



**MULTIPLY**

**GENEROSITY INITIATIVE**

“

YOU WILL BE  
*enriched*  
IN EVERY WAY TO BE  
*generous*  
IN EVERY WAY, WHICH  
THROUGH US WILL PRODUCE  
*thanksgiving*  
TO GOD.

”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11

# TABLE *of* CONTENTS

1	A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JARED	.....
2	AN ENDURING LEGACY	.....
6	WHAT'S NEXT?	.....
8	WHAT IS MULTIPLY?	.....
12	PRIMARY GOAL	.....
13	SECONDARY GOAL	.....
16	NEXT STEPS	.....
18	YOUR GIVING JOURNEY	.....
22	WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE	.....
48	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO



“

HE WHO *supplies seed* TO THE SOWER AND BREAD FOR FOOD *will supply* AND *multiply* YOUR SEED FOR SOWING AND *increase* THE HARVEST OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10



# A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JARED

It was over 140 years ago that a group of people met for the first time to worship as Bay Leaf Baptist Church. It was a humble beginning, but God has blessed that step of obedience with incredible growth and used the people of Bay Leaf Baptist to accomplish His Kingdom purposes through the years. To be sure, thousands of lives have been changed for Christ and for all of eternity. Not one of us was there on that first Sunday, but we are here now. And that makes us the fruit of their faithfulness to God and of God's faithfulness to Bay Leaf.

While we recognize and celebrate the incredible work of God through the years, we also know that God is not finished with us yet. As surely as He has provided an abundant harvest through many years that have passed, we believe God now wants to multiply all He has supplied for an even more abundant future. The God who has done so much has much more He wants to do. In fact, what if everything God has done until NOW is an incredible prelude to what He is about to do NEXT?

Welcome to Multiply! Multiply is a Kingdom initiative that will enable us to multiply the amazing work of God in our lives at Bay Leaf Baptist, through North Raleigh, and ultimately, to the ends of the earth. It is a God-sent, God-sized vision that we are fully embracing as God's answer to our passionate prayer for God's direction for our Creedmoor Road property. This is going to be an incredible, life-changing and world-changing journey, and YOU are invited!

Years from now, we will look back on this moment and be amazed at what the Lord did in and through us in these days. The vision God is laying before us will surely challenge us, as anything from God should. But if we respond in faith and obedience, it will undoubtedly increase our faith in Jesus and the intimacy of our relationship with Him. And yes, it will inevitably impact our community and world for the sake of His Kingdom and for all of eternity. With that in mind, let's begin this exciting journey of Multiply together!

*Jared Richard*  
SENIOR PASTOR



# AN ENDURING *Legacy*

**G**od's guiding hand has been evident throughout the history of Bay Leaf Baptist Church. He has directed each decision, mission, appointment, and building project. We are blessed with an enduring legacy as a direct result of our efforts to abide in His will, to glorify Him, and to share the love of Jesus Christ.

---

## LAUNCHED WITH GOSPEL PURPOSE

In 1880, fifteen years after the Civil War ended and 10 years after NC was readmitted to the Union, twenty-five families lived in a community north of Raleigh that came to be known as Bay Leaf. Weary of traveling long miles of muddy roads via horse and buggy to established churches to worship on Sundays, the families decided to serve their growing community. On August 18, 1880, a church was formed that came to be known as Bay Leaf Missionary Baptist Church. The congregation met in the one-room schoolhouse until a church building was completed in 1889.

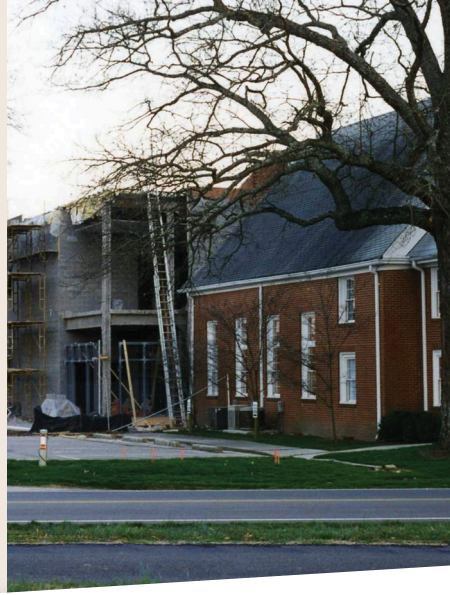
## FAITHFUL TO GOD'S WORD

From the beginning, Bay Leaf has held to the authority and centrality of God's written Word: the Bible. Today, we continue to cling to the Scripture and its inspired teaching. They are a perfect witness to God's redemptive work, culminating in the coming of Christ, and a perfect record of His instruction to His people. Bay Leaf has never veered from the ministry of the Word. Hearing it preached and engaging in Bible Studies allows us to conduct our lives in the way Christ commands. Growing in our knowledge of the Word equips us to make other disciples.

## OBEDIENT TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

At our onset, Bay Leaf adopted a Declaration of Faith, a Church Covenant, and a commitment to the Great Commission. Committees for State, Home, and International Missions were formed to collect funds even though the church struggled financially. Our passion to share the gospel is still alive and thriving. Through offering campaigns, mission programs for all ages, an annual fund-raising auction, service organizations, mission trips, and more, we are dedicated to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. We exist to make disciples locally and globally for the glory of God.





## COMMITTED TO SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, MULTI-GENERATIONAL MINISTRY

We are to live lives worthy of the Lord in the power of the Spirit. The evidence of such Spirit-empowered lives is the bearing of spiritual fruit. There are many places to evidence such fruit in service at Bay Leaf, utilizing the gifts God gives to all His people for our mutual benefit. Today and historically, God has called the membership at Bay Leaf to serve one another in leading Sunday School, Bible studies, and retreats. The church has organized prayer groups, mission groups, and intentional outreach events to make sure we do not lose our evangelistic focus. We have also asked our membership to serve our Next Generation Ministries, by volunteering with our preschool, kids, and students. Getting involved and allowing God's light to shine is a mark of a true believer and a healthy church.



## WILLING TO TAKE GOSPEL ACTION

God has been faithful to provide for our needs since our beginning. Through much prayer, we have stepped out in faith to build more facilities and have expanded and renovated as our membership and requirements increased. Bay Leaf started off with an acre that was donated in 1880 and, through various gifts and purchases, we gained approximately 11 more acres by 1984. In 2005, we purchased land on Creedmoor Road and are poised to continue sharing the love and message of our Lord and Savior because of God's grace.





# WHAT'S NEXT?



**God,** who has done so much in and through us for years... **isn't finished with us.** We believe we are standing on the edge of our next defining moment.

QUESTION:

What if **everything** God has done until now is only a prelude to what He wants to do, and is about to do? What if all God has already supplied... **is about to be multiplied?**



---

*What is*  
**MULTIPLY?**

MOVING FROM ADDITION  
TO MULTIPLICATION

---

OUR NEXT DEFINING MOMENT

---

**MULTIPLY IS MORE THAN A KEY WORD OR A THEME FOR OUR INITIATIVE.** Multiply is first a spiritual concept and a kingdom reality that God has put on our hearts. Multiply is a new and deeper way of thinking, of believing and trusting, of following Jesus, and of doing ministry and mission as His church.

---

As we have been seeking the Lord and His direction for our future, we have been drawn to 2 Corinthians 9. There are so many wonderful spiritual truths in that one chapter, as Paul encouraged the church at Corinth to be generous in their financial support of others. Some of the most common phrases we use when we talk about finances and biblical stewardship are found in this chapter. For instance, God calls the Corinthian church through Paul's inspired writing to give bountifully and not sparingly, willingly and not under compulsion, cheerfully and not reluctantly. But there is a particular phrase that has taken on particular significance for us as a church. It's a phrase that is not as commonly used as the others and it is found in verse 10.



**He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”**

---

## **Do you see God's promise, tucked away in there?**

In this verse, Paul tells us that God supplies. Now, we know that. But did you notice that God does more than simply supply the seed? God also “multiplies” the seed He has supplied! And there it is. Multiply. God will multiply what He supplies. That is a statement filled with incredible promise and great potential for every child of God. And we believe it also holds incredible promise and great potential for our church.



## THINK OF IT THIS WAY:

Can you count the number of seeds in an apple? That's a matter of simple math. You simply cut open the apple, count the seeds one by one, and add them up. Just about anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple.



## But do you know the number of apples in a seed?

That's not so simple; only God knows that. God created the apple with a finite number of seeds. But God created the seed with an infinite number of apples. That's the difference between addition and multiplication. One we can do, the other only God can do.

**Multiply** at Bay Leaf Baptist Church is about **God multiplying what He has supplied** to Bay Leaf Baptist Church for over 140 years. Multiply is also about our belief and desire for the **limitless possibilities** of what God can and will do when we let Him multiply what He has already supplied.

**Multiply is a one fund, two-year generosity initiative that will enable us to resource our God-given vision for ministry, multi-site, and mission at Bay Leaf Baptist Church.**

Welcome to  **MULTIPLY!**

# OUR MINISTRY

# *Multiplied*

---

Bay Leaf Baptist Church is multiplying the reach of its ministry by opening a campus on Creedmoor Road.

---

We have been faithful to proclaim the gospel and reach North Raleigh at our current campus for over 140 years. By God's grace, we have the opportunity to multiply our ministry reach to North Raleigh by launching a campus directly off the 540 loop to minister to a strategic area of growth in our city.

We exist to make disciples locally and globally, and the Creedmoor Road project helps us to fulfill this mission in the greater Raleigh area. We also know that the multiplication that takes place at Creedmoor Road will allow for greater multiplication in the future, as we seek to plant more churches, help in revitalization efforts, and send more missionaries in accordance with the Great Commission.



*As we begin this adventure,* it is vital that we keep in mind the primary and secondary goals of Multiply.

# THE *Primary* GOAL

## 100% ENGAGEMENT

*We want every single person to take his or her next step in discipleship and grow in generosity.*

### AN INITIATIVE FOR ALL OF US

We challenge every person who calls Bay Leaf home to help us multiply the reach of our ministry.

### MULTIPLY OUR SURRENDER

What are we holding back from the Lordship of Jesus Christ that we need to surrender to Him?

### MULTIPLY OUR FAITH

What steps do we need to take to move us out of our comfort zone and into a whole new experience of dependence upon Him?

### MULTIPLY OUR GENEROSITY

What new level of generosity do we need to attain to express our gratitude to God for what He has done?



# THE *Secondary* GOAL

**\$18 MILLION** *(Over the next two years)*

*The secondary goal of Multiply is a \$18M demonstration of the faithfulness of God through the generosity of His people, enabling us to accomplish these exciting kingdom-building initiatives. This is more than we have done before, but with God and our very best, we can do it!*

## **MULTIPLY OUR CURRENT MINISTRY: \$7 MILLION**

We are committed to making disciples locally and globally for the glory of God. We want to make sure we can be faithful in the ministry God has already entrusted to us and grow it through our regular annual budget.

## **MULTIPLY FOR FUTURE MINISTRY: \$11 MILLION**

We believe God has given us a vision to grow our ministry reach in North Raleigh and beyond. Investing in our Creedmoor Road campus will help us extend the reach of Bay Leaf to engage more people with the gospel for generations to come.

*Creedmoor Road*



*Entry Way*



*Lobby Area*





*Children's Ministry Wing*



*Worship Center*



*Student Ministry Hangout*

# NEXT STEPS

PERSONAL ACTION PLAN



1

## PRAYERFULLY INTERCEDE

The Bible says in Psalm 105:4 to “Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!” We know that anything is possible with God and that nothing is possible without God. Would you pray that God would supply the seed to our church and multiply it for His glory? Would you also pray for wisdom regarding how God may use you in order to help us MULTIPLY?

2

## GET INVOLVED

This MULTIPLY initiative will not succeed if we sit on the sidelines and watch. Each of us must get in the game! Make a personal commitment to be involved each week as we seek the Lord and unpack God’s vision for His church. God will use you in ways you haven’t thought of yet, if you are present and fully engaged. Join in and be a part of doing something great for our God.

3

## USE YOUR INFLUENCE

God has given each one of us a unique sphere of influence. People are watching and will listen to what you say. Use your influence for God and for good. Whether it’s in a small group, on a Bay Leaf ministry team, with your family and friends, or across our community, let your words and your attitude be a positive influence on the people God has strategically placed around you. Let’s multiply the message of what God wants to do through MULTIPLY.

4

## MAKE AN INVESTMENT

Discipleship and stewardship go hand in hand. As we give, we demonstrate not only obedience but also faith and trust. As a result, our giving enables us to go deeper in our relationship with Him. Our gifts will not be the same size in terms of dollars of course, but each of us can invest in a way that truly reflects the same level of love and commitment to Him from our hearts.

---

# YOUR GIVING *Journey*



## INITIAL GIVER

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give, perhaps for the first time, to the ministry and mission of Bay Leaf Baptist Church. In response to a sermon, or something they read in the Bible, or just a sense that God is calling them to give something back, they give something to their church.



## CONSISTENT GIVER

A Consistent Giver is someone who gives to their church in a consistent and regular way. They are beginning to feel a part of the ministry and mission of the church, they understand the importance of each person's contribution, and they are developing a discipline to give personally in support of their church. Whatever the amount may be, a consistent giver is committed to give consistently.



## INTENTIONAL GIVER

An Intentional Giver is consistent in their giving, and thinks also about the amount of their giving. They see giving in the context of discipleship, as an act of obedience, and as it relates to faith and trust in God. Desiring to live under the Lordship of Christ, they consider their giving in relationship to other priorities in life, then intentionally grow their giving to be consistent with His Kingdom priorities.



## SURRENDERED GIVER

A Surrendered Giver is struck by the generosity of God and is surrendered to God in response. They recognize all they have is God's and make it all available for His purposes. Their giving to God governs their spending and saving, rather than allowing their spending and saving to govern their giving. They give in a way that changes them to more fully experience the goodness and the faithfulness of God.

## KINGDOM GIVER

A Kingdom Giver is someone who strategizes about the long-term impact of their generosity. They aren't concerned with what they ARE giving, as much as with what they are NOT giving and why. They make strategic financial decisions about both spending and saving that allow them to increase their capacity to give more generously. They see the sum-total of all their giving, over their entire lifetime, as a strategic and eternal Kingdom investment as a citizen of His Kingdom.



*Your Giving Journey Scripture References:* Colossians 1:15-20, Matthew 6:19-24, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Matthew 7:24

**Multiply is a “one-fund, two-year initiative,”** meaning that ALL Bay Leaf Baptist Church ministry and multi-site investments for the next two years are combined into one God-sized and unified initiative.

ONE



FUND

### WE INCLUDE EVERYTHING

Traditional “above and beyond” campaigns tend to overlook the foundation of giving that makes the ministry of a church possible. Multiply celebrates what we are already giving to support the ministry of Bay Leaf. So we include everything – our ministry components for the next two years as well as our multi-site effort. Just as we celebrate all giving together as a church, each giver is able to celebrate the totality of their giving individually as well – all into one fund.

### WE FOCUS ON THE HEART

Traditional “above and beyond” campaigns also require that givers split their giving between several “buckets” and a variety of “projects.” These “buckets” and “projects” are short-term and can be a little distracting. We want to focus on the heart of the giver more than on the short-term projects to which we are contributing. The long-term impact, we believe, will be an increase in generous giving from our hearts as givers, that continues long after the projects are completed.



*It's simple, really:* one commitment, to one initiative,  
through one fund, for the next two years. *That's Multiply!*

# Two-Year GIFT CHART

As you pray and discern how God would ask you to give during this time, use this gift chart as a discipleship tool – let it be something that inspires and challenges you towards greater generosity for Christ's Kingdom.

Gifts Needed	Two-Year Gift Level	Annual Gift	Monthly Gift	Gift Level Total
1	\$1,500,000	\$750,000	\$62,500	\$1,500,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$41,667	\$1,000,000
2	\$750,000	\$375,000	\$31,250	\$1,500,000
3	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$20,833	\$1,500,000
5	\$250,000	\$125,000	\$10,417	\$1,250,000
7	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,050,000
10	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$4,167	\$1,000,000
12	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$3,125	\$900,000
15	\$65,000	\$32,500	\$2,708	\$975,000
25	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$2,083	\$1,250,000
40	\$35,000	\$17,500	\$1,458	\$1,400,000
50	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$1,042	\$1,250,000
65	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$625	\$975,000
80	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$417	\$800,000
95	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$313	\$712,500
105	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$208	\$525,000
Many	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$104	\$412,500
<b>Total Gift Goal</b>				<b>\$18,000,000</b>



**SAVE THE DATE**

Advance Commitment Night: **OCTOBER 15**  
Commitment Sunday: **NOVEMBER 5**

Each household will be given a Commitment Card where you can declare before the Lord your two-year Multiply commitment. Until you receive your card, use the fields in the sample below to begin praying and thinking through what God is leading you to do.

# YOUR *Commitment* FOR MULTIPLY

\$

What I/we would normally give in a year  
*(regular giving to the ministry budget)*

+\$

My/Our expanded annual generosity as  
part of the Multiply initiative.

= \$

x 2 years



\$

Gifts from my/our stored resources  
*(savings, stocks, personal property, etc.)*

+\$

**MY/OUR TOTAL 2-YEAR  
MULTIPLY COMMITMENT**

*December 2023 - December 2025*

\$






# SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

Use the following pages as a tool to help you navigate this 6-week journey we are walking together. Let's allow God to grab a hold of our hearts like never before through the teaching of His Word and prayer.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Birth of the Church – Acts 1:1-2:4*



# PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

## Learn to hear and follow the voice of God.

God speaks to His people. The Scriptures are filled with accounts of God speaking clearly to His followers. When God speaks to specific people, He is often calling them to follow Him in specific ways. Consider God's calling of Abram (Gen. 15), Moses (Exodus 3), David (1 Sam. 16) or Samuel (1 Sam. 3). Or reflect upon Rebekah's conversation with God (Gen. 25) or Hannah's prayer and interaction with Eli, the Priest (1 Samuel 1-2).

While each of these stories are different, they all have a commonality. God is at work building His people and growing His family through His interactions with individual men and women. In Acts' first two chapters, God is at work doing the same thing. He is building His people as He communes with them through the Spirit and prayer.

As you pray this week, consider these verses in 2 Peter 1:

*<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup>we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup>And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup>For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

God still speaks through His word and guides by His Spirit. You may not see Him in glory on the mountain or hear a voice from heaven, but He most certainly desires to speak to you. As we look to our future, position yourself to hear from God. Listen to His voice and anticipate the Spirit revealing the role that He has for you in building His family.

Pray for God to speak clearly to His people at Bay Leaf in this season. Pray for God to purge anything hindering our ability to hear from Him. Pray for God's voice to be clearly heard through the pulpit ministry, our group ministry, and in our homes and quiet times, all of which are rooted in God's Word.

## SESSION 1 – Blessed to be a *Blessing*

Genesis 12:1-9

God has blessed His people through Christ in order that they may be a blessing to the nations.

### In what ways has the Lord blessed you?

The Bible begins with an account of the creation of the universe. Out of nothing, God spoke creation into existence. The best part of His creation was the people He created to be with in right relationship. Things quickly turned dark when the people God created rebelled against His good commands. This led to separation between man and God and from this point on we see the consequences of sin in the world. God devastated His creation with a flood because of their wickedness, but in His loving kindness he saved Noah and his family. Sin still persisted and in Genesis 11, people attempted to build a name for themselves instead of yielding to God's authority. God scattered them throughout the earth and this is when Abram enters the picture.

God formed a people for Himself when He called Abram and promised to bless him so that he could be a blessing to the nations. This calling is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, the truly Blessed One, who blesses us with salvation and eternal life. Just as Abram was given a commission, the early church in the book of Acts was formed around a similar calling: to make disciples of Jesus in all the nations. This same calling exists for us today. We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing.

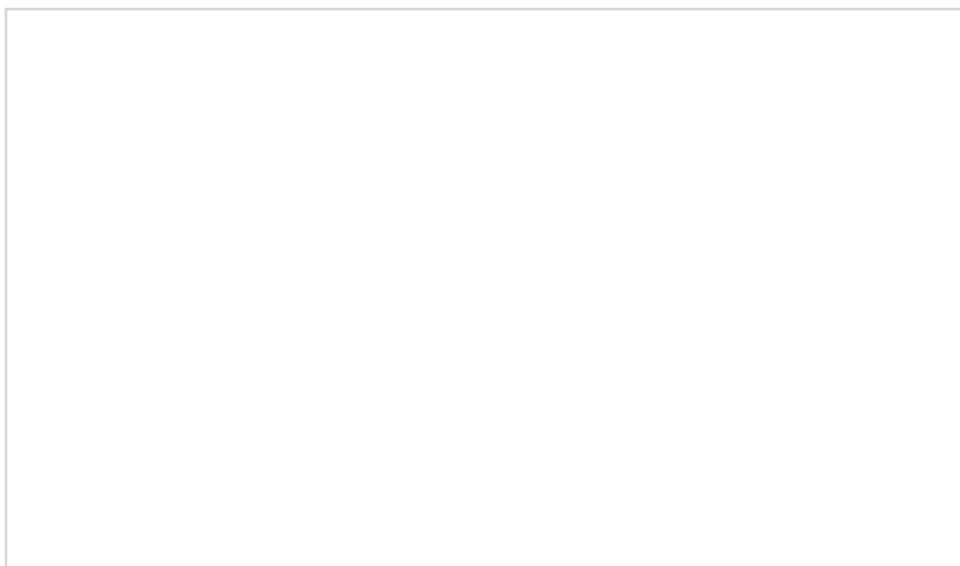
#### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God commanded Abram to leave his home and his family. How do you think Abram felt? What might you have to sacrifice in order to fulfill the mission God has given you?
2. What excuses could Abram have given when he was called by God? What excuses have you given to God when He has called you to participate in His mission?
3. Abram's obedience led him to worship. How does participation in God's mission result in greater praise given to Him?
4. What parallels do you see between the calling God gave Abram and the calling Jesus gave His disciples in Acts 1:8?
5. How can our faithfulness in reaching North Raleigh with the gospel fuel our faithfulness to reach the nations with the gospel?




## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Consider how you have been blessed in order to be a blessing to others.
- What is God calling you to leave behind so that you can more faithfully fulfill the mission to which God has called you?
- Who is someone that you can begin sharing Jesus with this week?
- Begin memorizing 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Bold Witness of the Church – Acts 2:14-41; 4:23-31*





# PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

## Fear not – Trusting and Resting in the promises of God.

“Fear Not” and “Do Not Be Afraid” are two of the most common statements in the Bible. Most often, they are spoken by a messenger of God to ease those startled by His presence. Other times these words comfort a person called by God because they are afraid of the task He has given them.

God has saved His people from His wrath through the gospel. You and I do not have to fear the worst from God. Because of what Christ has done on the Cross for His people, we have access to God by faith. The holy and all-powerful God, who created all things, welcomes us into His presence.

Not only does God welcome us into his presence, but He also commissions us with His presence into all creation as an ambassador for His kingdom. This commission comes with the power of God and the presence of Christ who promises, “I will be with you always.”

As you pray this week, consider Paul's words to Timothy in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter (1:6-12):

*<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

*<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup>which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid. People who are separated from a holy God because of their sin have everything to fear. In Christ, you have nothing to fear. You have been redeemed and ushered into the presence of God. Now is the time for us to carry forth the gospel so that others may join us in this holy mission.

Pray for boldness. Pray for courage. Pray for opportunities. Pray for soft hearts. Pray for pathways to engage in new networks and new relationships for gospel proclamation. Pray for dead hearts to come alive by the power of the Spirit.

## SESSION 2 – What is *the Gospel?*

*Ephesians 2:1-10*

Through Christ alone we are saved from sin, given new life, and sent with purpose.

**In your own words write out the gospel news.**

There are so many messages in our world today. We are constantly bombarded with distractions, conversations, and opposing worldviews and ideologies. At times it is difficult to discern what is true and what is false. In the church, we often use the word “gospel” to describe the message one needs to know and believe in order to be saved, as well as the message we should be sharing with others. In the midst of many voices and messages, we believe that the one, true gospel is the only message that has eternal significance. Therefore, we need to be abundantly clear on what the gospel is and what it is not.

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesian churches in order to deepen their understanding of the gospel and explain how this message should dramatically change the way that they live, speak, and think. Ephesians 2:1-10 explains the reality of our life before Jesus intervened, how Jesus saved us, and what our life’s purpose should be now that Jesus has saved us.

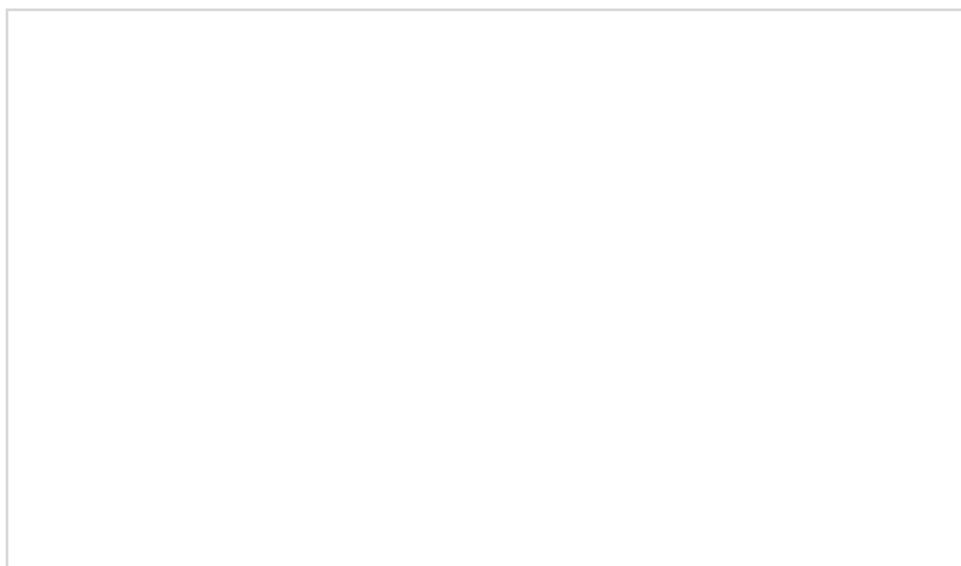
### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul describe our lives apart from Christ? Which description most resonates with you?
2. Why must an individual come to terms with their own sinfulness in order to see their need for salvation? How did God reveal this truth to you in your story?
3. Why is the proclamation of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection essential when proclaiming the gospel?
4. Paul is explicit that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Why does our community of North Raleigh need to hear this?
5. God saves us for good works. Good works don't save us. What misconceptions do people in our community have about what is required for someone to be saved? What are works that God is calling you to do right now that you are hesitant to do?



## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Know and believe the true and complete gospel message.
- Proclaim the true and complete gospel. Who can you share this gospel news with this week?
- Do the good works that God has called you to do.
- Continue to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Unity of the Church - Acts 2:42-44*



# PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

## Abiding in the Spirit as a united people.

There are so many threats that seek to divide what God has made one, yet there is nothing in all of the world that can undo what God has done. We are one because God's word says He has made us one. The challenge for the church and its people is to abide and live out God's stated reality.

As you pray this week, remember Paul's words to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12:12-26):

*<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

*<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

*<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

EVERYONE has something to contribute to the important work before our church. Before God, there is not one contribution that is more important than another. This is the reason our primary goal for Multiply is for 100% of our church to be engaged.

Thank God for how He has assembled His church. Pray for each person in our church to recognize the value of their gifts and to celebrate the gifts of others to this body.

