

Scriptures for the DMM Process

1. Pray and Fast: This sounds simple, and maybe a little cliché, but Movements start with petitioning the Lord. Those who are using DMM successfully take this first step seriously, and are creative in their approaches. For example, I've witnessed prayer houses, neighborhood prayer walks and passionate prayer services where a group leader gives the congregation a prayer topic and they all explode into prayer, some with fists in the air, pacing back and forth. As for fasting, our African partners disciple new believers to start with a single meal, and grow from there. The point is to let God lead this effort. They pray and fast until God opens a door into the people group they long to see experiencing a Movement.

- **Aligning Ourselves with God** is at the heart of Praying and Fasting. We pray and fast because we want to be like Jesus. We pray and fast because we know that Movements come from above. We cannot produce them by our strength or great strategies—only God can produce Movements.

- **Scriptures:**

- Matthew 4:1-11 and Deuteronomy 8:1-18 (After 40 days and nights of Fasting Satan tempts Jesus, but he quotes from Deuteronomy 8 about relying on Papa God).
- Matthew 6:1-18 (Jesus discipled his followers on the crucial nature of praying and fasting).
- Matthew 9:14-17 (Jesus is questioned about why his disciples did not fast, yet).
- Luke 10:1-12, 17-24 (Praying as Jesus directs brings incredible fruit and joy).
- Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3 (Fasting and praying play a significant role in sending Barnabas and Saul out on their first missionary journey).

- **Activities:**

- Mobilize your home church to participate in a Prayer Wall to provide covering and spiritual insight into your Kingdom advancing efforts. (One resource to use is 24-7 Prayers: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/5b132d>).
- Have your Life Groups do Prayer Walks through the neighborhoods where they meet asking God to pray for the neighbors who live around where groups meet.
- Celebrate successes!

2. Serve with Purpose: This doesn't necessarily mean volunteering at the rescue mission. The idea is to prayerfully seek out the needs of the community or group you are trying to reach, and meet one of those needs which they highly value as a way to genuinely love on them in the name of Christ. It may even be a for-profit service you're providing. The goal is to genuinely care for the people with the love of God, and allow the Holy Spirit to open doors of opportunity to communicate the love of Christ. Our ultimate purpose is to



create natural opportunities to interact with enough different people to find Persons of Peace.

- **Access Ministries** open the door for finding Persons of Peace and lead to community transformation. Ministry should precede evangelism and evangelism must always be the end result of ministry. Timing is important and necessary so prayer and fasting open us to God's insight and timing.
- **Scriptures:**
 - Matthew 25:31-46 (Meeting needs serves Jesus).
 - Philippians 2:1-11 (Having the mind of Christ entails caring for the interests of others).
 - Acts 10:30-38 (Doing good was a fundamental part of the message about Jesus).
 - Acts 3:1-16 (James and John heal the lame man and that opens doors for talking about Jesus openly).
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (Paul's exemplary life involved sharing the Good News and loving care of people, too).
- **Activities:**
 - Get your people into pairs and have them "role play" inviting people to "read what the Bible has to say about marriage, childrearing, God's character, or some other biblical topic. Rotate all the groups and work through the room.
 - Go to a restaurant and tell your waiter, waitress: "We pray before our meals. Do you have a need which we can pray about for you?"
 - Celebrate successes!

3. Find Persons of Peace: Taken from Luke 10 and Matthew 10, as we serve, we are prayerfully seeking out a worthy person, or a person of peace. Someone who is open to discussing spiritual things, and curious about the Christian faith. A lot of times these are people who have some type of influence in the community or group you are trying to reach. For example, in Africa, it may be the village chief, or it may be the village drunk. If either come to know a saving knowledge of Christ, their change can drastically impact the people around them. Once you have this truth seeker, you invite them to have a Bible Study with you, and you ask them to invite their friends and family, and/or to share what they are learning with them. If you share the gospel with someone, and they are disinterested, you move on.

- **Persons of Peace**—these are not yet saved people who God's Spirit is preparing to be bridges for the Gospel to enter their families and communities. These are the kinds of people Jesus sent the 72 out in pairs to find in Luke 10:1ff. Cornelius (Acts 10), Lydia and the Philippian jailor (Acts 16) are examples of Persons of Peace. In each of these situations "households" came to faith together and that is what we anticipate can happen. Remind people that if you are harvesting apples and oranges you pick them one by one, but with grapes and bananas you harvest them in bunches.

