

# MULTIPLY

Change Church

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Published by Change Church Publications  
a division of Change Church, Inc.  
3080 Premiere Pkwy, Duluth, GA 30097  
www.lifechange.org

Printed in the United States of America 2023 - 1st Edition

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publications Data  
Multiply/Change Church

ISBN; 9798377791690

1. Change 2. Church

2023

Lent parallels the 40-day fast that Jesus undergoes in Mark 1:13, Matthew 4:1–11, and Luke 4:1–13. The “celebration” begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. Lent is a time dedicated to implementing spiritual disciplines that draw us closer to God. It is important to note that Lent is a spiritual exercise and should not be confused with a time of achieving a goal not related to your spiritual growth. In other words, don’t conflate fasting from sweets because you want to lose weight with fasting from sweets because it is a sacrifice. The idea is that you are giving up something important to focus on getting closer to God. What you fast from is between you and God. I once fasted from watching TV; others fasted from posting and reading posts on social media. Use the time you would typically participate in the event you are fasting from to pray, read the Bible, or read the Lent devotional for the day. Don’t forget it’s all about drawing closer to God so that we can appreciate the sanctity of Christ’s sacrifice for us when we celebrate Easter. Wow!

Father, I thank you for the ultimate sacrifice. Help me remember that nothing I give up will ever equate to what you gave up, and for that, you deserve the highest praise. Hallelujah!



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# LENT DEVOTIONAL INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2023 Lent Devotional. We're glad to be on this journey with you. This year, the theme of the Lent devotional is "multiply," and all of the entries will speak to the many ways that God multiplies us- personally, spiritually, relationally, financially, and vocationally. Before we begin, I want to make you aware that you will not always see the word multiply in each entry, but you will see a word that means multiply. Here is a list of synonyms for multiply: increase, build up, generate, add to, enlarge, strengthen, extend, maximize, and more. So, before you go through the devotional, grab a notebook or notepad, or open the Notes app on your phone and jot down the area(s) in your life where you need to multiply. As you read each entry, jot down the scripture(s) that speak to you and align to the area where you need to multiply. Write the revelations the Holy Spirit shares with you about how to go about multiplying in your life. Remember that multiplication is not just about money; it's also about taking inventory of what God has given you ownership of and multiplying it. I think about multiplying my gifts and natural abilities to contribute more to my family, church, and community. Where do you need to multiply?





———— DAY 1 ————

## **MULTIPLY IN THE PROCESS**

**Job 8:7 (NIV)**...*Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.*

In Job 8:7, Job has lost his livelihood, all his children and now is suffering physically. His friends endeavor to comfort him and offer explanations to help. Today's verse is part of the argument delivered by Job's friend Bildad. After hearing Job's perspective, Bildad calls Job a windbag. He asserts if Job were pure and upright, God would answer. Then Bildad states today's verse – Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be (Job 8:7 NIV). Wow, what comfort from a friend when you're down???

Bildad assumes that his perspective of Job's circumstances is complete. He has no knowledge of activities at play in the spiritual realm. Today's text reveals a profound inaccuracy of Bildad that hides in the truth of his statement. Let's look at the NKJV for verse 7 - *Though your beginning was small, your latter end would increase abundantly.* This principle is found throughout scripture. Both Old and New Testaments declare and

provide examples of small things - seeds, people groups, movements, etc. - growing into great things. The “end” is the key. Small beginning to a great end. Bildad’s statement is true. However, Bildad is wrong to conclude that Job’s current state is Job’s “end.” Bildad assumes this snapshot is Job’s result and not Job’s process.

There may be times when we are in the place of Job where people see our current state and make judgments asserting that’s how our story ends. Sometimes we may act like Bildad and self-righteously judge someone without knowledge of all the facts. Sometimes we misinterpret our own seasons, thinking this is the end instead of part of the process. In any case, let’s remember that the beginning of great things often starts small. Trust the process.

### **PRAYER**

*Lord, we ask you to put a guard over our tongue so that, like Job, we will not let circumstances push us to speak contrary to the knowledge of Jesus. Keep us from misjudging ourselves and others. Holy Spirit sustain us to go through and complete the process. In Jesus’ Name... Amen.*

———— DAY 2 ————

# **MULTIPLY YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

**1 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)**...*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.*

If you have seen a band or orchestra perform, you may have noticed bands are made up of various sections. Many parts are played in the string, brass, woodwinds, and percussion sections. Each part contributes to the section as each section contributes to the overall sound. The overall sound is under the direction of the conductor, who blends the different sounds to convey the beauty of a musical selection. This idea of parts coming together to produce an increase is found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It reads, "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Eph 4:16 NKJV). Note the phrases "every joint supplies" and "every part does its share." This idea also presents itself in today's text.

Paul addresses the divisions and factions present in the church at Corinth. He reminds the church that carnal thinking produces factions and competition where there should be unity. Paul points out that even though we have separate roles and functions, we are all under the direction of God. In other words, we are in the same band playing the same song – we are on the same team! Like the musician in the orchestra, God has gifted and prepared us to play our specific part in His masterpiece. Paul conveys, I did my part in planting, Apollos did his part in watering, but the increase can only come as God does His part.

What an awesome privilege to be invited by God to participate in His plans and purposes. Let's celebrate our distinct and unique functions. Let's praise God as He multiplies our efforts to increase.

### **PRAYER**

*Praise you Lord that you have chosen us to be in your plans and purposes. Help us to use our gifts and talents for your glory. We don't want to compete with our brothers and sisters, but we all want to complete and appropriately represent the body of Christ. Amen!*

———— DAY 3 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR HOPE**

**Jeremiah 23:3 (NIV)**...*I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.*

Here's the picture. A nation, God's people, has turned away from Him. Despite God's warnings rendered by Jeremiah the prophet, so they are sent into exile. In the opening verses of chapter 23, we find that the Lord calls out the Shepherds of that time. The Lord is holding these Shepherds accountable for his people's dispersion. The Lord cites their lack of care for the flock as the reason for His displeasure.

It is in this context of darkness, despair, and hopelessness that the Lord declares today's verse – "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number."

When experiencing a dark and hopeless season, we can apply our faith to three things in this verse. 1) “*I myself*” – the Lord himself, will gather the lost flock. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always seeks the lost. He is always calling and tending to His sheep (John 10:1-18). He will personally see to our care. 2) “*will bring them back to their pasture*” – the Lord will bring them back to **their** pasture. The place ordained for them—their “grace” place. King David said the Lord his Shepherd would lead him to green pastures and quiet waters (Psalm 23:2). 3) *they will be fruitful and increase* – as a result of being cared for by Jesus the Good Shepherd, we experience fruitfulness and increase. We have the potential to bear fruit even in challenging seasons. Jeremiah affirms that those who trust in the Lord will be like a tree planted by the water; its leaves are always green and never fails to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:8).”

### PRAYER

*Lord, thank you for being my Shepherd. You personally see that I have everything I need. You lead my life to the ordained place specially made for me. Therefore, I thank you for being fruitful in all you've called me to be and to do.*

———— DAY 4 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR WISDOM**

**Ecclesiastes 10:12-14...***Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming—who can tell someone else what will happen after them?"*

The book of Ecclesiastes, one of the books called *Wisdom Literature*, is written to us as guidance for how to live practically. It is one of those books in the Bible where the language is so poetic one can be fooled into thinking that it is all to make us feel good. However, on closer reading, one will receive great wisdom and guidance from these teachings. Take, for example, Chapter 10, Verses 12-14. The writer begins by telling us that the words from the wise are gracious, and then it turns, “but fools are consumed by their own lips...and multiply their words.” Are you wise in your speech? Do you speak too much? Do you take time to listen in a conversation, or do you only wait to make a point? James 1:19 reminds us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

There is a direct correlation between your listening and your response to what you hear. Use your words wisely, and you won't be considered a fool.

Pastor Daniels says that if we want to be like Jesus in public, we need to be like Jesus in private. Jesus's listening skills were so sharp he would hear what was not said. God heard Jeremiah say that he was too young for his assignment (Jer. 1:6). Still, God spoke to the fear that was behind Jeremiah's words (1:17). There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus hearing what was not said, making people whole, instead of just healing a body part. He had to be a good listener for that to happen. This scripture teaches us to use our words wisely- talk less. How do you use your words?

