

God's world

How will they grow?

What do you see when you look at an apple – a piece of fruit? Think big! Envision its seeds growing and multiplying into an entire orchard, transforming a barren field. Our family needs to think big when we consider church-planting movements. The church is a life-giving organism that has the potential to evangelize and transform not only individuals, but entire cultures and people groups. This kind of large-scale growth comes from multiplying – reproducing into more churches, that in turn, reach more people.



Romans 15:20-21 (NIV)

"It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather as it is written: 'Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.'"

Study it

The book of Acts describes how the first church multiplied. These first churches were small and met in homes, not church buildings. Read these examples: Acts: 2:42-47, Acts 4:4, and Acts 11:21. What were the first "actions" of these new believers? How did this result in multiplication?

Experience it

► **Which is greater? Ask family members to choose how they would rather be paid:**

- 1) \$1,000 a day for one month or
- 2) a penny that doubles every day (\$.01, \$.02, \$.04, \$.08, etc.) for one month.

Grab a calculator and do the math:

- 1) \$1,000/a day/1 month = \$31,000 and
- 2) a penny doubled/1 month = \$10,737,418.24.

This example demonstrates how churches that multiply reach more people and communities than churches who add members.

► Cut open an apple and count the seeds. If each seed were planted, how many new apple trees would there be? Each new tree you plant could produce about 6,750 apples a year, for 100 years. Now that's multiplication!

Discuss it

- 1 What's the difference between adding and multiplying in math? Why is multiplying better than adding when talking about churches?
- 2 How do multiplying churches reach more people?
- 3 Unreached people groups do not have churches that are multiplying. What's missing?

Map it

Look at your map and pray for areas in the world with no churches. Using 2 Thessalonians 3:1, pray that the gospel would spread and multiply.