

Made to Multiply Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you have any siblings? If so, where do you fall with respect to age? How did this affect you growing up?
2. Generally speaking, would you say that you are good with numbers? Explain.

Read the following passages: Genesis 1:27-28; 35:11-12; Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 2:46-47.

We were made to multiply. This emerges in the first chapter of the Bible and appears repeatedly throughout both testaments. Jesus, our primary example in this regard, never married and had no children. Even so, he multiplied his life through the men and women who followed him.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In 2020, the total fertility rate in the United States dropped to 1.64, the lowest level ever recorded in the United States. (The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.) Why do you think we are having so few children in the United States? Do you think young married couples should be encouraged to have children? Why or why not?
2. During the years of his public ministry, Jesus chose to spend a significant portion of his time investing in twelve disciples. How might this strategy be fruitful for us in our present context?
3. The majority of adults are physically capable of reproducing. (There are, of course, those who struggle with infertility or other physical limitations that inhibit their ability to reproduce physically.) If God has entrusted virtually all human beings with the capacity to birth and raise children, do you think it is legitimate to believe that the majority of Jesus's followers can be entrusted to reproduce spiritually? What are some ways in which you could reproduce yourself in others over the next twelve months?
4. Have you identified three people who are not yet following Jesus and for whom you can pray daily? If so, who are they? What is a possible next step with each of those three individuals?

5. Read John 17. What are some of the things that Jesus wants his followers to have or experience? What do you have or what are some things you have learned that you could give to others?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11. What does Paul say about those who are generous? What are some ways God is calling you to be generous with what you have in this season of your life?
7. Read John 12:24. What is Jesus referring to here? What might it look like for us to follow Jesus's example?

Pray