



Reproduction

Reproducing is Natural

DESIRED OUTCOME:

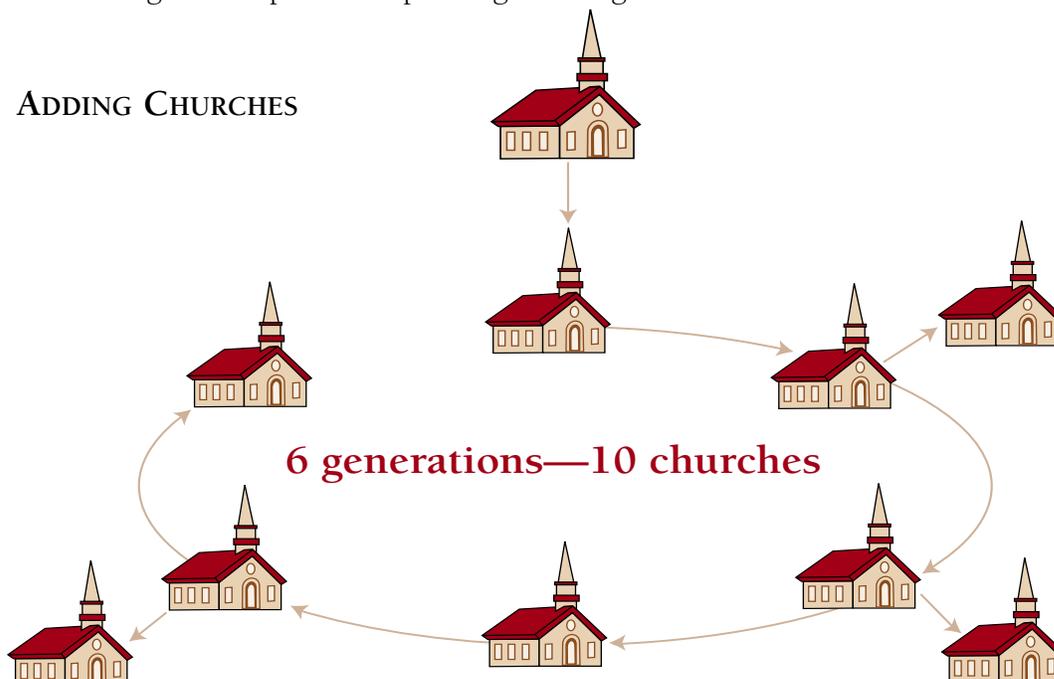
After you have finished this unit you will be able to develop a plan that insures the:

1. Multiplication of disciples
2. Multiplication of leaders
3. Multiplication of new units and new congregations
4. Multiplication of the entire process again and again

There is a sense in which we probably don't even need this unit. That is, if we have done a good job in each of the other units. We have kept this unit here more as a final reminder of our objective than anything else.

The command of our Lord was that the Good News would be shared with every person. In order for this to happen, we will have to move from addition based church planting to the multiplication of churches. You all have seen the illustration, probably using money. If we add churches, we do make progress in sharing the Gospel and expanding the Kingdom. But it is slow.

ADDING CHURCHES



MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

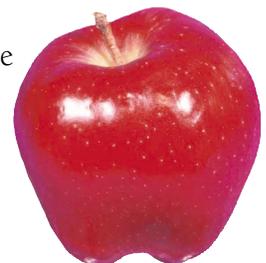
4 generations—15 churches and exploding**You, of course, get the picture!**

If our goal is worldwide Kingdom domination, which method would you employ?

The fastest way for us to insure that this kind of multiplication takes place, is to insure that there is reproduction occurring in everything we do – that we help church planters create church planting climates in their churches, that they are identifying other potential church planters, that the support systems that have under girded them are there for the next person and that the way people have equipped them for church planting they will be able to do for someone else.

It is so easy on paper but so difficult in real life. However, this is our objective – reproduction and multiplication of everything we do.

Do you remember the apple tree illustration we used in the Introduction unit? Inside the apple is the potential not just for another apple tree but for a whole orchard of apple trees. These trees can produce literally millions upon millions of apples.