### **PRAYER**

*Lord, thank you for giving us instructions on how to live a life that is pleasing to you. Father, help me to communicate with grace and wisdom. Show me how to be encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring so it can multiply in someone else's life. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 5 ————

## **MULTIPLY WHERE YOU ARE**

**Genesis 1:28 (NIV)**...*God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

Genesis 1:28 was a directive given at the end of the sixth day of creation after God had created everything. Everything. In other words, God created the conditions under which multiplication was not only probable; it was possible - before he created man. What does that mean to you? To me, it means that in his role as the creator of the universe; God gave me everything I need to be successful- to be fruitful and multiply. Both the conditions and resources you and I need to accomplish purpose have already been given to us, so, if you are looking around and it doesn't look like you have what it you need, I'ma need you to do what Pastor said in his New Year's Day sermon - I'ma need you to "*Flip it!*" You heard me! Stop focusing on lack, and begin to focus on your God, who is able to do (Eph. 3:20) exceedingly, abundantly, above all you can

ask or imagine.” Remember what Pastor told us, “You get the life you decide, not the life you deserve.” Listen, I get it. Some pretty hurtful things have happened to you, but your circumstances have not, and will not change your God. So, get up! Take an assessment of what is going on in your life, then pray and ask God to show you where to begin harvesting fruit. The table is set, the conditions are right, and the time is now, *“be fruitful and multiply.”*

### **PRAYER**

*Father, thank you for loving me, for making me, for creating the conditions for me to be successful. Lord, open my eyes so that I can see clearly where you have called me to be fruitful and multiply. In Jesus' Name... Amen.*

———— DAY 6 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR SUBMISSION**

**John 3:30 (NIV)**...*He must become greater, I must become less.*”

Lent, the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, is often a time of reflection, sacrifice, and intention for many believers. However, the reverence of Lent can also be lost in new year resolutions, when the spiritual takes a back seat to the cultural- and weight loss becomes more important than scripture reading and fasting. When this happens our good intentions to meaningfully participate in Lent slowly fades like our attendance at the gym.

The scriptures in John 3:27-30 are significant because they show the moment John the Baptist realizes that the Messiah has arrived. John's work was done. He had successfully prepared people for the coming of the Messiah, so now, he had to “*become less.*” Just as John submitted to Jesus, we must submit by surrendering our own desires and goals and assume God's, which begins with salvation. The awesome thing about salvation is that when you accept Christ the Holy Spirit comes into your life and increases your capacity to be used by God.

John the Baptist gets it. He recognized that he had to diminish to make way for Christ. Today, I challenge you to leave yourself at the end of this entry. Leave your calendar, and your expectations, and allow God to multiply your gifts for his use.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, we praise and honor you for your unfailing love and constant reminders. Your Word continues to show us that you want to use us to advance your work. We now surrender our worry, anxiety, stress, and concerns to you. We leave our burdens at your feet and pick up your joy, peace, and comfort. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 7 ————

## **MULTIPLY HIS WORD**

**Matthew 3:7-8 (NIV)**...*Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*

The first few verses of Matthew 13 share the Parable of the Sower, it is the story of a man who plants seeds that fall on different types of soil. The story is not so much about the seed as it is the impact soil has on the seed. Some seed were scorched by the sun, some withered, some appeared to take root but then died, some fell among thorns that choked the plants around them, but some actually fell on good soil and produced a crop. Seed in this parable is the Word of God. When the disciples asked Jesus what the parable meant he explained in Matthew 13:18-23, how hearing and holding onto the Word of God impacts our lives. Here is what happens when we hear the Word: 1. The enemy snatches it away 2. Trouble causes the person who does not have a firm foundation to “fall away” 3. The worries of life and deceitfulness of wealth overshadows the Word. 4. Multiplication - exponential growth for the

person who hears and understands the Word. In fact, the growth is so significant, it is more than “what was sowed.” What’s the point? The Word of God has the power to change your life. In Pathway to Purpose Pastor shares that, “When we get better spiritually, everything gets better!” and this scripture is proof. So, implement the God first lifestyle. Devote yourself to the study of the Word, praying fasting, and memorizing scripture because these practices will ensure that the Word is so firmly rooted in you, nothing the enemy or life throws at you will shake your foundation in God. Nothing will stop you from multiplying.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, help me to remember that your Word changes everything. Everything. In Jesus’ Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 8 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR FAITH**

**1 Kings 17:14 (NIV)**...*For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”*

In 1 Kings 17 we read the story of the widow of Zarephath who was preparing to eat her last meal when Elijah entered her life. What the woman did not know, and this is so true in our lives as well, God will supply all your needs, and he will use a stranger to do so. After a brief conversation, where Elijah asks her to make a small loaf of bread for him, at the same time that he says, “the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land”” the woman experiences multiplication. Here’s the lesson about multiplication - God can bless even the little you have left. This woman had no idea that Elijah was coming to her house, no idea God was about to answer her prayer, no way to know if the prophet’s words were even going to work, but she had faith. There is something to be said for faith, especially when it’s all you

have left. I hear Pastor saying, “I’m not gonna bother that but have you thought about how many of the miracles that Jesus performed involved bread?” God knows what you need when you need it, and he can multiply even when you don’t see where it’s coming from. Yes, this is the year to multiply, but don’t limit God to multiplying what you can see, watch him work in the areas where and when you least expect it. Faith is the currency of the Kingdom; it is so vital that you need it to be saved (Ephesians 2:8-9), and you can’t please God without it (Hebrews 11:6). One preacher defines faith as acting like God is telling the truth all the time about everything. As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, let’s ask God to increase our faith so that we see him clearly.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, increase my faith! Help me to see that you are a supplier of my needs. You are my Jehovah Jireh. In Jesus’ Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 9 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR LEGACY**

**Genesis 22:17 (ESV)**...*I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies...*

This scripture shares with us an angel of the Lord speaking to Abraham after Abraham demonstrated to the Lord that he was willing to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, on the altar. An Angel of the Lord came to Abraham and released Abraham from making his son a sacrifice and in Genesis 22:17 a promise of multiplying was made to Abraham.

Genesis 22 begins with Abraham being confronted with a pivotal directive from the Lord, which radically tests his obedience. After witnessing Abraham's willingness and intention to sacrifice his only son, the Lord stops Isaac's death and speaks a promise of multiplication over Abraham instead. Rather than eliminating the heir to his family's heritage, the Lord blesses Abraham with the gift of a great legacy. Because of Abraham's obedience to, deference to, and love for the Lord, God vows to honor and expand Abraham's lineage.

God does not stop there. He goes on to assure Abraham that the enemy of his descendants has no power. Long before the Lord declared, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper...” in Isaiah 54:17 (KJV), the Lord spoke similar words to Abraham. God also reassured Abraham that the increase he would experience would be fruitful and exponential. God’s reasoning for this magnitude of favor rested solely on the faithfulness of Abraham. Because Abraham trusted the Lord without question or hesitation, the Lord saw fit to ensure, solidify, and magnify Abraham’s future.

What are you unwilling to sacrifice to ensure, solidify, and magnify your future? What is God directing you to release that you are resisting? What would your future look like if you simply walked in obedience? Trust in the Lord today. Bring Him your most precious sacrifice. Be willing to lay it on the altar. Then, watch how the Lord will multiply your resources, your territory, and your legacy!

### **PRAYER**

*Father, I surrender all to you. I lay down all my doubts, fears, worries, and concerns and ask you to increase within me the faith, perseverance, joy, peace, and all things that will elevate me closer to you. In Jesus’ Name...Amen.*

## **MULTIPLY YOUR PERSISTENCE**

**Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)**...*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' " "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" "And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

Luke 18:1-8 shares the parable of a widow who went to the king in the region where she lived, begging him to intervene in a difficult issue she was experiencing. According to the king, "even though I don't fear God

or care what people think, because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice.” Jesus used this parable to teach his disciples to be persistent in prayer. What fight did you quit because you thought you wouldn’t win? Well...you need to get back in the ring because there’s never a good time to quit. Ephesians 6:18 tells us to, “Stay alert and be persistent in prayer.” Do you have a prayer request that has not been answered? How long has it been? Does it feel like the Abraham-Sarah promise of a child that took so long to happen, you gave up and decided to do it yourself? As I write this, I can think of several prayers that have taken so long to be answered, I stopped praying for that thing. Then there are the prayers that I have been asking for years. Here’s the amazing thing about God, I can honestly say he has answered every prayer. My friends don’t give up! Yes, it’s taking a long time, and yes, it feels like it’s never going to happen, but, be encouraged, God is still in the business of answering prayers, and just like the king who got tired of the widow woman bothering him and intervened on her behalf, he will intervene on for you.

## **PRAYER**

*God, my Father, give me the strength to get back in ring. Give me the stamina to be persistent in prayer, knowing that if a wicked king gives us reprieve, you will also. In Jesus’ Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 11 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR FAITHFULNESS**

**Isaiah 51:2 (KJV)**...*Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you. For I called him alone and blessed him and increased him.*

In today's scripture Isaiah, a prophet, brings words of comfort to the nation of Judah. This faithful remnant may have felt alone because they were few. But God reminded them of their ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, the source of their spiritual heritage. Abraham was one person, but much came from his faithfulness.

Imagine wanting to have children only to be disappointed after years of trying. Now picture going to God in prayer with all your disappointment and hurt, only to have Him respond with the most unlikely solution. God announces you will be the mother and Father of nations in a season when you are too old to have children. This dilemma is what Abraham and Sarah experienced. Isaiah is shining a light on Abraham and Sarah to remind Judah that God's promise to bless and increase their ancestors is

also true for us. God can take one person's faith to bless and multiply a nation he did it with Abraham and Sarah: Judah's forefathers.

In the Bible, God used the word fruitful to describe increase. It is used sixteen times in Genesis alone. As chosen children of God, being fruitful is an important aspect of who we are, and what we are to be. Abraham and Sarah, one woman and one man, were faithful and obedient, and they became the parents of a nation. Let this be your reminder that you are chosen and blessed, and because you are blessed, you are to be a blessing, aka fruitful.

### **PRAYER**

*Lord, we humbly come to you to express our gratitude for being chosen to be a part of your plan to be fruitful and multiply. Thank you for blessing me, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen me to remember that I am to be a blessing to others. I pray that my experiences on this earth will empower someone to grow so they can help others grow. Lord, thank you for hearing and receiving my prayer in Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 12 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR PATIENCE**

**Genesis 16:10 (KJV)**...*Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.”*

I’m sure that the last thing Hagar expected to hear from the angel when he stopped her attempt to flee from Sarai was, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her...” There are things that we do in life that we think will automatically disqualify us from God’s favor. And they don’t. They may displease him, and we will face consequences as a result of our actions, but God will not abandon us. Abram and Sarai decided to help God fulfill his plan for their lives. I’ve tried that too, and just like it was a bust for the father of our faith and his wife, it was a bust for me. Trust me, God does not and will not work on your schedule so you may as well surrender to his timetable. Some of us were impatient children and to our detriment we have grown into impatient adults. In Genesis 15 God promised Abram a heir, a son who would be his “own flesh and blood” but because God was taking

too long (as he often does) to fulfill that promise, Sarai produced a plan to make sure Abram had that son- that's how Hagar, Sarai's servant got involved. Our impatience can cause us to hurt others and ourselves. However, thank God for grace and mercy. The birth of Hagar's son, Ishmael was followed by the birth of Sarai's son Isaac, and conflict arose between the two women. Consequences of impatience. Hagar ran away from Sarai's home and the angel met her in the desert. Again, thank God for grace and mercy. The Lord heard Hagar's cries, comforted her, told her that her descendants would multiply, AND sent her back home. Sometimes God does not give us all of the information we think we need to follow His plan, but that does not mean he has changed his mind. Just in case you haven't figured it out yet, you need patience when you serve a God to whom, "a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8).

### **PRAYER**

*Father, in this season I pray for the gifts of trust and patience. I pray that when I become impatient, you will show me the same grace that you displayed to Hagar, Abram, and Sarai. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 13 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR REFLECTION TIME**

**Joshua 24:3**...*And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.*

On January 10, 2017, an estimated twenty-four million people viewed the Farewell Address by the 44th President, Barack Obama. Regardless of political posture, this was one of the most anticipated presidential speeches because it came on the heels of a historic presidency—Barack Obama was America’s first Black president. A farewell address marks the transition from one leader to another; memorable final addresses invoke reflection and inspiration.

Biblical leaders used farewell messages to prepare the next generation. In the text, Joshua delivers a compelling farewell address that outlines God’s faithfulness through generations. From delivering the Hebrews out of Egypt to making them victors in battle, Joshua tells how God kept the promises he made to Abraham’s descendants in

Genesis 17: 3-8, to give them land, make them a great nation, and bless them. God promised that Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky, starting with Isaac's birth. A seemingly small promise of one child multiplied into a Nation. I imagine that as Abraham's descendants faced challenges over the years, they doubted this promise. We may feel the same when the time between God's promise to us and its fulfillment lingers.

But, as Joshua did, we must encourage ourselves, remembering the times when God delivered and protected us from our enemies and was faithful even when we were not. As we reflect during Lent on the greatest promise of Jesus's death and resurrection that reunites us with the Father, we must believe that our God is a promise keeper. God never waivers, and neither should we. Stand on the promises of God and see the salvation of the Lord!

### **PRAYER**

*Father God, thank you for providing us with your word that encourages us and reminds us of how you brought our forefathers through every battle, and you will do the same for us. When we doubt your faithfulness, remind us of the times you came through, protected, delivered, healed, and loved us. Your faithfulness amazes us! Thank you, God! in Jesus' Name. Amen*

———— DAY 14 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR COMMITMENT TO OBEDIENCE**

**Genesis 17:20**...*And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.*

The Bible is full of God's promises to his children, and many have implications for generations. Right now, we are living the promises made to our forefathers! Genesis, Chapter 17 includes one of those promises. God promised Abraham that He would make his descendants into a great nation as numerous as the stars in the sky. That's a lot! Have you tried to count the stars? It's impossible! This promise appeared threatened when Abraham and his wife, Sarah, became impatient and took matters in their own hands after waiting years to conceive. Sarah gave her servant, Hagar, to Abraham to bear a son. Hagar gave birth to Ishmael. Ishmael was not the promised son. This should have forfeited the promise, right? Surely God was not going to keep his promise after Abraham and Sarah's

disobedience. Well, if God were like us, no He would not. Thankfully, God is not like us. Genesis 17:7-8 proclaims that God's promise to Abraham was permanent, "I will give the land where you are residing...a permanent possession."

In our text, God extends this promise to Ishmael. God promises to bless Ishmael and make him fruitful. Ishmael will be the father of twelve rulers, a great nation. Ishmael's birth was a detour in God's plans for Abraham, but the path remained. God's promises are covenants. A permanent agreement, not dependent on human effort or success. God's covenants extend beyond our ability to keep our end of the deal. When we fail and fear we have forfeited God's promise, reflect on God's covenant with Abraham. God's a covenant maker and promise keeper. AMEN!

### PRAYER

*Father God, we believe you. We trust you to keep your promises to us. When we are temperamental and fickle, you remain the same. Your promises are Yes and Amen! Help us to remember that if you said it, it will be. We ask for forgiveness for the times we doubted and disobeyed you. Thank you for being a covenant-keeping Father! In Jesus' Name...Amen!*

———— DAY 15 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR GIFTS**

**Matthew 25:29** (NIV)...*For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.*

Matthew twenty-five shares a few of the parables that Jesus used when teaching; this one, the Parable of the of The Bags of Gold, begins in verse fourteen and likens the Kingdom of God to a master who before he goes away leaves his wealth to his servants. One servant is given five bags, another two, and the third servant one bag of gold- each according to his ability. We don't know what ability each servant had, but we know that they had some ability, and the amount of gold they had was based on that ability. We also know that the master left no instructions on what to do with the gold. By the time the master came back both the servant with two bags and the servant with five bags had doubled their bags of fold. If you know the story, you know that the servant who only received one bag of gold buried it so that he could give the master "what belongs to you." Of course, that servant had not increased his holdings, so the master took his bag

of gold and gave it to the servant who now had ten. Here's my revelation from this scripture. The servants knew their master, so they invested the gold based on their revelation of who the master is- a servant who looks at his gift as a sign that the master trusts him, will invest his gift wisely. The servant who sees the master as hard, and ruthless, buries his bag of gold. He is so fearful of the master he can't think about doing something profitable for the master. Question, "Are you investing your gifts?" Notice that the servants worked to multiply the gold for the master, who rewarded them with both the original bags of gold, the ones they added, promotion and happiness (v.23)! Another revelation - your multiplication is in your hands! "As you think about what it means to multiply, consider how to multiply the gifts and talents that God has given you- which are to be used to build up the church (1 Corinthians 12:7). Your gifts, even if you only have one, is a sign that God trusts you. Furthermore, when you use the one, it will increase, and you will reap the benefits.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, throughout the scriptures you have consistently instructed your children to trust you. To surrender to you so that you can use our gifts for the purpose you intended. Help us to remember, Lord, that you gave us these gifts, and because you gave them to us, and you want them used in the way you direct us. Help us to surrender so that you can be glorified. In Jesus Name...Amen*