## SESSION 3 – Diverse, yet *Unified*

*Ephesians 4:1-16*

Diversity exists within the body, but through Christ we can maintain unity to fulfill His mission.

### What are threats to unity within the church?

In Revelation, chapter 7, the Apostle John tells us that one day in heaven, people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and language will be worshipping Jesus together. This is a beautiful reminder of the diversity that exists among the people of God. Christians differ in age, nationality, language, and upbringing, yet we are unified through one common denominator: Jesus has saved us from sin and is our Lord and Savior.

The churches in Ephesus were made up of both Jew and Gentile believers, although the majority were of Gentile ethnicity. These Gentile believers had been grafted into the family of God through the saving work of Jesus. In the first three chapters of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes about the beauty of the gospel message. The final three chapters of Ephesians are an explanation of how a transformed follower of Jesus should live in light of the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul begins this teaching with an exhortation to be unified in Christ.

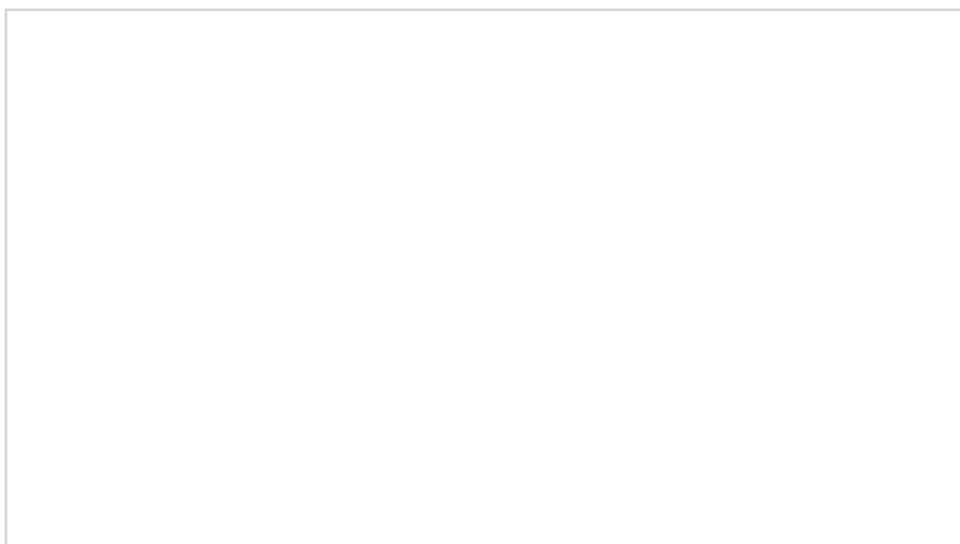
#### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – *2 Corinthians 9:10-11*

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the calling we have received that Paul mentions in verse 1? What does this calling have to do with maintaining the unity of the church?
2. How are you making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit among the people of God at Bay Leaf? Are there any ways you might be promoting disunity?
3. Why is it good that believers have different gifts and passions? How does this strengthen the local church?
4. What is your ministry at Bay Leaf? How are you exercising your spiritual gifts that God has given you in order to bless others and advance God's kingdom?
5. In what ways are you actively growing in Christlike maturity? How can you help someone else to grow in Christlike maturity?

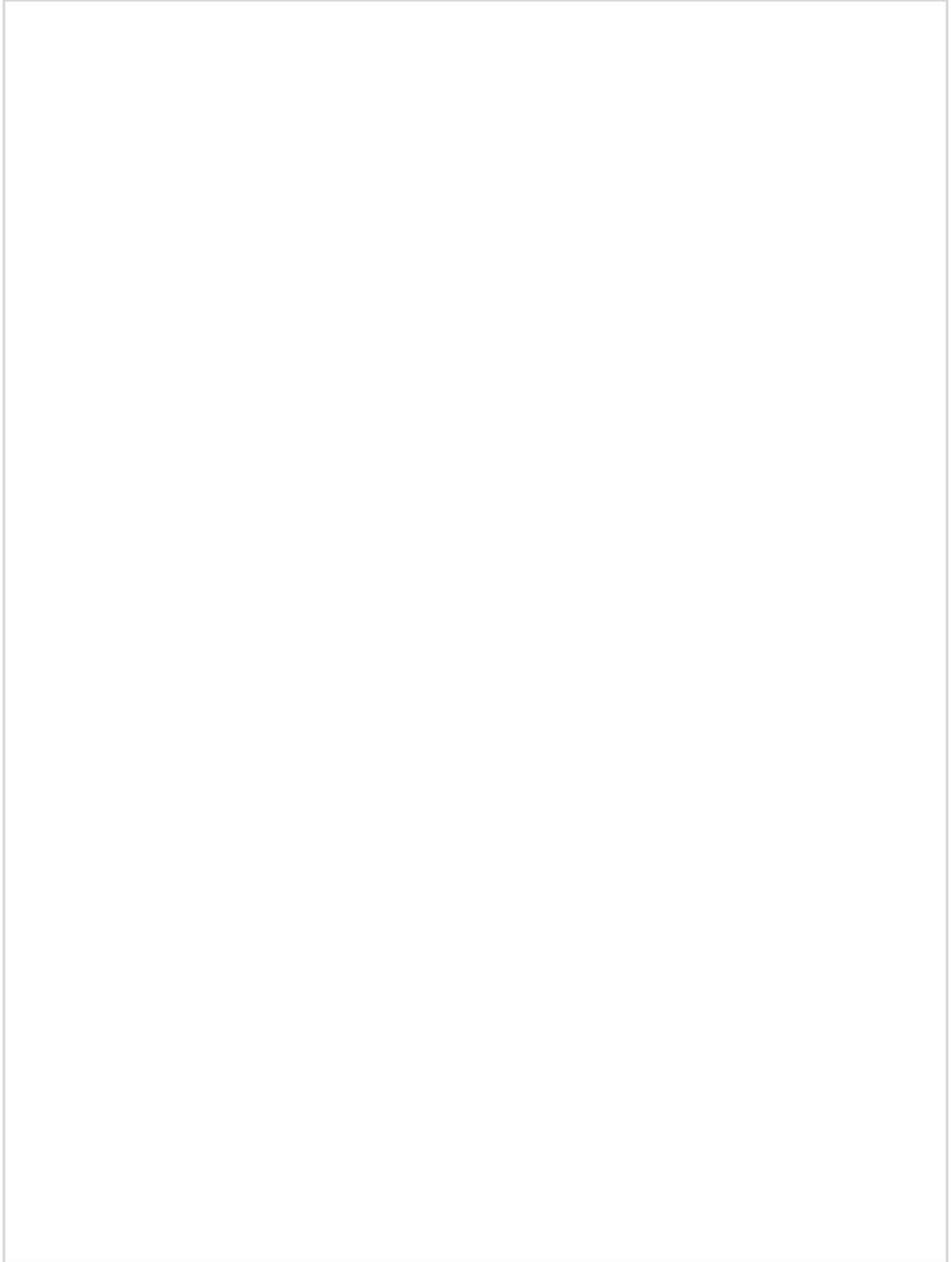


## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Make every effort to maintain unity among the believers at Bay Leaf. Confess and ask for forgiveness if you've participated in sowing seeds of disunity.
- Use your spiritual giftings to serve the church. If you aren't serving, how can you begin?
- Grow in Christlike maturity. What needs to be put off in your life so that you can grow in maturity?
- Continue to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Generosity of the Church - Acts 4:32-5:11*





# PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

**God provides to us all that He requires of us.**

In the beginning of 1 Chronicles 29, David and the leaders of the families and tribes of Israel gave a portion of their wealth to the Lord for Solomon to build the temple. None of the leaders gave a single offering that did not come from God's hand. In fact, the substance of this offering came by God's hand through Israel's conquest of the promise land.

