

CHAPTER 5: THE CREATURE MULTIPLIES

SUMMARY

As people continually embrace and understand the gospel, God's love supernaturally compels them to invest their lives in ensuring the gospel is embraced by others. A Creature centered on Jesus multiplies both organically and organizationally. People within the church multiply as they live with a "mission of reconciliation" on the forefront of their minds.

AUDIT

Individual

- 1. Despite being created and saved to participate in God's grand story of redemption, we are often content with simply watching and spectating. Do you ever feel this way? What obstacles keep you from sharing Christ?**
- 2. Whom did God use to lead you to faith in Christ? In what ways did God use this person or persons to reach you?**
- 3. God could have chosen any means by which to multiply the gospel, yet He chose ordinary people like you and me. Why is this significant? How does it affect you?**
- 4. How are you being equipped to multiply the gospel?**
- 5. When you think about the role of a nation's "ambassador" being placed in a foreign country, what does that role typically entail? How does that influence your understanding of Paul's idea that you are an ambassador of Christ in this world (2 Cor. 5:20)?**

6. **Whom have you been trying to reach with the gospel? How have you been praying for them? When do you intend to have “the conversation”?**
7. **How would you communicate how Christ has redeemed your life – the gospel – in 2-3 sentences?**

Group

1. **Is there a large number of spectators (those who merely watch and don't participate) in your church?**
2. **Do the people in your church see themselves as intentionally involved in God's redemptive plan?**
3. **God's use of people in gospel multiplication assumes that those people are being intentionally trained and equipped to share their faith. How are you currently equipping your church for the work of multiplication?**
4. **There are four primary characteristics of multiplication: (1) influenced by others toward faith in Christ, (2) captured by the gospel of Jesus Christ, (3) maturing in their growth and obedience from the gospel, and (4) going and influencing others towards that same faith in Jesus Christ. This is the robust process of moving from being “reconciled by Christ” to becoming a “minister of reconciliation.” In which area does your church need to grow?**
5. **Does your church truly value multiplication? How does that play out in the community around you? What is your church most known for by your community?**
6. **How regularly does your church pray for lost people?**

7. **Are your services and programs a crutch for evangelism or a catalyst for it?**

8. **Is the basis of your church's evangelism and multiplication more programmatic or more organic? In what ways has this been healthy or unhealthy?**

9. **Is missions a department within your church or the overarching culture of your church? In other words, are you a church of mission or a church with missions?**

RENEWAL

Individual

1. **Knowing that you are already written into the story of God's grand gospel narrative, how is that changing the way that you view your neighborhood, community, city, church, job, family, etc.?**

2. **In what ways can you actively begin to engage in God's redemptive mission in one of the areas listed above?**

3. **Prayerfully consider the following opportunities for multiplication and which one(s) might be helpful for you to pursue:**
 - **Pray daily for lost people you know.**
 - **Get to know your neighbors.**
 - **Go on a short-term mission trip with your church.**
 - **Join a Perspectives class or seek out evangelism training.**
 - **Support a missionary or church plant.**
 - **Volunteer in a local school, community organization or non-profit.**
 - **Host activities in your home where your children can invite their friends (and friends' parents) over.**
 - **Share the gospel and your testimony with an unbeliever.**

Group

1. **What are your next steps for helping better connect your church to the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves (God's grand mission)?**
2. **What intentional changes need to be made to shift the culture from that of "come and see" to that of "go and tell"?**
3. **What are practical ways you can create and equip your church for the work of gospel multiplication?**

PRAYER

Father, we thank You for not only saving us from our sin and into a relationship with You but also for inviting and allowing us to play a part in Your grand story of redemption. We ask for Your power as we seek to grow in this area and be a people on mission. Help us to see where we have become stagnant. Show us and give us opportunities to multiply the gospel in the lost and dying world around us. Find us faithful and willing, dear Lord. Amen.

RESOURCES

- *The Gospel in Life* by Tim Keller
- *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever