

MULTIPLYING HEALTHY LIFE GROUPS

From "Life-Giving Groups" by Jeremy Linneman

1. Discover a Biblical Vision for Multiplication

- Consider the pattern of mission in the Bible. God is always sending his servants.
 - Genesis 12:1-9, Exodus 3:10, Acts 13:2
- Consider the pattern of hospitality in the Bible. We must make space for outsiders.
 - Romans 12:9-13
- Consider the Great Commission. Christ sends us and goes with us.
 - Matthew 28:19-20

2. Setting Expectations for Healthy Multiplication

- Prioritize the spiritual and relational healthy of members.
 - The goal is spiritual maturity. Don't lose sight of this in the process.
- Remember that multiplication furthers our member's spiritual and relational health.
 - Go through the biblical vision for multiplication with your group.
- Set a multiplication expectation at the first gathering.
 - It is much easier when you establish it from the very beginning.
- Keep the mission before the people.
 - Talk and pray about this regularly as your group grows.
- Identify, select, and equip apprentices to train for group leadership.
 - New groups don't happen without new leaders.
- Multiply when leaders are ready, not when you have too many people.

3. Preparing for Healthy Multiplication

- Determine the best way to multiply for your group.
 - Do you multiply the group, or send one or two couples with a trained leader?
- Keep the mission central.
 - You are multiplying to reach new people. Let this guide your strategy.
- Determine who will go where.
 - Let members choose which group they will go to. Outline the process.
- Set a balanced, realistic multiplication timeline.
 - General rule: it should seem too slow for leaders, and a bit too quick for members.

4. Practicing Healthy Multiplication

- Celebrate the multiplication.
 - Throw a party – this is more of a graduation than a funeral.
- Commission the new leaders.
 - Pray over the new leaders of the new group and voice your support.
- Both groups (sending & planting) should set a new vision.
 - Spend the first few weeks remembering the goals of the LG ministry.

5. Maintaining Healthy After Multiplication

- Gather two or three more times with both groups.
 - Before you multiply, plan a few times to get together at a large gathering space.
- Give space to process
 - Make sure to take time to process the struggles and celebrate the victories.