———— DAY 16 ————

## **MULTIPLY THE “LITTLE” YOU HAVE**

**2 Kings 4:7 (NIV)**...*She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”*

When you get the chance read 2 Kings 4:1-7. It is the story of a widow whose story epitomizes our theme of multiply. Because her husband had been a prophet like Elisha, she went to him for assistance in managing the debt collectors who were about to take her sons. After she explains her dilemma to Elisha, he asks, “What’s in your house?” Her response was, “Just a small bottle of olive oil.” After directing her to get jars from all of her neighbors he said, *“Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”*

Once again, we read a story of God multiplying a little and making it a lot. The little bit of oil the woman had become enough to pay all of her debts and secured her retirement. When our focus is on the physical it blinds us

from what God is doing in the supernatural. This woman whose husband once spoke for God, had God show up and speak for her. In his New Year's Eve sermon, Pastor reminded us that, "You can't out give God." Who knows how faithful that woman's husband was to the Lord? Was this miracle his payback for serving? We don't know. What we do know is that God multiplied that widow's last dime, and she no longer has to worry about her bills. Who doesn't want that kind of multiplication? These stories always make me think of God in the role of a parent. He loves us so much that he makes sure we lack "no good thing." (Psalm 34:10) David says he has never seen the righteous forsaken or this seed begging bread (Psalm 37:25). My friends, your God will show up for you.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, thank you. Thank you for caring about us so much that you turn our little into something. In Jesus Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 17 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR SUBMISSION TO GOD**

**Deuteronomy 1:11 (NIV)**...*May the Lord, the God of your ancestors, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised!*

Picture this: You're cleaning out the attic of your grandparents' home, and underneath a pile of dusty items lays a box. You open it and discover documents that your great, great grandparents left your family. It's an incredible inheritance! How would you feel?

In Deuteronomy, we see God fulfilling the promise He made generations earlier to Abraham. God promised to increase the population of Abraham's descendants to be more numerous than the stars in the sky. In addition, if his descendants obeyed all of God's commands and decrees, God promised to bless EVERYTHING they would do. "And all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you..."! (Deut. 28:2, NIV) Why? For His glory! God wanted all the people of the earth to stand in awe of those who bore His name! Would you like the

blessings of God to be so prominent and pervasive that they overtake you?!

God is a promise keeping God! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever! His promises are true and irrevocable. All who make Him Lord and Savior of their life, are heirs to *all* of His promises. His blessings are for us and our future generations!

In this Lent season, let us be mindful to walk in the fullness of all God has called and promised us. Jesus Christ was obedient to fulfill his purpose on earth, suffering an excruciating painful death for us. His act of obedience allows us to be reconciled to God. And because of that, all who make Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of their lives are heirs to *all* of God's irrevocable promises.

### **PRAYER**

*Father God, I thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. I am so appreciative that He was willing to die a horrible death for me. He ascended and now sits on Your right hand forever making intercession for me. I thank you that because of His sacrifice, I can walk in total abundance as You have stated in your Word. Thank you! In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.*

———— DAY 18 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR BLESSINGS**

**Psalm 107:38 (NIV)**... *he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased, and he did not let their herds diminish.*

Recently, I was watching TV when a commercial came on. The commercial showed people smiling, laughing, walking across a beach on a bright, sunny day. The product being advertised seemed to bring great relief and restore the users' health! All was magical until the commercial was about to end, and a list of the potential side effects were described.

What started as a “blessing,” soon seemed, for some, not a reality. This scenario is unlike blessings from God. God “blessed” the Israelites *and* increased their population, without decreasing their food supply/income.

The mission of Change Church is to help as many people as possible *live, love, and lead* like Jesus so they can change the world. Living like Jesus means following God's principles in all areas of our lives. Pastor Dharius Daniels often refers to the Life Pie in teaching this concept. The Life Pie consists of our: Relationships,

Character, Business/Work, Resources, and Health. God desires to bless and increase us in *all* slices of the Life Pie. Therefore, by getting the *spiritual* aspect of our life right, we open ourselves to receive God's promised blessings, multiplied and without decrease.

Are there areas in the Life Pie you want more growth in? If so, you must be *intentional* about growing spiritually. A few suggestions to begin or continue growing are: 1) commit to a daily devotional life; 2) attend service regularly (in-person or online); 3) participate in life and learning groups; and 4) serve.

During this Lent season, reflect on the sacrifice Christ made. Know that His sacrifice has made it possible for believers to enjoy the multiple blessings God promised in His Word.

### PRAYER

*Father God, Thank you for your Son, Jesus. I thank you that He died on the cross for my sins, and in three days, He rose from the dead, and is now seated on your right-hand making intercessions for me. I receive Him as my Lord and my Savior, and I desire to live fully in all the blessings you have for me. I pray all these things In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 19 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR WORD**

**Genesis 17:2 (NIV)**...*Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”*

Have you ever made a promise to someone and forgotten the conditions of the promise? Has anyone ever made you a promise and forgotten to fulfill it? In our scripture, God is speaking to Abram about increasing the number of his descendants. The only condition that God gives to Abram is to walk with him and to be blameless. God promises Abram that he will multiply his descendants and increase them in number. The problem is, this may have been hard for Abram to grasp because he did not have an heir. The only person whom he had was his servant. It was 24 years after God first promised Abram a son and God kept his word to give Abram a son. God remembered his covenant and fulfilled it. How many times have we forgotten our promise to others? Now, they no longer trust what we say we are going to do. When others forget their promise

to us, we are disappointed and do not trust their words as well. God doesn't disappoint us. Just as God reassured Abram about the covenant, God reassures us as well. A condition of the covenant was for Abram to live for God and be blameless. Abram lived a blameless life and honored God. When we live for God, he will fulfill his promise or agreement that he made to us. In this season, let us move towards keeping our covenant with God and walking more closely with Him.

### **PRAYER**

*Father thank you for remembering the covenant you made with us. Thank you for not being a man that you would lie, because it is not in your nature to lie. What you have said, you will do. In this season of increase, help us to be obedient by honoring the covenant we have with you. Help us to walk in your ways and to live a life of increase. In Jesus' Name, We Pray...Amen.*

———— DAY 20 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR JOY**

**Isaiah 9:3...***You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.*

Have you ever suffered a great loss and felt all hope was gone? The devastation of losing something precious and not knowing how you could recover from the loss- maybe you felt it would be impossible to replace the things or be restored. This is how the children of Israel and Judah felt. They were destroyed but God promised to restore them. He was going to restore and increase them so much that they would celebrate and rejoice over the abundance received. The promise was to a people who suffered great loss of land, loved ones, humiliation, and deportation to a foreign land. The people were walking in darkness. They were oppressed by their captors and their future was one of despair.

Isaiah gave a word of hope to the people by sharing what God promised. God said he would increase the nation with joy. Restoration of health and a blessing

that they would not have room to receive all that he will provide. Isaiah prophesied that God would bring joy to them, and it will not be a temporary fix. It will be a lasting joy. The joy will be a harvest of contentment, delight, and peace. God makes this same promise to us today. We can also experience this increased joy no matter what our circumstances are. God will restore us when we ask for his help and have the desire to live for him.

As we think of the Lenten season, a time of repentance and turning ourselves back to God, we can experience the joy that no one else can give. A joy that will last forever.

### **PRAYER**

*Father God, give us a heart that can forgive as you forgive. Give us a heart that will love as you love. In this season we want to be restored by you. Help us to live our lives connected to you. Let our desires be your desires for us. Give us the joy that only you can give that will last forevermore. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 21 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR PRAISE**

**Acts 12:24 (NIV)**...*But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.*

I love the book of Acts! Love it! It's my favorite book in the Bible! Reading about the way the church grew despite opposition has always been a reminder of God's faithfulness. The book of Acts reminds us that God's plan is going to happen no matter what! Ok. Now to our present text. Verses 1-11 of Acts 12, share King Herod's campaign to persecute the church (Acts 12:1). He had one disciple killed and Peter imprisoned. However, an angel rescued Peter from prison. When next we see Herod, he is dressed in royal robes delivering a public address and enjoying the accolades of the people who shouted, "this is the voice of a god, not a man" (Acts 12:22). Herod is killed immediately because "he did not give praise to God." Now, I am guessing that Herod is not a believer, he was persecuting the church. So, why would God kill Herod for not giving Him (God) the praise? Is praise so important to God that he requires it of everyone? Hm. And, (not that we will face the same fate as Herod), but

what are the implications for us when we do not praise God? How does that impact our lives? And what will happen to us when we accept praise that belongs to God? I don't know about you but I'm not trying to find out. I will do what David did in Psalm 34:1, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."

### **PRAYER**

*Dear God, thank you for forgiving us when we come to you with repentant hearts. Thank you for loving us in our brokenness and sinfulness. God, you want to restore us to wholeness, and you have given us that opportunity repeatedly. We desire to obey your laws so we can live in the abundance you have for us. In Jesus' Mighty Name... Amen.*

———— DAY 22 ————

## **MULTIPLY HIS GLORY**

**Isaiah 26:15**...*You have enlarged the nation, Lord; you have enlarged the nation. You have gained glory for yourself; you have extended all the borders of the land.*

How appropriate that this scripture was written by the prophet Isaiah; the prophet whose name means “The Lord saves.” This scripture came after several verses where the children of Israel praise God for saving them from “lords who had ruled over them.” I love that God not only saved them, but he also “enlarged the nation and extended their borders.” Isn’t that just like God to give you more than you can ask or think (Ephesians 3:20? Notice the response from the children of Israel - they glorified God. Have you given God glory for what he has done in your life? The children of Israel had a list: 1) He established peace, 2) He opened doors for the faithful, 3) He gave peace to those who trusted in him, 4), and He smoothed the way for the righteous (v.7).

Have you thanked God for enlarging you? For answering your prayers? For giving you peace? Have you

thanked him for taking you out of volatile situations and placing you in safe, peaceful spaces? Today, I challenge you to list all of the ways God has multiplied His greatness in your life and how you can multiply your glory unto Him!

### **PRAYER**

*Father, I thank you for being my rock and my firm foundation. Thank you for giving me the things that this world cannot, for protecting from the unknown things that were meant to steal, kill, and destroy me, and for giving me your peace that surpasses all understanding. Lord, I surrender to you, I trust you, and I love you. I thank you in the name that is above all names - Jesus...Amen.*

———— DAY 23 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR EXPECTATIONS**

**Deuteronomy 8:1 (NIV)**...*Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors.*

Moses wrote this text to the children of Israel as a reminder to follow the commandments they received from the Lord. This reminder couldn't have come at a better time - they were about to finally enter the land God had promised their ancestors years before. I love the message in this text - "obedience leads to increase and the fulfillment of promises". Promises made so long ago you have forgotten about them. Deuteronomy (repetition of the Law) serves as a reminder to God's people about His covenant.

What promises has God made to you? What "land" are you still waiting to inhabit? While you wait remember that God is not a man that he should lie, so wait with expectation. Wait knowing that the promise given to Habakkuk in Chapter 2:3-4 "For the vision is yet for an

appointed time, but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry..." is a promise for you as well. God has not forgotten you. It, whatever your "it" is, will happen just as he promised and when it does - it will lead to increase...it will multiply!

### **PRAYER**

*Father, I love you. You are a promise keeper, and your Word stands forever. May the knowledge of you and all that you can and will do be a constant reminder to me that you will not fail. I expect miracles everyday - God will make a way out of no way - In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 24 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR GIVING**

**Proverbs 3:9...***Honor the Lord with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops;*

When you read this scripture do you feel that it does not apply to you because you are not wealthy? Well, here's the thing, at the time this scripture was written, the people it was directed to may not have thought they were wealthy either. In fact, by today's standards, they were not wealthy. So, is it possible that what you consider wealth is not what Jesus considers wealth? Is it possible that Jesus is saying that just the fact that you have something makes you wealthy? There is a saying, "in the land of the blind; the one-eyed man is king." That scripture does not refer to a person with a palace, thousands of slaves, and food for days. It refers to the fact that when you are the one who has what others lack, you are wealthy. You are wealthy!

With this understanding, what do you have to give to the God who has given you everything for which you have prayed? You can't out give God, so today, remember to practice the "God first lifestyle" where we give God the **FIRST** of our increase (tithe), the **FIRST** day of the week

(to worship), and the **FIRST** part of the day (our focus). Before you give to anyone else, give him the **FIRST** (the fruit of your labor) as a sign that you honor him. Multiply your giving and see your giving multiply.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray for a giving heart and a mind to give. I desire to give with a willing and cheerful spirit. No matter how I see myself I know that you are a giving God (John 3:16) and a loving father. I am your child and I want to resemble my father. Thank you for all that you have given me. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 25 ————

## **MULTIPLY ON PURPOSE**

**Exodus 7:3-4** *But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, he will not listen to you.*

So, Exodus 7:3 is not the typical feel good, God is going to multiply me scripture, but it is a reminder that God is the ultimate multiplier. In Exodus 7 God tells Moses what will happen when he goes to ask Pharaoh to release the children of Israel. God warns Moses that he will harden Pharaoh's heart and Pharaoh will not listen to him. Prior to the release of the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent plagues, each time Pharaoh refused to release them; a total of ten plagues were sent. One by one, the plagues came, each worse than the last. Here they are in order: 1. Blood 2. Frogs 3. Lice or gnats 4. Flies 5. Livestock 6. Boils 7. Hail 8. Locust 9. Darkness 10. Death of the firstborn. But there was a reason God kept multiplying his signs and wonders in Egypt, and it's this- so that the Egyptians would know that he is the Lord (v.5). Think about it, what we call plagues God called signs and wonders (I feel a praise break right there!!!) Have you

noticed any patterns in your life? Anything going on- for a while now that has you asking God, “What is going on?” Is it possible that he is multiplying the signs and wonders in your life so that you *and* those around you will know that he is God? This is a unique way to look at multiplying, isn't it? Remember, what Paul tells us in the book of Romans, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* Ironic that he starts with *“And we know”* ...there's an assumption that WE KNOW that all things work together. Do you know? Or have you just recited the scripture without really thinking about it?

### PRAYER

*Lord, I need a minute. This one is different. Help me to really see what you are doing in my life through the lens of the spiritual because you are a Spirit. I don't want to miss what you are doing. I don't want to call signs and wonders plagues! I don't want to miss you working in my life. I love you, Lord. Help me to see you. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 26 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR INTENTIONALITY**

**Exodus 1:12...***But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.*

Did you know that Generation Beta, the babies born between 2025-2039, will begin in two years? It's amazing how quickly time passes. You may recall someone in your family who was the head of the household when you were younger but has since passed away. Or you may remember a time when you were the youngest, or one of the youngest, now you are the eldest, or one of the eldest. So, it was for the children of Israel. There came a time when their leader Joseph and his brothers died, but that didn't stop them from growing. In fact, the opposite happened, "*the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.*" I grew up hearing the saying, "Time waits for no man." Growth is a natural part of life. We will all age. We will all get to the age where we will be the

elders in our family, but when that happens, don't forget who you are, and whose you are. Don't forget that God is the one who has kept you. Look around and realize that yes, times may be difficult, but you are still flourishing. You are still being multiplied. Others are looking at you trying to figure out how you're still here. The Israelites moved to Egypt because there was a famine in their homeland. They found food and favor for a time in Egypt, but then the person who was the symbol of their favor, Joseph, died. And they were now being oppressed by someone who didn't know them and was threatened by their growth. Life is made up of seasons. Winter. Spring. Summer. Fall. However, no matter what season you are in, don't forget God because even in the difficult seasons you will see favor- you will multiply, just like the children of Israel.