The same is true for people. As you look at that lay person whom God is inviting to plant a church, do you see the potential for other church planters? In an even more pointed illustration, when you look at that lost person you are seeking to bring to faith in Christ, do you simply see a person separated from Jesus or do you have eyes that see another potential church planting person, someone that could impact their network of relationships?



This principle also holds true for churches. Healthy living organisms reproduce. The church, as the body of Christ in this world should be reproducing too.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS:

Multiplication of New Converts

The early chapters in the book of Acts record the evangelistic expansion of the early church. Take a brief look at some of the key verses illustrating this:

Acts 2:41 “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

Acts 2:47b “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 4:4 “But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.”

Acts 5:14 “Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.”

Multiplication of Disciples

One of the best passages of Scripture in dealing with the topic of multiplying disciples is 2 Timothy 2:2.

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”—NIV

Notice the reproduction inherent in this verse.

“the things you (Timothy 2nd - generation) have heard me (Paul 1st - generation) ... entrust to reliable men (disciples of Timothy – 3rd generation) who will also be qualified to teach others” (disciples of Timothy’s disciples—4th generation)

You, no doubt, know this verse well. This verse is the multiplication credo for individual believers. But how many of us actually do what this verse commands? It’s pretty convicting for many of us!





DIALOGUE BOX

Baptists have been known for our “missionary zeal manifested by Baptist Associations everywhere in sending the gospel to the back settlements. This work was carried on by devoted farmer preachers who, of their own accord, made regular preaching tours into the back country. The most important single factor in Baptist expansion west of the Alleghenies and south of the Ohio particularly was the Baptist farmer-preacher.”

Following the Revolutionary War, the march toward the frontier of Kentucky and Tennessee began. The earliest frontiersmen did not settle in the land west of the mountains but continued on even further to the west. Among these settlers were many Baptists looking for cheap land, new opportunities, and even greater opportunities for religious freedom.

Baptists were well suited to this. “The pure democracy of Baptist church government would tend to attract them to the freer life and the greater democracy of a new country. Their preachers came from among the people themselves and were largely self-supporting ...”

Baptist have always been a missionary people! What could happen on your ‘frontier’, the frontier of lostness if lay people were challenged to take the land.

Sweet, William Warren. Religion in the Development of American Culture 1765-1840, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952.¹

Sweet, William Warren. Religion on the American Frontier: The Baptists 1783-1830, New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1931.²

Multiplication of Leaders

There may be no single other disciple of Jesus that embodies the multiplication of leaders than the life of Barnabas. Even a summary glance at the life of this man clearly demonstrates the value he placed on investing in others so that they would rise to places of leadership.

Just think about the men Barnabas invested in and the impact they had as leaders of the early New Testament church.

