

GRACE TRANSFORMS

WEEK 9

MULTIPLY

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)

SERMON NOTES – MULTIPLY :: 1

TOPIC _____

SPEAKER _____ DATE _____

TESTAMENT OLD NEW SONGS/HYMNS _____

MOOD 😄 😊 😐 😞 😓 😴 _____

TODAY I AM GRATEFUL FOR _____

KEY POINTS _____ SCRIPTURES _____

NOTES _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What stuck out to you as you read this weekend's Scripture passages?

Did these verses raise any questions as you read?

Where do we see Jesus Christ in these verses?

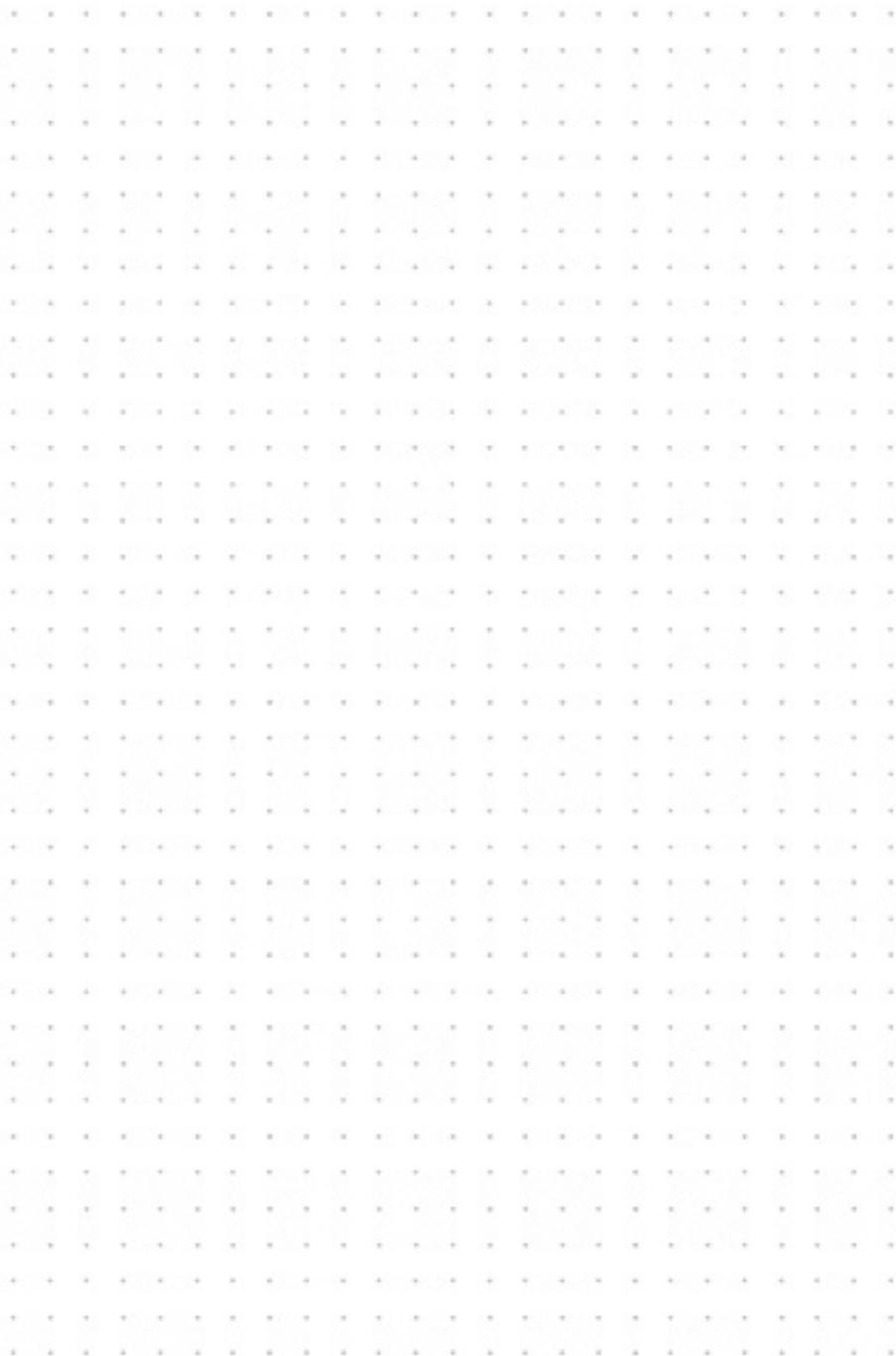
As you read this weekend's Scripture, ask yourself, "Are these verses...

