

**RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE**

**WHO KNOW CHRIST**

**MEETING**

**17**



step **1**

# START GROUP WITH PRAYER (ACTS)

step **2**

## FOLLOW UP

Evaluate how you did on last meeting's risk. If you need a reminder of what risk you pledged to take, turn back to page 94.

**NAME**

**RYG**

**WHAT YOU DID**

**WHAT GOD DID**

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**NAME**

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**WHAT YOU DID**

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**NAME**

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**WHAT YOU DID**

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# step 3

## PRACTICE 15-SECOND TESTIMONY

Go around the table and have everyone share the 15-Second Testimony you prepared in Meeting 14. Do your best not to look, but if you need a refresher, go back to page 85. Try and say it once without looking.

# step 4

## THE MULTIPLY EXERCISE

This meeting is a critical moment as an R3 Group. As you know, R3 Groups do not last forever. When they finish, they multiply. This may very well be the hardest part about R3 for you. At this point, you have hopefully developed deep relationships and trust with one another. There is a feeling of security and peace in such a community, and the idea of leaving this group to start a new one may seem daunting to you. This exercise is going to get all of this out on the table. First, you will see that multiplication is a biblical mandate. Second, you will see the reasoning behind why Christians do this. Then, you will evaluate your heart in regards to multiplication. Finally, you will see the motivation that empowers us to multiply.

## MULTIPLY: A BIBLICAL MANDATE

From the beginning, multiplication was a part of God's plan for mankind. In Genesis 1 God creates the world and all that is in it. At the end of the 6th day of Creation, God created man and woman in his own image. Genesis 1:28 reads:

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and **multiply** and fill the earth and **subdue** it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

God created mankind in his image. Part of being in the image of God meant that the function of mankind was to spread out and rule over the rest of creation. All this means is that we were supposed to take the glory of his Name to the ends of the Earth. Simply put, we were to 1) spread out and 2) make his name great. How well did we do? If you know the story, you know that sin entered into the picture in Genesis 3, and like a cancer it multiplied and corrupted every aspect of God's perfect creation. Sin's corruption was so vast and so deep that, in just 8 chapters, mankind completely rebelled from God's purpose for their life. We see this as the people of the Earth contemplate building the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11:4 reads:

*Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and **let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed** over the face of the whole earth."*

The command to spread God's glory to the ends of the Earth became, "Let us make a name for ourselves so that we won't disperse."

Do you see this kind of thinking in churches today? What happens to these churches?

Things didn't look so good for mankind in Genesis 11. Our depravity had caused us to stand in direct opposition to the commands of God. We were dead in our sins. But God, being rich and mercy, had a plan to make us alive once more. After the people of the world would not listen to judges, kings, and prophets; God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, on a rescue mission. His mission, clearly defined by 1 John 3:8, was to destroy the works of the devil that plunged mankind into darkness. He accomplished this through his death and resurrection. Through Adam, mankind lost their ability to fulfill God's mandate: to take his glory to the end of the Earth. Yet when Christ rose from the grave, he conquered that which kept us as slaves to sin and empowered us, through the Holy Spirit, to live out our purpose once more. When Jesus restored that which had been broken, he reiterated what God commanded Adam at the beginning. Matthew 8:18-20 reads:

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>**teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

Jesus clarifies the mandate given in Genesis 1. He says that we accomplish this task by going out and making disciples of all nations. We call this the Great Commission. It is a command to multiply.

*What other strategies for building God's kingdom are out there? What is your strategy? Why do you think that Jesus chose making disciples over another strategy?*

## TWO REASONS WHY

In the story of the Bible we see that sin multiplies like a cancer. It started with just one lie, but its destructive power corrupted all of mankind and enslaved us to death. Yet what is cancer? It is a malignant growth resulting from the division of abnormal cells. Sin takes what was intended for good and uses it for evil. Yet cells were made to multiply. One unhealthy, abnormal cell matures and grows through multiplication to lead to death. But another cell, which is very much alive, in about the same amount of time, matures and develops through multiplication into a fully developed baby boy or girl. Think about it. From one single cell, a zygote, everything develops that is necessary to see, feel, taste, hear, think, move, laugh, and love. In fact, everything that is alive today got that way because cells multiplied. One cell is nothing exciting. Yet, when it chooses to replicate itself, it sets into motion a powerful force that can lead to abundant life! In the same way, the church multiplies so that it might grow into the complete Body of Christ.

The church began with Jesus, who is alive forever more. Starting with his disciples, she began to multiply. This multiplication led to new churches and new believers at explosive rates. Ephesians 1:23 states that the church is Christ's, "body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." As we multiply and make disciples of all nations, we are growing into the fullness of Christ. Here are two reasons why this strategy of multiplication far outweighs any other option.

### #1—MULTIPLYING MEANS MORE WORKERS

In his famous book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert Coleman discusses the powerful results of making disciples. He compares the results of one who does ministry alone with the ministry of another who multiplies. If the person who does ministry alone were to bring salvation to one person every day for 16 years, the resulting believers can be seen under the column labeled "Addition". But, if the person who raises disciples brings salvation to only one person per year **and trains them to do the same**, their results can be seen under the column labeled "Multiplication".

