

## **Why We Multiply:**

### **Answering Objections to Multiplication**

Multiplication is an essential part of Mercyview's DNA. We believe the more healthy missional communities we have; the more opportunity for more people to experience healthy community and follow Jesus.

### **Scriptural Basis for Multiplication**

Multiplication is a biblical principle. The following passages are from the book of Acts. In the beginning of Acts, the early church consisted of about 100 people. By the end of Acts, the Church had spread all over the Roman Empire, from Jerusalem, to Asia Minor, to Greece, to Crete, to Rome and so on. How did the Church spread so far in so little time? Since biblical times, the Church has continued to spread across the world. Mercyview exists because earlier Christians multiplied. We aim to partner with those who came before us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to our neighbors and to the world.

The following is a list of biblical examples of multiplication:

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.*

*Acts 1:8*

*And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

*Acts 2:46,47*

*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*

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.*

*Acts 9:31*

*But the word of God increased and multiplied.*

*Acts 12:24*

*So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.*

*Acts 16:5*

*So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

*Acts 19:20*

Multiplication is a foundational practice of missional community. At some point you may encounter a person or people in your group who will object to multiplication.

Objections may look something like the list below:

- We don't want to multiply because we really enjoy our community right now
- We've tried multiplying before and it was awkward
- We don't have enough people to multiply
- Multiplication actually takes away from community
- We can't multiply because no one can lead

Like individuals, groups may form certain idolatries. If you come across one of the objections mentioned above, then you must seek to understand the deeper issue or idol. Typically, finding heart idols begins by studying motivation and desire. Groups that are resistant to multiplication may be:

- Fear of the unknown
- Fear of failure
- Fear of discomfort
- Fear of loss of relationship

### **Responding to Objections**

Mission is the motivation for multiplication. However, you should be ready to offer people an in depth response when responding to objections. As leaders, we must help people answer some of these questions:

- If/When you object to multiplication, what do you want?
- How do you reconcile your fear (or other negative emotion) with the biblical evidence for multiplication (see above texts)?
- What does fear say about your trust in God's word (see above texts)?
- What is your primary reason for not wanting to multiply and how does line up with what the Bible teaches (see above texts)?
- How did Jesus fully trust and obey the Father's will?
- How does the final authority of the Bible play a role in this discussion (see above texts)?

We have to help our people understand that multiplication is a part of God's plan for advancing his kingdom. We are Christians today because earlier disciples of Jesus took the New Testament's mandate to multiply seriously.

The Bible calls us to multiply; we intend to answer that call. We will multiply!