crossed. The people God uses he calls because they are already working. He called Elisha when he was working in his field. He called Matthew when he was charging taxes. He called men when they were out fishing to be apostles.

God wants to make us into **"fishers of men."** The small group leader doesn't just use a fishing rod, no, he casts a net. This kind of leader believes in the Word and succeeds in his catch.

CONCLUSION

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one (1 Corinthians 3:5)?"

To serve is one of the purposes for which you were created. Humility is the older sister of service, these two go hand in hand. To be a leader you need to be available and dedicated so that you can give what you have. The Lord will take care of the rest.

People with a servant's spirit are people who take the kingdom of God to experience exponential growth. When in a congregation there is a large number of leaders that give credit to the group instead of just garnering personal credit, then something great and exponential has just begun in that congregation.

A mission, without the correct attitude of service: will surely fail!



THE LEADERSHIP MEETING

LESSON 7

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:25

INTRODUCTION

One of the church's least understood tasks is recalling the biblical model that leaders established for God's people. It is easy to delegate ministries to people, but to establish leaders over people has caused great fear to those in authority. And the fear is warranted because if a pastor establishes a leader who doesn't have a servant's mentality, then that can cause many problems to the church. For this reason, candidates for leadership must be tested and found to have certain spiritual characteristics.

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18)."

Leaders must have the following characteristics:

The first characteristic is:

I. TO LOVE GOD AND THEIR SPIRITUAL LEADER

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. (Romans 16:3-4)."

Priscilla and Aquila became great leaders and soul winners because they embraced the vision of their leader and not only that, but they would even defend him.

One of the main duties of a pastor of a small group-based church is empowering his leaders to the spiritual battlefield. God has delegated this authority to pastors, an authority that is transmitted to leaders when the pastor lays his hands and delegates the care of a certain group of members.

The pastor must empower "Joshuas" that are ready to remain in the desert next to him, for the cause of bringing God's people into God's promise.

“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9).”

The second characteristic is:

II. A SPIRIT OF SERVICE

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also (Romans 16:1-2).”

The Strategy of Jesus has helped many people, me included. Small groups can only be effective when leaders have the same attitude as Jesus Christ: Serve others.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).”

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him (Romans 6:8).”

“Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord (Romans 16:9-12).”

The third characteristic is:

III. GOOD TESTIMONY

“Moreover you shall select from all people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens (Exodus 18:21).”

Leadership is influence; it is to reproduce who we are. If we want a church that is glorious and beautiful, we must promote people that are God-fearing and that are of good testimony among God’s people.

“Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me (Romans 16:7).”

The expression “of note” is not something everyone can receive, it’s something that we must make an effort to achieve.

“Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them (Romans 16:15).”

The expression “the saints” we should all have.

Three important cases to empower a leader:

1. A New Creation. A leader must have repented and been baptized in Jesus Name.
2. Filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must have filled a leader, with the evidence of speaking in new tongues.
3. Faithful to God and the Pastor. A Servant must be a steward and must be obedient.

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business (Acts 6:3).”

“The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it (Acts 13:17).”

The fourth characteristic is:

IV. FAITHFUL STEWARD

“So he called him and said to him, What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward (Luke 16:2).”

To be a leader for the world is to be greatest of all, the owner, or the one who bosses everyone around. In the Lord, however, to speak of leadership is to care for the things of the Lord Jesus Christ, without ever lording over them, only caring for them as stewards.

The greatest characteristic of a steward is faithfulness: ***“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own (Luke 16:10-12)?”***

A servant’s true faithfulness is known by how he manages money: ***“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches (Luke 16:11)?”*** Leaders must be faithful tithers to the Lord.

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (Luke 16:13).”

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, in what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8).”

“You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year (Deuteronomy 14:22).”

“If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it (Leviticus 27:31).”

Unrighteous riches is a test on the character of the leader, given that God does not need our money. However, He has established an economic system for the kingdom, and one of the features of that system helps us test the hearts of his followers.

CONCLUSION

The gift of leadership is a beautiful gift that God has given his people, to take the good news to the nations.

“And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:15-16).”

The leader has no fear to go to his assigned group, for if he truly is a godly leader, the Lord will support him in his friendship group and the group shall bear fruits: *“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen (Mark 16:20).”*





EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRIES

LESSON 8

BIBLICAL BASIS: MALACHI 4:2

INTRODUCTION

Small group leaders have two important duties to achieve multiplication for God's Kingdom.

"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do (Exodus 18:20)."

"And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws," refers to training disciples in the doctrine. It is vital that leaders have strong convictions in the Word of God and produce these convictions in their disciples.

We want to share with you all a comparison, two wings of a leader:

The first wing is:

I. CARING FOR CONVERTS

"And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace (Exodus 18:22-23)."

Traditional churches embraced the paradigm that only the pastor is supposed to care and deal with the "issues of the people," and that no one else should bother with this task, since this is the 'pastor's business'. But God reveals to Moses through Jethro that this duty should not be exclusively his, but this duty should also be for leaders that are well-trained in the Word so that God's people don't fail, waiting in line to be cared for by one man.

a. **The care for the church must be shared**

"Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself (Exodus 18:18)."

b. **Easy issues must be delegated**

“So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves (Exodus 18:26).”

c. **Prayer and the Word is the pastor’s priority**

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:3-4).”

The work of caring for a church that is experiencing exponential growth is not a task for only one man. Instead, the Lord Jesus has entrusted the care of members to his body the church, comprised of many members that each have a specific duty within the body.

“That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25).”

The second wing is:

II. CONVERTING THE LOST

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30).”

He who wins souls is wise, every small group leader knows that winning souls is the main duty of the Kingdom of God. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).”*

Nowadays the Gospel seems to be a message focused on making people comfortable. However, the Gospel of Jesus is not a message of comfort or prosperity, though that may come, these are secondary to receiving God in our lives.

“Receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:9).”

So, the second wing of a leader is to win over the lost by mobilizing the saved. Leaders motivate group members to bring souls to the small group meeting so that they can be enrolled into the purposes of the Jesus Strategy, all with the purpose of bringing them to the feet of Christ.

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).”

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect (1 Corinthians 1:17).”

“Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord (2 Corinthians 2:12).”

A leader has been called to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God with his small group. This is the reason God sends them. This is a difficult task, but God goes ahead of us as a mighty giant, he tears down the arguments that may arise against the knowledge of Christ.

To win souls, the small group leader must:

1. Keep watch of the converts: That they attend and take souls to small group.
2. He and his family must bring new souls to the friendship group.
3. He must motivate the host, that the host would bring neighbors and family to the small group.
4. He must go with his small group into the streets, squares, public spaces, or to the houses of people.
5. He must connect attendees to Friends Day to his small group.
6. He must connect attendees to Sunday Services to his small group, if that person is not in a group yet.
7. He must plan each week for his small group to succeed. "For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 24:6)."

"For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe (1 Corinthians 1:21)."

The church exists to win over the world for Christ, this is the most pressing task for us. We can host an infinite number of events and believe that with hosting so many events we are pleasing God, but let us not lose sight from our main purpose, that Jesus Christ came with one express purpose, he came to save us.

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief (1 Timothy 1:15)."

"And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world (John 12:47)."

"For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. And they went to another village (Luke 9:56)."

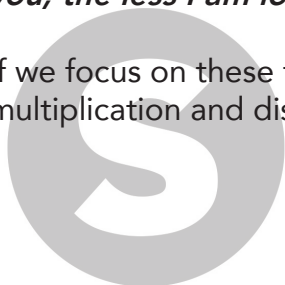
CONCLUSION

To be a small group leader is a beautiful calling, this is a calling from the Lord Jesus Christ himself. This requires that the leader fly with two wings:

1. The first to care for converts, and
2. The second to win souls.

"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved (2 Corinthians 12:15)."

If we focus on these two tasks it will bring on a great revival in the Kingdom of God, and a great multiplication and discipling of souls.





CHURCH PLANTING

LESSON 9

BIBLICAL BASIS: 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

INTRODUCTION

The Jesus Strategy's goal is to make disciples that have a mission toward the world (Evangelism) and that serve the church (Ministries).

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2)."

The Jesus Strategy is emphatic, not only in developing believers with the mission Jesus gave us, but in making them into true disciples and servants of the body of Christ. *"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."*

"Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution (Acts 6:1)."

"Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7)."

The Strategy of Jesus has four stages that we call purposes, all with the goal of obeying the words of Jesus, *"Go and make disciples."*

"Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again (John 3:7)."

New Birth is the first purpose of the Jesus Strategy. If the new the disciple is not born again then he will never be able, try as he may, to become a true disciple.

To become a true disciple, you need a true transformation first. That is why a friendship group leader's first purpose is to convince souls to be born again in Christ Jesus.

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith (1 John 5:4)."

To achieve the first purpose, the friendship group leader must do his part and the Lord will do the rest. *“And He said, The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how (Mark 4:26-27).”*

The Jesus Strategy has 8 processes or gears that we have identified from agricultural work, and that yield a great harvest. We have applied these to the Kingdom of God, and they are essentially like the teachings of Jesus: *“And he said, the Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground (Mark 4:26).”*

Within the purposes of the Strategy of Jesus, following the analogy of sowing, we have four verbs for the development of disciples:

The first verb is:

I. NEW BIRTH

(Duration: 4 months) Five processes or gears are activated.

a. **Spiritual Strategy**

This process is the foundation for all the other purposes and processes of the Jesus Strategy. This process is permanent prayer and fasting. This process is done throughout the year. Spiritual strategy is necessary to be able to connect souls to small groups and to friends' day.

b. **The Outreach Cycle**

Every four months an outreach cycle is done by the church to bring new souls to NEW BIRTH. For forty days or five weeks, leaders shall motivate their small group members to bring new souls. Members are provided a bookmark with space to fill in the name of 10 persons that need to come to know Jesus. Every week members intentionally do the following five things: Writing down and praying, contacting, visiting, inviting and bringing to Friends Day. On friends day they are confirmed to attend a small group and services on Sunday.

c. **Small Groups**

Small Groups continue throughout the year to receive new believers that come into the church by the way of the outreach cycle. From the group they are connected into the four purposes of the Jesus Strategy. In the group we can feed members and maintain them united to the Body of Christ and the Strategy Purposes, all this through the processes or gears of the Jesus Strategy.

d. **Retreat for Souls**

Attendees to Friends Day and new small group members are taken to a Retreat for Souls to be healed and delivered from bondages and contrary thoughts. The retreat is intensive with the Word of God. And finally we pray for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

e. **Follow Me School**

After the retreat for souls, retreat attendees are registered to the 'Follow Me' School to give new disciples the basics of faith (The Apostolic Doctrine), and to prepare them after they have repented to be baptized for new birth.