- **Scriptures:**

- Acts 11:1-18 (Cornelius was responsive, but the vision and coming of the Holy Spirit was necessary to get the messenger to go).
- Matthew 10:1-16 (Jesus sends the 12 out two by two looking for “some worthy person”).
- Luke 10:1-16 (Jesus sends 72 others looking for Persons of Peace).
- Acts 16:6-15 (The gospel enters the “oikos”—household of Lydia after Paul listens to the Holy Spirit).
- John 4:1-42 (the woman at the well contrasts greatly with the thinking of the disciples in this story). .

- **Activities:**

- After practicing the Discovery Group format for three weeks, do the fourth week in public places (e.g., a Starbucks, a mall food court, at your gym’s cool down area). Be sure that there are no more than four people in each group. In addition to doing the study, watch for people around you who are eavesdropping on the Discovery Group.
- Every week Question # 3 is focusing on our efforts to obey what we heard and to share about our efforts to find Persons of Peace.
- Celebrate successes!

4. Start Discovery Groups: Please refer to the document “The Discovery Process Overview & Explanation.” It is a good explanation of this simple inductive Bible study. There are stories of Discovery groups facilitated by unbelievers (e.g., Jessie the Chinese girl who was taking her mother through a Discovery study before Jessie had made a profession of faith, herself. Grace, the RA who was leading the DG Jessie was in did not realize this until it came up unexpectedly.) It is so simple, it doesn’t even need a Christian to lead it.

- **Discovery** exhibits trust that the Word of God illuminated by the Spirit of God is enough to produce the people of God. It places great confidence in people listening to what the Word says and being able to identify specific ways to put it into practice in their lives, either individually or collectively.

- **Scriptures:**

- John 6:41-51 (Note verse 45 which says, “They will all be taught by God.”).
- Matthew 23:1-12 (In Matthew’s Gospel only Jesus is to be called “Teacher”).
- Matthew 13:1-23 (Jesus uses parables with the crowds which means they have to “discover” the meaning by asking him).
- Hebrews 8:1-13 (Through Jesus God writes his laws on our hearts).
- Luke 10:25-37 (Jesus models the use of questions in guiding an exploration of truth). .

- **Activities:**

- Invite those who are facilitating Discovery Groups (DGs) to get together monthly to debrief what is transpiring in their groups. This gathering will be called a Facilitator Cohort—a learning community. The first two questions of a DG make excellent prompts: “What has been going well in your gatherings?” “What challenges have arisen during your groups?”

- Encourage your group facilitators to complete one of the DGs Report Form each week and scan/photograph it and email it to you as a way to give you data which will help you to coach them.
- Celebrate successes!

5. Embrace Multiplication: As God blesses this process, The church multiplies and spreads out. In order to allow this process to work, some ideas have to be embraced, and our paradigm needs to shift. As I've said, this method is a tool for anyone who wants to spread the gospel. Here's the possible rub, this system is entrusted to God, and not overly controlled by the church. Through prayer, and obedience-based disciple making, the church allows these groups to spread as the Holy Spirit leads. This process may start a church we don't even know about, and that's okay. Multiplication comes when we learn to constantly search out and disciple two types of people—Persons of Peace and Multipliers.

- **Multipliers**—these are believers who will be open to learning how to reach people in bunches the way you harvest bananas and grapes), not just one by one. Most of our evangelistic strategies focus on one on one approaches. But we have found that using this can actually increase the resistance of strong family and friendship groups. Multipliers will be open to learning group strategies. They are willing to shift their focus toward discipling disciple makers. They are willing to learn to use approaches which can easily be reproduced by the people they are reaching. They are very coachable.
- **Scriptures:**
 - John 15:1-17 (Those who abide in Jesus bear fruit, vs. 2; bear much fruit, vs. 5; fruit that will last, vs. 16).
 - Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 (The message of the resurrection culminates in the Great Commission).
 - Acts 2:42-47; 4:1-4; 5:12-16; 6:1, 7 (These passages reveal the growing spread of the gospel of the kingdom).
 - Acts 8:1-3 & 11:19-30 (The gospel is spread by ordinary disciples as their response to persecution).
 - Acts 19:1-20 (Paul and his team see the gospel spread throughout the Roman province of Asia from Ephesus).
- **Activities:**
 - Guide church leaders through an exploration of what will be needed to replicate themselves and their ministries.
 - Brainstorm what will be required for our church to plant “Rabbit Churches” (i.e., those which rapidly multiply).
 - Celebrate successes!