1. teaching me something?"
2. telling me to stop doing something I am doing?"
3. correcting some wrong thinking or behavior?"
4. preparing me to live more effectively for him?"

Write down the name of someone who might benefit from hearing what you've seen in the Bible.

Why is this passage in this particular book of the Bible? What might the Bible lose if this passage was left out? What's the author's main point? *(Try to sum up your answer in one sentence.)*

JOURNAL



INTRODUCTION — MULTIPLY

Grace Transforms residents of earth into Citizens of Heaven who Multiply for Jesus Christ.

At Big Valley Grace Community Church we are committed to multiplying disciples. Remember where we started together:

What's the goal of Grace Transforms?

To glorify God through exponential discipleship.

In fact, Big Valley Grace Community Church was started because many years ago believers in Downtown Modesto were committed to multiplying disciples and decided to plant a church to reach North Stanislaus County. Over the years, many disciples have been multiplied and sent out from Big Valley Grace Community Church and a few new churches have been planted. In 2019, our Ceres Campus was launched to reach South Stanislaus County, and in 2020, our Online Campus was launched to reach what I like to call our "Virtual County." At the time of this writing, we are asking God to provide for us to be able to launch a future campus north of Stanislaus County in the next 3-5 years.

Our Campuses are corporate locations where the Body of Christ gathers in larger groups to worship, serve, reach, connect, and grow. We want to leverage our campuses to commission our members to be sent out into their neighborhoods, communities, and world to reach people for Jesus Christ. During Paul's ministry in Ephesus we see an example of exponential discipleship for us to follow.

"This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." Acts 19:10 (ESV)

NEXT STEP :: *Disciples, making disciples, making...Share your story of how grace is transforming you to multiply for Jesus Christ.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 41 — MULTIPLY

Pass The Rock

2 Timothy 2:1-2

I love basketball, and when I was just a youth, it was almost all I lived and breathed. While I wasn't the best shot, I could pass with finesse and precision. Sometimes we would say, "Pass the rock!" Whether it be bounce, lob, or the occasional showboat, the object was always to get points on the board by getting the ball into the right teammate's hands at just the right time to make sure the ball went up and through the bottom of the net.

Precision passing takes practice, diligence, determination, focus, and various other factors that must be developed. Passing the "truths" of Jesus Christ onto others must be approached in the same way as athletic talent development. Practice sharing your faith, learn good communication skills, be diligent to watch how others share theirs, and study your audience. Furthermore, don't just have an intellectual knowledge of the "truths," but share how these truths have practically impacted your life!

At Youth for Christ, we train our team to know 3 Story. This is a model of passing on faith that requires knowing God's story, learning about others' stories, and finding the connection points between those two and our story. Remember to always keep it simple: know God's Word, love Jesus, find relevant connection points with others, and then share what you have learned and experienced. Then, watch Jesus multiply your faithfulness! Jesus is our rock, our firm foundation... "Pass the rock!"

NEXT STEP :: *Father in heaven, help me to "pass the Rock!" Give me ears to hear others stories, a clear mind to find the connection, and boldness to share to good news of Jesus Christ! Use me today to be one more connection of Your grace in someone else's life!*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 42 — MULTIPLY

Sometimes Peaceful Is Nice

Acts 9:19b-31

Saul had been “breathing threats and murder against the Church.” By verse 31, Saul has received Jesus as Lord and the churches are at peace.

Peace is enjoyable, giving us a break from pressure and stress, a chance to relax and think. During peaceful times it is important that we not become lazy. So, this verse also mentions some positive things that peace brings.

Christians were edified. Edification is employed two ways in the New Testament. First comes personal edification with time for personal and corporate study. Although there was no New Testament yet, the apostles and other teachers helped new believers understand and live their faith more fully. Furthermore, many were Jewish converts whose faith was tempered by an understanding of the Old Testament. When we have times of peace, it is a good idea to put ourselves in a place where we can be edified—both in private study of the Word and corporate worship and study. This will help us to walk in the fear of the Lord. They were not afraid of God, but they were worshipping and regarding God as truly awesome, as the creator and sustainer of the universe and Father of their newfound Lord Jesus under the guidance and comfort of His Holy Spirit. As a result, the third effect was numerical growth, probably because believers were sharing their faith with others.

