SOFTWARE & TECH

Multiply Francis Chan

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Multiply Francis Chan: A Blueprint for Intentional Discipleship

In an age where the modern church often prioritizes programs, attendance, and polished sermons over genuine spiritual growth, Francis Chan's **Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples** emerges as a clarion call back to the core of the Christian faith. The phrase **Multiply Francis Chan**has become shorthand for a movement that challenges believers to move beyond passive consumerism and embrace a lifestyle of intentional discipleship. This article explores the book's central themes, practical applications, and the lasting impact it has had on individuals and churches seeking to follow Jesus more closely.

The Heart of the Multiply Movement

At its core, *Multiply* is not just a book—it is a vision. Chan, together with co-author Mark Beuving, presents a straightforward yet radical idea: every follower of Christ is called to make disciples who make disciples. This is not a task reserved for pastors, missionaries, or church staff. It is the calling of every believer. The **Multiply Francis Chan**message strips away the complexities and distractions that often keep Christians from engaging in personal, relational discipleship. Instead, it returns to the simple, powerful model Jesus demonstrated with His twelve apostles.

The book begins by examining the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, not as a suggestion but as a direct command from the risen King. Chan argues that the church has largely misunderstood this command, turning it into a mission for a few rather than a mandate for all. He writes with urgency and pastoral warmth, urging readers to rethink what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life. This urgency is one reason why **Multiply Francis Chan** has resonated with so many—it calls for action, not just agreement.

Why Traditional Approaches to Discipleship Fall Short

Many churches have tried to fulfill the Great Commission through organized programs, classes, and curriculum. While these can be helpful tools, Chan points out that they often miss the relational element that Jesus modeled. Discipleship is not a one-time course or a checklist of doctrinal facts. It is a life-on-life transfer of faith, character, and mission. The **Multiply Francis Chan**approach emphasizes that true discipleship happens in the context of relationships—over meals, in homes, through shared experiences, and in the daily messiness of life.

Chan challenges the consumer mindset that says, "I go to church to get fed." Instead, he calls believers to see themselves as both learners and teachers, recipients and givers of spiritual nurture. This shift is profound. It means that every Christian, regardless of their stage of maturity, has something to contribute. The new believer can disciple someone even less mature, while the seasoned saint must remain humble enough to continue learning. This mutual growth pattern reflects the body of Christ described in Ephesians 4.

The Structure of the Multiply Book and DVD Series

Multiply was originally released as a free online resource, including a book (in PDF and print formats), a DVD curriculum, and downloadable leader guides. This open-access model was intentional. Chan wanted to remove

barriers so that anyone, anywhere, could access the material and start a discipleship group. The book is
Living as a Disciple and **Making Disciples**.

The first section covers foundational doctrines such as the gospel, the Trinity, the authority of Scripture, prayer, and the role of the Holy Spirit. Chan emphasizes that a disciple cannot make disciples without first being rooted in these truths. The **Multiply Francis Chan**teaching is deeply biblical, walking readers through key passages and encouraging personal application. Each chapter ends with reflection questions designed to spark discussion and self-examination.

The second section shifts to practical strategies for disciple-making. It covers topics like evangelism, teaching, mentoring, and starting new groups. Chan is careful to avoid a one-size-fits-all formula. Instead, he provides principles that can be adapted to different contexts—urban or rural, large church or small house fellowship. The DVD component features Chan teaching in his characteristic passionate style, often with a whiteboard, making complex ideas accessible.

Key Themes in Multiply Francis Chan

Several recurring themes run through the book and the broader **Multiply Francis Chan** movement.

- Intentionality: Discipleship does not happen by accident. It requires deliberate effort, time, and sacrifice. Chan urges believers to schedule time with others, to pray specifically for those they are discipling, and to actively look for opportunities to invite others into deeper faith.
- Reproduction: The goal is not just to make converts but to make disciples who can make more disciples. This multiplication mindset is modeled on the early church in Acts, where the word of God spread and the number of disciples multiplied greatly (Acts 6:7).
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit: Chan repeatedly reminds readers that human effort alone is insufficient. The Holy Spirit is the true agent of transformation. Disciple-makers must pray, trust, and follow the Spirit's leading.
- Simplicity: The book deliberately avoids complex jargon or elaborate systems. Chan believes that the core of discipleship is simple: love God, love others, and share what you have learned. Overcomplicating it can paralyze believers.
- Community: Disciple-making is not a solo endeavor. Chan encourages believers to form small groups where they can learn together, hold each other accountable, and practice the "one another" commands of the New Testament.