BRIDGE ACTIVITY: BAPTISM CELEBRATION.

The New Birth purpose ends, culminating in bringing all the new souls to baptism, this is a beautiful celebration: We witness souls surrender to Christ and being born again.

It is vitally important that the friendship group leader makes sure that a new disciple does not stay stuck at New Birth but continues to progress into the second purpose which is Grow.

The second verb is:

II. GROW

Three processes or gears comprise the second purpose of Grow and this purpose lasts two months.

a. **Spiritual Strategy**

After a person is baptized it is necessary for the leader to continue to pray and fast for that person so that he may be affirmed in his Christian life. We should be prepared spiritually given that the enemy shall unleash his full arsenal to try and kill the new soul in Christ. For this reason, the small group shall keep praying for new converts.

b. **Follow Me School**

During this second purpose, classes will last for sixty days, this purpose contains 24 lessons to GROW a disciple in their relationship to Christ.

c. **Friendship Group**

The life of the group is permanent. In a small group a new believer learns how to relate to his brothers and sisters, and he also learns how to receive love from others. For 12 months he will be congregating in his small group. Statistics say that 90% of born-again Christians fall away because of a lack of spiritual care.

BRIDGE ACTIVITY: REVIVAL NIGHT

At the conclusion of the second purpose, it is essential for new converts to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We recommend a service to pray for people to receive the Holy Spirit. The church must continue to pray, fast, and promote revival activities for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit, with the initial sign of speaking in new tongues.

The third verb is:

III. MATURE

The Mature purpose is comprised of two processes or gears, and it covers two months.

This stage's purpose is to place responsibility on the shoulders of new disciples, assigning them to be small group assistants (Timothys) with the goal that their service to God comes into maturity by serving others.

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).”

The small group leader shall lead a new convert through the third purpose, to not lose a future leader and a potential small group multiplication. Without Timothy, there is no multiplication.

a. **Follow Me School**

The school continues to teach with the goal of preparing a disciple to become a good servant of God’s Kingdom. Here you will learn at this level all the work involved with the Jesus Strategy, learning to serve as an assistant at a small group (Timothy).

This purpose spans two months, with 24 lessons in it, three lessons per week. This is all done to prepare a disciple to become a Timothy.

b. **MEET Gathering.**

Timothies must join the Leadership Meeting, or the MEET Gathering, to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities he or she will have as a small group leader.

Spiritual Strategy and Friendship Groups continue their work.

BRIDGE ACTIVITY: TIMOTHY CELEBRATION

This celebration shall be held in a small group, with the goal of officially presenting the new Timothies. At the same time, the leader will share the vision that these new timothies will become leaders at multiplication.

The fourth verb is:

IV. MULTIPLY

This purpose is comprised of three processes or gears. The purpose lasts for four months.

This purpose’s goal is for a Timothy to be launched as a Small Group Leader to bring much fruit for the Glory of God.

“But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred (Mark 4:8).”

FOLLOW ME SCHOOL

The Multiply level teaching spans 2 months in total, 24 lessons, three are taught each week. The goal is to train the disciple in all his responsibilities. At the same time, he will understand the duties of a small group leader, zone sectors, and network directors, so that all of them work as an Army for the Kingdom of God.

“O my love, you are as beautiful as Tizrah, Lovely as Jerusalem, Awesome as an army with banners (Song of Solomon 6:4).”

a. **Spiritual Retreats.**

The church hosts this retreat for Timothies before they are launched, to empower them with more passion and vision on the task of winning the world for Christ.

b. **The Bridge Activity will be the Multiplication Celebration**

This is held to empower the new leaders and to give them authority, to go to the homes of the lost and to care for those won over to Christ.

c. **Excellence in Ministries or School of Ministries.**

This process or gear begins to train leaders in the ministries of the church, this is done for 6 weeks. Twelve lessons are taught during this time.

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 4:5).”

Four different modules for ministries are offered:

1. Power Ministries.
2. Altar Ministries.
3. Service Ministries.
4. Teaching Ministries.

CONCLUSION

It is very important to know the purposes or processes of the Jesus Strategy, for these will yield the best results and general advancement of real growth in our churches.

So that the purposes of the Jesus Strategy are done well, it is important to not change a purpose and to not move a gear.





DEFEATING OUR ENEMY

LESSON 10

BIBLICAL BASIS: ECCLESIASTES 5:8.

INTRODUCTION

Someone who is high up must be watched by a higher up.

The Jesus Strategy is not a task for only one man, it's an entire structure of government. Everyone as a team works together to achieve extraordinary multiplication. That is why supervision at each level is so necessary, so that the whole team works under authority and develop a culture of results.

Every vision requires super-vision.

Supervision – Words that mean 'super': Over, above. Visum: To see, to review, to watch, to see from on high, global vision, care of the vision.

In other words, *"To see that things are done with the vision in mind."* Synonyms for supervision are: To Watch, To inspect, to observe, to prove, to record, to review.

There are a couple of key principles for supervision.

The first principle is:

I. SUPERVISION

Every leader in one way or another is a supervisor. A good leader sees what is going on in the trench he is in, he is watching over and guiding others, in such a way that he makes sure the organization is keeping the vision. Our vision has to do with God's vision. For this reason it is important that we do everything unto the Lord. A supervisor is:

a. **A Servant of the Lord**

"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1)."

The mentality of every supervisor should be that as he is keeping watch, he is doing it for God, whom we all serve, and that we are supervising, his blessed work.

b. **A Faithful Servant**

"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2)."

To serve the church is to serve the Body of Christ. We serve Jesus as we serve his body, that is why we have the responsibility of proceeding with great care, to be faithful stewards to what he has entrusted us.

The second principle is:

II. SUPERVISING EFFECTIVELY

"Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out (1 Samuel 4:13)."

Samuel was the prophet who under his watch lost the ark, his children, and God's blessings for him, all for wanting to supervise from a chair. The work of keeping watch and supervising, requires that at each level of the vision the leaders be truly committed to the Jesus Strategy vision.

Many think they can supervise, but not everyone can do it effectively. If you want to supervise God's way, you should:

- a. **Prepare.**
 - 1. Plan.
 - 2. Organize.
 - 3. Direct.
 - 4. Give Feedback.

- b. **Work Hard.**
 - 1. Consistency.
 - 2. Dedication.
 - 3. Perseverance.
 - 4. Review.

The third principle is:

III. THE SUCCESS OF A SUPERVISOR

We can see the success that Solomon had in doing things. It's not just about being a leader in name, we must be leaders in quality.

a. **To Watch**

"Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work (1 Kings 9:23)."

b. **To Build**

"Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the Lord, and a royal house for himself (2 Chronicles 2:1)."

c. **To Select**

“Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them (2 Chronicles 2:2).”

The fourth principle is:

IV. SUPERVISION OF THE STYLE OF THE STRATEGY OF JETHRO

“Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward (2 John 1:8).”

“And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves (Exodus 18:25-26).”

This way of working is 100% biblical, it reflects millennial wisdom. The results have been tested, that those who delegate supervision will confirm the efficiency of the model. All churches that have dared to do this can testify to its success. Moses himself was able to lead all the people through this model.

- a. Small Group Leader – 10 persons
- b. Sector Supervisor – 50 persons
- c. Zone Coordinator – 100 persons
- d. Network Director – 1000 persons

Caring for the fruit of our labor is the fundamental task of our supervision. Growth without consolidation is to throw the harvest into a ripped sack. God has provided us a small group-based government structure, that is giving extraordinary results in the whole world. Churches that have embraced the small group model have revolutionized the Christian world.

CONCLUSION

The importance of supervision is essential. The success or failure of the model depends in a great way on how we supervise. If you have good supervisors, these will be great blessings in the Work of God. Part of the success is in diligently supervising duties.

“I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down (Proverbs 24:30-31).”

Diligent supervisors will produce green and fruitful fields.

“Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Romans 12:11).”



THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 11

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:25.

INTRODUCTION

“Rulers of fifties:” Human beings by their own nature require supervision on their delegated tasks. Additionally, humans need the support of authority and supervisors that can help them in their task or spiritual jurisdiction, particularly to resolve issues in small groups. That is why Sector Supervisors are so necessary in the small group-based model, given that without supervision groups would close or worse even, would end up being a headache for the church and the pastor.

To be the leader of small groups, you must have the following characteristics:

The first characteristic is:

I. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A GOOD SMALL GROUP LEADER

“In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility (Titus 2:7).”

“Showing yourself to be a pattern.” A good small groups supervisor is someone who has gained the respect of the church by being a good small group leader. This experience will allow him to understand the leaders under his authority. He must have experience and not just theory in the work of small groups. Without experience, he will not have the necessary knowledge and tact, to then be able to lead his subordinates and so multiply groups.

“So that you become examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe (1 Thessalonians 1:7).”

“Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other (1 Corinthians 4:6).”

“Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3).”

The second characteristic is:

II. YOU MUST BE A MATURE AND SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

“Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature (1 Corinthians 14:20).”

To be able to supervise 50 persons you need to be a mature and spiritual leader, not children in the Gospel nor weak in faith, for they will have to resolve issues that small group leaders cannot resolve on their own.

Furthermore, supervisors will discover by the nature of their work personal details about the lives of their disciples. Mature people will be necessary to grow disciples, instead of destroying them or humiliating them for their faults and errors.

