

Multiplication Workshop

Sunday, April 13, 2008

What is Multiplication in Life Groups?

Group multiplication is the process where an existing group _____ into _____ or more Life Groups.

Sometimes referred to as _____, multiplication is a life-giving process that is painful and scary yet a moment of excitement and joy.

Why do we multiply?

Multiplication in Life Groups is our _____
_____ for evangelism at our church.

If we multiplied our groups an average of every 18-24 months at the 6 year mark we would have over _____ people in groups in our area.

Who- should our group multiply?

ONLY groups with a capable _____ should multiply. Beyond that there are several indicators of groups that should multiply.

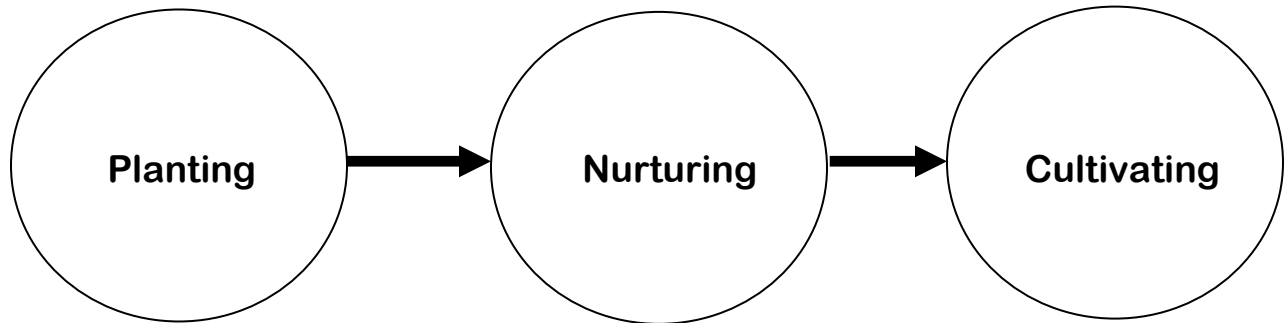
1. **Group Size-** if the group has _____ too large for the home or is over the suggested 12 members regularly
2. **Dynamics-** group has been together a while and has grown _____ or _____.
3. **Maturity-** groups with stable and maturing Christians need each other but seeking and new Christians DESPERATELY need them

When should our group multiply?

The "typical" time frame is usually 18-24 months but can vary anywhere from 6-36 months depending on circumstances.

1. When the group co-leader is ready.
2. When timing is good for both groups to get some _____ **NOT** near the Holidays or summer.

3. When the ground work has been laid and the group has had time to prepare themselves for the change
4. When the group has plenty of time to _____ together.
5. When the group has moved through the _____ stage and is in the _____ stage.



Planting Stage

- Relationships are formed
- Primary needs are;
 - Personal connection
 - Fellowship opportunities
 - Get-to-know you time and activities
- Group life is more shallow but foundational, where bonds are built

Nurturing Stage

- Relationships are deepened and become more meaningful
- Primary needs are;
 - Openness and trust
 - Authentic sharing of real life
 - Biblical study
 - Prayer for each other, in and outside group time

- Group life is meaningful, refreshing and often very empowering to members

Cultivating Stage

- Relationships have grown deep but the cycle needs to be repeated
- Primary needs are;
 - Service as a group together,
 - Time spent in challenge of one another's lives spiritually
 - Outward focus toward using your gifts in ministry
- Group life feels natural and comfortable. This stage can stagnate a group

****Multiplication should occur during this stage.***

How do we multiply our group?

Multiplication Timeline

- **12 months out**
 - Discuss time and date of multiplication with your co-leader
 - Begin to pray about this regularly together
- **8 months out**
 - Discuss the general plan with your group,
 - Give overall gist of why this will happen
 - Give your co-leader increased responsibility from here on in
- **6 months out**
 - Discuss the plan in more detail with your group
 - Allow your co-leader to lead more regularly (once a month or so)
 - Ask the group how they are feeling and address their feelings openly and supportively
- **4 months out**
 - Discuss with your group how you will multiply, who is going with whom (honor core units in the group or people who can't be split up)

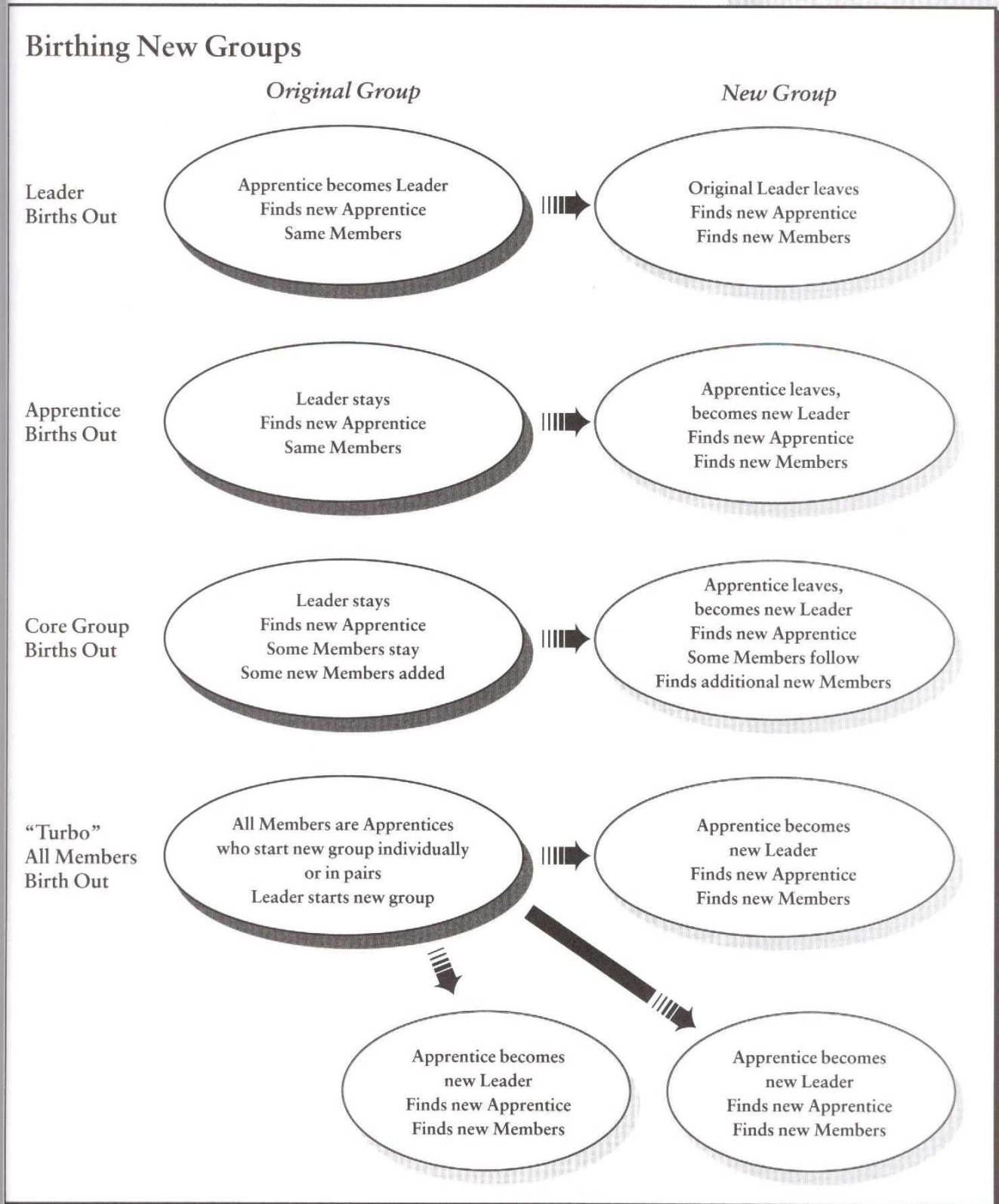
- Decide on potential group members for each group and begin to pray for them
- **2 months out**
 - Begin to divide out during group time into the sub-groups for prayer and/or discussion times
 - Pray specifically for people and their feelings of sadness or loss in the face of this change
- **The Birthday!**
 - Have a party, celebrate the wins of the past group
 - Pray for the new co-leader as a group, get around him and lay on hands
 - Schedule several meetings in the next 6 months where both groups can get together for service or fellowship
 - Focus intently on group members over the next few months, the change will be an adjustment for everybody, acknowledge this.

Post-Multiplication

- Let people process the multiplication
- Begin to strategically invite friends, neighbors, church members to group
- Schedule reunions periodically for the first year or so, or until people don't need this anymore.
- Celebrate Grandchildren, people who come to Christ through birthed or multiplied groups

Types of Births

Below you'll find a chart explaining four types of birthing possibilities.



Trouble-Shooting

What if my group doesn't have a co-leader?

If you are short a co-leader take the time to talk candidly about the need for shared leadership. You cannot lead by yourself and eventually your group will come to a place where it will NEED to multiply. Multiplying without a co-leader is far more devastating to a group because one will fail. Don't let the focus become inward. Pray with the group for a co-leader every week.

What if my group just doesn't want to multiply or add new people?

Spend time emphasizing the importance of bringing new people into the group and pray about this. If the group becomes too inwardly focused it will likely stagnate and dissolve entirely.

What if I have a few people in group who are too close to be split up or resist the change?

These people don't need to be a part of the split. Honor core units of people if necessary (though sometimes they are a clique and need split up). Forcing this on anybody won't work. Take those who have a humble attitude about multiplication and their faith and help them participate in the birth.

When you should NOT multiply?

A group should NOT multiply under many circumstances, some of which might include....

1. Confidential issues or times of extreme need within the group. If a group member or couple is going through something very serious at this time, the group should close and work through the situation and then re-open when things are resolved and less sensitive. (this might include a divorce, death of a loved one, parenting struggles, financial problems, serious illness etc.)
2. No capable co-leader within the group
3. No evangelism focus within the members of the group.
4. When a group member has finally open their heart or mind to the church, Christ or the group and is finally getting going