



## *Conversations on Community: Greg Ogden with Susan Shadid*

### **Preview**

Greg Ogden and Susan Shadid discuss the power of triad and quad discipleship groups and how God uses them to produce transformation in the members' lives and in the lives they go on to disciple afterwards.

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## Key Concepts

### Internalization

- Internalization is how you transfer the message and mission from one life to another.
- It is what gets lodged in the heart of someone.
- It's about close proximity.
- Example: A story from Greg's life
- It's more caught than taught.
- How to foster internalization:
  - There must be an invitation to internalization.
  - It can be three or four people over time opening their hearts and lives fully.
  - It's very incarnational.

### Multiplication

- Multiplication means being disciplined so you can disciple others.
- This is the process through which you can be equipped to disciple others.
- Jesus did this with His disciples.
- This often works best in a smaller group of three or four.
- The advantages of three or four:
  - It's an ideal setting.
  - It's a "hothouse" that allows rapid growth through:
    - Transparent trust
    - Truth in community
    - Life-change accountability
  - These ingredients bring rapid growth and thus reproduction.
  - The more people you add, the more you water down the ingredients.

### The Elements of Transparent Trust

- It's a progression:
  - Environment of encouragement
  - Difficult circumstances
  - Listening together for God's will in your life (discernment)
  - Can I trust these people with the dark side of my life?

### The Truth of God's Word

- God's Word is really truth in community.
- We often teach or proclaim truth in church, but it's one-sided.
- In a community context, you are interacting with the Word and bringing your whole life to it.
- It's a plumb line.

### Mutual Accountability

- The covenant in a community means submitting ourselves to one another.
- This is difficult for Americans — no one tells us what to do.
- You can't build community out of that attitude.
- We discover freedom when we submit ourselves to God and one another.

### Creating a Triad

- Creating a triad is by invitation, not a programmed or self-selected thing.
- Greg will pray over possible people and then asks if they would be interested.
- He lays out the five-point covenant that explains the expectations of the group.
- He asks them to consider investing in someone else after the group is done; reproduction is built in.
- Relationships last about a year.
- Everyone brings their story to the context.
- The format includes:
  - Chatting and catching up on life
  - Praying about issues
  - Praying about people
  - Lesson material and application
  - Revisiting previous content and issues
- The curriculum doesn't matter; it's a tool to convene the relationship.

### Definition of Discipleship

- Discipleship is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow towards maturity in Christ.
- This includes equipping the disciple to teach others as well.
- "Intentional relationship" and "walk alongside" means it's non-hierarchical.
  - Smaller groups make it more of a peer relationship.
  - This makes it different than spiritual mentoring.
- "Encourage" means a safe environment.
- "Equip" means the things you're learning.
- "Challenge" means accountability.

### The Power of Multiplication

- Using addition, an evangelist may see hundreds come to Christ.
- Multiplication can reach many more.
- Multiplication yields a 75% reproduction rate.

### The Bible as a Method Book

- There is a pattern for the transmission of the message.
- It's life rubbing off on another life.
- Jesus, Paul, and others modeled it.
- It's about life investment.

### Differences between Structures

- One-on-one can be very good and effective.
  - Someone is helping you listen for God.
  - The relationship doesn't tend to be mutual.
  - There can be distance between the people.
  - There's less emphasis on reproduction.
- In a group of three or four, there is much more mutual investment.
  - The purpose is to lay the foundation in order to allow reproduction.
  - This facilitates trust and accountability.

- A larger group of 10 or so waters down the ingredients.
  - A larger group has a different purpose
  - It's harder to get to the place of trust in a larger group.