### **PRAYER**

*Father God help me to work purposely so I can sow seeds for the next generation. Allow me to stay current when seasons change and to prepare myself for the future. Allow me to move forward in life and create new paths for this next generation to walk through in Jesus Name I Pray Amen.*

———— DAY 27 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR REQUESTS**

**Ezekiel 36:37 (NIV)**... *This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Once again I will yield to Israel's plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep,*

This prophecy is the end of the second prophecies given in this chapter. Israel is returning to the promised land after being exiled. In Ezekiel 36, verses 33-38, God tells his people through the prophet Ezekiel that he will answer their pleas for restoration. He will rebuild their cities and turn wasteland so fruitful it will be like the Garden of Eden. And he will do this so that the nations around them will know *“that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate.”* I love you, Lord! I do! I just had such a revelation from this scripture- and it ties into John 3:16. God answered the prayers of the children of Israel in such a spectacular way that not only the children of Israel will know that he exists, but that the other nations who have other Gods will also know! That's him loving the world. Proving to them that there is a God. A good God, who takes care of his children who restores their broken places. When God multiplies you in whatever area you have been praying, remember it's not just for you. It's also for them- them your neighbor. Your co-worker. Those who know you believe but aren't sure.

They aren't sure because all they have seen for a while is your desolation, but God is getting ready to show you and them that he is real, and that he takes care of his children. Your blessings- numerous as they will be, will be a sign to your "viewers," so, make sure you give God the credit.

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Lord, I thank you in advance for the blessings that will come when you answer my prayers. And I will be sure to give your name, YOUR name the praise. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 28 ————

## **MULTIPLY IN YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

**Exodus 1:20 (ESV)**...*So, God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong.*

In the book of Exodus, Moses documents the history of the Israelite nation. It is the time when the Hebrews have been living in Egypt for some time now (since Joseph) and there arose a pharaoh who did not know their history and what Joseph did for the people. So, the new pharaoh enslaved the Hebrews because they became too numerous. And he told the midwives if a Hebrew woman gives birth to a male child to kill it. But the midwives protect the Hebrew people and God honored them and Israel continued to grow in numbers.

Obedient. Faithful. Loyal. These are the words that come to mind when I think of the midwives in Exodus. This particular pharaoh wanted the midwives to go against what they have been tasked to do by God. He wanted them to kill the newborn males at birth. But they feared

God more than they feared the wrath of the pharaoh. The midwives followed in the footsteps of Joseph. In a foreign land, they trusted God and those around them were blessed.

Although your assignment may seem enormous and the cost for obedience great, trust that God is a keeper. Whatever he places in your life is not there to destroy you, but to increase your trust, increase your faith, increase your belief, increase God's purpose within your life.

### **PRAYER**

*Thank you Lord for being Lord over my life. I thank you in advance for allowing me to know and be able to find significance in the assignment in which you have placed. I pray that I will be obedient to your word so that others can see your love and mercy within me and draw near to you. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to remind me to be content at whatever season I am in life and to trust you through it. May those who see my life give you glory, honor and praise. This I ask in Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 29 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR BELIEF IN GOD**

**Ezekiel 36:11 (ESV)**...*And I will multiply on you man and beast, and they shall multiply and be fruitful. And I will cause you to be inhabited as in your former times and will do more good to you than ever before. Then you will know that I am the LORD.*

Ezekiel, God's prophet, is communicating with the tribe of Israel while they are in exile in Babylon. At this point in time the people of Israel had been captured and taken to Babylon as exiles by Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel was given the word of the Lord to give a prophecy of hope for the land of Israel and its people, after the recent judgement that God allowed to come against Israel for their disobedience to Him.

Ezekiel reminds Israel that the land they were taken from, will soon be reinhabited by its people once more, and they will soon come home from their punishment in exile (Ezek. 36:8). God will bring home Israel to its promised inheritance. And in that glorious return God will cause the land to produce and multiply all the good things needed for the people to multiply and flourish as well.

The message for God's people is, no matter what you have done, the circumstances, pain, and/or discomfort, do not become so disillusioned that you believe God has forgotten you. Constantly be encouraged that the promise He has given you and His people will always be assured. As you go throughout your day and week, I encourage you to meditate, pray, and believe in the plan God has for your life and know that He will accomplish His perfect will in your imperfect life.

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the cross of Calvary. Thank you for Your shed blood that has set us free so that we can be new. Thank you for being gracious, merciful, and faithful to us. All that you have done in your Word and in my life solidifies my belief in you and confirms that You are LORD of Lords and KING of Kings. Thank you for saving me from sin and for forgiving me from my known and unknown sins. You are my peace, my joy, and my strength. I pray this prayer in Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 30 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR RELIANCE ON GOD**

**Psalms 71:21 (ESV)**...*You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.*

Psalm 71, begins with the words, “In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.” The author then goes on to share moments of confidence in God, pain from past experiences, a moment asking for deliverance, and yet another moment asking for restoration in old age. I actually “found” this chapter years ago when I was going through a tough time. You know the one- those times when you lean so far into God that everything that comes out of your mouth is scripture. I would walk the house reading the Bible and reciting scripture. I listened to worship songs even when I was asleep. I needed God so badly I couldn’t fathom a time when all would be well. I didn’t think there would be a time when I would smile again, much more laugh. The irony is that during that time one of my favorite songs was “Smile” by Tasha Cobbs-Leonard. Much like the author, I begged God not

to be far away from me (v. 12). Have you been there? That dark place where only God can help? I have, and I can tell you that it was the closest I had ever been to God. I needed him to get me through the moment- moments are shorter than days. In moments when pain, both physical and emotional, is overwhelming, we must turn to the only one that can be our refuge, protection, fortress, and safety. Friends, in your deepest moments of despair, I strongly encourage you to do what the author did, turn your attention to the one who made you. He promises to increase your greatness and comfort you.

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the cross of Calvary. Thank you for Your shed blood that has set us free so that we can be new. Thank you for being gracious, merciful, and faithful to us. We pray that You forgive us our sins, both known and unknown. As we go throughout this week, please be our peace, joy, and strength. We pray that You will continually remind us that You are our “safe place” and strength and that when we feel alone and in trouble, we can run to You and find rest. At this moment, we pray that You revive and restore us for Your glory. In Jesus’ Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 31 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR RESPONSE TO INSTRUCTION**

**Proverbs 9:9...***Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.*

If you have heard Pastor Daniels, say it once, you have heard him say it a thousand times, “Never leave the posture of a student.” Students are constantly learning so that they can put that learning to good use. In this scripture, Solomon points out that both the wise (a person who shows good judgment) and the righteous (a person whose conduct is morally right) increase (or multiply) through instruction - the wise will get wiser, and the righteous will add to their learning. Therefore, it is in our best interest to pay attention to instruction because we will either be wiser or smarter. Either way you win!

In the beginning of the school year, one of the first rules that my students and I agree on is, “Ask 3 Before Me.” The goal of this rule is to help students become independent learners who own their learning process.

A side benefit of this rule is that students learn to work together and help each other. The goal for every teacher is that their students become independent learners who have skills that can help them to successfully navigate challenging tasks.

Now what does all this have to do with multiplying? Well, I'm glad you asked. If you are in the posture of a student, you will be open to learning. Learning will bring increase. Increase in whatever area you have been a student. To assist you with this there are assessments that you can take to draw you closer to your spiritual and personal gifts (i.e., SHAPE assessment, Strengths Finder 2.0, etc.). Once you have taken an assessment then you can use the results to multiply your productivity and live on purpose. Knowing your gifts is one part of a lifelong pursuit to get better. When you get better you multiply better in all areas of your life. Keep learning, keep growing, keep multiplying.

### **PRAYER**

*Lord, I thank you for the Bible because it is Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. It is the blueprint for how my life can benefit from following your instructions. I pray that I will be a student after your own heart and that all I strive to become is whatever you have purposed in my life. I thank you for the gifts and anointing to live my life for your glory in Jesus' Name I pray...Amen.*

———— DAY 32 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT**

**Proverbs 28:28...***When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding; but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.*

The first time I read this scripture I thought it would be a stretch to discuss anything positive. I immediately cringed when I saw the words “wicked rise to power.” However, on second read, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that God’s children don’t hide, and we won’t perish. David in Psalm 31 says, “In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.” in Matthew 5:14 we are reminded that, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” We can’t hide! Listen, family, we never have to worry about who is in power. Whether it’s a governmental leader or your boss, God is with you. He said, it to Joshua (1:5) and he is saying it to you, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” We serve a God who is always with us- Immanuel.