That is why it will be necessary for a supervisor to be mature, spiritual and a very strong person in the Lord. *“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting (Ephesians 4:14).”*

The third characteristic is:

III. YOU MUST BE A LEADER WHO HAS SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY.

“For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it (Matthew 8:9).”

“For I also am a man under authority,” every man knows that to belong to an army, you must learn to be under authority, to so be able to win wars. That is why one of the most important disciplines is obedience. Without obedience, every one would do as they pleased. As such, the Lord has instructed us on the importance of understanding spiritual authority.

For the small group model to work, we need supervisors that have the same discipline, **“having soldiers under me,”** that have first learned to obey, to be able to be a true leader; that has learned to exercise **“spiritual authority.”**

In God’s Kingdom, whoever is not ready to obey, is not qualified to be in authority. *“Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves (Romans 3:2).”*

“Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries (Jude 8).”

“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work (Titus 3:1).”

“So Samuel said: Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams (1 Samuel 15:22).”

The fourth characteristic is:

IV. YOU MUST BE AN ABLE AND RESPONSIBLE LEADER

“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey (Matthew 25:15).”

“To each according to his own ability,” to be a small group leader you need certain abilities and spiritual gifts, to be able to exercise authority in your work. That is why a supervisor must be a battle tested disciple.

Abilities necessary for a leader:

- a. Ability to communicate
- b. Ability to work in a team
- c. Ability to resolve conflicts
- d. Knowledge of the Word of God
- e. Ability to solve moral and spiritual problems

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (2 Corinthians 4:7).”

“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8).”

“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power (1 Corinthians 4:20).”

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).”

The fifth characteristic is:

V. YOU MUST BE A LEADER OF INTEGRITY

“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches (Luke 16:11)?”

Bishop Isidro Perez Ramirez, a founder of the Apostolic Church of Mexico, use to recount that he once arrived at a city to lead a crusade. The local pastor and the pastor’s deacons were already there to receive Bishop Perez when the deacons then rushed to take the bishop’s portfolio and luggage. Bishop Perez asked the pastor: Do these deacons of yours tithe? The pastor smiled and answered, sometimes.

Bishop Perez immediately stopped them and said: Young men leave my luggage and portfolio, if you dare to steal from God, what's to stop you from stealing from me?

The leader's integrity is proven first in the way he manages the riches God gives him, if he doesn't have integrity with money, he will probably not have integrity with many other things.

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord. If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30-32)."

"And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You (Genesis 28:22)."

"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8)."

"Then they faithfully brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things; Cononiah the Levite had charge of them, and Shimei his brother was the next (2 Chronicles 31:12)."

CONCLUSION

The supervisor has a great task ahead of him for what God and his pastor has entrusted him with are souls and leaders to be under his authority. It is important that he be a true man of God, or a woman of God.

"And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:24)."





THE QUALITIES OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER

LESSON 12

BIBLICAL BASIS: TITUS 1:5.

INTRODUCTION

The task of a small groups supervisor is a wonderful task. This is a task delegated from the Lord Jesus Christ himself for the care of his church. The work that supervisors do is a work unto the Lord, so it is the Lord who will reward this work.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ (Colossians 3:23-24).”

“For you serve the Lord Christ,” to serve Jesus is the highest honor that a human can have on this earth, no work is more important than the work of the Kingdom of God.

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor (1 Corinthians 3:8).”

We shall review some of the duties that supervisors do:

The first duty is:

I. TO CARE FOR THE PROGRAM OF THE SMALL GROUP

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you (Titus 1:5).”

“Set in order the things that are lacking”

- a. The supervisor’s main duty is to care and watch that the small groups follow the Jesus Strategy vision, without deviating from the vision.
- b. They must also watch that small group leaders are taking their new converts, for the good of their growth through the purposes of the Jesus Strategy: New Birth, Grow, Mature and Multiply.

- c. They must also receive the small group reports and offerings from small groups; they must turn them in to the House of God or to the administrator in charge of the ministry.
- d. The Supervisor shall keep watch that the small group meet on the day, hour, and home they have been assigned, and that the order of a small groups is followed (See: How to have a small group). A small group should not be a Sunday Service! It should not be a crusade, a club, a Sunday School, but it must truly be a small group.

The second duty is:

II. TO VISIT SMALL GROUPS

“Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon’s work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work (1 Kings 9:23).”

The supervisors are those who keep watch of the small groups, to make sure that they do their job. It is essential that the supervisor be regularly visiting his groups, at least once a month. That is to say that the supervisor should have a maximum of five small groups. One will be the group he himself leads, and he will have another four for whatever needs arise, every week he shall attend his own small group and another small group meeting, at the very least.

What should be supervise?

- a. That the small group be working on a set hour and day.
- b. That the small group be studying the assigned lesson from the pastor.
- c. That the small group is communicating the processes or gears of the Jesus Strategy.
- d. That the group write up a report and collect an offering.
- e. That appropriate follow up be given to those who are not congregating (visits, motivational calls, etc.)
- f. That new disciples are attending the purposes and processes of the Jesus Strategy
- g. That the lives of the leaders of the small groups are spiritually healthy

The third duty is:

III. PROMOTE NEW LEADERS OF FRIENDSHIP GROUPS

“But of the children of Israel Solomon made no forced laborers, because they were men of war and his servants: his officers, his captains, commanders of his chariots, and his cavalry (1 Kings 9:22).”

The supervisor will see to it that all the friendship groups in his sector: have a Timothy established, are being trained in the Follow Me School and in practical involvement (without any Timothy in the friendship groups; the multiplication of the friendship group cannot be guaranteed).

Therefore, the supervisor together with the leader of the friendship group, will promote new Timothies; who will later become the leaders of new friendship groups, when he/she reaches multiplication.

- a. Verify that the friendship group is training new Timothies
- b. Verify that the new Timothys are baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit; that they are not in

sin, but that they live in holiness, are faithful stewards, paying their tithes and are a good testimony.

- c. Verify that the Timothy is going through the processes or purposes of the strategy, so that he not only has theory; but has experienced going through the vision of the church in the Jesus' Strategy.

The fourth duty is:

IV. PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

2 Corinthians 4:1: "Let men count us therefore as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God".

The work of the Lord is beautiful and glorious, however, it is not exempt from problems; therefore, supervisors will be the first to receive all the issues that the friendship group leaders cannot resolve. The supervisor should do his best to resolve them before escalating them.

Common problems in friendship groups:

- a) Family matters in the host home.
- b) Differences between host and leader.
- c) Problems among the members of the friendship group.
- d) Members of other religions who will cause divisions or problems.
- e) Lack of order in friendship groups.

CONCLUSION

The task is not easy, but God has given us the promise of his presence with us. He only asks us to make an effort.

Joshua 1:9: "Behold, I command you to be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid or dismayed, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."





CHRISTIAN MATURITY

LESSON 13

BIBLICAL BASIS: EPHESIANS 4:16.

INTRODUCTION

Every living being that is healthy, grows and multiplies. Only when a body is deficient or sick will it not have the capacity to multiply. Therefore, one of the things that leadership demands is to see to it that the body (Church) of Christ remains healthy, so that it can multiply effectively.

John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you".

The objective of the small group work is: **"to bear fruit"**. The objective of friendship groups is to bear fruit to multiply. Sowing requires of seeds from a harvest. Without fruit in the small groups, we will not have multiplication.

Luke 8:8: "And some fell on good soil, and sprang up and brought forth fruit a hundredfold. And as he spake these things, he cried with a loud voice, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

There are, in addition, some other duties; but these have to do with multiplication: There are, in addition, some other duties; but these have to do with multiplication:

The first duty is:

I. CONTINUOUS EVANGELISM

Psalms 107:37-38: "They sow fields and plant vineyards, and yield abundant fruit. He blesses them, and they multiply exceedingly; and their cattle are not diminished."

Ensure that an evangelizing spirit is maintained in the friendship groups, since by having new souls, we can guarantee that the friendship group will continue to grow.

The stagnation comes, when in the friendship groups they become only caretakers of the baptized. Yet the leader has two wings, the other wing of the friendship group is "to win the lost". Without winning the lost, small groups will lose the wing that motivates them to keep flying.

Therefore, both the leader of the friendship group and the supervisor must be constantly motivated. And converts, even if the friend's day has not yet arrived, should continue to work to bring new souls into the friendship group.

John 15:2: "Every branch in me that bears no fruit, he will remove it; and every branch that does bear fruit, he will cleanse it, that it may bear more fruit".

Proverbs 14:23: "In all labor there is fruit: but idle chatter leads only to poverty".

2 Timothy 2:6: "The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops".

John 15:8: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so be my disciples".

The second duty is:

II. CONTINUOUS HEALTH

"Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work (1 Kings 9:23)."

Acts 6:7: "And the word of the Lord increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem; and many of the priests also obeyed the faith."

"And the word of the Lord grew", what keeps the Christian life alive and heals? It is the word of God, prayer and fasting.

"And the number of the disciples multiplied greatly", this is the result of bringing new disciples to the knowledge of the word of God. The word, keeps them healthy by giving them a foundation for their life. To fight against any doctrine of error and against any spiritual sickness, is only achieved by growing in the word and this also guarantees the growth of disciples.

Psalms 107:20: "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their ruin."

Jeremiah 17:14: "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for you are my praise."

In agriculture, the plants that do not produce, are the ones that got sick and could not develop properly. That is why one of the duties of the farmer is to keep the plants healthy, applying the right medicine and the right fertilizer for their growth and multiplication.

The third duty is:

III. CONTINUOUS TRAINING

Others were chiefs of the officials

Matthew 28:20: *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

You must ensure that the new disciples are advancing in the levels of teaching in the Follow Me School: New Birth, Grow, Mature and Multiply. They must also grow through preaching, in the Leadership Meeting, in retreats, in all events.

