RHYTHM THREE · DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Multiplying.

If Ministering is serving others through the gifts God has given you, Multiplying is intentionally helping another person follow Jesus. God doesn't simply mature disciples. He reproduces them.

From the beginning, God's plan has been that every generation of believers would entrust the gospel to the next. Every disciple was once taught by someone else. Every mature believer is called to help someone else grow.

The pathway doesn't end with us. It begins again through us.



Invest in two. Release them to invest in two more. And the kingdom multiplies.

So, why must every disciple eventually become a disciple-maker? Because Multiplying isn't an advanced ministry. It's simply the next step of discipleship.

WHAT'S INSIDE · HOW THIS DOCUMENT MOVES

01 **Understand** — What multiplying is, and why.

02 **Learn** — The shape of the relationship.

03 **Overcome** — The objections, answered.

04 **Fruit** — What multiplying grows.

NEXT **The Portrait** — A fully formed disciple.

What is God Doing?

God has always advanced His Kingdom through ordinary people investing in other ordinary people. Jesus spent most of His earthly ministry with a small group of disciples, teaching them to obey everything He had commanded before sending them to do the same with others.

> *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you."*
> MATTHEW 28:19-20

Paul described that same pattern to Timothy:

> *"What you have heard from me... commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*
> 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

Notice the multiplication pattern of one person investing in multiple others who are taught to replicate the pattern.

Disciple-making has never been primarily about programs. It has always moved through relationships.

FROM MINISTERING

As disciples mature and faithfully steward the gifts God has given them, something beautiful begins to happen. They no longer ask, *"Where can I serve?"* They begin asking, *"Who am I helping follow Jesus?"*

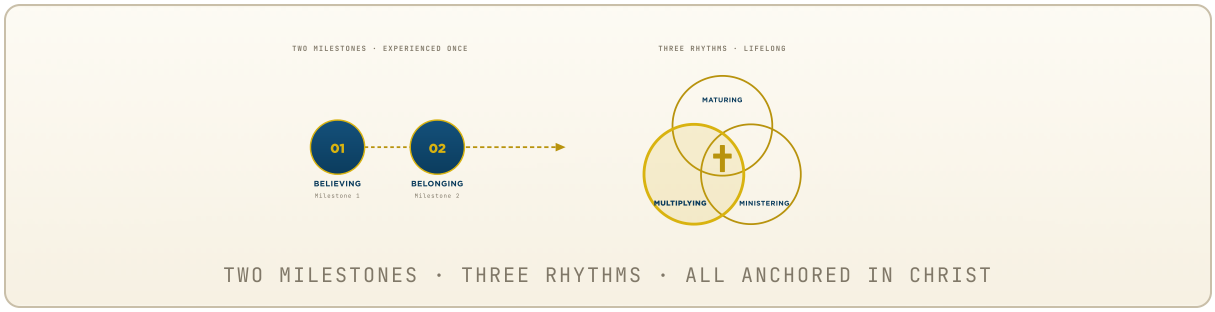
Multiplying is not a separate calling reserved for pastors or especially gifted Christians. It is the natural overflow of a disciple whose life has been transformed by Christ. The pathway has now come full circle: the believer who once learned to Believe, Belong, Mature, and Minister now begins helping someone else walk that same path.

The question becomes: **who has God placed in your life to intentionally invest in?**

So what does that actually look like?

Where Multiplying sits · the whole pathway

AAC's pathway has **two milestones** reached once, Believing and Belonging, and **three rhythms** that grow together for life: Maturing, Ministering, and Multiplying, all anchored in Christ.



Multiplying is the **engine**: as Maturing and Ministering bear fruit, a disciple begins to reproduce, leading someone new to Christ and tending their growth until they, too, multiply.

What Does Multiplying Look Like?

Making disciples is wonderfully ordinary. You don't need a seminary degree. You don't need all the answers. You simply need to be willing to walk a few steps ahead of another believer as they learn to follow Jesus.

The goal is not to create dependence on you. It is to help another believer become increasingly dependent on Christ. Just as someone once invested in you, you now have the privilege of investing in someone else.

> *"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives..."*
>
> 1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

Notice what Paul shared: not only the gospel, but his life. Healthy disciple-making has always been relational.

Three Simple Commitments

Every discipling relationship looks different, but most healthy ones share these three commitments.

Share Life Together

Discipleship happens in ordinary life. Share meals, pray together, talk honestly, celebrate victories, and walk through disappointments together, letting someone see what it looks like to follow Christ on an ordinary workday, not just on Sunday morning.

People rarely imitate what they only hear. They imitate what they consistently see.

Open God's Word Together

God's Word is what transforms people. Read Scripture together, ask questions, listen well, and encourage one another to obey what God is teaching.

The goal is never simply learning more information. It is becoming more like Christ.

Live on Mission Together

Don't just study the Christian life; practice it together. Serve together, share the gospel together, pray for people together, and help someone else begin the pathway.

The best way to learn to make disciples is alongside someone who is already doing it.

The Goal

Healthy disciple-making is not measured by how much information is transferred. It is measured by whether another disciple is becoming increasingly faithful, increasingly mature, and increasingly able to help someone else follow Jesus.

