

the farmer planting grain: The hard path where some of the seeds fell represents the heart of a person who hears the Good News about the Kingdom and doesn't understand it; then Satan comes and snatches away the seeds from his heart. The shallow, rocky soil represents the heart of a man who hears the message and receives it with real joy, but he doesn't have much depth in his life, and the seeds don't root very deeply, and after a while when trouble comes, or persecution begins because of his beliefs, his enthusiasm fades, and he drops out. The ground covered with thistles represents a man who hears the message, but the cares of this life and his longing for money choke out God's Word, and he does less and less for God. The good ground represents the heart of a man who listens to the message and understands it and goes out and brings thirty, sixty, or even a hundred others into the Kingdom.” Matthew 13:1-23 (TLB)

Our Community Groups meet throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at www.fbc.org/smallgroups. For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org.

Please feel free to come down to the front for prayer after service.

“...pray for one another...” James 5:16

Multipliers vs. Diminishers Part 3

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”
Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)*

The disciples were to continue what Jesus started; how would he ensure it would happen?

Multiplier: a person or thing that multiplies

Diminisher: to make or cause to seem smaller, less, or less important

“These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: “The kingdom of heaven is near.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when

you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth; it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”
Matthew 10:5-16 (NIV)

- Multipliers raise awareness and confidence in people through challenges

3 Practices of a Challenger

1. Challengers seed the opportunity

“Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’”
Luke 5:31-32 (NIV)

“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”
Matthew 10:1 (NIV)

Authority: a power or right, delegated or given

2. Challengers provide a starting point but not a complete solution

“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’”
Matthew 10:7 (NIV)

3. Challengers generate belief that the impossible is possible

“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”
Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

- Multipliers build people and teams by explaining opportunities, and possibilities

“Later that same day, Jesus left the house and went down to the shore, where an immense crowd soon gathered. He got into a boat and taught from it while the people listened on the beach. He used many illustrations such as this one in his sermon: ‘A farmer was sowing grain in his fields. As he scattered the seed across the ground, some fell beside a path, and the birds came and ate it. And some fell on rocky soil where there was little depth of earth; the plants sprang up quickly enough in the shallow soil, but the hot sun soon scorched them and they withered and died, for they had so little root. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns choked out the tender blades. But some fell on good soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as he had planted. If you have ears, listen!’ His disciples came and asked him, ‘Why do you always use these hard-to-understand illustrations?’ Then he explained to them that only they were permitted to understand about the Kingdom of Heaven, and others were not. ‘For to him who has will more be given,’ he told them, ‘and he will have great plenty; but from him who has not, even the little he has will be taken away. That is why I use these illustrations, so people will hear and see but not understand. This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah: “They hear, but don’t understand; they look, but don’t see! For their hearts are fat and heavy, and their ears are dull, and they have closed their eyes in sleep, so they won’t see and hear and understand and turn to God again, and let me heal them.” But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. Many a prophet and godly man has longed to see what you have seen and hear what you have heard, but couldn’t. Now here is the explanation of the story I told about