

## 20. GENERATIONS

## *Spiritual Reproduction & Multiplication*

After God created Adam and Eve, He blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...” (Gen. 1:28). The Hebrew word for multiply - *ravah* - has its root in a term *r-b* that appears over 200x in the Old Testament, all with a view toward great increase. Some related terms are “be many”, “ask much”, “gather much” (as in manna), “heap”. God repeated the command to Noah, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...” (Gen. 9:1). Similarly, He promised to Abraham that his seed would multiply like the stars in the heaven and the sand by the seashore (Gen. 22:17). This promise was repeated to Isaac and to Jacob and carried its way into the consciousness of Israel throughout history. Furthermore, if we reflect on the countless agrarian references in scripture - from Genesis 2 to Revelation 22, we see the exponential power of reproductive life. God call us to be fruitful and to multiply!

Paul wrote to Timothy, “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:2). We see four spiritual generations: Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and “others also”. Imagine the exponential growth that could happen if in adopting Paul’s mindset, we helped a few people to help a few people who in turn help others. In just a few years our influence could stretch to the nations of the world. But if we don’t...the multiplying stops.

**Reproduce & Multiply** *What do you observe about imitation, reproduction and multiplication from the following passages?*

Psalms 78:1-8

Isaiah 51:1-2

Isaiah 60:22

Joel 1:3

Luke 6:40

John 17:20-23

I Corinthians 4:14-16, 11:1

Hebrews 6:11-12

Hebrews 13:7

*As you reflect on reproduction and multiplication what impresses you from these parables? What are the expectations? Problems? Rewards?*

Matthew 13:1-23

Matthew 25:14-30

**In Preparation to Disciple Others** *What do these passages reveal about the vision, character, knowledge and skills we need to be able to disciple others?*

Acts 13:1-3

Ephesians 4:11-16

I Thessalonians 2:1-12

I Timothy 1:3-7

2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

I Peter 5:1-11

**APPLICATION:** 1. As you think about the people in your circles of relationships - either believers or non-believers - whom do you feel spiritually responsible for? 2. If you could only name 1 (or at most 2 or 3), which individual(s) would you most like to disciple in the way of Jesus? When and how will you start and what will you do together? And how can you help see them see the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation?

