

First Baptist Church Mahan Street

Pastor's Bible Study (P.B.S.)

3/4/2026

“The Year of Discipleship Investment”

Lesson #4



“Spaceships/don’t come equipped/with rear view mirrors”

- Andre 3000, “Int’l Players Anthem (I Choose You)”

WEEK FOUR: The Multiplication of Investment (Cont’d)

Theme: Invested Disciples Produce Kingdom Impact

Core Vision Statement

In 2026, God is calling us to move from **membership to discipleship** and from **participation to investment**. Christ is requiring of us to become disciples who are **fully present, deeply formed, missionally engaged**, and **faithfully committed** to the stewardship of God’s house and the witness of His kingdom.

This vision reframes discipleship not as attendance but as **investment**, evidenced in the intentional offering of **time, gifts, resources, and presence** for the sake of God’s kingdom.

This week we will shift from *why disciples invest* to *how we embody investment daily*.

Core Movement:

If Week One asked *“Will you invest?”*

And Week Two asked *“How will you invest?”*

Week Three asks:

“What happens when invested disciples multiply?”

I. Kingdom Multiplication: Disciples Who Make Disciples**Key Scriptures**

- Matthew 28:18–20 — The Great Commission
 - 2 Timothy 2:2 — Entrust to faithful people who will teach others
 - John 12:24 — A seed must die to produce much fruit
 - Acts 6:7 — The word of God spread and disciples multiplied
 - Genesis 12:2 — “You will be a blessing”
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Devotional Point

Investment in God’s kingdom is never meant to end with you!

The seed was never the harvest. It was always the beginning.

Jesus did not just gather **followers**. He formed **reproducers!**

Theological Insight

Discipleship investment reaches maturity when it moves from:

- Personal growth → Communal growth
- Participation → Reproduction
- Blessing → Becoming a blessing
- Conviction → Witnessing
- Witnessing → Transformation

Theological Illustration

Imagine a candle lighting another candle. The first flame loses nothing—yet the room grows brighter. **That is kingdom multiplication.**

Watching and Waiting: When “Waiting on God” Becomes an Excuse

Theological Significance

Understanding how invested discipleship distinguishes faithful waiting from passive avoidance in the life of the church.

1. Foundational Scripture Readings

❖ **James 2:17 (KJV)**

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

❖ **Acts 1:8**

“But ye shall receive power... and ye shall be witnesses...”

2. The Connection to the Church

In church life, we often hear phrases like:

- “We’re just watching how things unfold.”
- “We’re waiting on the Lord.”
- “Let’s see what happens.”
- “It’s not my place.”
- “I’m too busy.”
- “I can’t afford to tithe.”

But there is a difference between **spiritual discernment** and **spiritual disengagement**. Biblical waiting is active, not passive. It is prayerful preparation, not comfortable inactivity.

3. What Is Biblical Waiting?

In Scripture, **waiting never meant doing nothing.**

- In **Matthew 25**, the wise virgins were waiting but they were also prepared.
- In **Acts 1**, the disciples were told to wait but they were also praying and unified.
- In **James 2**, faith without action is declared lifeless.

Biblical waiting = readiness + obedience + preparation.

It is trusting God while positioning yourself to move when He speaks.

4. When Watching Becomes an Excuse

A. Watching Can Become Avoidance

Sometimes “I’m waiting” really means:

- I don’t want responsibility.
- I don’t want criticism.
- I don’t want to commit.
- I don’t want to be stretched.
- I don’t want to be exposed.

B. Waiting Can Mask Fear

We may hide behind spirituality to avoid:

- Serving
- Giving
- Speaking up
- Leading
- Reconciling conflict

But God never calls His church to passive **spectatorship**. He calls us to faithful **participation**.

5. The Danger of Doing Nothing

1. **Opportunities expire.**
The oil ran out in Matthew 25.
 2. **Influence diminishes.**
A silent church cannot shape its community.
 3. **Spiritual muscles weaken.**
Faith grows through use, not observation.
 4. **Others carry the burden alone.**
Ministry becomes uneven when members only watch.
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6. What Does Active Waiting Look Like

1. Praying with Expectation

Not “Lord, do something,”
but “Lord, prepare me to do something.”

2. Preparing in Advance

- Developing gifts
- Supporting pastoral leadership and encouraging servant leadership
- Studying Scripture
- Building unity

3. Stepping When Prompted

When God opens a door, active waiters walk through it.

7. Reflection Questions

1. Where in my church life am I “watching” instead of serving?
2. Am I waiting on God, or is God waiting on me?
3. What gifts has God already given me that I am not using?
4. What step of obedience have I delayed?