One day, they won't need you anymore, and that is a success: they have learned to walk closely with Christ, and they have been walking with someone else.

A Simple Rhythm for Disciple-Making

Making disciples doesn't require a complicated curriculum. It simply requires intentionally helping another believer take their next step with Christ. Every discipling relationship is unique, but many healthy ones follow the same simple rhythm each time they meet.

Start with One or Two

Disciple-making is deeply relational. While every situation is different, we encourage most discipling relationships to begin with one disciple intentionally investing in one or two others. A triad provides the benefit of shared encouragement, accountability, and discussion while naturally preparing more people to become disciple-makers themselves.

Meet consistently, ideally every week or every other week, for about a year. Faithful relationships over time shape mature disciples far more than occasional conversations ever will.

Follow a Simple Rhythm

Every meeting follows the same three movements.

Look Back

Begin by talking about life. Ask how you have seen God at work since you last met, how you obeyed what He has been teaching you, and where you have struggled. Celebrate victories, confess failures, encourage one another, and pray together.

Discipleship grows best in an atmosphere of honesty, encouragement, and grace.

Look Up

Open God's Word together. Read a passage of Scripture, ask questions, listen carefully, and discuss what it teaches about God, about people, and about following Christ.

The goal isn't simply learning more information. It is allowing God's Word to transform both of your lives.

Look Forward

End every meeting by asking about obedience: *"Based on what we've learned today, what is one step of obedience God is calling you to take this week?"* That step might mean forgiving someone, beginning a new spiritual habit, serving, or sharing the gospel. Then ask one final question: *"Who could God be preparing you to invest in?"*

Every disciple is being prepared to become a disciple-maker.

Keep It Simple

Don't feel pressure to have every answer or to create the perfect plan. Meet consistently, open God's Word together, pray together, and take one faithful step at a time. God delights to grow ordinary disciples through ordinary faithfulness.

Walk the Pathway Together

As you meet, help one another continue walking the same pathway every disciple walks. Encourage one another to share the gospel frequently, abide in Christ daily, live deeply in biblical community, faithfully use your spiritual gifts, and eventually begin discipling someone else.

The goal isn't to finish a curriculum. The goal is to become more like Christ and help someone else do the same.

What holds most of us back · what we say back

Every disciple-maker feels unqualified at first. If you're waiting until you know everything before helping someone else follow Christ, you'll wait forever.

Remember that Jesus didn't call His disciples because they already knew enough. He called them while they were still learning. God delights to use ordinary believers who are willing to take one faithful step at a time.

"I don't know enough."	**You don't have to know everything.** You simply need to stay one or two steps ahead of the person you're helping, and when questions arise that neither of you can answer, study them together. A discipling relationship is about growing together, not pretending to have all the answers.
"I don't have enough time."	**Disciple-making doesn't require adding another ministry to your schedule.** It often happens while you're already living your life: inviting someone to breakfast, reading Scripture over coffee, serving together, or simply bringing them along as you do what you were already going to do. Jesus made disciples while walking from place to place.
"What if I fail?"	**Every disciple-maker makes mistakes.** The goal isn't perfection. The goal is faithfulness. God is far more committed to growing the person you're discipling than you are, so trust Him to do the work only He can do.
"Who should I begin with?"	**Pray, and ask God to place one or two people on your heart.** Don't search for the perfect disciple; begin with the available one. Faithful disciple-making has always begun with one ordinary relationship.

"No One Ever Discipled Me"

You may never have experienced the kind of intentional discipling relationship described in this pathway, and many faithful Christians haven't. But someone doesn't have to disciple you perfectly before you can begin helping someone else follow Christ. Start with what you know, share what God has taught you, and walk through the pathway together.

The first disciples weren't experts when Jesus sent them out. They were faithful followers who kept learning as they obeyed. Just take the next faithful step, and invite someone to take it with you.

Every disciple-maker begins with uncertainty. The difference is not confidence; it's the willingness to take the next faithful step and trust God to work through ordinary obedience.

The Fruit of Multiplying

Disciple-making is not measured by the number of people we influence, the size of our ministry, or how many Bible studies we lead. It is measured by the quiet work of the Holy Spirit as He forms Christ's character in us and begins reproducing that life in others.

Paul reminded the Thessalonian believers that his goal was never only to teach them information. He shared both the gospel and his life, helping them become people who could faithfully follow Christ themselves.