YEAR	ADDITION	MULTIPLICATION
1	365	2
2	730	4
3	1095	8
4	1460	16
5	1825	32
10	3650	1024
11	4015	2048
12	4380	4096
13	4745	8192
14	5110	16384
15	5475	32768
16	5840	65536

Why might it be easier to have the ministry of the person who works alone?

What did you notice about the trend of the person who multiplied each year?

Christianity has always been just one or two generations away from being non-existent. We can't do ministry forever, and, when we pass away, who will carry on the message of Christ if it is not our disciples? In order to raise mature disciples, we must mature together and then multiply so we can train others to do the same. Francis Chan writes in his book *Multiply*:

*If you're not ready to lay down your life for Christ's sake, then you're not ready to make disciples. It's that simple. This doesn't mean that you need to be perfect before you start. Perfection is a lifelong process that won't end until eternity (see Phil. 1:6 and 3:12-14). But it does mean that you need to "count the cost" (see Luke 14:25-33) and allow God's truth to change your life. Making disciples is all about seeing people transformed by the power of God's Word. If you want to see that happen in others, you need to be experiencing such transformation yourself.*

Seeing this kind of transformation in your life and in the lives of others is what R3 is all about. This is why you drew the Line in the Sand at the very start.

## #2—MULTIPLYING MEANS MORE PEOPLE CAN BE REACHED

According to research led by Tian Zheng in 2013, the average American is estimated to know around 600 people. If this is true, the potential social impact explodes as you begin to multiply and equip disciples who will equip disciples. One of the fallacies of the "Addition" column in the table above (besides the fact that one person gets saved every day) is that, after 16 years this person knows 5,840 people. Because this person spends every moment evangelizing, there are only 5,840 immature converts who are not equipped to carry on the work of ministry. But in the other column, after 16 years, there are 65,536 mature believers who are ready to continue the ministry. Since they most likely know a lot of the same people, let's generously cut that 600 down to 300 unique people that each person knows. By being faithful to equip disciples who will equip disciples (at the rate one per year), the amount of people who can be potentially affected by the gospel becomes 19,660,800!!! Is it any wonder that the Roman Empire experienced an explosion of Christianity in the first 250 years of the church?! Luke 15:10 states that there is a celebration in heaven over one sinner who repents. How unreal must the party be in heaven when Christians choose to multiply and make new disciples?

Why do you think that many American churches aren't multiplying anymore?

## SWIMMING IN THE DEEP END

Now, let's look at our own hearts. When one objectively looks at the facts, as we just did, it is hard to argue that disciple-making and multiplication aren't biblical. Yet the way most of us live stands in direct opposition to what we know in our heads to be true. Though we know we ought to make disciples, we don't do it. For many of us, thinking of discipling someone feels a lot like being thrown into the deep end without any water wings.

*What, if anything, scares you about making disciples?*

*Has the idea of multiplying your R3 group been easy or difficult for you? Why?*

*What perspective has this exercise given you?*

## THE MOTIVATION TO MULTIPLY

How do we become a people who are confident to swim out into the deep end? How are we to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission? In order to understand how to take this gospel risk, we must first look at the gospel ourselves. Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us that in Jesus we have an empathetic high priest, one who faced every test that we did (usually to a much greater degree). When it comes to the test of multiplying, it is no different. Jesus experienced the perfect fellowship in heaven as a part of the Trinity. He could have remained far away from a world that rebelled against him, for all in his presence worshipped him and obeyed him perfectly. The Bible says that Jesus almost had everything he wanted in heaven, save one thing. The only thing that Jesus didn't have was you. He so desperately wanted a relationship with you that he was willing to leave perfect fellowship to step into a broken and dark world. His desire for you led him to be crucified on the Cross, to endure 6 hours of physical agony along with infinite spiritual agony as he bore the wrath of God on our behalf. Hebrews 12:2 states that Jesus endured the Cross with joy. Why would Jesus choose to be forsaken as a son by his Father? Moreover, why would he ever see it as a worthwhile endeavor? It was worthwhile to be forsaken as a son so that we might be accepted as children of God. Hebrews 2:10 tells us that that the source of his joy was that he was "bringing many sons and daughters to glory." How can we find the strength to trust God in multiplying to make disciples? We must look at the example of our Savior, who gave up everything so that we might be saved. Therefore, we must multiply so we can make more disciples so we can reach more people. The reason this world requires us to risk is because this world is not our home. Our first 10 million years in heaven will have more comfort than we can handle. Let us not try to make a home of this life. In eternity, you will not regret having made disciples, but you will regret not multiplying while you had the opportunity.

