

# ***Group Multiplication***

Mike Barnhart | April 2013

## **What is group multiplication?**

Life groups at Gateway are called to fulfill the mission of the church: Connect people to Jesus Christ and to one another. This is just another way of stating the Great Commission found in Scripture. This mission to make disciples drives the concept of group multiplication at Gateway.

Life groups multiply by one individual or couple exiting their current group and starting a new group. This individual or couple could be a current leader or group member. Either way, the idea is that each life group would “send” or commission an individual or couple to step out and act like a missionary by starting a new group every two years.

## **When should our group multiply?**

Life groups have and will continue to face the tension between growing as a group vs. multiplying the group. This tension has existed from the beginning of Christian discipleship due to the nature of the Great Commission. God’s mission involves growing people and then sending them out. Some groups may be ready to multiply every 1-2 years, other groups may multiply every 2-3 years, and some may take longer. Regardless, set a goal to try to send an individual or couple from your group to start a new one every two years. Fulfilling this goal will depend on the dynamics of each group.

## **What can I do to work towards multiplying my group?**

As leaders and coaches, you should constantly be praying about who in your group exhibits group leader characteristics. Look for people who are “shepherds” or care-takers. You can discover these characteristics in your group members by delegating leadership tasks to them, such as prayer, social activities, service projects, and administrative responsibilities; you can even ask them to facilitate a study once or twice. When you identify a potential future leader, tell your coach and/or the director.

## **How is a new leader selected?**

Ultimately, the Life Group Director selects new leaders for groups. However, leaders and coaches play an important role because the director will ask leaders and coaches for recommendations. Those who are asked to consider leadership will be given a ministry description and application.

## **How will our group make the leadership transition?**

Each group is different. Some leadership transitions will seem quick, others may be gradual. However, your coaches and the director will walk your group through its transition.

## **Final Thoughts...**

Sending an individual or couple out to start a new group is like a church sending a family into the mission field as missionaries. It can be challenging, but it is something worth celebrating because our groups are growing and we get to be part of fulfilling the Great Commission.