



## BIG CHURCH

### Week 3: Reasons To Grow

#### MEET

Sample Icebreaker Question:

What is your favourite memory of Easter past?

#### MAGNIFY

Suggested Song(s):

My Redeemer Lives

I'm Trading My Sorrows

It may also be useful to have some time here to sing and pray in tongues.

#### MESSAGE

Why is it so important to invite people and for the church to grow? The bottom line is that we want the church to grow because we love people – we want the world to know about grace and how awesome it is. God wants His house to be filled (Luke 14.23).

But sometimes that kind of motivation is not enough – sometimes just doing things because they are right is hard work. You were designed to work for reward. And there is a reward for being part of a growing church: that reward is the power of "big". A church of 3000 can do things that a church of 300 or 30 could never do.

What kind of church are we building, and how will it benefit you?

I. Truly International

Tree of Life Church is going to be huge – with people from all over the world. It will reach all over the world and plant churches everywhere. If you want to go to Canada for a weeks' conference and holiday – there we will be. If you want to go on a missions trip to Uganda, we will be there too.

Our church is richer the more variety we have in it. Mark 16:15-20 tells us to preach the gospel to every creature: every creature! If we are going to reach the world we need a large church that can finance missionaries and orphanages across the globe.

## 2. Loads of helpers

Lots of churches stop growing when they run out of helpers – but we are going to be different. We are going to have more helpers! The children's ministry will expand, the ushering will increase. Our Greetings Team will start! There is more than enough work in this church that if you want to serve you can! We currently need people with: in the camera, in sound desk, in worship, in accountancy, in outreach, in inreach... if you have free time and you can be relied upon I can find work for you!

## 3. Wise Leadership

The larger a church grows the wiser the leadership will be. I (Benjamin) am growing wiser now – having to learn things that I have never had to learn before. A lot of churches stop growing when the pastors stop growing. Satan loves to tell pastors they have reached a plateau and can rest. We are going to grow leaders all over the church and we are going to raise Living Churches all over the country, and all over the world. Our pastors are going to come from internal places, not recruited from outside.

## 4. More Ministries

The larger the church the more ministries we can hold. Right now we have a couple of worship bands – but we could easily have 10 or 20. There are chances to run discipleship groups, serve in different ways, lead in different ways.

## 5. Big Church means Great Sunday Services

There is an atmosphere when there are loads of people about, an atmosphere of expectation and encouragement. The more sick people, the more healings. The more lost people, the more salvations. The more broke people, the more financial miracles. The more people, the more stuff happening!

We are moving to the place where every Sunday we will see miracles and salvations.

## 6. Big Church means BIG OUTREACH!

We are currently paying for  $\frac{1}{2}$  page ads in the paper and 9000 leaflets dropped and giving away 1000 cans of coke: imagine if we were 300 people: full page ad, 27000 leaflets handed out, give away 3000 cans of coke. Imagine us at 3000, front page ad, 270000 leaflets all over London.

What about a TV advert? What if everyone was talking? We need a big church to do big outreach!

## 7. Big Church means big money!

30000 cans of coke is going to cost at least £10000. Leaflets are not free, buildings are not free, helping the nations is not free. We could own buses and bus people into church from parts of town where no-one has a car. We are going back on TV at the end of this year. That all costs money. We can hire more pastors, a full-time worship pastor, all sorts of things could happen, if we had some more money!

How big could Heal the Nations get in the next ten years?

## 8. Big Church means SPECIALIZED HELP IS AVAILABLE

We are not a fruitful church right now! That sounds like a negative confession but it isn't: it simply means we are too young to bear fruit. Apple trees take 5 years before they bear fruit.

For example, a church of 30 cannot set up a homeless shelter, a church of 300 cannot, a church of 3000 can.

## 9. A Big Church means we can influence the nation

A large church is listened to – there are a lot of votes in a large church that the politicians have to take notice off! Zech 4.10 despise the day of small things – we know better because we are spiritual but carnal people are only moved by big things. Politicians will listen to us when we are running in the thousands and they cannot attack Christianity when they realize it is a cross-cultural, won't back down phenomena!

## 10. A Big Church means Weddings!

People have left our church because they are so keen to find a partner. I don't want that, I don't want you to have to marry a Baptist or a zealous charismatic who wants to pray through the night begging God to help you with you rather than spending the time with you. I don't want you to be unequally yoked. I want there to be so many people in this church, finding a like-minded partner is easy!

People will come here because they hear all over London – Tree of Life Church is where you find a stable, kind, beautiful husband or wife.

## II. A Big Church means Contacts

Some of you are looking for work, some of you are looking for employees – some of you have businesses. Andrew in Guildford is starting a business as a floor sander... I would love to know 10 people who want their floor sanded. You make friends with people in your field – you make contacts!

Now there should be no business going on in church in the sense of running a business you should not be selling and buying in the church service. But you can tell people your story, and you don't know where that will take you.

## I2. Big Church IS BIBLICAL!

The sower sowed the WORD and one in four of the seeds produced a harvest. Let's believe for 25% of Barking and Dagenham... that's 40000 people in church.

It's currently 68% of people in Barking and Dagenham claim to be Christian! But less than 7% regularly go to church (once per month), so that means there are 100000 people in Barking and Dagenham who say "I am a Christian" but never go to church. It should be easy to persuade 40000 to come to church with us!

There isn't a building big enough to hold that many – we can build it. DREAM BIG! I believe we are the generation that are going to do it. I believe that the GRACE MESSAGE WE HAVE is GOING TO DO IT. ARE YOU READY FOR THIS!

### Questions:

1. Which country would you like to go and share the gospel in?
2. What will be the advantages of a truly international church?
3. List three advantages of a BIG church.
4. Which advantage of a big church motivates you the most?
5. Who could you bring to church this Easter Sunday?
6. What could you do to help the church grow?
7. Is there an area of service that you would like to serve the church in? Why not email the church ([info@treeoflifechurch.org.uk](mailto:info@treeoflifechurch.org.uk)) and offer your services?

### MINISTRY

Keep praying for the people we have invited. Pray for people who want to become helpers in the church. Pray that everyone gets a vision of the church growing.