We must be constantly training new disciples to guarantee multiplication to produce a constant supply of Timothies

Acts 28:31: *“Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, openly and without hindrance”.*

1 Timothy 4:13: *“Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”*

Luke 1:2: *“Just as we were taught by those who from the beginning saw it with their eyes, and were ministers of the word.”*

1 Corinthians 11:23: *“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus took bread the night he was betrayed.*

Constantly preparing new leaders will guarantee the right multiplication of small groups. Even if groups are reaching souls, without a new Timothy, there will be no multiplication.

The third duty is:

IV. FOCUSED GOALS

2 Chronicles 2:1: *“And Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the LORD, and a house for his kingdom”.*

Achievements are the result of predetermined goals; without goals it is like a ship sailing in the sea that has no destination. It can travel a long way but will not reach a port. Goals keep us focused so that we can produce results.

Job 22:28: *“Thou shalt also determine a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and light shall shine upon thy ways.”*

Therefore, the friendship group leader and the supervisor should set goals for multiplication, goals that challenge them to use their faith. Goals that perhaps with their own strength they would not achieve, but through faith and the power of God they will surpass the possible.

Hebrews 11:1: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.*

Each friendship group should be multiplied at least once every 12 months.

CONCLUSION

The supervisor is the steward within the kingdom, who maintains momentum in the friendship groups to be able achieve the healthy multiplication of the small groups. Friendship groups that stagnate should be treated in a special way; to diagnose what is the reason or disease that has that friendship group sterile.

Luke 13:7-9: "Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground? But he answered and said to him, Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down."

Move, change, or establish new leadership in stagnant friendship group. After the supervisor has done his part to motivate the group, this must be the recommendation given by the supervisor to the sector.





EIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF GROWING CHURCHES

LESSON 14

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:25.

INTRODUCTION

“Rulers of hundreds”, the zone coordinators are those leaders who are over 100 people. That is, 10 friendship groups and 2 sectors. The zone coordinator is the man of God that the senior pastor has commissioned to a certain zone of brothers and sisters organized in friendship groups and sectors, to oversee their life and spiritual growth.

Likewise, he shall see to it that the vision runs as the church and the pastor, on behalf of God, have established it.

Exodus 18:22: “They shall judge the people at all times; and every serious matter they shall bring to you, and they shall judge every small matter. Thus shalt thou lighten the burden from upon thee, and they shall bear it with thee.”

CHARACTERISTICS THAT A ZONE COORDINATOR SHOULD HAVE

The first characteristic is:

I. TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE

Philippians 3:17: “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

Each level of responsibility in the governance of the Jesus Strategy increasingly demands a higher level of commitment because caring for people is a challenge. Caring for 50 people is a lot of responsibility but caring for 100 people is a challenge that requires greater leadership skills.

One of the things that the pastor should take care of when selecting a zone coordinator is that he has moral authority, having been previously an example as a leader of friendship group. They should also have been good supervisors, to have clarity regarding the work of their leaders who are under his responsibility.

1 Peter 5:3: "not as having dominion over those who are under your care, but being examples to the flock".

John 13:15: "For I have given you an example, that as I have done for you, you also should do".

The second characteristic is:

II. A SHEPHERD'S HEART

Although the pastorate is a gift and a calling from God, one of the characteristics of a good shepherd is love for the sheep. That is why, although the zone coordinator is not the shepherd of the sheep, he/she should have a shepherd's heart. He needs this kind of heart since he will be the one who will be brought in to solve the issues that the friendship group leader or supervisor could not solve.

Isaiah 40:11: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall bear the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom; he shall gently lead the new-born lambs."

2 Corinthians 12:14-15: "Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved."

Luke 2:8: "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night."

The main task of the zone coordinator shall be to watch over the spiritual welfare of the members of the zone.

The third characteristic is:

III. NOT A NEOPHYTE

1 Timothy 3:6: "not a neophyte, lest by becoming vain he fall into the condemnation of the devil".

The zone coordinator should be a leader who is experienced in the knowledge of the Word of God. He/she should make sure that his/her knowledge of the word is up to the challenge of being able to help and guide the more than 100 people that make up his/her zone.

If possible, every zone coordinator should enroll in the local district Bible College; to further enrich his or her knowledge and be able to serve better.

He/she should also be knowledgeable about the Jesus Strategy to be able to give due follow up to each member in his care on the purposes of the Jesus Strategy; to lead them to greater spiritual development.

The fourth characteristic is:

IV. TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 7:55: "But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, looking up to heaven, saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

In addition to being leaders prepared in the Word, it is necessary that the zone coordinators be leaders who have been filled with the Holy Spirit, so that they also have the authority to face any challenge that their investiture requires.

Acts 11:24: "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great multitude was added to the Lord".

Acts 6:3: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this work."

Acts 13:52: "And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

Within his responsibilities, the zone coordinator will face great challenges; as he goes to solve problems in the homes. Only with the power of God will he be able to emerge victorious.

Romans 15:19: "in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ".

CONCLUSION

The task of caring for and multiplying a zone is a great challenge, but with passionate leaders being an example; having love, knowing the word, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, the task becomes easy. Because the leader does not fight in his own strength, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth".





PRODUCING HEALTHY PEOPLE

LESSON 15

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:25.

INTRODUCTION

“Rulers of hundreds”. These are wise and expert men, who can expand the vision of the Jesus strategy. It is necessary that the coordinator be someone who knows perfectly and in detail how a small group works.

Zones should encompass a geographical area of the city, to maintain a manageable range. This will help in the supervision of the sectors and the care of the members. So we will see the following duties for a Zone Coordinator:

The first duty is:

I. TO WATCH OVER THE VISION

Daniel 9:23: “At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment was given, and I am come to teach thee: for thou art greatly beloved. Understand therefore the commandment, and understand the vision”.

“Understand the order and understand the vision”, by nature human beings tend to do what is easiest and most practical; even when we know that it will not have results. For this reason, the zone coordinator, redundancy aside, must coordinate that the works of the Jesus Strategy are implemented in accordance with the vision of the senior pastor, in order to achieve success in his zone.

Without wise zone coordination, the work of the friendship groups will weaken and stagnate. That is why the first responsibility of the coordinator will be to watch over the vision. *Habakkuk 2:2: “And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and declare it upon tables, that he may run that readeth therein”.*

Acts 26:19: “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not rebellious to the heavenly vision.”

The zone coordinator will be the sentinel who jealously guards that the vision is carried out in each Friendship Group, and in each sector under his care. At the same time, he will be the one who watches over the spiritual life of the members of that zone.

The second duty is:

II. TO WATCH OVER THE BAPTIZED

Although the zone coordinator is not a supervisor of friendship groups, he/she should be the one who ensures that the baptized remain faithful to the Lord and active in their friendship groups, in order to lead them to greater spiritual development.

Statistics show that out of every 10 people who receive Christ, 9 return to the world, with only 10% of those reached remaining faithful.

That is why we, the churches of the Name, do not believe and do not want to be part of those statistics. The Jesus' strategy provides us with a model of member care, where a person has a friendship group leader, a sector supervisor, a zone coordinator, a network director and a general pastor. In other words, five levels of shepherding to achieve loyalty.

John 18:9: "that it might be fulfilled which he had said, Of those whom thou gavest me I lost none."

Luke 15:4: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it?"

John 17:12: "When I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name; those whom you gave me I kept, and none of them was lost, but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled."

A good care of the zones will allow us to not throw away the harvest out the back door, but to lead the members to greater faithfulness in the kingdom of God.

John 21:16,17: "Again he said to him the second time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me? Peter answered him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Tend my sheep. The third time he said to him, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me? Peter was grieved that he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he answered him, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep"."

The third duty is:

III. TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE SOULS IN HIS AREA.

Some needs to be addressed by the coordinator in your area:

- a. Praying for the sick.
- b. Visiting people in need in the area.
- c. Marriage counseling.
- d. Settling family disagreements.
- e. Attending to an issue delegated by the senior pastor.

In other words, the zone coordinator is more concerned with supervising the life of those already converted, without neglecting the vision of the Jesus' strategy.

2 Chronicles 2:2: "And Solomon appointed seventy thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand men to cut in the mountains, and three thousand and five hundred to keep watch over them."

Proverbs 27:23: "Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds."

The fourth duty is:

IV. TO WATCH OVER THE SMALL GROUP ORDER

The focus of the friendship group leader's is on winning souls and caring for believers. The sector supervisor's focus is to oversee the goals of the vision. The zone coordinator's focus is on the spiritual growth of his people.

Some important things to guard the Apostolic order:

- a. Care for and watch over the holiness of the leaders of friendship and sector groups.
- b. Care for and watch over the holiness of the baptized.
- c. Watch that no one deviates from the vision of the Jesus Strategy.
- d. Care for and watch over the delivery of reports at every level.
- e. Care for and watch over the growth of each person, within the Follow Me School; so that everyone goes through: New Birth, Grow, Mature and Multiply.

CONCLUSION

The tasks increase with greater responsibility, but so do the Lord's blessings. That is why the coordinator must prepare himself and organize his time well; since the level of commitment within the Jesus Strategy is greater than that of a friendship group leader and the supervisor becomes the right hand of the network director and the general pastor.

Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward his name, having served the saints and still serving them."

Work tirelessly for the love of Jesus Christ!





FROM FISHING WITH BAITED HOOKS TO FISHING WITH NETS

LESSON 16

BIBLICAL BASIS: ACTS 2:46-47.

INTRODUCTION

"In the temple and breaking bread from house to house," the early church concentrated on two types of meetings: one of "outreach" in the houses; and another of service to God, "praising God" in the temple. The results were amazing, in a few years they filled a vast empire with the word of God.

Therefore, the zones should see to it that the members reach this level of Christianity, where they keep winning souls *"in the houses; and worshipping God in the temple"*. As a result we can see that "the Lord added", God rewarded their faithfulness, bringing a great multiplication.

We also have the following duties:

The first duty is:

I. KEEPING THE PEOPLE FOCUSED

Keeping the people in the temple and in the houses is one of the tasks that the coordinator should not neglect to see the desired results.

