



Study 16

THE

MULTIPLICATION

THE NEW TESTAMENT

COMMANDS

¶ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

The story is told of the king who challenged someone to develop a way to train his sons in the art of warfare. Eventually a man presented the king with what we now know as the game of chess. After explaining the game and its rules, the monarch was so impressed that he asked the man what his reward should be. The industrious sage almost dismissed the king's offer when he said, "Rice". "Rice?" questioned the king. "Yes" responded the sly inventor. "How much?" "Just one grain on the first square of the chess board, then two on the second and then four on the third, eight on the fourth and so on until every square on the whole chessboard has its full equivalent." Just as the king was about to order his administrators to grant this inventor's request (thinking that the inventor was a simpleton for merely demanding a scoop of rice) one of his advisors said to him- "It's too much your majesty! Don't do it!" "Too much?" balked the king. Apparently if the king had granted the inventor's request it would have bankrupted the nation and required enough rice to cover India to the depth of a foot!



This story highlights the miracle of multiplication. All too often we want to *add* to the church, when it seems that God’s intention is for the church to grow by *multiplication*. Note Leviticus 26:9; Deuteronomy 7:13.

1. What was it that led to the multiplication of the early church as described in Acts 9:31?

2. What is the possible relationship between the multiplication of the church and the way the Word of God is preached based on Acts 12:24?

If everyone in our church was able to fulfil a commitment to reach one person for Christ and connect them into our church each year, our church would double every year! But consider this possibility...

Year 1	1 person reaches one person for Christ	Total = 2 believers
Year 2	These 2 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 4 believers
Year 3	These 4 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 8 believers
Year 4	These 8 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 16 believers
Year 5	These 16 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 32 believers
Year 6	These 32 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 64 believers
Year 7	These 64 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 128 believers
Year 8	These 128 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 256 believers
Year 9	These 256 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 512 believers
Year 10	These 512 believers reach one each for Christ	Total = 1024 believers
Year 20	These believers reach one each for Christ...	Total = 1,048,576
Year 32	These believers reach one each for Christ...	Total = 4,294,967,296
Year 33	These believers reach one each for Christ...	Total = 8,589,934,592



3. Is “soul-winning” something all believers can learn to do?

4. According to Revelation 7:9 which word indicates that God looks to the church to *multiply* exponentially?

5. Based on 1Timothy 2:4 who does God desire to be saved?

6. What challenges would confront people in our church if we began to experience multiplication?

7. In what way is 2Timothy 2:2 a multiplication verse?

Some believers might object to the “pressure” of being part of the multiplication of the church. They might claim that God isn’t interested in numbers or they might claim that evangelism isn’t their gift. But believers shouldn’t feel “pressure” to reach people for Christ as if God was asking us to do something unreasonable. We shouldn’t view the Great Commission through the eyes of the *‘Prodigal son’s older brother’!* Instead, we should feel the weight of this sober charge and ask God for His help. We should ask God to lead us to the right people and give us the right words to share with them in the right way at the right time. We should pray that God speaks to their hearts and prepares them to accept the Gospel. We should pray that God transforms and renews their minds by the power of the Holy Spirit. We should ask the God enables us to live lives that stand out from the crowd and provoke questions in the minds of observers.



8. What does 1Peter 3:15 say we should be prepared to do and why?
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THERE'S POWER IN NUMBERS

Why did Jesus send his first disciples out 2 by 2 to preach the Gospel? It seems that when the Gospel is presented in numbers it carries more weight. It also seems that when the Gospel is presented within a Gospel community it carries greater weight. A large gathering of dedicated, sincere, passionate believers meeting together to adore Christ in worship and make Him known through preaching, creates a strong atmosphere of faith and a compelling argument for sinners to become believers.

9. How can the members of this Bible Study group help each other to multiply our individual and collective evangelistic impact?
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10. Compare the Original Commission (Genesis 1:28) with the Great Commission. What spiritual application is in the Original Commission that is similar to the Great Commission?
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11. What was the desire of God expressed in Genesis 28:3 that could only be fulfilled by the New Covenant?
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MULTIPLICATION & ADVERSITY

History reveals that the times of the Church's greatest periods of multiplication have been during the times of its greatest adversity.

12. How is this principle observed in Exodus 1:12? (Note Ex. 1:20)
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We shouldn't be surprised to find that we face adversity when we make a commitment to be a part of God's Kingdom multiplication blessing.

Amen.