

MyFriends 09: Celebrate & Live in Community with Lifestyle Practice

START COURSE

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Welcome to **MyFriends**.

This course material is designed to be used with your facilitated course. In this last module we will look at Celebrating Decisions and Living in Community. The focus is on developing a culture and mindset of multiplication.

The key objectives are:

- To explain how Baptism is a physical and spiritual act that declares that you are no longer living for yourself but that your life belongs to God (in Christ) and you now live for Him as part of His family.
- To recognise the celebration of baptism as an opportunity to challenge those who are far from God to join the journey of discovering Jesus for themselves.
- To dream of joining friends and getting to see God work through you to reach several generations so that we see disciples who make disciples ...
- To be able to cast a vision for being intentional in following Jesus in the 'MyFriends' journey by forming group, multiplying those groups and mobilising leaders.
- To identify who can you help train to walk this journey with you?

Celebrate

Read the following passage twice

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.

Acts 16:25-34

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you learn about God or people?
- What principle of mission did you discover that you can apply today?

Baptism

Baptism

Important decisions in our lives are celebrated (e.g. weddings). Baptism should also be celebrated appropriately.

Baptism is a physical and spiritual act declaring that you are no longer living for yourself but that your life belongs to God (in Christ) and you now live for Him as part of His family. Going under water symbolises dying and being buried, coming up again symbolises the resurrection to a new life with God. The decision to be baptised is one of the most important and far-reaching choices you can make. If you have come to know Jesus personally and decided to live with Jesus, then baptism is the next step.



What examples of baptism are there in the New Testament?

Baptism Party

Why don't you organise a baptism party where you can invite your family, friends and community? That will give baptism the significance it deserves and provides a good opportunity for friends who don't believe in Jesus to meet Him. This is a good opportunity for the person who is getting baptised to share their story about coming to faith in Jesus.

As you baptise them you could ask:

- Do you confess Jesus is Lord and Saviour? (Romans 10:9)
- Do you commit to follow Him all your life as part of His family?

I baptise you in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).

We encourage the Christians around them to pray that the Holy Spirit will empower their life in a special way with the things they need to fulfil God's purpose for them, their family, and their community.

Spiritual Multiplication

Spiritual Addition vs. Spiritual Multiplication

Suppose you had the choice between two options:

Option 1: The Super-Evangelist

You could become a super-evangelist and every year you would see 1,000 people make a commitment to follow Jesus.

Option 2: The Disciple Maker

Each year, you are able to see one person make a commitment to Jesus but you also train them to lead others to Him.

Which would you choose?

	5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	33 Years
Super-Evangelist (Spiritual Addition)	5,000 New Christians	10,000 New Christians	15,000 New Christians	20,000 New Christians	33,000 New Christians
Disciple Maker (Spiritual Multiplication)	31 New Christians	1,024 New Christians	32,768 New Christians	1,048,576 New Christians	The Whole World is Reached

How do we focus our time and efforts differently to pursue spiritual multiplication over spiritual addition?

Who can you help train to walk this journey with you?

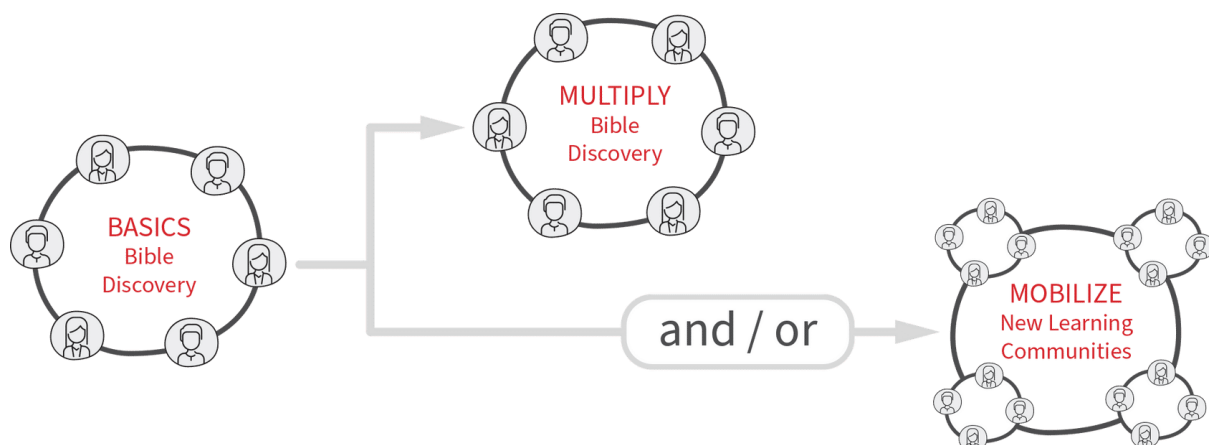
Our desire is not just to help people come to faith in Jesus, but to equip them to connect others to Him and form groups with second, third, and fourth generations of new believers!