For me, the lesson from this text is that no matter who is in power, we who are righteous will thrive because our God is the king of kings and the Lord of Lords. Proverbs

21:1 says, “In the Lord’s hand the king’s heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.” In America we don’t have a king, we have a president, vice-president, governor, mayor, etc. Even with all these titles, their hearts are in the hands of the Lord - don’t forget that! So, are you sinking, surviving, or thriving? I hope you are thriving. Thriving means that you are doing well and are in a position to help others do well. In other words, you are able to multiply your impact.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, help us to focus on you, and only you, no matter what the world looks like so that we can thrive. In Jesus’ Name I Pray...Amen.*



———— DAY 33 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**2 Timothy 2:22 (ESV)**...*So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

Nearly every household has a junk drawer, a collection of plastic bags, and a cabinet full of plastic storage containers. I recently addressed my out-of-control cabinet of plastic storage containers. I wanted all of my containers to be in the best condition for special holiday use versus everyday use; therefore, I tossed containers if they didn't have a lid or were stained. I was satisfied once all of the containers were separated and sorted, and the most valuable ones set apart. Believers are God's vessels or containers; this passage shows the characteristics of those God sets apart for His highest use; those with coverings and stainless.

In 2 Timothy 2:22, Paul writes to Timothy from a jail in Rome. These are Paul's final words to Timothy before Paul's death. Paul emphasizes the need to persevere in the faith, continue in sound doctrine, preach the Word,

and pass on what he has learned to others. Paul uses the example of a vessel or container to focus on the character of believers considered unique and most helpful to God. The set-apart containers are believers who pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace out of a pure heart and devote their lives to developing a love of righteousness. Just as Paul reminds Timothy to preserve the faith by reminding believers in Ephesus to pursue holiness, God wants us to do the same today.

You ask, “Why does it matter that I am set apart and holy?” Because God’s Kingdom multiplies as citizens are added. Our junk drawers, collection of plastic bags, and cabinets full of plastic storage containers have one thing in common, they all gradually increased until they were overflowing. Still, only some of the things in them were useful. Similarly, God wants a kingdom overflowing with His citizens, but his most valuable citizens are those pursuing righteousness. Today, I encourage you to pursue righteousness out of your pure heart so that you can be counted among God’s most useful vessels.

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for finding a use for my life despite my flaws as I pursue becoming more like Jesus. Help me to avoid the trappings of pride and ambition as I seek your goodness. May my life bring honor and glory to your name. In Jesus’ Name I Pray...Amen.*

———— DAY 34 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR GROWTH**

**Acts 6:1 (NKJV)**...*Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.*

In this scripture, Luke is speaking to the disciples regarding a complaint lodged against them from a group of non-Jewish believers who felt their widows were slighted from daily provisions. It was not intentional, but because the disciples were focused on spreading the Gospel there were not enough of them to accommodate the additional daily provision for everyone. Therefore, Luke commissioned disciples to select men who were full of faith and the Holy Spirit to perform this duty. Through these chosen men, the number of disciples increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts six records the ordination of the first seven deacons and the work of one of them, Stephen.

Growing pains is the term used to describe the deep cramping or aching pain children between the ages of 3 to

12 feet in their legs and is believed to be the result of bone growth. Growth can cause physical as well as emotional pain. We see this in growing families. Often, a younger child experiences emotional distress or anxiety when their parents' attention is suddenly devoted to a "new baby." They feel neglected or may even believe the new baby is favored over them. We also see this in our text. Why does Luke show us the early Church's first Growing pains of internal conflict and church hurt? We see one reason in Acts 6:2. He shows leaders how to manage growth. Luke's solution was to appoint deacons (a.k.a ministry helpers) for the disciples. However, Luke's story also highlights our natural tendency to overlook all the good being done for us because of discontentment.

What good in your life has discontent blinded you from seeing? What is one thing you will do today to support your Church's mission to multiply, helping as many people as possible change their lives so they can change the world?

### **PRAYER**

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the wisdom to manage success and growth. Help me see opportunities to serve as a way of supporting your growing Kingdom, and please help me to recognize the unique ways others are serving me. In Jesus' Name I pray...Amen.*

———— DAY 35 ————

## **MULTIPLY IN OPPOSITION**

**Acts 12:24 (KJV)**...*But the word of God grew and multiplied.*

News travels at the speed of light, thanks to the internet and social media. We use the word viral to describe how information spreads rapidly from person to person. Comeback stories and unlikely heroes are great candidates for viral content. These stories inspire us and give us hope. Likewise, some of the most impactful movements in recent history were born out of viral content depicting senseless killings or acts against others. Luke gives us an example of what some believe to be the longest-trending viral story in the history of humanity. The Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God; it's still trending all these years later. This fact is important because the Word of God grew and multiplied despite all attempts to distort and destroy it and the people sharing it.

In this chapter of Acts, Luke is giving an accurate account of the birth and growth of the Christian church. His audience is believers in Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Judea. There are several events that happened within the

12th chapter which include King Herod ordering James, the brother of John, to be put to death with the sword, Peter is imprisoned but later miraculously freed, and God strikes down Herod for stealing his Glory. But God in verse twenty-four!

Unlike viral content today, The Good News of Jesus has lasting power and prospers despite opposition. We get to put our trust and confidence in God and His unchanging powerful Word. What part will you play in keeping the Good News of Jesus trending today?

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness and for watching over your Word to perform it. Give me the courage to subscribe, push, and boldly share your Word and my faith. May your word grow and multiply through my life so that others will hear and believe it. In Jesus' Name I Pray...Amen.*

———— DAY 36 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR DISCIPLESHIP**

**Acts 2:47 (NIV)**- *praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts two begins with the story of Pentecost, includes Peter, the Apostle's speech in *Jerusalem* "*God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven (v. 5)*", and concludes with a beautiful picture of what happens when believers fellowship. When believers fellowship there is unity, favor with people, and a growing number of people are saved, so the people are saved so, the church grows. I love that this scripture says, "*And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*" I feel like this devotional has had several lessons, one of which is, God is a multiplier. No matter where his people are and what they are facing he will multiply. He adds favor, joy, peace, abundance. You name it, he adds it. Some of the multiplying comes after he has caused difficulties to teach us a lesson (the children of Israel in exile), but he restored and multiplied them in and out of exile. In this scripture, the Apostles, newly filled with the Holy Ghost, preaching, teaching and

praising God saw an increase in the number of people who were being baptized. Notice they didn't do miracles, (God did the miracle of giving them the Holy Ghost) all they did was do what we are all called to do- the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). What does this mean for me and you? To me it means that our obedience to God will result in Kingdom multiplication. Pastor says that we are the first Bible some people will read. If that's the case, which book of the Bible are you showing to others? You, and the Kingdom will reap what we sow, let's sow love and unity, and let's praise God while doing it.

**Prayer...**

### **PRAYER**

*Father may I show the world the love of Jesus. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*



———— DAY 37 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR LOVE**

*1 Thessalonians 4:9*

God ingrained the ability to love in us when he created us. When we are born, we come into the world already knowing how to love. As babies it's basically all we really know how to do besides eating and sleeping. It is a fundamental action and need. God not only put this ability in us, He modeled it for us. He loved the world so much that He **GAVE** us His son Jesus Christ as our Savior! He also told us to Love our neighbors as ourselves. And He reminds us that this is the way people will know we are Jesus' Disciples.

In this scripture, Paul is applauding the believers in Thessalonica for their love for one another. He also gives them several exhortations. He urges them to increase their love, to lead peaceful lives, mind their own business, and be industrious (vs. 11-12).

Love is so important to God that he went into details of what love is in 1 Corinthians 13. Now that we know how to love we must continue to spread love and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER**

*Abba, Thank you for showing us love and for teaching us how to love. Help us to show others what you have taught us and to continue to help others feel your heart through us in Jesus' Name...Amen.*

———— DAY 38 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR GRATITUDE**

**Jeremiah 30:19 (NLT)** *There will be joy and songs of thanksgiving, and I will multiply my people, not diminish them; I will honor them, not despise them.*

In The Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer says, God is both merciful and just. He will always deal with justice when his mercy is despised (p.19). In our text, the Prophet Jeremiah is bringing a word of hope to the people of Judah while they are in captivity. They were experiencing the judgement of God because they took his mercies for granted. Jeremiah declares, even though you are in captivity, God will cause you to live in your land again. You will offer praise and thanksgiving in your land and operate in your purpose as a people of praise. God will then honor, bless, and multiply you as you worship him.