Friendship groups achieve multiplication when members and leaders focus on activating friendship group members; on taking guests through the processes of Jesus' strategy: **New Birth, Growth, Maturity and Multiplication.**

Without new disciples growing in the processes, we will not see great multiplication. Therefore, it is essential that the zone coordinator keeps the friendship group leader and the sector supervisor focused on doing their job well, to see great results.

Acts 6:7: "And the word of the Lord increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem; and many of the priests also obeyed the faith."

The second duty is:

II. SELECTING NEW LEADERS

Acts 6:3: "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this work."

Selecting new leaders in friendship groups, to present them to their network for approval and to the senior pastor, will be one of the tasks that the zone coordinator will have to do with great care. The law of multiplication states that all reproduce according to their "kind" and according to their "species". That is to say, the type of leadership we have will determine the type of church we will be.

Genesis 1:21: "So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

Without new leaders, great multiplication cannot be achieved.

The capacity of a zone to reproduce leaders is the capacity for multiplication that it will have. In other words, growth and multiplication are directly related to the capacity to train and form new leaders.

If we do not understand this principle, our multiplications will be pale and forced. You will end up forcing existing leaders to double their tasks in giving more than one friendship group per week, or friendship groups will simply not multiply.

Numbers 1:16: "These were chosen from the congregation, leaders of their fathers' tribes, heads of the divisions in Israel."

Ephesians 4:16: "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

The third duty is:

III. WORKING WITH NUMBERS

Numbers are cold because they do not lie, that is why the zone coordinator will have the priority to see the numbers that the friendship groups show; to be able to give direction where there is a deficiency.

Some numbers to watch out for:

- a. Attendance of members.
- b. Guest attendance.
- c. Supervisor visits.
- d. Goals in each process of the Jesus strategy.
- e. Students sent from the area for development purposes.

Genesis 12:2: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing".

"I will make of you a great nation", God's promises to his people are always for multiplication, since God works in making the small things great. God gave Abraham a son, and then a whole nation came out. If one leader can provoke multiplication, How much more with a whole area of brothers, willing to enlarge the kingdom of God here on earth?

Matthew 13:45: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking goodly pearls".

Acts 28:31: "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, openly and without hindrance".

The fourth duty is:

IV. ESTABLISH GOALS

Projecting goals for multiplication, will give us a reference point for what we want to achieve. Although the goals should be qualitative and quantitative, the quality goals cannot be measured neatly. They are evident in the healing of people. Healthy people will help us to grow, since healthy people are those who are willing to follow God; and to work on numerical or quantitative goals.

Numerical goals:

- a. Set goals for group visits during planning.
- b. Set goals to the vision of the Jesus Strategy in each gear or process.
- c. Set goals for the purposes of the Jesus Strategy.
- d. Set baptism goals by friendship groups, sector and zone.
- e. Set goals for new leaders in the area.

CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 3:6: "I planted, Apollos watered; but God has given the growth".

God is the one who gives the growth, but God needs men and women willing to believe Him and to comply with His orders; so that what is decreed in the spiritual realm, is brought down by faith to the natural world. We will be able to see the great harvest that the Lord wants to give to those of us who are willing to carry his word and sow it, so that it will produce much fruit.

1 Corinthians 3:7: "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God, who gives the growth."



THE JETHRO STRATEGY – CELLULAR GOVERNMENT

LESSON 17

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:25.

INTRODUCTION

“Rulers of thousands,” are network directors who are the authorities in charge of directing the work of an entire Network of friendship groups: 100 friendship groups, 20 sectors and 10 zones in his authority.

They are right under the Senior Pastor, they are the first report of the zone coordinators, and he has under them sector supervisors and friendship group leaders. This is the only way to be “over a thousand people”.

To be a leader of this magnitude, several factors are involved:

The first factor, is:

I. EXEMPLARY LEADER IN VISION

One of the characteristics that a network director needs is that he must be an exemplary leader in the vision of Jesus’ strategy; since, in the small group model, people should not be promoted because of titles but only by their fruits. The fruits prove knowledge of the Jesus Strategy. This experience and yield will allow him to know the challenges of the leaders who follow him and will give authority on the subject.

2 Samuel 18:1: “So David reviewed the people that were with him, and appointed over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds.

Example:

- a. Have been a leader of a friendship group.
- b. Have been a supervisor.
- c. Be or have been a zone coordinator
- d. Be involved in at least one ministry. E. Preferably be an ordained minister.

The second factor is:

II. TO BE LEADERS OF GOOD TESTIMONY

Deuteronomy 1:15: "So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes."

The responsibility of a small group-based church that reaches the levels of thousands is a great task. Therefore, the leaders of thousands or directors of networks should be "wise and knowledgeable" men. They should also have a good testimony in the congregation in order to be able to exercise authority.

At this level, since a network director has up to 1,000 people under him, his task is even greater than that of a pastor of a traditional church because of the sheer number of people he directs. He is practically directing a sector of churches, akin to an Elder.

1 Chronicles 28:1: "David gathered together to Jerusalem all the chief of Israel, the heads of the tribes, the heads of the divisions that served the king, the heads of thousands and of hundreds, the stewards of all the substance and possession of the king and his sons, and the officers and the mightiest and bravest of his men."

2 Chronicles 25:5: "Then Amaziah gathered Judah together, and according to their families he made them rulers of thousands and of hundreds over all Judah and Benjamin. Then he listed all the men of twenty years old and upward, and there were found three hundred thousand chosen to go out to war, having spear and shield."

The third factor is:

III. TO BE LEADERS OR ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1 Chronicles 27:1: "And the children of Israel, according to their number, the heads of fathers' houses, the captains of thousands and hundreds and their officers, served the king in every matter of the military divisions. These divisions came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division having twenty-four thousand."

"Served the king in every matter," a network director has an infinity of assignments from the senior pastor, therefore it is pertinent that these men have already been qualified by the organization of the Apostolic Assembly, to have authority to carry out the different tasks that he will have to assume in this level of leadership.

1 Chronicles 29:6: "Then the heads of the fathers' houses, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, heads of thousands and heads of hundreds, with the stewards of the king's substance, offered willingly."

The fourth factor is:

IV. TO BE LEADERS OF INTEGRITY

Exodus 18:21: "Moreover choose you out of all the people men of virtue, God-fearing, men of truth, hating covetousness; and set them over the people as rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens."

"Let them hate covetousness," integrity is a quality of true men of God; and in handling so many people, it is necessary that he should be a man not interested in reward, though they have a right also to the fruits brought by the people.

Proverbs 27:18: "He that tendeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: and he that regardeth the interests of his lord shall have honor."

1 Corinthians 9:7: "Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock?"

But even though God will give him to eat of the fruit of his labor, his heart must not be set on gain or reward. Therefore, the network director must be a faithful steward of what the Lord places in his hands; and he must be a faithful tither to the Lord's church.

Note: These leaders should be paid by the church, at least part-time, so that they can carry out their enormous responsibility well.

CONCLUSION

Being a Network Director of 100 small groups is not an easy task; it requires a great commitment to carry out such a great task. That is why it is also very important that this man loves God, loves his pastor and loves the church in an extraordinary way; to be able to remain faithful to his great responsibility in the midst of so much work.

Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward his name, having served the saints and still serving them."





PRINCIPLES FOR CELL GROUP LEADERS

LESSON 18

BIBLICAL BASIS: EXODUS 18:26.

INTRODUCTION

“So they judged the people at all times”, the tasks in a small group network are immense; since the responsibility of managing up to a thousand people is a great task. But I will put in order some very indispensable duties he must carry out, to be able to maintain the success of the network in his care.

Each level of responsibility in the small group network is a challenge, but whoever directs a small group network must discern well so as not to drown, wanting to attend to all the issues. It is very important that the issues are dealt with at each level, without the network director taking in his hands issues that have not passed through the zones, sectors, and friendship groups. Let’s look at his duties:

To be a leader of this magnitude, several factors are involved:

The first duty is:

I. SHEPHERDING LEADERS

Taking care of 100 friendship group leaders, 20 sector supervisors and 10 zone coordinators will be his main task. In other words, one of the main tasks of a network director is to take care of the affairs of the lives of his leaders.

It is very important for the network director to understand that he will only be there to deal with the people’s issues, when they have already been dealt with first by the friendship group leader, supervisor or coordinator, so as not to fall into wanting to carry the burden of the entire small group network on his own.

In small group-based churches we place great emphasis on the fact that it is not just one man who attends to all the people. For that reason, your priority will be your core group of about 130 people.

Exodus 18:23: “If thou shalt do this thing, and God shall command thee, then thou shalt be able to stand, and all this people also shall go in peace to their place.”

Only the most serious matters must be dealt by the Senior Pastor.

The second duty is

II. ORGANIZING THE FOLLOW ME SCHOOL

Luke 9:23: "And he said to all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Even when the churches have a director of education, or a **FOLLOW ME** school; it is very important that the network is watching that the purposes of the school are being followed. For this is what will guarantee that the new believers will become true disciples if they continue to grow spiritually.

Train all new congregants in the 4 purposes to form and prepare them for work in small groups. It is vital for the networks to multiply. The Follow Me School can have dedicated teachers or the teachers can be the zone coordinators or supervisors. What is of utmost importance, however, is that the director ensures that the work in this area does not lack in instructors.

1 Timothy 2:4: "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth".

Hosea 4:6: "My people are destroyed because they lacked knowledge. Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will cast thee out of the priesthood; and because thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

Habakkuk 2:14: "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

2 Corinthians 10:5: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ".

The third duty is

III. TO BE AT THE HEAD OF A PROCESS OR GEAR

The Jesus' strategy has been designed based on the principles of sowing. The seed must go through a certain process, which we have called gears. They are processes that go from preparing the land for sowing, following it, cultivating it, watering it, fertilizing it, to harvesting it.

The processes or gears of the strategy are 8, in each one of them it is necessary to have a director. Someone who knows the vision so as to apply it, someone who is not appointed by election.

