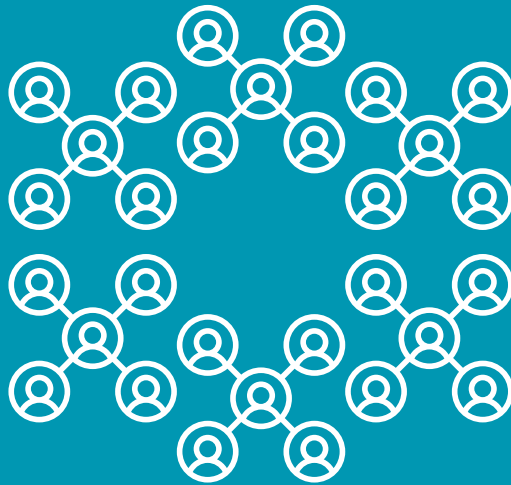


CONNECT GROUP MULTIPLY



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO A GROWING
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST



CONNECTION
CHURCH DUBLIN

Connect Group Multiply

Encouraging, Equipping and Empowering the Church to Multiply

Congratulations! If you're reading this material, you're beginning to think about multiplication! This is a HUGE step for the Kingdom of God, for your group and for you as a leader. It has been our experience that when people begin to embrace a multiplication mindset the Kingdom of God can grow exponentially. We're praying for you as you walk through this content with your group. We pray that you'll begin to see God's plan for the church to grow and multiply unfold before your eyes and that he will ignite a passion in your soul for multiplication!

What is Connect Group Multiply all about?

A few years ago we began to observe that Connect Groups were growing upwards of 20 people in many of our groups. Once a group grows to that size, it begins to become stagnant in both the individual group members' spiritual growth as well as the numeric growth of the group. Multiplication is very hard because groups form deep relational bonds and often resist the idea of planting a new group. We began to pray and seek the Lord about how to steward these groups. We came to realize that the early church experienced the same problems! Could you imagine a church of 120 growing to 3,000 in one day? 5,000 plus in just a few weeks? That's exactly what happened to the early church. So we began to take groups through the first 8 chapters of the book of Acts to see how the church exploded and how they dealt with such massive growth. We learned quickly that multiplication is God's recipe in seeing the Kingdom continue to grow and flourish wherever a church is planted. With that being said, what Connect Group Multiply is all about is looking at the focuses and priorities of the early church that made it so successful as it continued to grow and catch momentum. It is our sincere belief that when your group finishes Connect Group Multiply, all will see God's heart that the church was designed to grow and multiply.

What's the goal of Connect Group Multiply?

The goal of Connect Group Multiply is:

1. To give you and your group clarity about why multiplication is important.
2. To grow in the understanding of what made the early church so powerful.
3. Equip your group with a plan to multiply by planting a new group.

What will each week look like?

We will be studying the first 8 chapters of the book of Acts. The first week will be an initial meet and greet followed by studying 2 chapters of Acts per week. Each week you'll send a message to your group encouraging them to read 2 chapters and coming ready to answer one question: "What did God show you in your reading?" At the end of the discussion, there will be a set of truths to learn from the passage and apply to our lives as we seek to be a church that grows and multiplies so that the Kingdom of God continues to grow.

What are the best practices for multiplying a Connect Group?

Multiplying Connect Groups is both the most difficult part of our discipleship pathway and at the same time the most Kingdom rewarding part of our discipleship pathway. We've learned through the years through much trial and error some healthy practices about how to plant a small group. Here are some helpful tips:

- **"Splitting" Connect Groups is ineffective**

In the early going, we attempted to take groups that were too big and split them right down the middle to form two groups. Time after time we've learned that this method kills the momentum of a good group and usually does not end well. Any language about splitting has a negative connotation, therefore we shouldn't use it nor continue to practice it.