As you pray this week, remember David's prayer of thanksgiving in 1 Chronicles (29:9-17):

*<sup>9</sup>Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. <sup>10</sup>Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. <sup>11</sup>Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup>Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand, it is to make great and to give strength to all. <sup>13</sup>And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.*

*<sup>14</sup>"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. <sup>15</sup>For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. <sup>16</sup>O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. <sup>17</sup>I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart, I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you."*

Remarkably, a united and collective sacrifice produced in the people great joy (vs. 9). Joy was the fruit of whole-hearted devotion to the Lord. More than that, David's prayer reveals peace in knowing that everything that we steward to give first came from God (vs. 11-12).

Pray that God's generosity displayed in the gospel inspires us (you) to give ourselves (yourself) wholeheartedly to the Lord. Pray for the truth that "God provides to us all that He desires for us to give" to prompt trust and the willingness to give freely and joyfully (vs. 17).

## SESSION 4 – The Grace of Giving *Generously*

2 Corinthians 8

Giving generously in response to Jesus' generosity is an act of grace that blesses the giver and recipient.

**In what ways has God given generously to you? When you consider these ways, what emotions or feelings do they stir in you?**

Jesus spent a large portion of his teaching ministry focused on the matters of money and giving. We are reminded in Psalm 24:1 that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it belongs to Him. The discipline of giving is often overlooked in the teachings of the church because it can make us feel uncomfortable or it can feel invasive. Jesus did not shy away from pressing into the discipline of giving generously while also sharing the blessings of giving freely unto the Lord.

The Apostle Paul deals with the spiritual discipline of giving in a similar way when he writes to the Corinthian church. As Paul writes to these believers, he seeks to defend his apostleship and call them to participate in his work of ministry to reach the nations with the gospel. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul gives these believers an example of faithful generosity as he writes about the churches in Macedonia.

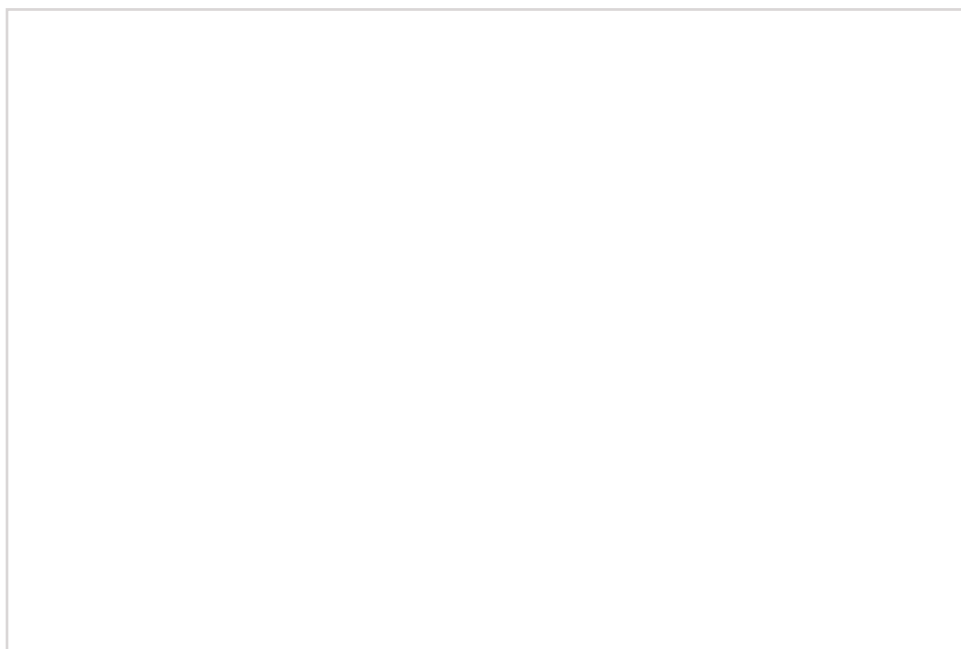
### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul describe the churches in Macedonia in verses 1-5? Which description stands out most to you?
2. In times of trial or economic difficulty, why can the desire to hoard be stronger than the desire to give?
3. What does it mean to give yourself first to the Lord? How would this result in a heart of generosity?
4. How did Jesus model and display a life of generous giving?
5. Would you say that you excel in giving? Are there things in your life that prevent you from giving generously to the movement of multiplying God's kingdom?




## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Reflect upon the generosity of Christ. How can you share of His sacrificial giving with someone this week?
- Give yourself first to the Lord. Allow His will to guide your giving.
- Begin to pray about what God would have you give towards the Multiply Initiative.
- Continue to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Multiplication of the Church – Acts 13:1-3*



## PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

**God's economy is built upon the principal of multiplication.**

From God's instruction to Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply" to Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations, the Scriptures make clear that God's economy is built upon multiplication. Indeed, multiplication is evident in the design of fruit from the garden to the growth of nations. Healthy modern economies are built upon an understanding of God's design in creation and multiplication. God's resources are not limited because He isn't. He is creator and sustainer.

Paul recognizes this economic principal in the gratitude that he expresses to the Philippian church for their support of his missionary work. As you pray this week, consider these words (Phil. 4:14-20).

*<sup>14</sup>Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. <sup>15</sup>And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup>Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. <sup>18</sup>I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup>And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup>To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Paul sees the Philippians' generosity as a kingdom investment destined for a heavenly return. In fact, the heavenly return is a multiple of their investment. In other words, what they stand to receive is greater than the gift given. More than that, while God may not supply wealth for pleasure on the earth, He will supply our every need on the earth and spiritual blessings commensurate with the glory of Jesus Christ.

Pray for God to root our hope in the reward that awaits in heaven. Pray for the people of Bay Leaf to walk by faith and not by sight. Pray that we would be unified in a season of shared sacrifice and joy.

## SESSION 5 – The Heart of a Giver

2 Corinthians 9

A generous heart that is ready and joyful multiplies thanksgiving to God and affection for others.

**Who is someone in your life who has modeled Christlike generosity? What makes their generosity stand out to you?**

Earlier, in session 2, we were reminded from Ephesians that we have been saved to do good works which God has prepared for us to do. While we know we are called to do good works, we also know that it can be tempting at times to do good works outwardly while at the same time having a heart disposition that is dishonoring to God. Doing good works or practicing spiritual disciplines just for the sake of doing them isn't what God intended for us. God's greatest concern is the heart attitude we have while we do the works He has called us to do.