NEXT STEP :: *God give us peaceful times to grow our faith. Keep us sharp, thinking about You, Your Word and Your love and grace active in our lives, Amen.*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 43 – MULTIPLY

Proclaiming Christ

Philippians 1:12-20

The Lord used the letter to the Philippians in a significant way in my life when I was a freshman in college. It was the first letter from the Apostle Paul that I read as a personal letter written to me. Try it. Start with verse 1 and read the letter out loud inserting your name and the personal pronouns referring directly to your life.

As it relates to this particular section of scripture, fill in the following blanks as though you were writing to your own family:

“Now I, [**your name**], want you [**name of friend to whom you are writing**] to know that my circumstances (**my** _____ **and my** _____) have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that in my _____ , the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the entire _____ and to everyone else, and that most of those around me are trusting in the Lord because of my _____ and _____ and they have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear...Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this _____ will turn out for my deliverance, through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, and it is my earnest expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in anything and in these circumstances [**list them**], but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body and my _____ !”

Our perspective of the circumstances of our life change when we realize that we belong first to the Lord, and He is writing our life’s story for His glory and exaltation. The Lord has a wonderful eternal kingdom purpose in the places we work, where we live, in our friendships, and even in our illnesses. All these things, in the hands of God, are momentary light afflictions producing in us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

NEXT STEP :: *Thank You, Lord, that nothing in my life is wasted when I turn my life over to You!*

Contributed by Lonnie Skiles, Pastor of Next Steps

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 44 — MULTIPLY

Parable Of The Sower

Luke 8:4-15 / Matthew 13:2-23 / Mark 4:1-20

Good soil is clean, cultivated and clings to the seed.

I'm what you would call an enthusiastic gardener. I get excited and enthusiastic about my garden goals when I'm picking out plants. However, when I bring the plants home, I quickly get distracted and my once thriving plants die a neglected death.

Last year was different. The pumpkin seeds we planted in the early spring started to sprout. Healthy, green vines took over our garden. When October came around, we had plenty of jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. This year I planted my pumpkin seeds again with anticipation of a banner pumpkin crop. Right on cue, they began to grow, but then mysteriously stopped growing. The vines then turned brown until they were lifeless. After talking with a gardener friend, I discovered the culprit: bad soil.

Jesus had something to say about bad soil. Bad soil is useless and cannot nurture growth. Jesus used soil and seeds as metaphors describing our heart and His Word. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus described four different types of soil: too hard, too rocky, too thorny. All are bad soils. Then He described the good soil which "yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown" (Luke 8:8). Jesus explained to the disciples what this parable meant. He said, "...the good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, ..." (Luke 8:15a). Here is the thing: we cannot keep our hearts clean and cultivated on our own. Instead, cultivation comes from the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26)

NEXT STEP :: *Prayerfully read Luke 8:4-15. Afterwards, read Psalm 51 and humbly pray the words of King David, "Create in me a clean heart, oh God."*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 45 — MULTIPLY

Wandering Feet

Colossians 1:6

During a 2014 short-term mission visit to South Africa, identical twin brothers wander into an after-school clubhouse for neighborhood children. The clubhouse was a haven to hang out and get one guaranteed meal. The twins had ragged clothes too small for their lanky bodies and no shoes for their callused feet. Even with their hard-case life, they exuded contagious joy and happiness every day.

One morning the brothers found a pair of fuzzy pink slippers on the way to the clubhouse and wore them inside the yard. The moment created a unique visual as they each ran past with one foot bare and the other with a slipper. The experience was heartbreakingly memorable.

In the Bible, numerous accounts of unnamed people make notable impact. God knew their name and He inspired the writers of the Bible to record their encounters. These unknown heroes galvanized people around them and catapulted movements for the kingdom. In the Old Testament, for instance, it was Hebrew slaves in Egypt and workers building the Tabernacle. In the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts, the nameless historical figures can easily be overlooked, but their impact as believers have been foundational, powerful, and impressionable.

The twins' contentment to simply appreciate the little victories, such as sharing a pair of fuzzy pink slippers, created a spark to initiate a community event called Kicks 4 Kids which helps disadvantaged youth get new school shoes in our own community. The many unnamed heroes of present day, and the past, continue to demonstrate the gift of grace. These fleeting moments in time can provide an imprint on the heart and a life lesson for transforming the soul.

NEXT STEP :: *Lord, take my life and let it be a beautiful fragrance in someone else's life today!*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____