It is recommended that each process or gear be directed by the most senior leaders in the small group networks. If the church has only sectors, the supervisors should be the ones to direct them. If they have zones, the coordinators should be the ones indicated, but if the networks are already in function, then the network directors should be the ones directing the processes or gears of the Jesus Strategy.

- a. Spiritual strategy.
- b. The Outreach Cycle.
- c. Friendship groups.
- d. Spiritual retreats.
- e. FOLLOW ME School.
- f. Leadership Meeting.
- g. School of ministries.
- h. GROWTH or church planting.

1 Corinthians 12:25: "that there may be no schism in the body, but that all the members may have the same care for one another".

Ephesians 4:12: "for the perfecting of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ".

The fourth duty is

IV. PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS

Timothy 4:12: "I sent Tychicus to Ephesus".

"I sent," the network directors are the ones closest to the pastor; they have earned the trust of the pastor by their loyalty and example in the congregation. They are the main council of a small group-based church.

The network directors are also those who are aware of the affairs of the church, and in turn are best suited to represent the pastor in the assignments delegated to them.

Philippians 2:20: "For I have no man of the same mind, and so earnestly desiring you".

Philippians 2:23,24: "Him therefore I hope to send to you, as soon as I see how my affairs are going; and I trust in the Lord that I also will come to you quickly."

The fifth duty is

V. TO PROTECT THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

The network directors and all the leadership should be known by caring for and watching over the unity of the church, since the growth of a small group based church is exponential.

The general pastor tends to have less contact with all that happens in the friendship groups due to the exponential growth of the church. Therefore, the men who direct the networks should be tested in their loyalty to the body of Christ, to keep the pastor informed of the slightest attack that the enemy is plotting against the church.

They must be ready to attend to the conflicts and problems that threaten to tear the unity of the church and the vision of the Strategy of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:3: "diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace".

Ezra 2:64: "The whole congregation, joined together as one man, was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty."

1 Corinthians 1:10: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Ephesians 4:16: "From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint, according to the effective working of every part, causes the growth of the whole body for the edifying of itself in love."

CONCLUSION

To zealously watch over the vision to achieve multiplication is not an easy task; but the Lord will raise up in each congregation, faithful and suitable men for this responsibility.





THE GROUP DYNAMIC

LESSON 19

BIBLICAL BASIS: JOHN 15:8.

INTRODUCTION

The small groups form a beautiful network similar to a “chinchorro”, giant nets that are used at sea to be maneuvered by more than two boats; they can cover hundreds of meters and perhaps kilometers joined by small meshes. Fishes are trapped in these massive nets and can take out in a single catch; tons of fish that only between two boats or more can pull up.

Luke 5:4: “When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” This same effect is what happens with the small groups or friendship groups, they can be united to form a net and so draw hundreds of souls when the net is cast.

Let’s look at some of the Network Director’s responsibilities in regards to multiplication.

The first responsibility is:

I. MONITOR THE STATUS OF THE NETWORK.

John 21:11: “Simon Peter went up, and drew the net ashore, full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty-three; and though there were so many, the net was not torn.”

“The net did not break”, the network directors will take care of mending the nets or friendship groups; so that the catch is not lost.

Directors shall supervise their coordinators, supervisors, friendship group leaders so that the friendship groups remain healthy and focused on their tasks, ensuring that each new congregant that joins a Friendship Group goes through the processes of the Jesus Strategy.

Each friendship group that shuts down becomes a tear in the network. Therefore, the network must be constantly monitored and patched. That is to say that if for some reason a friendship group shuts down, the network will have to open one to replace it immediately.

Mark 1:19: “And passing on from thence a little further, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, they also in the boat, mending the nets.”

Luke 5:2: "And he saw two boats standing near the shore of the lake; and the fishermen, having got out of them, were washing their nets."

The second responsibility is:

II. SELECTING NEW LEADERS

Matthew 13:47: "Likewise the kingdom of heaven is like a net, which is cast into the sea, and gathers of every kind of fish".

"Gather all kinds of fish," the network directors develop the experience of discernment to select potential leaders from among the fish. They do this to open new friendship groups, or to promote supervisors or coordinators. It is fundamental that the network director becomes a promoter of leaders, to guarantee multiplications. *Mark 1:16: "As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen".*

Even though the vision of the Jesus' strategy is to turn every member into a soul winner, it is also true that some take souls to friendship groups, without ever being appointed to leadership. That is why it is important that the constant motivation of the network be to raise new leaders. *John 21:8: "And the other disciples came with the boat, dragging the net of fish, for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits."*

The third responsibility is:

III. KEEPING THE NETWORK IN ORDER

Mark 6:39,40: "And he commanded them to make them all lie down by groups on the green grass. And they lay down by groups, one hundred by one hundred, and fifty by fifty."

"By groups of hundreds and of fifty", in other words the Lord kept the groups in order, maintaining each level. The director must take care that the friendship groups do not exceed 10 baptized members, to take care of order and multiplication.

By nature, it is difficult for leaders to let go of the souls that make up their friendship group; therefore, the director must constantly motivate them, which, as it grows, will multiply.

- a. Friendship groups will be kept to a maximum of 10 baptized.
- b. The sectors will be kept to 5 friendship groups, maximum 50 people.
- c. The zones will be maintained to 10 friendship groups, maximum 10 people following the Jethro model in the networks.

If the senior pastor decides that another system of organization can be managed; the network will work under the vision of the general pastor, taking care of the order that he has established.

1 Thessalonians 4:1,2: "Finally, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have learned from us how you ought to conduct yourselves and please God, so you may abound more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the Lord Jesus".

The fourth responsibility is:

IV. PERSEVERE AND PERSIST

Acts 1:14: "These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women, and with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

To see great multiplications or results, it is fundamental that networks persevere and persist, since not every cycle has the same results. Each person responds differently to the word of God and to the call to serve. ***Luke 8:15: "But the one that fell on good soil, these are the ones that with good and right heart retain the word heard, and bear fruit with perseverance"***.

Growth is the result of staying focused on the vision, and not losing the rhythm; even when the results are not as expected. ***Job 22:28: "You shall also determine a thing, and it shall be established for you, and light shall shine upon your ways"***.

CONCLUSION

Networks must have conviction, commitment and character to begin the outreach cycles, and take the new disciples through the processes of New Birth, Growth, Maturity and Multiplication, without losing the vision and passion to achieve the goals set for each multiplication.

Every seed will bear fruit, our task is to sow it; and the Lord will grow the seed. He is the one who converts people's hearts; we are only reconcilers to God.





THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE GROUP

LESSON 20

BIBLICAL BASIS: GALATIANS 2:20.

INTRODUCTION

“And I no longer live,” is the believer’s attitude in his or her new life. No longer does he live for himself. In other words, as you join the army of the Lord, growth will require greater sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25: “Know ye not that they which run in the race run all, but one receiveth the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. Every one that strives refrains from all things; they indeed to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible crown.”

The task of small group leadership is to take the mission of Jesus Christ and to make it our own, even if this means putting aside our dreams for the sake of God’s dreams.

LEVELS OF COMMITMENT IN A SMALL GROUPS BASED CHURCH:

The first level is:

I. COMMITMENT AT THE CONGREGANT LEVEL

A congregant shall be integrated in the following:

- a. To the friendship group.
- b. To the Sunday celebration.
- c. To the Follow Me School.
- d. To every purpose, to live the processes of the Jesus Strategy.

That is, we need 3 days a week minimum of 2 hours. As you begin to attend you grow more, and when some process or gear arrives you attend it: like a retreat, the outreach cycle or an impact night.

1 Corinthians 9:23: “And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I may become a partaker of it.”

When a visitor or congregant arrives, our job will be to encourage him to give of his time; so that he can begin to develop as a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

The second level is:

II. COMMITMENT OF A BAPTIZED PERSON

A baptized member of the church shall fulfill the following within the Jesus Strategy:

- a. To the friendship group.
- b. To the Sunday celebration.
- c. To the Follow Me School.
- d. To every purpose, to live the processes of the Jesus Strategy.

That is, similar to the congregant; it will occupy him 3 days a week to fulfill his commitments to church.

They must attend to these and the activities of the Jesus Strategy processes.

1 Corinthians 9:27: "but I beat my body, and bring it into bondage, lest, having been a herald to others, I myself should be done away with".

The third level is:

III. COMMITMENT OF A FRIENDSHIP GROUP LEADER

A friendship group leader has these commitments within the Jesus Strategy:

- a. Give a friendship group.
- b. Go to the celebration.
- c. Go to the Leadership meeting.
- d. Continue to complete the Follow Me School and the School of Ministries.

You will need 4 days, plus the events of the Jesus Strategy processes: at the end of the Follow Me School you will occupy only three days.

The fourth level is:

IV. COMMITMENT OF A SUPERVISOR

The supervisor, within the Jesus Strategy, must comply with these commitments:

- a. Go to the celebration.
- b. Give a friendship group.
- c. Visit one group per week.
- d. Go to the Leadership Meeting.
- e. Completion of the Follow Me School and School of Ministries.
- f. Attend a delegation or meeting in the area.

The supervisor will need 5 days a week, 2 hours per day on average, to comply. If you have already attended the schools, you will only need 4 days a week within the Jesus Strategy.

The fifth level is:

V. COMMITMENT OF THE ZONE COORDINATOR

A zone coordinator, in order to fulfill his/her responsibilities within the Jesus Strategy must attend:

- a. Go to the celebration.
- b. Teach at the Follow Me School and the School of Ministries.
- c. Go to the Leadership Meeting.
- d. Visit a friendship group.
- e. Attend to the affairs of their area.

To fulfill his responsibilities, he will need 5 days a week. *Ephesians 3:1: "For this cause I Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles"*.

The sixth level is:

VI. COMMITMENT OF THE NETWORK DIRECTOR

A network director will have great responsibility within the Jesus Strategy; he/she will need to attend:

- a. Go to the celebrations.
- b. Teaching in schools or directing them to their effect.
- c. Go to the Leadership meeting.
- d. Go to the Core Meeting once a month.
- e. Attend to the affairs of your network.
- f. Direct some process or ministry.
- g. Attend to matters delegated by the senior pastor.

