

How God Grows a Church and Its People

God's Vision for Us - Part 4

Life Church St. Louis September 14, 2025
Lead Pastor Dan Walker, PhD, MDiv

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

Introduction

Genesis 1:28 (ESV) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it."

Acts 2:47 (ESV) And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Psalms 127:3-4 (ESV) Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

1 Corinthians 3:6 (ESV) I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

1. We Multiply Through Salvation and Spirit Empowerment

Acts 6:7 (ESV) 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.

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Acts 1:4-5 (ESV) ... he ordered them ... to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; ... you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

2. We Multiply Through Discipleship and Ministry Involvement

Acts 9:31 (ESV) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Ephesians 4:16 (ESV) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

3. We Multiply Through Generosity and Kingdom Mission

Acts 12:24 (ESV) But the word of God increased and multiplied.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (ESV) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Acts 13:2-3 (ESV) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

How God Grows a Church and Its People Study Guide

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Introduction

1. Where have you seen God grow something in your life in a way you didn't expect, and how might that shape your vision for our church?
2. What does it look like to be fruitful and multiply in ways that go beyond family life into spiritual impact? (Genesis 1:28)
3. How does it change our expectations for church growth when we recognize that the Lord is the one who adds people to His church? (Acts 2:47)
4. In what ways are new believers like arrows that extend our impact into places we may never reach ourselves? (Psalm 127:3-4)
5. How can we plant and water faithfully while trusting God to bring the increase in His timing and way? (1 Corinthians 3:6)

1. We Multiply Through Salvation and Spirit Empowerment

1. What practices help the word of God continue to increase among us so that disciples multiply greatly? (Acts 6:7)
2. How are you engaging the full call to make disciples by going, baptizing, and teaching? (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. Why is it essential to wait for and depend on the promise of the Father for power before we try to witness in our own strength? (Acts 1:4-5)
4. This week, who can you invite, encourage, or pray for, and how will you rely on the Spirit for boldness and clarity?

2. We Multiply Through Discipleship and Ministry Involvement

1. What rhythms help a church walk in reverence and in the Spirit's comfort so that it is built up and multiplies? (Acts 9:31)
2. How does each person discovering and using their gifts contribute to a body that grows and builds itself up in love? (Ephesians 4:16)
3. Where do you see the pattern of entrusting truth to faithful people who can teach others also, and how can you join that chain? (2 Timothy 2:2)
4. What is one concrete step you can take to move from attending to actively serving or mentoring in the coming month?

3. We Multiply Through Generosity and Kingdom Mission

1. What signs show that the word of God is not just present but increasing and multiplying among us? (Acts 12:24)
2. How does God's promise to supply and multiply seed for sowing shape your view of generosity and mission? (2 Corinthians 9:10)
3. What can we learn from a church that prays, listens, and sends its best people for the sake of the work God has called them to? (Acts 13:2-3)
4. How will you practice Kingdom-first living this week through giving, praying, sending, or preparing to go?

Conclusion

1. Where is God stretching your faith so He can multiply your life and our church beyond what you expect?
2. If multiplication begins as God grows you, what specific change in habit, community, or service is He prompting you to make right now?
3. Looking ahead, what dream for our city would you ask God to fulfill through a multiplying church and multiplying people?