

# The 5 Marks of Missional Living - Multiplication

Genesis 1:26-2:25 & Acts 8:26-40

## Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. Facilitating such an environment is all that we ask, we don't seek perfection. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today we have two passages. They are Genesis 1:26-2:25 and Acts 8:26-40. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for these passages, you can find the content on pages 38-44 and 1691-1692. - JF

## Questions:

Take the time to read Genesis 1:26-2:25. What observations about God do you have after reading these verses? What observations about humanity do you have? Why is this a good place to start when talking about the multiplication of missional living? In what way(s) is multiplication discussed in these chapters? Why might multiplication be a more effective model than any other way? How is stewardship related to multiplication? What might we learn about the role of community in the need for multiplication?

Now read Acts 8:26-40. Where in the history of the New Testament and church history do we find these events taking place? What did the angel tell Philip to do? Why is it important to note the detail/description that where Philip was going is a desert place? What unique discovery did Philip make when he went to where he was instructed? Who did Philip find in the desert? What is unique about the reason why the court official was there? What was he reading when Philip found him? Take a moment to read that portion of Scripture again (Isaiah 53:7-8). What do these verses teach about Jesus? Why are they important to our understanding of the Messiah?

The court official confessed that he needed help in understanding the passage that he was reading. What did Philip teach the court official? How is Philip's response in line with any (or all) previous marks of missional living? Why do you say that? Philip taught the court official about Jesus and shared the gospel, leading to the court official to ask about baptism (v. 36). Why might the court official ask for baptism after hearing the good news (*consider Matthew 18:28-30, especially in light of Philip sharing the good news.*)? What is the significance of baptism for the Christian (*this answer is both in the obedience to Christ's command [see the Great Commission] but also because of Jesus' example [Matthew 3:13-17] and declaring union with Jesus [Romans 6:1-4].*)? The court official responded to the gospel by trusting Jesus and being baptized. For one who might ask if baptism saves a person, how might you teach that salvation is the sole work of God? (*Consider Ephesians 2:8-10, 1 Corinthians 1:30-32, and Titus 3:5 as ways to defend the belief that salvation is the sole work of God and that nothing we do can save us.*)

After the baptism, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away and the court official went on his way rejoicing. What do you think he was rejoicing over? How did Philip carry out the concept of multiplication in his actions (*both with the court official and in Azotus*)? Why is it imperative that Christians live with the mindset to multiply disciples? In what way(s) are you actively living with a multiplication mindset? Where are you making disciples and teaching them to make disciples as well? Why is discipleship important in both large and small groups? Why must we engage multiple ways of multiplying disciples?

Kirk Gentzel, teaching pastor from the executive team at Houston Northwest Church, preached on Sunday. What stood out to you from his sermon that you would like to discuss? Is there any additional ideas/topics/observations from today's passages that you would like to discuss?

## Conclusion:

As a group, spend time in prayerful reflection, contemplating how you and your group are living with the missional mark of multiplication. Consider Jesus' methods in making disciples, then ask the Holy Spirit to give your group opportunities to add people to your group. You might even consider praying for opportunities to multiply as a group, opening a space for others to join.