A network director needs 5 to 6 days to attend to his or her commitments. For this reason, it is suggested that they already by this point part-time; or if they care for several ministries, full-time.

Galatians 6:14: "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world".

CONCLUSION

The purpose of the Jesus Strategy is to form disciples of Jesus Christ, so that their lives will play a role in the community of the church. A member of a small group based church commits his life to the kingdom of God.

Matthew 21:43: "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people who will produce the fruits of it".

Acts 14:22: "Confirming the minds of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying unto them, We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God".



THE POWER OF MULTIPLICATION

LESSON 21

BIBLICAL BASIS: EPHESIANS 4:15-16.

INTRODUCTION

The best example we can consider of a leader who works with a team is our Lord Jesus Christ. Something that stands out interestingly in the New Testament is that our Lord Jesus Christ “chose” his own team.

Jesus can be called **“The Great Trainer”**.

Luke 6:13-16 puts it this way: “And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he also named Peter, Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon called Zealot, Judas brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became the betrayer”.

Let’s look at the following foundations:

The first foundation is:

I. WHAT SHOULD A TEAM INCLUDE?

A dynamic and effective team must have these characteristics:

- a. Purpose and focus.
- b. Equipment.
- c. Relationships and communication.
- d. Flexibility.
- e. Recognition and appreciation.
- f. An ethic directed by the Holy Spirit.

The second foundation is:

II. DEFINING “TEAMWORK”.

- a. Teamwork involves a group of people working in a coordinated manner in the execution of a project or assignment.
- b. Results are handled as a team and not blamed on one leader.
- c. Each member is specialized in a specific area of the project.
- d. Each member of the team is responsible for a task, and only if all of them fulfill their role will it be possible to move the project forward.
- e. Teamwork is not simply the sum of individual contributions but a coordinated effort.

The third foundation is:

III. THE FIVE "C'S" OF TEAMWORK

- a. **Complementarity.** Each member masters a particular area of the project. All of these skills are necessary to get the job done.
- b. **Coordination.** The group that makes up the team, with a leader at the head, must act in an organized manner with the leader's vision to move the project forward.
- c. **Communication.** Teamwork requires open communication among all team members, which is essential to coordinate the different individual actions.
- d. **Confidence.** Each person trusts in the good work of the rest of his colleagues. This confidence leads him to put the team's success before his own personal success.
- e. **Commitment.** Each member is committed to give the best of himself, to put all his efforts to carry out the work.

The fourth foundation is:

IV. SEVEN STEPS TO BUILD A DYNAMIC TEAM

- a. **Recruit the right people**
 - 1. Analyze talents, abilities, spiritual gifts, etc.
 - 2. Such people have to "fit" well with the "culture" of the team.
- b. **Value innovative ideas**
 - Keep an open mind for new ideas:
 - 1. When team members' ideas are appreciated, everyone's participation will always increase.
 - 2. Innovative ideas provide dynamic solutions.
- c. **Give purposeful tasks**
 - 1. Productive people always need jobs that challenge them.
 - 2. This fosters an environment where the team is challenged to win.
- d. **Allow diversity**
 - 1. People with a high level of effectiveness get angry and frustrated when they are put into a work routine; where they always do the same thing.
 - 2. To achieve team success, foster enthusiasm and interest; include diverse co-workers. In addition, you should prepare interesting and creative agendas, calendars, and schedules.

e. **Allow independence.**

1. Each team member should feel that his or her ideas and opinions are respected. This fosters an environment where team participants want to contribute new ideas and concepts.
2. By allowing this, you are fostering a spirit of participation and ownership.

f. **Establish focus and a clear vision**

1. It is important that all team members are committed to the leader's vision and are provided with the necessary resources to achieve it.
2. From the beginning it is necessary that all the goals and objectives of the team are defined to achieve the final goal. Likewise, the whole team must be committed to achieve it.

g. **Provide confidence**

1. If you as a leader want to earn the trust of your team, you must first provide trust.
2. When a team establishes a high work ethic, trust automatically increases.

The fifth foundation is:

V. PRINCIPLES LEARNED BY SUCCESSFUL TEAMS

- a. Our mission is the salvation of lost souls.
- b. The calling of the team is to make our Church more like the Church of Pentecost; not a secular business.
- c. An organization begins to die the day it begins to only serve itself, and not of those outside.
- d. Know the value of planning. We cannot determine the future, but we can calculate the future of present events and situations.
- e. Focus on opportunities, not problems. Many organizations allocate their best resources to their problems, not their opportunities.
- f. The decisions of the leader and his team are the guiding mechanism of an organization. Through the leader's decisions the team understands the values that sustain the leader.
- g. All work must be done as a team. No one individual has the temperament and ability to do all the work. The purpose of the team is to increase productivity in areas of strength and reduce the importance of weak areas.

CONCLUSION

Do you know how to work in a team? Do you like to work in a team? One of the reasons why people don't want to work in a team is because they don't like to share credit or triumphs. But the word itself confirms that God wants us all to work as a team.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" Acts 2:1. "As many as believed were TOGETHER, and had all things in common" Acts 2:44.



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A LEADER

LESSON 22

BIBLICAL BASIS: JUDGES 6:3-4.

INTRODUCTION

The name Gideon means: “with a wounded hand”.

“The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years” Judges 6:1.

The price that man pays to exist outside the will of God is always pain and suffering, since moving away from the giver of life, only brings failure and much pain. To rescue the people from the oppression of the enemy is the task of every spiritual leader. We have been called to be liberators, for the enemy continues to hold the people in oppression; in ruin and misery, but Christ has come to give freedom to the captives.

But in spite of the consequences of their disobedience, God always has mercy to extend his hand and send godly men; who in spite of their fears and shortcomings, God uses as instruments for his glory. So, in this interesting story; we present to you the following important details:

The first detail is:

I. THE CALL OF GIDEON

- a. His duty was to liberate the people of Israel.
- b. He was called and chosen for a mission, amid adversity.
- c. He was an unknown character and a descendant of one of the smallest tribes of Israel.

God does not always call qualified people, but he always qualifies the one he calls.

God’s challenge to the Gideons of today, is to see the need that the people have; and to stand in the gap to fight against the enemy, an enemy who steals the blessing of people. We are called to drive him out from the lives of the people who have turned away from God.

The second detail is:

II. ISRAEL TURNS AWAY FROM GOD

- a. Israel turns its back on God.
- b. God punishes his people for seven long years, with an iron hand.
- c. The people cry out to God.
- d. God hears them by sending them a prophet.

Judges 6:8: "And the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you out of Egypt, and brought you out of the house of bondage."

Disobedience always brings consequences. The people wanted only to enjoy God's favor, without any responsibility. So, God held back his hand. This seems to be the mentality of our generation. But the reality is, that each time Israel disobeyed the voice of the Lord; they experienced serious negative consequences as a nation.

Every human being is responsible for what he sows, we cannot reap blessings if he sows disobedience. The world is in this condition now. They have taken God out of their lives, and only passionate leaders can lead them to deliverance.

But, even so, God has a plan and is looking for passionate leaders who want to be used for the glory of His name; today more than ever warriors are needed.

The third detail is:

III. GOD APPEARS TO GIDEON IN OPHRAH

Judges 6:11-12: "And the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak which is in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite; and his son Gideon was shaking the wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor and valiant."

Ophrah - means: Place of dust

Gideon did not recognize the Angel of God, and blamed God for the conditions of the people of Israel. In Ophrah: It is difficult to believe in God. Blaming God for what happens to is a very common human tendency. Therefore, it is easier to blame than to take responsibility for our actions.

Judges 6:13: "And Gideon said to him, 'Ah, my Lord, if the LORD is with us, And where are all his wonders, which our fathers have told us, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt? And now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hand of the Midianites."

The fourth detail is:

IV. GOD SPECIALIZES IN OUR WEAKNESSES

1 Corinthians 1:27: "But the foolish things of the world God has chosen to shame the wise, and the weak things of the world God has chosen to shame the strong".

Gideon could not look at his own potential, he did not understand God's plans; he could not imagine that God would use him to deliver Israel.

a. **From the winepress to the conquest**

The winepress represents work and sweat, pain and discouragement, sadness, frustration, despair and loneliness.

b. **Gideon's first battle was with himself**

He battled with his doubts, inferiority complexes, fears disguised as excuses, personal baggage, and his awareness of the death of his brothers. These are still the same battles that the leadership will have to fight to see great victories in the multiplication of God's work.

c. **What should we understand when God calls us**

That he sees us as warriors, God does not focus on our weaknesses. God is patient with us, his plans and thoughts are greater than our own.

d. **Peace in the middle of the battle**

Judges 6:24: "And Gideon built there an altar unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom; which remaineth unto this day in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

Jehovah - Shalom = Jehovah is peace. Gideon builds an altar to Jehovah because as a leader he learned to rest in God. The altar represents commitment to God, a reminder not to forget God. Submission to God's will.

The fifth detail is:

V. GIDEON'S TRANSFORMATION STARTED AT HOME

Judges 6:25-26: "And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take a bull of thy father's herd, the second bull of seven years old, and break down the altar of Baal which thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it, and build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock in a convenient place; and take the second bull, and sacrifice it for a burnt offering with the wood of the grove, which thou shalt cut down."

He tears down and burns down their altars to idols. Gideon should have been public about his conversion and his commitment to God. It took him a long time to declare his commitment to God, he did this in the cover of night; nonetheless he began to take responsibility.

a. People follow a leader who is full of the Holy Ghost

Judges 6:34: "Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and when he blew the horn, the Abiezerites were gathered to him."

b. God is patient with Gideon (Judges 6:37-39).

Judges 6:40: "And God did so that night; only the fleece remained dry, and there was dew on all the earth."

c. Men warriors

Judges 7:7: "Then the LORD said to Gideon, With these three hundred men who licked up the water I will save you, and I will deliver the Midianites into your hand; and let all the rest of the people go, every man to his place."

