

CREATING THE ORCHARD

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Hey church planter, I want to talk today about the scope of your mission!

When you plant churches, you're initially thinking about your church, your little kingdom. But we need to think beyond that. We need to think the entire city. And so we need to think about how multiplication works.

When you plant your church, you want to multiply your groups, your leaders and your ministry teams – everything you want to grow. That means multiplication.

We need to see churches being multiplied because it's not our one church that's going to meet all the city's needs. God's going to use many church planters and many churches to reach people and to share the gospel throughout the entire city.

The gospel begins with a seed, and that seed bears fruit. But fruit doesn't exist just for itself. It dies so it can multiply and become an orchard. That's the kind of kingdom vision we must have. We must not just think about one church, but an orchard of churches multiplying and reaching more and more people with each generation.

Just as there are different kinds of fruit suited to different palates, we also see different kinds of churches. We contextualize the gospel to reach different people in an effective way. We maximize the glory of God by planting more churches as we think "city," and not just "my church."

EXERCISE

Brainstorm

- Part 1

Gather your team or a group of like-minded missionaries in your context. Build out a long list using the following question: "What different opportunities do you have to plant seeds all around your city?"

- Part 2

Circle the opportunities that could be started in the next 30 days by someone in the group. Underline the ones that will take some time to develop. Put a box around the ones that will require others to be involved.

- Part 3

Transfer to another list the opportunities you circled and are going to be owned by your team. Ask the other leaders to do the same. Create your next steps to accomplish the seed-sowing activity you committed to for the next 30 days.

Set up a time with your team or other leaders to come back and evaluate the progress of the seed-sowing activities, to see which have begun to bear fruit and which need further attention.