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul describes the financial needs he has for ministry and uses the giving of the churches in Macedonia as an example of Christ-centered generosity. He then calls the Christians in Corinth to excel in this act of grace. In chapter 9, Paul describes what the heart of a generous giver should look like and how important it is to have a right-heart attitude when it comes to the discipline of giving. Rightly motivated generosity multiplies the advancement of God's kingdom.

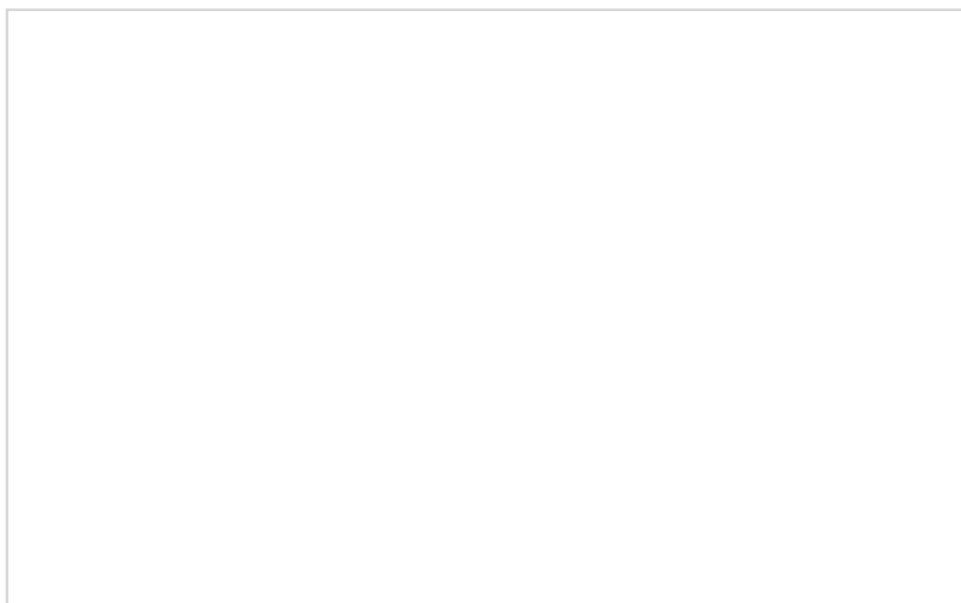
### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why should we always be ready to give? How does having a willing and ready heart increase our opportunities to give sacrificially unto the Lord?
2. This passage has often been misinterpreted as a teaching by Paul that promotes giving in order to receive something from God. Why is that not what Paul is teaching? Why is this a dangerous mindset to have as a giver? What should be our motivation behind giving?
3. Why is God more concerned with the attitude in which we give rather than the amount in which we give?
4. How does generosity produce thanksgiving to God? How did Jesus' sacrificial death result in the multiplication of thanksgiving to God?
5. How can faithful generosity multiply the affection that believers have for one another in Christ?



## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Thank Jesus for His joyful generosity in laying His life down for you.
- Examine your motivations for giving. Why do you give what you give? What is calling you to give in this season?
- Examine your obedience in giving. Is your giving done joyfully or begrudgingly?
- Continue to memorize 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

# SERMON NOTES

*The Faithfulness of the Church – Acts 7; 8:1-3; 14:8-28*





# PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER THOUGHT:

**The church's faithfulness is empowered by Jesus' faithfulness.**

The faithfulness of the church is a miracle. It is miraculous when considering the state of the disciples' lives when Jesus called them. Jesus took a diverse group of disciples with a disposition of animosity toward each other and turned them into a unified group that spread the gospel and planted churches across Asia and beyond. Their faithfulness is directly related to God's faithfulness. When threat of fracture came, Jesus kept them together. When temptations increased, Jesus kept them faithful. When disciples failed, Jesus restored them.

Remember these words written to the Hebrews as you pray this week (12:1-3):

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

There is no reason to believe that the task before us as a church or before us individually will be easy. Following Jesus in this season will require us to hear His voice, free of distraction; it will require releasing fear in order to trust God; it will require unity between brothers and a genuine appreciation for everyone's gifts; it will require self-sacrifice and generosity; and it will require faith in the promises of God's economy, even when the rewards of fruit are yet to come. Though the task will not be easy, we follow a Savior who is all-together trustworthy.

As you pray this week, look to Jesus who is the Author and Finisher of your faith. Look to Him who not only endured the cross, but also conquered it and death through His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the throne of God.

Pray for an ability to count the cost. Pray for an understanding that the rewards that await far exceed it. Pray for joy, faith, unity, and focus on Christ. Pray for an undeniable move of the Spirit among God's people at Bay Leaf. Pray that you are a part of it.

## SESSION 6 – Suffering *with* Christ

1 Peter 4:12-19

Suffering in the Christian life shouldn't be a surprise, but rather should lead us to glorify God.

**How has God worked in your life during a season of suffering?**

Following Jesus is costly. If following Jesus isn't costing you anything then you aren't living in alignment with God's will for your life. Countless times in the gospels, Jesus tells people that if they want to follow after Him there will be seasons of trials and sufferings. At the core of discipleship is the call to deny yourself and take up your cross.

The Apostle Peter writes 1 Peter to a group of exiled believers who are facing opposition and persecution. The culture was antagonistic towards followers of Jesus, similar in ways to the culture we live in today. Peter explains to them how they should live in light of Jesus' imminent return. These Christians needed to be reminded of how to press on in difficult times. Peter shows them how Jesus, the man of sorrows, perfectly modeled how to live faithfully in the midst of suffering and persecution.