8. Application for Church Members

- If you see a need—pray, then act.
- If you notice decline—encourage, don't criticize.
- If you feel called—pray and step forward.
- If you are unsure—ask how you can help.

The church does not grow by spectators. It grows by participants.

9. Connecting Thought

Waiting on God is never about inactivity. It is about alignment.

God is not looking for watchers. He is looking for workers who trust Him enough to move.

II. Biblical Models of Multiplication

1. Moses and Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:7–8)

Moses invested leadership into Joshua. The future was secured because mentorship happened.

2. Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:9)

Elisha asked for a “double portion.” That is spiritual multiplication.

3. Paul and Timothy (Philippians 2:19–22)

Paul called Timothy his “true son in the faith.” That is discipleship investment bearing generational fruit.

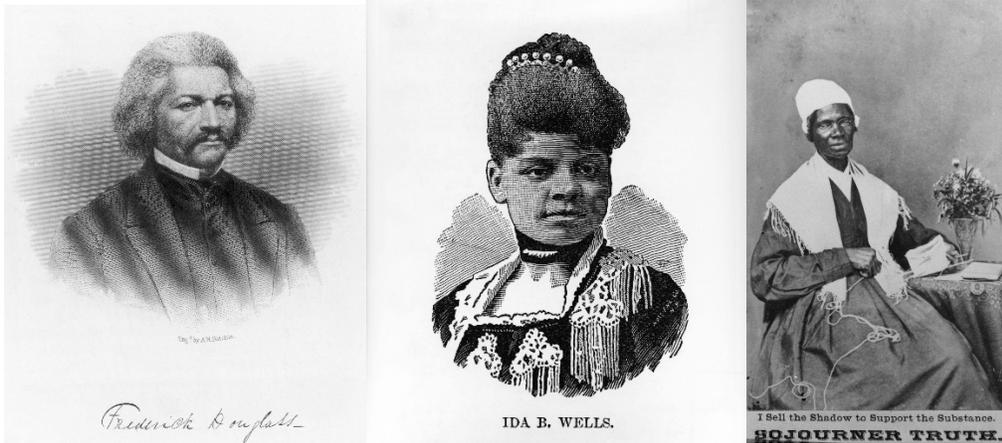
Devotional Reflection

Ask:

- Who is pouring into me?
- Who am I pouring into?

- If I disappeared tomorrow, what spiritual fruit would remain?

III. Black Excellence as Kingdom Multiplication



Frederick Douglass

He invested literacy into liberation. His influence shaped generations of freedom movements.

Ida B. Wells

She invested truth into journalism. Her courage multiplied justice awareness nationwide.

Sojourner Truth

She invested her prophetic voice into equality, reshaping theological and social imagination.

Carter G. Woodson

He invested in education and historical consciousness resulting in giving us Black History Month itself.

Teaching Connection

None of them worked merely for themselves. They invested so the next generation could stand taller. That is kingdom logic: **Faithful investment becomes generational inheritance.**

IV. Multiplication Within the Local Church

Scriptures

- Psalm 145:4 — One generation shall praise Your works to another
- Proverbs 13:22 — A good person leaves an inheritance
- Hebrews 10:24–25 — Stir one another to love and good works
- Nehemiah 4:6 — The people had a mind to work

Devotional Point

A healthy church is not built on a few strong individuals.
It is built on **many invested disciples multiplying impact.**

112 Discipleship Challenge

If each member disciplined one person this year:

- One new prayer partner
- One new ministry volunteer
- One new believer
- One struggling member encouraged

The church would double in spiritual depth—even if attendance never changed.

V. Week Three Closing Devotional Prayer

“God of Abraham, God of Moses, God of our ancestors who prayed through chains and built churches from ashes,

We thank You that Your kingdom does not diminish when it is shared—it multiplies.

Lord, we do not want to be reservoirs that store blessings.

Make us rivers that release them.

Teach us to pour into others what You have poured into us.

Give us the courage of Frederick Douglass to educate for liberation,

**The conviction of Ida B. Wells to speak truth in hostile spaces,
The faith of the Ethiopian believer who carried the gospel home with joy.
Father, make this church a multiplying church.
Let every invested disciple become a kingdom reproducer.
Let every ministry produce leaders.
Let every prayer birth action.
Let every sacrifice produce fruit that remains.
May our investment outlive us.
May our obedience outlast us.
May our faith reproduce in generations we may never see.
And when history tells the story of First Baptist Church Mahan Street,
Let it be said:
They did not merely attend.
They invested.
They multiplied.
They left legacy.
In the strong and saving name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.”**