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Catch and Cast the Vision of Multiplying Leaders
Dave Earley

To meet him, you would not be aware of the impact he has had, is having and will have. The first time we met, Scott introduced himself to me as "just a pizza shop guy." Yet, he soon received some training and began to lead a small group in our church. He worked hard and his group grew.

Then Scott caught the dream of multiplication. Soon he had trained Mark to lead a group. Then he trained Dale. Then he trained Steve. In ten years, he trained four group leaders out of his group! On top of that, another young man he mentored planted a church. Scott has made quite an impact for "just a pizza shop guy." It began when he caught the vision of making a difference by multiplying leaders.

A Big Vision Makes a Big Difference

In 1987, Cesar Fajardo had a small ministry with only thirty young people in his youth group. Yet, Fajardo had a big dream. He took a photograph of the nearby indoor soccer stadium, and then hung the picture on the wall of his room. He began to dream and believe that God would one day fill it with young people. By 1999, 18,000 young people lined up on Saturday nights to get inside the same stadium for his youth worship service.

Within twelve years he had raised up a family of 8,000 youth cell group leaders for his church in Bogota, Columbia. His success began with a dream. His dream spurred him to pour his life into developing 12 multiplying cell leaders, who in turn have each raised up twelve multiplying cell leaders, and so on. He states, “The vision must take hold of your life, and you must be able to transmit that vision.”[1]

Fajardo’s success has eight simple, discernible elements. 1.) He saw it. His vision was so vivid he could take a picture of it. 2.) He saw it big. He saw an 18,000-seat auditorium full of students seeking God. 3.) He saw it through the eyes of faith. He only had 30 kids, yet by faith he believed God would one day multiply 30 into a stadium full of young people. 4.) He saw himself in the picture. He believed God could use him to make it happen. 5.) He started where he was. He began to train the 12 he had in order to get to the 18,000 he did not have. 6.) He diligently poured his life into raising up other leaders. The focus of his time, energy, and effort for the next dozen years was training his twelve to multiply multipliers. 7.) He kept focused on the vision over a long period of time. He stayed with it for twelve years until the dream became a reality. 8.) God brought great results. The stadium was full on Saturday nights.

You Can Do It!

You probably aren’t ready to envision 8,000 cell group leaders, yet. But if you are an effective small group leader, there is no reason you should not be envisioning cooperating with God in raising at least one other healthy, growing, effective multiplying spiritual leader. You can do it. It starts with catching a dream

from the Lord. Many of you already have a vision of multiplying your life as a small group leader.

But it is not enough to have a vision. The vision only becomes a reality when you follow through on your part and begin to pour your life into potential leaders.

Ten Steps to Fulfilling Your Vision

1. First, get with God and get *His* vision for your life and ministry.
2. Write it down and picture it.
3. Refer to it frequently.
4. Believe that God can and will do it.
5. Ask God to do it His way, in His timing.
6. Plan to fulfill your part.
7. Learn everything you possibly can in order to help you accomplish your part of the vision.
8. Work like it all depends on you. Pray like it all depends on God.
9. Start small, but speak and live like the vision is becoming a reality.
10. Don't quit.

Dr. Dave Earley is an experienced pastor, small group leader, church planter and coach. He serves as the Director of the Liberty Center for Church Planting at Liberty University. He is also Chairman of the Department of Pastoral Leadership and Church Planting for Liberty Theological Seminary. He has authored ten books on subjects such as small groups, leadership, prayer, and the Christian life. www.daveearley.com This article is an excerpt from his new book (w/ Rod Dempsey) *The Pocket Guide to Leading a Small Group: 52 Ways to Help You and Your Small Group Grow* www.touchusa.org