- **"Planting" new groups is very effective**

A multiplication mindset is the goal of what we're trying to instill in our people. We want to communicate with our group that we are planting something new, not splitting something that already exists. This helps the group see multiplication as a Kingdom win more than simply "messing up our group". Pray that as you teach each session, the Lord will begin to put it on the heart of a new leader to embrace the vision to plant a new group. We've found this to be very effective. It keeps the integrity and the "core" of the initial group intact and a new group can plant with momentum from a leader that desires to plant.

- **Planting in pairs works best**

We've learned in time that planting in pairs makes multiplication much easier. When two people or two couples can start a group that understands multiplication, you've got

some built in multiplication DNA that will make it much easier for the groups to multiply in the future. Also, it keeps people from being isolated and feeling like the weight of the group is all on their shoulders in the early going. So if and when able, plant Connect Groups in pairs.

- **Leading the group to plant is more effective than telling the group how to plant**

Again, through much trial and error we've learned that Scripture is the best motivator as it should be. That's what CG Multiply is all about, which is seeing the focus of the early church and the importance of multiplication so that the church could continue to grow. Most groups will be hesitant about any change to the dynamic of the group, that's why it's important as a leader to lead them to that conclusion instead of just telling them. The first 8 chapters of Acts does a great job of showing us all the conclusion that we were saved to grow and multiply.

- **Planting a successful Connect Group is all about finding the right leader**

Leadership is critical. As you're thinking about multiplying your group, be on the lookout for people with the qualities that make up a great leader. We've learned that good leaders make good groups and good groups produce good leaders! It's much easier to find a leader in a healthy group because they've seen good group leadership modeled for them. Primarily, what I'm looking for in a good leader is:

- *Spiritually growing* - no matter how much natural ability they have, what's most vital is that there is evidence that they have a growing relationship with Jesus.
- *Character* - do they have a track record of integrity? Do they treat people well?
- *Competency* - do they have the ability to lead? Would you want them to be your Connect Group Leader?
- *GRIT* - do they have a track record of getting through difficult things and being consistent?

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Week 1 - Meet and Greet

The Goal:

If you are a Connect Group Coach leading CG Multiply, then the goal of the meet & greet is to build relationships with the people in the group, get a feel for where everyone is spiritually, and begin to discern what the next steps are for the group.

If you are the leader of the group, the meet and greet may not be necessary. It's an opportunity to get the group talking about multiplication and how to continue to take next steps as a group so that more people can be reached with the Gospel and find Gospel centered community.

The Session:

1. Share our discipleship pipeline - explaining our plan of discipleship. You can pass this out in printed form or cast it on a TV screen (ask one of our pastor's if you need a copy of it). Here is our discipleship pipeline:

Salvation → Baptism → Heart & Soul → Connect Group → Disciple Group → Multiplying Disciple

2. Share the 3 cultures of a healthy Connect Group, which are:
 - ***Growth*** - the group gathers with the intent to grow spiritually
 - ***Care*** - the group takes care of one another
 - ***Mission*** - the group shares the heartbeat to share the Gospel and see others come to know Jesus
3. Ask the question: "Where are you currently in your relationship with God and what would you like to get out of our time going through Activate?"

4. At the conclusion of everyone answering, let everyone know that next week you'll be discussing Acts 1-2. Everyone should come prepared to answer one question: "what did God teach you as you read Acts 1-2?"
5. Dismiss Group

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Week 2 - The Spirit's Power and Purpose

Acts 1-2

The Goal:

The goal is to show the group that Acts 1:8 is the thesis for the entire book of Acts and allow the Lord to speak through the discussion.

The Session:

1. Remind everyone of the cultures of a healthy Connect Group (Growth, Care, Mission)
2. Ask the question: What did the Lord show you in your reading of Acts 1-2?
3. Close group by looking at some key truths shown in Acts 1-2:
 - The Power of the Holy Spirit has a purpose: Evangelism/Witness (Acts 1:8)
 - Prayer was absolutely essential to the early church (Acts 1:14, Acts 1:24)
 - The Spirit does supernatural things, but all for the same purpose (Acts 2:1-21)
 - Peter shows us what we must do with the Gospel: Repent, be baptized (Acts 2:38)
 - We see the key cultures of the early church, which we embrace as our model as a church and as Connect Groups:
 - Devotion to fellowship, teaching, breaking of bread and prayer
 - Unity and Generosity
 - A family of people to do life with
 - They had favor and influence in their community
4. End the group with these questions:
 - a. What was your main takeaway from tonight?
 - b. What's the next step for our Connect Group?

