



VISION FOR **GROWTH**

The Basics Series  Lesson 4

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Jesus did not come to earth to take sides, he came to take over. He is Lord and Master and gives us the incredible opportunity to know and follow him with our whole heart. He ascended into heaven and left his Holy Spirit to indwell us in order to be his representatives here on earth—his ambassadors. To be the voice and eyes and hands of Jesus to a lost and dying world is the greatest privilege we have. He gave us a simple plan in the Scriptures to spread his name and his fame to the ends of the earth. We are to first become a sold-out follower of his. He calls that being a “disciple.” Then we have the essential ingredients to start leading others to Christ and helping them become disciples who can repeat the process themselves. Many Christians have not taken this Great Commission challenge seriously, but the ones who do have great impact upon the world, leave behind an eternal legacy in this life, and most of all, are very pleasing to the Lord.

Discipleship — A Way of Life

A. **Definition of a disciple:** One who follows closely the teaching of another.

1. What did Christ say characterized a true disciple?
 - a. John 8:31
 - b. John 13:34–35
 - c. John 15:8

B. **The cost of discipleship:** Not all of those who followed Christ were his disciples. When he began to explain the cost to follow him, many turned away. The same is true today.

1. Read Luke 14:25–35
 - a. What mistake did the builder and king make?
 - b. What is the parallel to the Christian life?
2. Read Luke 9:23–25. To follow Christ you must deny _____ and follow him _____. In short, you give your _____ to him.
3. Jesus’ standards for his disciples are high.
 - a. What right does he have to demand these standards?

- b. Why do you think it is important to not compromise these standards?
- c. Have you counted the cost to follow Christ?
- d. What would it cost you to follow Christ daily?
- e. Is it worth it to you?

Making Disciples

A. Read Matthew 28:18–20 out loud.

1. What is Jesus commanding us to do?
2. Why is he commanding us to do this?
3. If each disciple then makes a disciple, what kind of impact could this multiplication strategy have?

Compare the numerical results between Spiritual Addition and Spiritual Multiplication.

Spiritual Addition (1 person reaching 100 people for Christ each day)	Year	Spiritual Multiplication (1 person making a disciple every 6 months who also makes disciples)
36,000	1	4
72,000	2	16
108,000	3	64
144,000	4	256
144,000	5	1,024
216,000	6	4,096
252,000	7	16,384
288,000	8	65,536
324,000	9	262,144
360,000	10	1,048,576

The chart compares how many people can be reached for Christ through spiritual multiplication versus addition. If we were to obey this verse by continually discipling one person every six months, who then continued discipling others, it would be possible to reach the entire world in only 16 years!

B. The Growth Scale



1. Where would you place yourself right now on this scale?
2. Why would you place yourself there?
3. Where do you think God wants you?
4. How will you get there?
5. What are some obstacles that might keep you from accomplishing your goal?
6. If this is something you are serious about, we could work on it together. If so, it will be a great challenge, but, by God's grace, I could help you become a disciple-maker. Do you want to take the Great Commission challenge and get started?

Suggested memory verses

Matthew 28:18–20, 2 Timothy 2:2