> *"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives..."*
> 1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

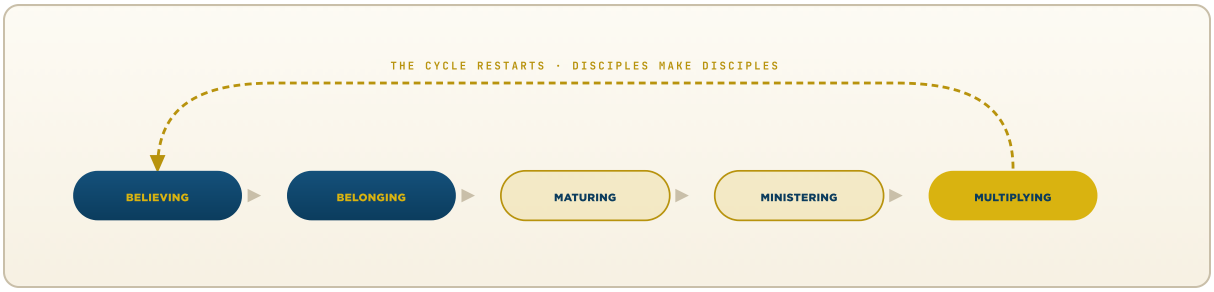
A RHYTHM'S MARKER

Disciple-makers don't only pass along information. They share their lives as they help others follow Christ. Over time, these are some of the marks that begin to appear.

- **They intentionally invest in people.** They prayerfully choose one or two people to encourage, teach, and walk alongside, trusting that God grows disciples through faithful relationships.
- **They pass on what they have received.** Rather than inventing something new, they faithfully share the truths, habits, and practices that have helped them follow Christ.
- **They live with the door open.** Their home, table, calendar, and even their car have room for another person. They naturally invite others into everyday life because they understand that discipleship is more often caught than taught.
- **They delight in others' growth.** Their greatest joy is not being needed. It is watching another believer mature, gain confidence, and begin following Christ with increasing faithfulness.
- **They continue growing themselves.** Disciple-makers never stop being disciples. They remain teachable, humble, and eager to keep learning from God's Word and God's people.
- **They release others to multiply.** They do not build followers for themselves. They celebrate when those they have discipled begin investing in others, knowing the pathway has come full circle.

These qualities are not produced overnight. They emerge over years as we faithfully follow Christ and intentionally help others do the same.

Coming Full Circle



The Pathway Begins Again

A multiplying disciple never reaches the end of the pathway. They begin helping someone else walk it.

They step back into the mission field, build a relationship with someone who needs Christ, and faithfully share the gospel until that person believes (**Believing**). They help them become part of God's family, both globally through baptism and locally through the church (**Belonging**). They walk beside them as they learn to abide in Christ (**Maturing**), discover and use their gifts (**Ministering**), and eventually begin investing in someone else (**Multiplying**).

Then the pathway begins again.

This is how Jesus designed His church to grow: not merely through programs or events, but through ordinary disciples faithfully helping others follow Him. Generation after generation, the gospel advances as one believer invests in another until Christ returns.

This is how we will **"make and multiply fully formed disciples of every generation, from Ashe County to the nations."**

Continue the Journey

FOR THE DISCIPLER WHO IS READY TO BEGIN

This pathway is meant to be lived, not read. If you're ready to begin intentionally investing in another believer, we've created two companion resources to help you along the way.

The **Multiplying Playbook** expands on everything you've learned in this guide. It provides practical coaching, meeting plans, Bible study methods, spiritual disciplines, and reproducible systems to help you confidently lead a discipling relationship from beginning to end.

The **Multiplying Field Guide** is designed to stay close at hand. It is a simple, practical reference that helps you remember what to do in the moment, offering prompts, reminders, and next steps as you walk with another disciple.

Use the Playbook to learn. Reach for the Field Guide as you go.

Inside the Multiplying Playbook

- **A Year of Disciple-Making** · a simple, reproducible rhythm for walking with another believer over the course of a year
- **Studying God's Word Together** · simple Bible study methods, including C.O.M.A., that encourage discovery and obedience
- **Reproducible Systems** · practical frameworks that help disciple-making become a way of life rather than a one-time event
- **Twelve Essential Practices** · practical tools for helping another disciple grow in Christ and reproduce their faith
- **Spiritual Disciplines** · helping another believer develop lifelong rhythms of abiding in Christ
- **Generational Disciple-Making** · tools for helping disciples become disciple-makers who faithfully invest in the next generation

Your Next Step

Disciple-making rarely begins with a grand plan. It usually begins with one invitation.

Ask God to place one or two people on your heart. Then take the first faithful step toward intentionally investing in them. You don't need to have every answer today. Begin walking with them as you continue following Christ yourself.

My Multiplying Rhythm

BEGIN WITH TWO NAMES

THE PEOPLE I AM PRAYING ABOUT INVESTING IN

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

THE TWO PEOPLE I WILL INVITE TO BEGIN MEETING WITH ME

1 _____ 2 _____

OUR FIRST MEETING

DATE & TIME

_____

LOCATION

_____

THE FIRST PASSAGE WE'LL STUDY TOGETHER

_____

ONE THING I'LL PRAY FOR THEM EACH WEEK

_____

Begin where you are, trust the Holy Spirit to draw the right people, walk faithfully with them for a season, then release them to do the same.

Keep Walking

The pathway has shaped your life so that your life can help shape others.

As you invest in one or two believers, you'll discover that God continues to mature you, refine you, and deepen your dependence on Him. Disciple-making is not the final stage of the Christian life. It is the lifelong privilege of helping others follow the same Christ who has faithfully led you.

Walk the pathway again. This time, bring two people with you.

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." **2 TIMOTHY 2:2**