Practical Steps to Multiply Your Discipleship Efforts

One of the strengths of the **Multiply Francis Chan**resource is its practicality. Chan does not just inspire; he gives actionable steps. Here are some of the key practices he recommends:

1. Start a Multiply Group: Gather two or three other believers, commit to meeting weekly or bi-weekly, and work through the book and DVD together. Keep the group simple and focused on mutual growth.
2. Identify a "Timothy": Find one person (or a couple) you can invest in more intentionally. Meet regularly, read Scripture together, pray, and share life. Over time, encourage that person to do the same with someone else.
3. Practice the "2-2-2" Method: Many have adopted a simple rhythm: two minutes of prayer together, two verses of Scripture reading, and two minutes of accountability questions. This can be done over coffee, a meal, or even a phone call.
4. Use the Free Resources: The Multiply website offers downloadable PDFs, leader guides, and discussion questions. There is no cost, no registration—just a desire to equip the church. Point people to multiplymovement.com.
5. Focus on Obedience, Not Information: Chan warns against knowledge without application. Each session should include a commitment to act on what was learned. Whether it is forgiving someone, sharing the gospel, or serving in practical ways, obedience is the hallmark of a true disciple.

The Impact of Multiply on Local Churches

Since its release, the **Multiply Francis Chan**vision has been embraced by countless small groups, house churches, and larger congregations. Many pastors have used the material to train their entire congregation in disciple-making. In some cases, churches have restructured their entire ministry around the principle of multiplication rather than addition. Instead of measuring success by Sunday attendance, they measure it by how many people are actively discipling others.

Testimonies abound of believers who had been Christians for years but never felt equipped to share their faith or mentor someone until they encountered *Multiply*. The material is accessible enough for new believers but deep enough to challenge those who have walked with Christ for decades. This broad appeal is part of why the **Multiply Francis Chan** movement continues to grow, even years after the initial release.

Critical Reflections and Common Concerns

No book is without its critics. Some have raised concerns that the **Multiply Francis Chan**model may place too much emphasis on methodology, potentially leading to burnout or legalism. Others worry that the emphasis on “making disciples” could overshadow the importance of worship, the sacraments, and the larger church community. Chan himself addresses these concerns in the book, repeatedly pointing readers back to grace and the work of Christ. He clarifies that disciple-making is not about earning God’s favor; it is a joyful response to the grace already received.

Another critique is that the material is best suited for individualistic Western contexts and may need adaptation for more communal or hierarchical cultures. However, many missionaries and global church leaders have successfully translated and contextualized *Multiply*for their settings. The core principle—life-on-life discipleship—transcends cultural boundaries.

How Multiply Francis Chan Connects to Broader Discipleship Movements

The **Multiply Francis Chan** message is part of a larger rediscovery of discipleship in the global church. It echoes themes found in works by authors like Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*The Cost of Discipleship*), Bill Hull, and the practices of the early Moravians. However, Chan’s accessible style, coupled with the free multimedia resources, has brought these ideas to a new generation. The movement also aligns closely with the “Disciple Making Movement” (DMM) strategies used by many mission organizations, which emphasize rapid multiplication of simple churches.

Chan’s unique contribution is his insistence that disciple-making is not optional for any Christian. It is not a spiritual gift possessed by a few; it is the very identity of a follower of Jesus. As he often says, “We are called to be disciples and to make disciples. That is our purpose.” This clarity has helped thousands of believers move from spectators to participants in the work of the Kingdom.

Conclusion

In a world clamoring for quick fixes and polished presentations, **Multiply Francis Chan**stands as a quiet, persistent voice calling Christians back to the simple, life-changing work of making disciples. The book and its accompanying resources provide a clear path forward for anyone who has ever wondered, “How can I really make a difference for Christ?” The answer is not found in a program or a pulpit, but in a humble, intentional relationship with another person, walking together toward greater likeness to Jesus.

Whether you are a pastor looking to revitalize your church’s mission, a small group leader wanting to go deeper, or a new believer eager to grow, *Multiply* offers a proven, biblical framework. The challenge is simple: do not settle for addition. Aim for multiplication. As Chan says, “If you want to see the world changed, start by making one disciple who makes disciples.” The call to **Multiply Francis Chan**model is a call to obedience, joy, and eternal significance. It is a call worth answering.

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