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Week 3 - The Gospel is the power of God for salvation

Acts 3-4

The Goal:

To show the group the power of the Gospel and how it transforms lives.

The Session:

1. Remind everyone of the cultures of a healthy Connect Group (Growth, Care, Mission)
2. Ask the question: What did the Lord show you in your reading of Acts 3-4?
3. Close group by looking at some key truths shown in Acts 3-4:
 - John and Peter were on their way to pray when they met the lame man (prayer = essential in the early church)
 - The interaction with the lame man is a perfect illustration for salvation (we're lame and broken in our sin, Jesus heals us)
 - The miracle was immediately accompanied by Gospel proclamation (they pointed them to Jesus, not themselves)
 - Repentance is hard, but rewarding (v. 19)
 - The Holy Spirit does extraordinary things through ordinary people (v. 13)
 - The source of their power was time spent with Jesus. It made them bold.
 - In the midst of persecution, they didn't ask to be removed from it, they asked for more boldness to share the Word.
 - They were incredibly unified
4. End the group with these questions:
 - a. What was your main takeaway from tonight?
 - b. What's the next step for our Connect Group?

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Week 4 - Devotion to teaching, prayer and leadership

Acts 5-6

The Goal:

To really press into Acts 6:1-7 discussing the importance of leadership development, empowering servant leaders, and the power of multiplication.

The Session:

1. Remind everyone of the cultures of a healthy Connect Group (Growth, Care, Mission)
2. Ask the question: What did the Lord show you in your reading of Acts 5-6?
3. Close group by looking at some key truths shown in Acts 5-6:
 - There was a healthy fear of the Lord (Ananias and Sapphira)
 - They were fearless and devoted (Acts 5:29)
 - They were devoted to preaching and teaching
 - They were devoted to prayer
 - They raised up servant leaders
 - They empowered emerging leaders to do ministry
 - Because they were willing to empower leaders, the Word of God spread rapidly
4. End the group with these questions:
 - a. What was your main takeaway from tonight?
 - b. What's the next step for our Connect Group?

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Week 5 - The Power of Multiplication

Acts 7-8

The Goal:

The goal is to show the group God's heart for the Kingdom of God to grow, for leaders to be sent out and the magnitude of how multiplication grows the Kingdom. The goal for this session is to be an extremely empowering lesson that God uses everyday ordinary people to build his Kingdom! All we need is our "yes" on the table.

The Session:

1. Remind everyone of the cultures of a healthy Connect Group (Growth, Care, Mission)
2. Ask the question: What did the Lord show you in your reading of Acts 7-8?
3. Close group by looking at some key truths shown in Acts 7-8:
 - Stephen was fearless in his declaration of the Gospel
 - Anything done in obedience to God is worth it (Jesus was standing when Stephen saw him)
 - Persecution meant to stop the church actually advanced it
 - When the church scattered, they didn't miss Jerusalem, they lived on mission wherever they were sent
 - Philip listened to God even when it didn't make sense (The Holy Spirit led him to the desert)
 - God loved the Ethiopian enough to send Philip to share the Gospel with him (God uses everyday ordinary people to advance his Kingdom)
 - The Church is designed to multiply
4. End the group with these questions:
 - c. What was your main takeaway from tonight?
 - d. What's the next step for our Connect Group?

If the group has not already identified new leaders and the plan to multiply, end the last group encouraging the group to take a week to pray and seek the Lord on how to multiply the group and what the next steps are. Again, we don't want to be forceful, but we want to lead change well. Refer to the tips at the beginning of the content about healthy multiplication. Also, ask for advice from your coach or pastor!

THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO
EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE TO DO HIS
WORK AND BUILD UP THE
CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST.



EPHESIANS 4:12



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