

# William B. Groben II

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Great Commission

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In the Old Testament, God said he created man to be in his image, and then he repeatedly told his people to multiply and fill the earth. The goal was to fill the earth with images of God, with people who would represent God and reflect his character. Jesus, the ultimate image of God the Father, commanded his disciples to multiply by creating more disciples who could be prepared to create yet more disciples, in an endless scheme of multiplication. His command had two parts: baptize and teach; in other words, we are to share the gospel with non-believers, leading them to baptism, and then teach them all that Christ has taught us, so that they too grow to Christ-likeness, to be the image of God they were created to be, and thus are equipped to go and make more disciples themselves.

**Evangelism:** I believe every follower of Christ is under this command. The church must seek to motivate and educate all believers, to equip them for sharing the gospel. Worship services frequently should bring the teaching back to the cross, which also will reinforce understanding of the gospel and its implications in believers. The church should have periodic outreach events.

**Mentoring:** Mentoring of believers is a natural follow up to sharing the gospel: when one accepts Christ, that is just the beginning of the learning process. I believe every believer should become prepared and motivated to mentor someone younger in the faith, especially if that believer personally led the other person to Christ. Thus, the church must have a training program for those who are mature in the faith and interested in mentoring, and such mentoring must begin at the top, with the staff and elders both receiving individualized attention and providing mentoring to others. The church should also have in place an assimilation program for new believers, connecting them to the body through small groups and ministry teams, and providing them with a spiritual leader to whom they can turn with questions and problems.

**Teaching:** There are many opportunities to teach the content and applicability of Scripture to believers in the church. I believe every follower of Christ should mature to become prepared and motivated to teach others in the church. This will look different for different personality types, but everyone can find their fit, teaching individuals, small groups of adults, small groups of minors, large groups of minors, or specialized classes. Thus the church must help believers to grow strong in knowledge of Scripture and how to interpret and apply it. The church must have a healthy small group leader training program, so small groups continue to multiply and provide access to biblical community to increasing numbers of people.

**Counseling:** Biblical counsel is one of the most potent forms of teaching Scripture, because the relevant passages are immediately applicable to life. The church must provide access to qualified biblical counselors, and also encourage small group leaders and mentors to become prepared to use Scripture effectively in counseling situations.

I have shared the gospel frequently and led others to faith in Christ. I was mentored by a missionary who had been mentored in the Campus Outreach program and learned the principles of the Navigators. Using those principles, I have developed a mentoring guideline that provides goals and structure while allowing for the flexibility needed to minister to unique individuals. I have mentored men who have successfully multiplied and mentored others, who have again successfully multiplied and mentored others, and yet again for another generation. I have trained others in evangelism, mentoring, teaching, and in small group leadership. I have taught extensively to all age groups and in all sorts of venues. I have successfully counseled many people, and am interested in developing a training program to help others do so.