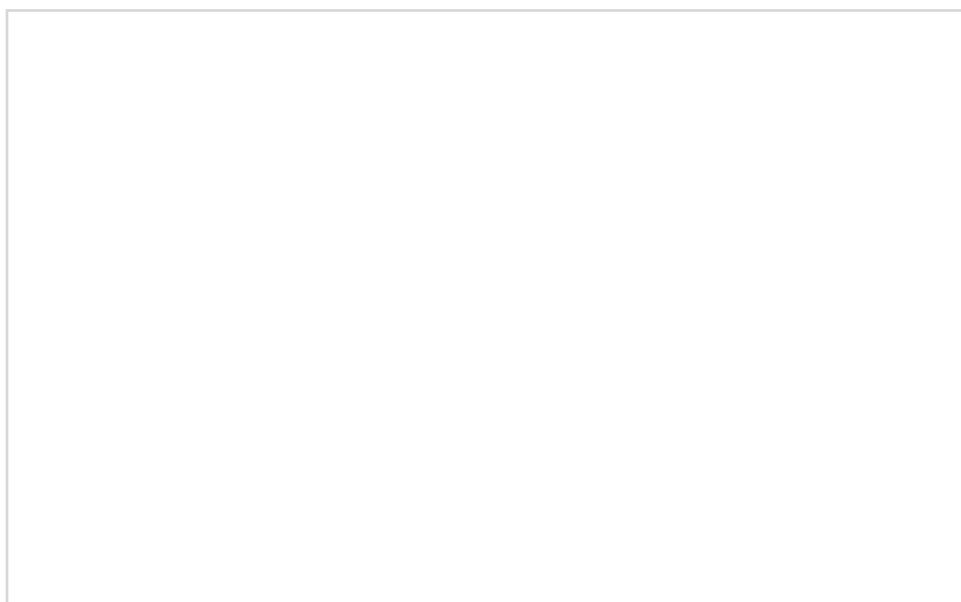
### MEMORY VERSE FOR MULTIPLY

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. – 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we experience suffering or persecution in the Christian life, why shouldn't it surprise us? Why do we feel frustrated or slighted by God when it does happen?
2. How did Christ suffer? How does His suffering help us in our seasons of suffering?
3. Why can we trust God's goodness and sovereignty even in times of difficulty?
4. What will it cost you to live boldly for Jesus in your workplace or neighborhood? What would it cost you to give generously towards the calling God has given to our church to advance His kingdom and reach families in North Raleigh?
5. Peter says that we are blessed and should see it as an honor to suffer as a Christian. Why is this mentality countercultural? How does our faithfulness in suffering bring God greater glory?



## APPLICATION FOR THIS WEEK

- Count the cost of following Jesus and live in accordance with His commands.
- Rejoice in the suffering that will come. Remember Christ's suffering for you.
- Entrust yourself to a faithful God in seasons of suffering. He will care for you.
- Recite your memory verse (2 Corinthians 9:10-11) to someone this week.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Still have questions? We understand! We want to make sure you are well informed on this amazing initiative. We also want you to participate with confidence over the next two years! For that reason, we have prepared a list of FAQs to help you navigate. Of course, our Multiply webpage is also a great resource for information and inspiration: [multiply.bayleaf.org](http://multiply.bayleaf.org).

## What are you asking me to do?

First and foremost, we are asking that you pray and seek God's leading on what He is asking of you. Prepare your heart to hear Him, and then listen to what He says. Engage in a small group or Sunday School class during this season. Engage in personal reflection with God in the Multiply guidebook you will be receiving. Talk with your group, your spouse, your family, friends, or others about what this commitment will mean for this next exciting season of your life.

We are asking that you make a commitment to gospel-driven, surrendered generosity – whatever it is that God leads you to do. Follow His leading.

Finally, prepare to be amazed. It is an awesome God whom we serve, and we anticipate He will move in huge ways as we seek an unprecedented impact from our collective Multiply commitments – something only God can do. Please mark your calendar for Commitment Sunday, November 5, and prepare to experience a life-changing worship service that will forever be remembered as a defining moment for our church and for our own faith.

## If we are committing to Multiply, how does this change my giving to missions, the general fund, and other special offerings or designated gifts?

Our Multiply Initiative utilizes a "One Fund" approach to giving where contributions fund our general budget and our future facility on Creedmoor Road. This approach allows all donors to participate in Bay Leaf's desire to grow our ministry to reach North Raleigh. Donors can continue to support mission efforts through World Missions, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong and Mission Trips. Additionally, donors may wish to designate a gift specifically to fund our future facility on Creedmoor Road.

## Are there additional ways besides cash that I can give more towards Multiply?

Be creative as you explore ways you and your family can give towards Multiply. You might have some stocks, property, or other items of that nature. Or you may have some stored resources that God has blessed you with in the past that He might be calling you to give during this time. Please let us know if you need assistance with facilitating gifts of property or stock, and we would be happy to help you. You can contact Will Warren at [wwarren@bayleaf.org](mailto:wwarren@bayleaf.org) or 919-847-4477 (ext. 224) to make a gift of this type.

## How long is my commitment?

We are asking that everyone make a two-year commitment. The fulfillment period for your commitment will begin with our “First Big Give Day” on Sunday, December 3, 2023 and it will culminate in December of 2025.

## What if I’m in a difficult financial position?

Multiply is about your total, gospel-driven generosity to God’s mission at Bay Leaf. We believe God calls us to action in times of both hardship and abundance, which look different for every person. It’s about a heart surrender – one that is only accomplished by seeking the Lord and responding to His call and His Word.

If you are between jobs at this time, you may be led by the Lord to sell some possessions, pick up odd jobs, or even to trust God in faith by making a commitment that you don’t quite know how to fulfill right now but that you believe God will provide for as you seek for ways to sacrifice and work towards that commitment.

If you are currently working to pay off debt, we commend you – and you should continue to make progress on that. We would be happy to help you in this journey and/or to recommend a budgeting class that might minister to you. However, being in debt does not make someone “excused” from giving. Giving isn’t about what God wants *from* you; rather, it’s about what God wants *for* you: it should be our joy and privilege to give at all times, regardless of the amount or percentage.

Ultimately, we would love for 100% of us to be a part of Multiply so that we can all be supporting, loving, encouraging, and praying for one another through this spiritually-stretching season at Bay Leaf.

## **What if I'm moving within the next two years or if I am uncertain about how long I'll be in Raleigh?**

The truth is that none of us know exactly what our future will hold. That's the beauty and challenge of taking steps of faith! We want to encourage you that even if you're not sure if you'll be a part of Bay Leaf for the full span of the next two years, we invite you to still commit to generosity and be a part of this life-changing endeavor God has for our church in this season. If needed, you may modify your commitment at any time. But often, people will continue to support Bay Leaf even after they've left the area – as a ministry they continue to be a part of into the future. If you happen to move out of the area, we would love for that to be your story!

## **What if I have never even given to Bay Leaf?**

Multiply was crafted specifically with you in mind. Multiply is a "One Fund" generosity initiative, meaning that it is different from a traditional capital campaign where you are called to give an extra gift above and beyond your normal giving, thus creating two steps for people who aren't yet giving. Multiply is a call to gospel-driven, obedient generosity for absolutely everyone at Bay Leaf. If you have never given before, this is your chance to get in the game with committed giving. We really hope you will.

## **What if I haven't officially joined in membership here?**

At Bay Leaf, we exist to make disciples locally and globally for the glory of God! The Multiply initiative is about the vision for our church and our personal discipleship in giving as followers of Jesus. If you have not officially joined in membership, you are still welcome to give to Multiply. We believe that the local church is one of the most compelling missions to support financially. We would also love for you to consider joining Bay Leaf through membership. If you feel like God is calling you to plant yourself at Bay Leaf, we want to help you navigate that process. To find out how that works, we invite you to sign up for a Discover Bay Leaf Membership Class or visit [bayleaf.org/membership](http://bayleaf.org/membership).

**BAY LEAF BAPTIST  
CHURCH EXISTS TO**  
*make disciples*  
**LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY**  
**FOR THE *glory* OF GOD.**

"You will be enriched in every way to be  
generous in every way, which through  
us will produce thanksgiving to God."

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:11**





BAY  LEAF

[WWW.BAYLEAF.ORG](http://WWW.BAYLEAF.ORG)

[INFO@BAYLEAF.ORG](mailto:INFO@BAYLEAF.ORG)