Imagine receiving this word of hope after you have lost everything? Dr. Dharius Daniels in his sermon series Greater, says gratitude is a disciplined response to difficulty. The tough time Judah experienced in captivity caused them to develop an attitude of gratitude. Jesus

modeled this disposition well as seen on the night before his crucifixion. During his final hours, while teaching his disciples he gave God thanks. As he broke the bread representing his body and drank the wine representing his blood. While discussing his suffering and death, Jesus still engaged in thanksgiving. Why? He knew the truth. God is up to something. As we reflect on his death, burial, and resurrection during this Lenten Season, let us practice the discipline of gratitude and watch God honor, bless, and multiply us.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, we are grateful for all your blessings. You are speaking to us about multiplication because you want to multiply us. Do exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ask, think, or imagine. We stand in anticipation of what you are getting ready to do in this season of multiplication. Let your Kingdom come, and your will be done. We are ready. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*

## DAY 39

# MULTIPLY YOUR POWER OF GOD

**Acts 9:31 (NIV)**...*Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*

In Exodus 15:3, Moses called God a Man of War. Throughout the scriptures, we see God come to the defense of his people. David boldly asked God in the Psalms to “fight against those who fight against me” (Psalm 35:1). Therefore, it is no surprise to see God come to the aid of the early church. Luke, the writer of our text summarizes the state of the early church after much persecution, particularly at the hand of Saul. The text describes a church that is increasing in number, whose people are enjoying the peace of God, and increasing in strength. Beautifully, they also are living with the fear of the Lord and enjoying the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

The church was prospering because Jesus intervened. He entered the scene because Saul (soon to become the Apostle Paul) was determined to destroy his church. Malachi 3:11 says God will rebuke the devourer for your sake, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground. When God intervenes, he stops the enemy from executing his plan to steal, kill and destroy you (John 10:10) and your possessions. Jesus' death destroyed the works of the enemy. Making it possible for you to experience a life filled with his peace, presence, power, and increase. Are you in need of God's intervention? Do you want to experience life as God intended it? Faith in him makes you a prime candidate for his assistance. All you have to do is ask.

### **PRAYER**

*Father, we need you. We thank you that your word says if we ask anything in your name you will do it (John 14:14). We ask you to rebuke the devourer for our sakes. Cause us to experience your abundant life in this season of multiplication. We stand in anticipation of what you're getting ready to do. We praise you in advance for the victory. In Jesus name, amen.*

———— DAY 40 ————

## **MULTIPLY YOUR REMEMBRANCE**

**Deuteronomy 7:13...***And He will love you and bless you and <sup>[e]</sup>multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.*

Chapter 7 in the book of Deuteronomy, which is written by Moses to the children of Israel begins with the words, “When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess...” and continues by listing all of the great things the Lord will do for them because he loves them, and his faithful. In verse twelve we read, “*Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them.*” Your blessings Moses was reminding them, is tied to your obedience. I love Moses. I do. He did his best to shepherd the children of Israel through the desert and tried to guide them in a way that pleased the Lord. Now we all know how that ended, but he never failed to tell them about God. He never failed to

remind them of who they were and who they served. I love it, the constant reminder. Some of us need a Moses, a Chief Reminding Officer. But I digress. Fast forward to Deuteronomy 7:13, and Moses takes the time as he often did to list the benefits of obedience. One key benefit is multiplication. Your children will be blessed, your work will be blessed, and anything you produce (entrepreneurs) will be blessed when you obey God.

Obedience is a heavy word, and sometimes it may seem overwhelming to be obedient to a perfect God, but if you adjust your perspective, you will realize that it is doable. God loved us so much that he did not leave us to live this life without help- the help from the Holy Spirit. How fitting to read this scripture in a Lent devotional? Listen, no matter how difficult it seems at times to live obedient to God, remember that it comes with benefits. First with help, and then with blessings, blessings that benefit you at work and at home. The increase that comes from obedience is unlimited and God wants you to have it. That's why he had Moses constantly remind the children of Israel how to act so that they would not miss the benefits of serving a good God. Want to be blessed? Be obedient.

## **PRAYER**

*Father, help me to remember the benefits of serving a God who is willing to bless every area of my life. In Jesus' Name I Pray...Amen.*



Day	Date	Title	Verse	Song
1	February 22	Multiply in the Process	Job 8:7	I Will Exalt You - Hillsong
2	February 23	Multiply Your Contribution	1 Cor. 3:6	We Are the Body - Brook Hill
3	February 24	Multiply Your Hope	Jer. 23:3	Joy Is Coming - Todd Galberth
4	February 25	Multiply In Your Wisdom	Ecclesiastes 10:12-14	You are the Living Word - Fred Hammond
5	February 27	Multiply Where You Are	Gen 1:28	Firm Foundation (He Won't) [feat. Chandler Moore & Cody Carnes]   Maverick City Music   TRIBL
6	February 28	Multiply In Submission	John 3:30	God is Doing a Great Work- Brian Courtney Wilson
7	March 1	Multiply in His Word	Matt. 3:7-8	It's your Breath - Todd Galberth
8	March 2	Multiply In Your Faith	1 Kings 17:14	Great Things-Preashea Hilliard
9	March 3	Multiply Your Legacy	Genesis 22:17	Fill Me Up - Tasha Cobbs
10	March 4	Multiply Your Persistence	Luke 18:1-8	Fear is Not My Future - Todd Galberth
11	March 6	Multiply Your Fruitfulness	Isaiah 51:2	Promises - Maverick City
12	March 7	Multiply Your Patience	Genesis 16:10	Do It Again - Elevation Worship
13	March 8	Multiply Your Reflection Time	Joshua 24:3	Man of Your Word - Maverick City
14	March 9	Multiply Your Commitment to Obedience	Genesis 17:20	Broken Vessel - Hillsong
15	March 10	Multiply Your Gifts	Matt. 25:29	No Longer A Slave To Fear- Tasha Cobbs
16	March 11	Multiply The "Little" You Have	2 Kings 4:7	Miracles- Elevation Worship

Day	Date	Title	Verse	Song
17	March 13	Multiply Your Submission To God	Deuteronomy 1:11	Gracefully Broken - Tasha Cobbs
18	March 14	Multiply Your Blessings	Psalms 107:38	More Abundantly - Ricky Dillard
19	March 15	Multiply Your Commitment To Your Word	Genesis 17:2	Promises - Maverick City
20	March 16	Multiply Your Joy	Isaiah 9:3	Joy Is Coming - Todd Galberth
21	March 17	Multiply Your Praise	Acts 12:24	Lord You're Mighty- JJ Hairston and Youthful Praise
22	March 18	Multiply His Glory	Isaiah 26:15	Grace to Grace Come in - Todd Galberth
23	March 20	Multiply Your Expectations	Deuteronomy 8:1	He Wont Fail - Todd Galberth
24	March 21	Multiply Your Giving	Proverbs 3:9	Generous Giver - Vintage Worship
25	March 22	Multiply Purpose	Exodus 7:3-4	Cycles- Jonathan McReynolds
26	March 23	Multiply Your Intentionality	Exodus 1:12	Graves Into Garden- Elevation Worship Featuring Brandon Lake
27	March 24	Multiply Your Requests	Ezekiel 36:37	You Remain - Todd Galberth
28	March 25	Multiply In Your Assignment	Exodus 1:20	We Build - Nichole Nordeman
29	March 27	Multiply Your Belief In God	Ezekiel 36:11	Goodness of God - Maverick City
30	March 28	Multiply Your Reliance on God	Psalms 71:21	Smile- Tasha Cobb
31	March 29	Multiply Your Response To Instruction	Proverbs 9:9	I surrender - Hillsong
32	March 30	Multiply Your Impact	Proverbs 28:28	Hosanna Be Lifted Higher

33	March 31	Multiply In Your Pursuit Of Righteousness	2 Timothy 2:22	Fill Me Up
34	April 1	Multiply Your Growth	Acts 6:1	Build Your Church - Maverick City
35	April 3	Multiply In Opposition	Acts 12:24	Way Maker
36	April 4	Multiply Your Discipleship	Acts 2:47	New Wine - Todd Galberth
37	April 5	Multiply Your Love	1 Thessalonians 4:9-10	Open The Eyes of My Heart - Todd Galberth
38	April 6	Multiply Your Gratitude	Jer. 30:19	I Thank God
39	April 7	Multiply Your Power	Acts 9:31	What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong
40	April 8	Multiply Your Remembrance	Deut. 7:13	This Is A Move - Tasha Cobb