Imagine joining friends and getting to see God work through you to reach several generations so that we see disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

Your Next Steps



- 1. Form a Group** You know God's heart if for you, your family and your friends who are far from Him. So love, pray, and care for people. Share your experience with them and seek to form a group to go through the **Basics** together.
- 2. Multiply** If you have formed a group and have gone through the Basics, your next step is to help the people in your group grow in their faith and learn how to start their own Bible Discovery groups. That's called **Multiply** which can be found on the MyFriends app.
- 3. Mobilize** You are a leader who is ready to **Mobilize** others to learn disciple-making like Jesus.



Next Steps

- **Still Working on the Process?**
Register your interest in our periodic zooms which explore the common sticking points in the MyFriends process.
- **Are you Ready to Start Multiplying Your Group?**
OurGenerations
Join with multiplying peers in a coaching group where together you can explore how to best equip and send people from your group to

connect their own friends with Jesus, forming their own groups who are learning to follow Him.

- **Would you like to run a MyFriends training course?**

MyFriends

We'd love to join you in the process and help equip you to bring the MyFriends training to your local community. We want to help set you up for success!

- **Want to Know Where This Fits into the Larger Disciple Making Picture?**

SHIFTm2M

Join leadership peers to explore a discipling framework centred on a case study of Jesus' ministry focusing on His movement building principles. Shift groups are coordinated by trained facilitators who will help you wrestle with the realities of implementing what you discover about movement building in your own life and ministry context.

What is your next step in development?

Great Commission

Your MyFriends Journey

You have gone on a life-shifting journey that has helped you to **love**, **pray**, and **care** for the people around you. As you have learnt to live more like Jesus every day, you have seen the Holy Spirit give you opportunities to **share** your experience of Jesus with others and pray so your friends can **experience** Him too.



Hopefully, they can **connect** that experience to Jesus and be **released** to share this freely. Because God's heart is for your family and friends, be ready to **form a group** and **Discover the Basics** of God's story together.

Imagine the day you can **celebrate** their baptism and see them **live in community** with Jesus and others who will go and do the same.

The Great Commission

When a person is commissioned, they are sent out with authority to do a specific thing. Jesus commissioned His followers to be like Him, to make disciples, and reveal His Kingdom in the world around them. It is a 'co-mission'. We don't do this alone but fulfil this mission in dependence on God in partnership with others. We want to see you continue to live like Jesus in all the places He puts

you and across every stage of your life so we can see communities transformed by His love. As a Christian, this is our job description ...

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Loving God and loving others anchors us in the right motives for obeying the Great Commission

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:35-40

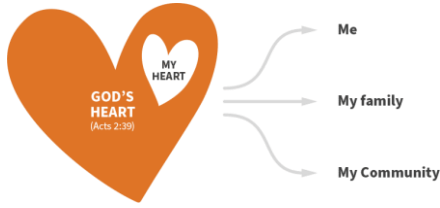
Our Prayer for You

Lord, as we reflect on the great commission and great commandment, we pray that you would help us to love you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and that we would love our neighbours as ourselves. We take seriously your command to make disciples of all nations and Lord we pray that you would help us to engage those in our social groups with the gospel. Already we have seen you at work as we have loved, prayed and cared. Father, help us to share our experiences of you with others in a way that is winsome and engaging. We pray that you would be at work in the lives of our friends and family and help them to experience you in such a way that they would make a decision to submit their lives to you. We pray that they would in turn multiply their faith. Our desire is to see you glorified throughout Australia and the world. Lord, use us for your glory. Amen.

Lifestyle Practice



Look Back



"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." - Acts 2:39

Consider Jesus' principles of love and mission (as summarised on the **MyFriends disc**) and your **daisy chain** as you reflect on these questions.



Reflection Questions

1. How have you experienced God at work in and through your life this week?
2. What did you learn about God, yourself, or others this week?
3. What points from the last MyFriends Training session challenged you or prompted questions?
4. What have been the highlights of your MyFriends journey so far?



Look Up

Commissioned

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 20:21-22 and write down key themes that you discover.

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - **Matthew 28:18-20**

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. - **John 20:21-22**

When a person is commissioned, they are sent out with authority to do a specific thing. Jesus commissioned His followers to be like Him, to make disciples, and reveal His Kingdom in the world around them. It is a 'co-mission'. We don't do this alone but fulfil this mission in dependence on God in partnership with others as you join with God's heart for your family, your friends, and for the world.

You have reached the end of MyFriends Training, but you have only just begun to develop a lifestyle of love, prayer, and care that leads people to

experience Jesus and connect with Him. Spend some time praying for each person in your Lifestyle Practice group, commissioning them to be sent out into their social circles to connect people to Jesus. Pray that the Lord will give them many opportunities to form Bible Discovery groups. Boldly pray that these new believers will multiply new groups in their own communities.



Look Forward

1. Are there areas of the MyFriends lifestyle that you would like to grow in or have questions about?
2. Who on your daisy chain is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take the next step with in the coming week?
3. What practical next steps do you need to take? Share this step with the group and ask someone to pray for you as you take this step in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Action Steps

1. What is the next step that God is calling you to? When and how will you pursue it?
2. How will thinking through spiritual multiplication change your ministry mindset?
3. Is there someone who you can train or invest in? Would someone else benefit from walking through the MyFriends training?