

EQUIPPING

August 19, 2018

Introduction: Equipping church members to grow in their faith is not an easy task. It never has been. Each sheep has a mind of their own. Yet, the call is clear from Jesus. Make disciples. It is why we spend so much time at Lakehoma speaking about moving from where we are to where we need to be. We want people to grow, to move, to be the person God created them to be – sheep formed into the image of Christ.

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

I. A Call to Making Disciples

*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 (Matthew 28:19).*

*¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**, ¹² to **equip the saints** for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ** (Ephesians 4:11–12).*

II. There is a Goal

*²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ **It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master...**” (Matthew 10:24–25a).*

*...put on the new self, **created after the likeness of God** in true righteousness and holiness (Ephesians 4:24).*

*my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth **until Christ is formed in you!** (Galatians 4:19).*

III. The Big Question

What do these numbers, 72, 12 & 3, represent?

A. Disciples were formed in small groups of togetherness.

1. Luke 10:1, 17 – Jesus sends out 72 disciples.
2. Matthew 10:2-4 – Jesus selects 12 disciples to experience life together.
3. Matthew 17:1, Mark 5:49-55 & 14:33 – Jesus selects 3 disciples to share intimate details of his life.

B. Disciples do life together.

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and **the fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And **all who believed were together and had all things in common** (Acts 2:42–44).

IV. Why Small Groups?

¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to **establish and exhort you in your faith**, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, **I sent to learn about your faith**, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. ⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, **and has brought us the good news of your faith** and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction **we have been comforted about you through your faith**. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face **and supply what is lacking in your faith?** (1 Thessalonians 3:1–10).

Answer: To strengthen each other's faith.

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I. A Call to Making Disciples (*Matthew 28:19*) (*Ephesians 4:11–12*)

II. There is a Goal (*Matthew 10:24–25a*) (*Ephesians 4:24*) (*Galatians 4:19*)

III. The Big Question

A. Disciples were formed in small groups of _____.

B. Disciples do life _____. (*Acts 2:42–44*)

IV. Why Small Groups? (*1 Thessalonians 3:1–10*)

Answer: To strengthen each other's _____.