

Leverage Your Life

Think Multiplication

Acts 13:1-5

“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.”

Acts 13:1–5

Main Idea: Leveraging our lives where we live, work and play means recognizing our role in multiplication.

There are three ways that we participate in gospel multiplication for the Kingdom of God.

1. Be Part of the Local Church

“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”

Acts 13:1

This church in Antioch was made up of people like you and me. **Did you know** that our church is made up of people like that too?

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God”

Ephesians 4:11–13a

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” **Romans 12:4–8**

You and I are called to leverage our lives and be part of the multiplication process based on how He has uniquely gifted you.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.”

1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 11

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2. Join in Where God is Working

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.” Acts 13:2-4

The gospel is the priority – bringing it to those separated from God – that’s the priority! Not the style, not the exact method.
The message!

Seek the Lord, and see what He is doing, **in your heart, in others, in the community around us.**

Take the example of Isaiah:

“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’”

Isaiah 6:8

God gave His people a mission and a purpose:

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I

have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18–20

“As these brethren laid hands on Saul and Barnabas, they said in effect: ‘Brethren, we are one with you in this missionary enterprise. You go out into the regions beyond, and we shall stay by you here at home. You go down into the dark caverns of earth, and seek to find the gold and precious things that shall adorn the crown of the Lord Jesus Christ in the ages to come, and we will hold the ropes and look after your temporal needs and pray.’ This ought always to be the attitude of those at home toward those who carry the message to the uttermost parts.” - H. A. Ironside

Salem Church has a history of multiplication. Salem Church Mid-Island - Pastor Dan Suarez

- **Staten Island Arabic Bible Church** - Pastor Safwat Attia
- **SI Chinese Christian Church** - Pastor Simon Ma
- **City Light Church** - Pastor Tim Schutes

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As the church we can...

1) Join God by **going**. 2) Join God by **sending** and **supporting**, through **prayer** and **generosity**. 3) Join God as He **works through you**, everywhere He’s placed you.

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3. Make Disciples Who Make Disciples

“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.” Acts 13:4–5

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Who will you disciple like this? Who will you let disciple you?

You and I are witnesses - Go and Make Disciples!

Share the gospel and help them grow in Christ.

Making Disciples not just Converts →

- *Study God’s Word - Understanding*
- *Memorize Scripture*
- *Pray*
- *Serve*
- *Go and Make Disciples*

When we leverage our lives and faithfully make disciples, the church will multiply and God’s Kingdom will advance.

We’re not trying to multiply an idea or a religion. We have found a relationship with the one who made us and loves us enough to die for us.

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” Psalm 34:8

Life in Christ is so good and we want to share that with you.
Would you see for yourself today?

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* – Walvoord & Zuck (1983)
- *Replicate* – Robby Gallaty & Chris Swain (2020)
- *Kingdom First* – Jeff Christopherson & Mac Lake (2015)
- *Acts* – H. A. Ironside (1943)
- *Gaining by Losing* (2015)