



DNA Strand #2: Multiplication

Ice-Breaker Question

Fact: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod added on average ONE NEW CHURCH EVERY WEEK for its first 100 years. Go around the circle and share with one another what you think about this.

Watch VIDEO #4: MULTIPLICATION

Digging In

1. Rev. Newman ends the video with the following questions. Take time to write down your answers personally, and then discuss them together:
 - a. *What should church and ministry multiplication look like in our context and community?*
 - b. *What one step can we take in the next 90 days to advance that reality by 20 percent?*



2. The LCMS had two Gospel movements over its history thus far:
 - a. 1865 to 1917: *planting as many as one church every other day from 1868-1877 – Bringing the truth to cultural Germans (an inclusive effort).*
 - b. 1937 to 1967: *planting as many as one church every 3.5 days – “Bringing Christ to the Nations!”*

Newman shared a number of factors that influenced these movements. Go around the circle and share at least one fact from the video that was surprising and/or interesting.

3. What does the term “traditionally aggressive” mean to me?

4. Newman describes multiplication using three different pictures or activities: sharing with others, paying it forward, and giving a taste of good news to the people around us. Which of these three is most interesting to me? Go around the circle and share why.

5. In 1910, 1920, 1930, growth in LCMS was paused, just like we are experiencing right now. As Newman suggests, this is not a reason to panic: *“It’s not a reason to hang your head and give up and throw everything away ... It’s a season to learn and to repent, to trust God, and to stay tenacious in the faith he’s given us.”* How does this impact my perspective?

Getting Traction in Scripture

- *Read Isaiah 49:5-6 out loud together.* What jumps out to me from this passage? Why?
- What is something that challenges me in this passage?
- What is something that comforts me?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- How does this passage connect with the LCMS? With our congregation?



Last Month's Action Step

In the last study, we wrote down specific actions to take to “show love” in our community, so let's go around the circle and share our experiences. Celebrate each success! Encourage one another to continue even if the results were less than anticipated.

Monthly Action Step

What are some ways we might work together with other churches (LCMS and others) in our community that are also “traditionally aggressive” so we can share, pay it forward, or give a taste of the Good News in our community? *Once you have a list, choose at least one item or one person or one group that you will connect with in the next two weeks to make this action step a reality.*

Closing Action and Prayer

Multiplication opportunities exist at our church and in our community right now. Return to question one (the discussion on the questions provided by Rev. Newman) and revisit your answers. Go around the circle and share at least one thing you learned today that you will act upon in your daily activity as a follower of Jesus. Then close by praying together specifically for those actions and for your community to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

BONUS: Watch “Bonus Video 2: President’s Office – Being A Blessing to A Changing Culture” in the Gospel DNA Toolkit folder in the Resources section of nowlcms.org. How might our congregation use some of the opportunities and initiatives mentioned?





SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT **Leadership Team Guide**

“Multiplication”

This additional study accompanies the small group discussion guide. It is designed for leadership teams as a process to discuss a strategic ministry plan connected to their mission and local community. The Leadership Team Guide is a focused group process that leads to specific action steps with progress checks at future meetings.

Note: *At this stage of meeting regularly as leaders (four months), effectiveness has to do with two leadership practices: listening to one another carefully, and consistently following through on goals. This guide is built “lean” so that, as you move forward together, your leadership team can focus on discussion and meaningful action on items that you identify.*

DISCUSS/EVALUATE

1. **David Garrison describes a Gospel Movement as “a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps through a people group or population segment.” Take 10 minutes for discussion (no answers are wrong!) using these two questions as launch points:**
 - a. **As leaders, what might we stop doing to help multiplication happen?**
 - b. **As leaders, what might we start doing?**

2. **What else from this study was challenging, informative, or helpful to our leadership journey?**

3. **Evaluate the two actions our group committed to implement last month.**
 - a. **How did that go?**
 - b. **Who were we able to bring on board since last month?**

PLAN

4. **What takeaways from this month’s study on “multiplication” can we implement in our ministry plan going forward?**



5. How can we lead by example as our congregation looks for ways to share, pay it forward, and give a taste of the Good News in our community?

6. Where might God be calling us to plant a new ministry? What are the resources and challenges in making it happen?

IMPLEMENT

7. Don't move on without doing what you can to identify the answers to the next four questions:
 - a. Return to the evaluation discussion (started by our answers to #3 above). What actions as a result of that discussion need to be carried out by our team before our next meeting?
 - b. Who will make this happen?
 - c. How can we include more leaders in this activity?
 - d. When will we meet next?

PRAY

8. (This activity mirrors the prayer in the previous section). Go around the circle and share at least one thing you learned today that you will act upon in your daily activity as a follower of Jesus. Then close by praying together specifically for those actions and for your community to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

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