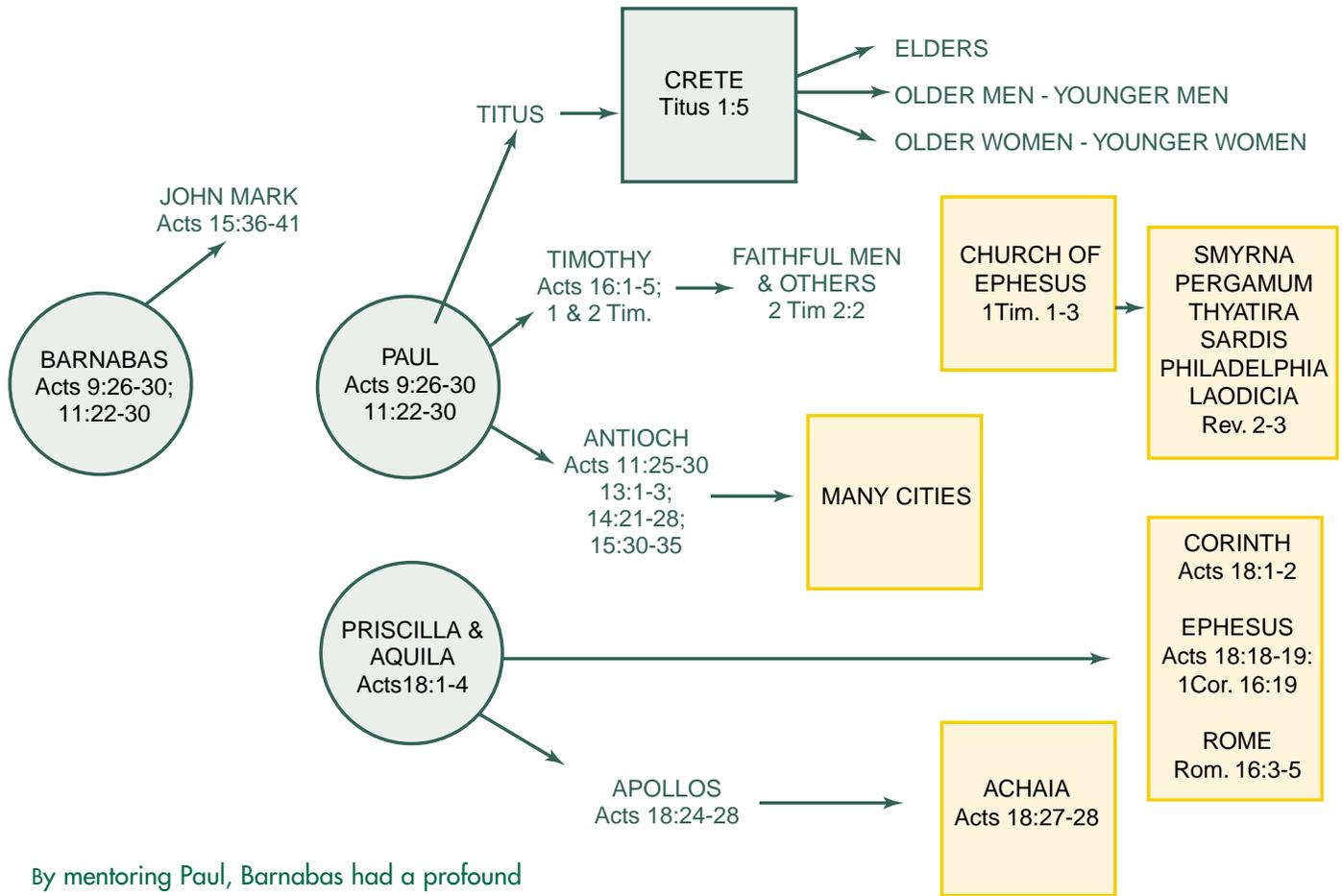
Saul/Paul	Apostle to the Gentiles Missionary to most of the known world of his day Unknown number of churches planted under his leadership
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John Mark	Selected him when Paul was angry with this young man Became a missionary with Barnabas Gospel writer Helper to Paul near the end of Paul's life
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But there is more to the life of Barnabas. A look at the following chart will illustrate the dramatic impact the life this one man had as he multiplied himself in the lives of leaders through multiple generations.

BARNABAS A MINISTRY OF MULTIPLICATION



By mentoring Paul, Barnabas had a profound impact on numerous cities and countless people throughout the ancient world. His legacy shows that a mentor's influence affects not only the protégé's life, But every life touched by the protégé.

From Word in Life Study Bible® 1993 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Do you believe God could use your ministry in mentoring as dramatically as He did Barnabas? Only God knows, of course, what He will choose to bring from such a relationship. But only you can decide to allow God to use you in this way.



Bob Phillips, 76, Green Bay, Wisc., married, four grown kids... retired mechanical contractor... “God made it clear to me He wanted me to be a layman”... 1953, “I got a hunger for a gospel-preaching church” but couldn’t find one ... started a home Bible study... grew into Highland Crest Baptist Church that started six mission churches... recently found five families who were not in church so started a Bible study in his home which he hopes will become the seventh mission church... “Half the people I meet are unchurched... my desire is to reach the unchurched”... full-fledged support from wife, Rose, empowered him to follow his calling... all four children are serving the Lord

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Multiplication of New Units and New Churches

If these other verses illustrate reproduction of new converts, disciples and leaders, then this next passage out of the book of Acts is the verse that, if not commanding it, at least illustrates God’s desire for the multiplication of churches.