Leadership urgently needs of practical people, who do not complicate the tasks ahead; literally the Bible says that they licked water, like animals do.

CONCLUSION

Gideon's strategy and conquest

Judges 7:16,19,25: "And they divided the thirteen hundred men into three squads, and gave them all trumpets in their hands, and empty pitchers with burning lamps inside the pitchers".

Judges 7:19: "So Gideon and the hundred men that were with him came to the edge of the camp at the beginning of the midnight watch, when they had just renewed the watchmen; and they blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers that were in their hands."

Judges 7:25: "And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb in the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they slew in the winepress of Zeeb; and after they had pursued the Midianites, they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan."

Judges 8:28: "So Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, and did not rise up again. And the land rested forty years in the days of Gideon".

God makes fearful Gideons into victorious warriors for the sake of his people.





WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A DISCIPLE

LESSON 23

BIBLICAL BASIS: LUKE 14:28-29.

INTRODUCTION

Anything you want to do in life can be compared to the work of construction. You have to plan it, provide materials for that plan, put it together, and ensure its quality.

That is why the phrase: "Intending to Build" has the following meaning:

1. To build a construction; to build a wall.
2. Building an organization or entity.
3. To encourage someone to do good; to edify.
4. Building the church of Christ

There are several reasons to evaluate, take a look at some of them:

The first reason is:

I. GOALS FORCE YOU TO CALCULATE

"Does not sit down first and count the cost..." Luke 14:28.

Without a definite vision we will not be able to determine the cost, the destination, and the people necessary for the vision to come true. The first thing every leader needs to achieve success is a clear vision of what he or she wants to accomplish.

Successful leaders are inspired by goals that challenge them to step out of their comfort; to give their best in accomplishing God's work.

The second reason is:

II. GOALS REVEAL WHAT YOU WANT.

If you don't know where you are going, you will get nowhere. *Proverbs 11:14 says: "Where there is no wise guidance, the people will fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety".*

Human beings are designed to be led by leaders who know where they are going. When leadership can't see vision in the church, they tend to look elsewhere for a greater goal to follow.

Small group-based churches work with goals that challenge the people to seek the harvest that the Lord has prepared for his people. Therefore, small group church leaders are leaders with a high level of passion.

The third reason is:

III. GOALS DETERMINE WHERE YOU WANT TO GET TO

The success of an organization is measured in terms of the achievement of its goals. An Organization without Goals is NOT an Organization... It is disorganization. A person who goes out without knowing where he is going, will not get to a good place. A boat that has no direction, will drift.

Paul puts it this way: *"Therefore I run in this way, not as one who runs, not as one who strikes the air". 1 Corinthians 9:26.*

The fourth reason is:

IV. GOALS ARE PLANNED

Planning is the process of developing objectives, and choosing a future course of action to achieve them. A plan is needed to achieve a goal.

To achieve something, you need more than good intentions. You must have an idea, you must turn that idea into a project, you have to make a program to know how you are going to reach that desired goal. Once we have a purpose, we must start working. Because without work, without effort, nothing is achieved.

a. Plan, and prepare

"Go to the ant, O sluggard, Look to her ways, and be wise; Which having neither captain, nor ruler, nor master, Prepares her food in the summer, And gathers her food in the time of harvest" Proverbs 6:6-8.

The fifth reason is:

V. GOALS ARE ORGANIZED

Organization is the process by which collaborators relate to each other to achieve the goals of an organization. Ideas that are not organized are not achieved. It is necessary to give them the form, to structure them, to arrange them for dissemination. Disorder is never good under any circumstances.

- a. Our goals should be oriented toward winning souls.
- b. Our scheduling of activities should deliberately be planned to win souls.
- c. Nature teaches us a great deal: *“The locusts have no king, and they go out all in bands” Proverbs 30:27.*
- d. The church must be organized, the book of Song of Solomon 6:10 tells us: “Who is this that appears like the dawn, Beautiful as the moon, Bright as the sun, Mighty as an army with banners?”

The sixth reason is:

VI. GOALS ARE EVALUATED

Evaluation is the process of ensuring efficient performance to achieve an organization’s objectives.

In fact, everything that is not evaluated does not have good results. Consider the following maxim: **“you don’t get what you expect; you get what you evaluate”.**

- a. Evaluation achieves:
 1. Objectives.
 2. The development of Priorities.
 3. Decisions Regarding Courses of Action.
 4. Actions to begin Plans.
 5. Feedback and new plans.
- b. If we don’t evaluate, we don’t know where we are going, how we are doing, or when we will get there.
 1. The outcome of the organization can be improved; therefore, it can be planned.
 2. Good managers can find realistic ways by faith to achieve objectives.
 3. The administration can plan to bring more lost people to Christ.
 4. Therefore, the quality of planning decisions by management determines the success of management.

The seventh reason is:

VII. WHAT SHOULD WE EVALUATE?

a. Our church goals

All Pastors should evaluate how they are doing with their friendship group GOALS each week at the Leadership Meeting. This meeting is a must. It cannot be skipped, postponed or avoided. This activity is by far the best way to achieve church growth. This is where we collect the reports from the Small Groups.

“Now it is required of ADMINISTRATORS, that everyone be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2.

1. Evaluate weekly small group reports.
2. Evaluate the goals of the purposes or gears that are currently active,
3. Evaluate attendance at the Follow Me School.
4. Evaluate attendance at celebrations.
5. Evaluate sectors, zones and networks.

CONCLUSION

It is very important that we evaluate our real condition. Many churches or small group leaders wonder why they are not growing. But they never evaluate, or never do anything to fill their churches or small groups.

The sheep will not come on their own, we must go for them. Romans 10:14 says it emphatically: ***“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without someone preaching to them?”***

Evaluation allows us to discover points of weakness and helps us take important decisions for improvement. Many groups and churches come to an end due to a lack of evaluation and due to not tackling what needs to be fixed.





THE CHARACTER OF A LEADER

LESSON 24

BIBLICAL BASIS: 2 TIMOTHY 4:5.

INTRODUCTION

The current reality of the church regarding the commitment level of Christians is that very few Christians are actually involved in the work of the church. Only 20% of the members of a church carry the burden of the tasks of the church.

Another reality is that people focus in on only one aspect of the church: worship, or administration, or hosting events, and not evangelism with all these things.

The key to a balanced life in the Lord is for every church member to understand and to be trained to be a soul winner and to maintain a ministry in the church, thus serving the Lord Jesus Christ in a balanced way.

Acts 10:42: "And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed as Judge of the living and the dead."

Colossians 4:17: "Say unto Archippus, See that thou fulfill the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord".

To be a true disciple you must meet the following requirements.

The first requirement, is:

I. DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

The training that the disciple receives in the Follow Me School is focused on giving him growth, beginning with the New Birth experience and ultimately culminating in giving him the power to multiply the new life within him.

That is, we disciple people to win the world to Christ, through evangelism by friendship groups, and the purposes and processes of the Jesus Strategy.

God has called us to magnify his name, to fill the earth with his glory. *Isaiah 6:3: "And one cried unto another, saying, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."*

Within the vision of the Jesus Strategy, God has given us greater revelation today to form more balanced disciples who can serve in the kingdom of God, by winning souls and bringing excellence to the Lord's church through service. This accomplished by the ministries or school of ministries.

It is important that the disciple, after finishing the multiplication level in the Follow Me School, continues into the School of Ministries; training him to carry out a ministry with excellence for the glory of God.

The second requirement is:

II. FULFILLING YOUR MINISTRY

Every disciple should have both a mission (evangelism) and a ministry (serving the body of Christ). God, in giving us His Holy Spirit, gives us at least one gift to use within the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:12: "So also you, since you desire spiritual gifts, seek to abound in them for the edifying of the church".

The task of the disciple will be to discover what gift or gifts the Holy Spirit has placed in him for the edification of the church. He must be trained in the gift to better understand his task, and how to use it correctly so that it may be a blessing and an edification to the Lord's church.

Ephesians 4:8: "Wherefore he saith, Ascending on high, he led captivity captive, And gave gifts unto men."

1 Corinthians 12:5,6: "And there are diversities of ministries, but the Lord is the same. And there are diversities of operations, but God, who works all things in all, is the same".

Ezra 8:20: "and of the temple servants, whom David with the princes appointed for the ministry of the Levites, two hundred and twenty temple servants, all of whom were appointed by name."

The third requirement is:

III. EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRIES OR SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES

The Jesus Strategy is here to help churches, to help them train disciples in the gifts or ministries that the Holy Spirit has placed in them, to carry out His blessed work.

Romans 12:6: "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith".

1 Corinthians 12:1: "I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, about spiritual gifts". It is necessary for every member of the church to attend the School of Ministries to be able to exercise their gifts with excellence.

The School of Ministries seeks to train the people in the ministries or gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them; but most of them do not know how to exercise that gift or ministry within the church, due to fear or lack of training.

The duration of each course will be 6 weeks with a total of 12 lessons.

The fourth requirement is:

IV. STUDY THE BASIC MINISTRIES

There are many gifts in the Bible, some more coveted than others; but even though the purpose of the school of ministries is to provide training in them, it must be understood that we will not be covering all the ministries that exist and can be exercised through the gifts. We focus on the most basic ones so that the church can operate.

1 Corinthians 12:4: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit".

- a. Ministries of power.
- b. Altar Ministries.
- c. Service ministries.
- d. Teaching ministries.

1 Corinthians 14:12: "So also you, since you desire spiritual gifts, seek to abound in them for the edifying of the church".

The School of Ministries trains in the most common gifts to bring excellence to the Body of Christ and edification to the Church.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the Multiply purpose, it is very important that you continue in the School of Ministries; to balance your service to God. We must be dedicated Christians, to give the best of ourselves; and to allow ourselves to be used by the Holy Spirit in the demonstration of gifts.

Ephesians 4:8: "Wherefore he saith, Ascending on high, he led captivity captive, And gave gifts unto men."

1 Corinthians 12:1: "I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, about spiritual gifts".

Romans 12:6-8: "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."



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