*How do these truths empower you to make disciples?*

*How do they affect your view of multiplication?*

# TAKE THE RISK

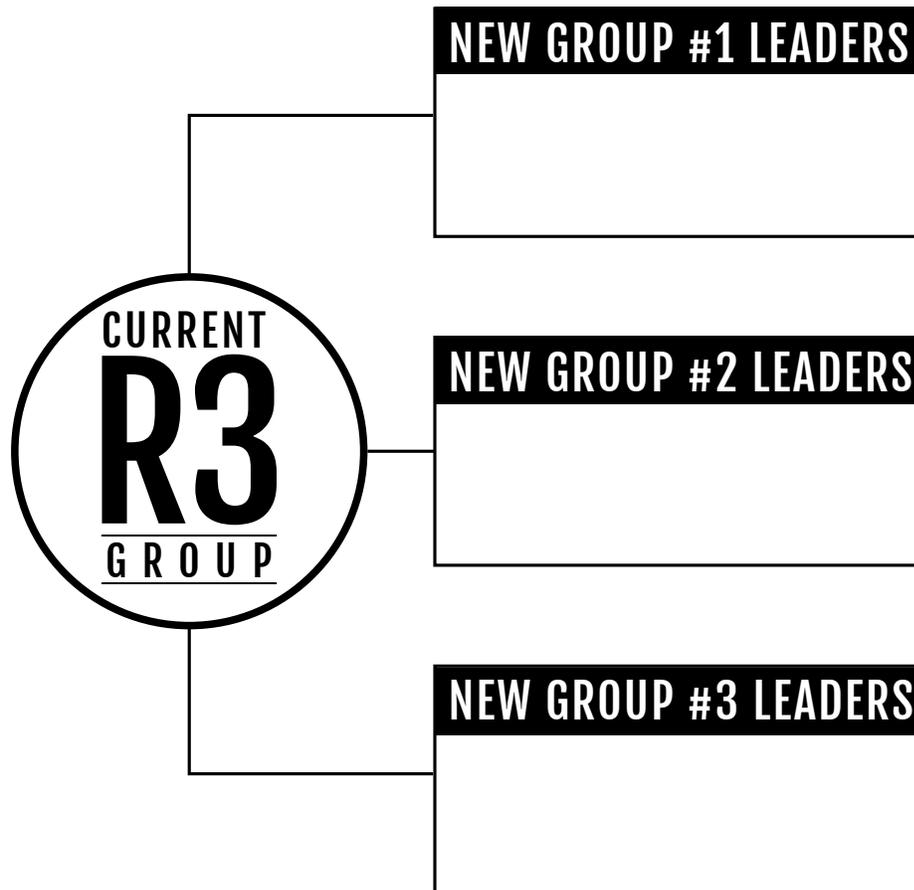
We have just developed a biblical perspective for the gospel pattern of making disciples who will make disciples. Now let's address the elephant in the room: "How do I disciple someone?!" Well, you are in luck. It is not your job to equip yourself to do ministry (going and making disciples). That is the job of the ministers on staff here at The Heights. We have developed an effective ministry that will help believers mature and will train them to become disciple-makers: R3. We trained your leader, and whether you realize it or not, he/she is in the process of training you. Do you want to be a disciple-maker? Commit to being an R3 Leader when the time for your R3 group's multiplication. Think about it, you won't be alone (for you will go with another member of your group) and you will have already done everything once. You will just get to do what your leader did for you with someone new. You will be in a different place spiritually, so you won't take the same risks. With some training here and there we will provide for you, the only thing that you need to bring to the table is a willingness to be honest and a willingness to lead the way in taking personal risks. This guide and the online resources provide the training, theology, and resources you are worried you don't have. This big mandate is made much smaller when we see what Christ has done for us. It is made easier by all the equipping you received from church leadership. Will you answer the call to multiply?

## step 5

### RISK TIME

Multiplication will not just happen. When you are finished with Meeting 24, you want to be ready to go with the next generation of R3. Thus, we need to start preparing now. For your personal risk this week there are three parts:

1. Discuss as a group how you will multiply (splitting into pairs or groups of three). If you are a group of 4, you will split into two pairs. If you are a group of 6, you could split into three pairs or two groups of three. Once you figure this out, write down how your group will multiply in the space below. It's okay to take some time to pray over this, but come back to this and fill it out later.



Only for groups of 5-6

2. Once your group multiplies, you will become the R3 Leaders for someone who has never done R3. Commit to praying weekly for who will be in your next R3 Group. Ask God to begin to prepare their hearts to become a disciple-maker. If there is anyone you want to ask to be in your R3 Group already, write their name below and put a bug in their ear. If you don't miss a meeting, your group is 3.5 months away from being finished (assuming you meet every other week).

3. Starting next week, someone else besides your leader will lead the meeting (if that hasn't happened already). Determine who will do this in the spaces below.

REMAINING R3 MEETINGS	WHO WILL LEAD
MEETING 18	
MEETING 19	
MEETING 20	
MEETING 21	
MEETING 22	
MEETING 23	
MEETING 24	N/A – CURRENT R3 LEADER LEADS

step **6**

**END GROUP WITH PRAYER (ACTS)**

**NEXT MEETING OBJECTIVES**

You have nothing else to complete before next meeting besides your risk.