

# Multiplication, Part 1

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them...and teaching them to obey all that I commanded you.*

**Matt. 28.19–20**

When we gather, we equip ourselves for *multiplication* by taking time to PRACTISE & PRAY. This includes practising skills, setting goals, building confidence in sharing the gospel, and praying for people who need to hear the message.

## THE FATHER'S HEART FOR THE WORLD

Throughout Old Testament history, the people of Israel did not grasp God's desire to reach the world. Even the apostles and the first believers failed to understand this until Acts chapter 9! But God's desire to reconcile the whole world to Himself was not a new idea, and we find clues all the way back to the beginning of Scripture:

- GENESIS 12.1–4** God's desire to bless **all the families** of the earth
- 1 KINGS 8:41–43** That **foreigners** would know and fear Him
- PSALM 67** God's salvation among **all the nations**
- ISAIAH 56.6–7** A house of prayer for **all the nations**
- JOHN 3.16–17** God's love for **the whole world**
- 2 PETER 3.9** God's desire for **everyone** to come to repentance

## THREE AREAS OF MULTIPLICATION

God designed the natural world to expand through multiplication. He created all living things and commanded them to "*be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth*" (Gen. 1.28). In the same manner, God wants His Kingdom to multiply throughout the whole world.

### 1 Multiplication of Disciples

**ACTS 6.7A (ESV)** ...the number of the disciples multiplied greatly.

Common Misconception: "I don't need to share verbally – let them see it in me."  
What does the Bible say about this?

### 2 Multiplication of Workers and Leaders

**2 TIM. 2.2** *The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Common Misconception: "God is looking for leaders, and I'm not the leader type!"  
God is not looking for polished leaders—He is looking for faithful, obedient workers. Most of tomorrow's workers are people yet to be won to Christ!

### 3 Multiplication of Churches

**ACTS 9.31** *The church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria...multiplied.*

Common Misconception: "Churches requires lots of money, talent, and resources."  
In Acts, churches started wherever the gospel went. In church planting movements (CPMs), new churches are simple, inexpensive, and led by ordinary people.

? In what ways did Paul "multiply himself" in Acts 17-20?

Use your own stories to teach these points.

## ASSIGNMENTS

OBEY at least one thing you learned from this lesson or your study of Acts.

SHARE the gospel message with at least one person over the next week.

STUDY Acts 21–24.

WRITE what God is teaching you, using the *Acts Worksheet* (handout).

TRAIN at least one other believer outside this group, just as you were trained.

At this point hand out two copies of this lesson sheet to each participant. Let them practise teaching one another what you just taught them.