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers” (Acts 16:5, NIV).

By the time we get to Acts chapter 16, there is a dramatic shift in the recording of the Kingdom’s expansion. Here, the focus has shifted from the number of believers growing to the number of churches growing. And, notice the frequency with which churches are being planted.

What would your ministry setting look like if this kind of church multiplication was happening? Are you ready for this kind of rapid reproduction?



A SELF REPRODUCING PROCESS

This process of reproduction and multiplication, if done right, is a never ending process. The creating of climate where lay people can hear and respond to God's invitation to church planting leads naturally to the identification of these people. When there is an effective support system in place for these people, they will rise to the challenge and begin to look for opportunities to enhance their skills and abilities. Healthy people, growing and developing as disciples, will naturally give that away to others who have come to faith in Christ, become mature disciples and ultimately leaders of new Kingdom outposts called churches. And, healthy churches will be wonderful incubators for the next generation of lay people God is inviting into church planting.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Is there anything in your plan that could not be easily reproduced by others? Does it require resources, levels of skill, or funding that you could not reasonably expect others to have?
- What alternative ways are there to accomplish your objective that eliminate these non-reproducible elements?
- What will you do to keep evangelism as the top priority of these lay leaders and the new churches?
- How will relationships be developed that will produce new disciples and leaders?
- How will new units and new congregations be formed?
- How will the DNA of multiplication be planted in the new churches?
- What can you do to insure that the DNA of multiplication is planted in your ministry, whether that is a local church, association, or state convention? Be specific – identify activities you can begin to do right now that will lead to other lay people being involved in church planting.



Gaylen Livingston, 44, Schooner, Wisc., married, three kids... electrician—does design and layout work... since 1994, he leads a home church that moves from house to house... presently meeting in a disabled couple's home... "very, very few Southern Baptist churches around here so instead of joining a church of another stripe we decided to start our own... no salary... no overhead... leaves more money for missions... usually meet Sunday evenings unless everybody wants to go camping, then we meet on Mondays ... we reach the people the established church doesn't reach... one of our couples moved to Idaho and started a home church there."

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PRAYER

Time now to pause in prayer. Maybe you need to pray about the issue of reproduction in your own ministry. Is there evidence of reproduction at each level? If there is, thank God for the people He has given you to invest in. Thank Him for the Kingdom work that has been accomplished by them. If reproduction is not what you have seen, ask the Father to help you identify people in whom you can invest yourself. It may be that this lay church planting strategy tool is the opportunity for you to take seriously the issue of multiplication.



MILEPOST QUESTIONS

Now it's time to put your mile posts from this last section in place. Collect all of the Post-It® notes you have generated.

Take the large chart pack page you have used throughout this process and begin adding the mile posts you have generated in this unit. Prayerfully put them in order. Arrange and rearrange as necessary. Some of the mile posts from this unit may overlap mileposts you generated in previous units. This is OK. In fact, you may find that mileposts related to reproduction and multiplication get placed throughout your mile post activity. As you begin to place your new mile posts on the sheet, use the following questions to guide you:

- Are there any mileposts missing? Do you need to add some additional mile posts?
- Are they in order and is there a natural flow from one to the next?
- Are they written with verbs, in the past tense?
- Are these mile posts appropriate and doable for your ministry setting?
- Will your mile posts result in multiplication occurring in every phase of your lay church planting strategy?
- Do your mile posts cover all aspects of reproduction and multiplication – disciples, leaders, new units, and new churches?
- Do your multiplication plans fit naturally with the rest of your lay church planting strategy? For example, does your training and equipping strategy facilitate rapid reproduction? Examine each element asking this kind of question.
- Is there anything else that God's Spirit has impressed on you that needs to become a mile post?



