

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

From Genesis to Revelation, the command to reproduce from one generation to the next is a thread that runs through Scripture. The command is not just to produce the next generation, but to teach them to become a people who are wholly committed to God. Initially this command was focused around *physical* reproduction; but with the coming of Jesus Christ it became a command to reproduce *spiritually*. In this study you will learn how raising up spiritual generations leads to blessing, fulfillment, and a great promise that God has in store for all believers as they participate in God's plan.

God's Generational Commands

According to these verses, what does God want man to do?

Genesis 1.28 –

Genesis 8.15-17 –

Matthew 28.18-20 –

What is required to multiply according to the following?

Genesis 17:1-2 –

Deuteronomy 30:16 –

Matthew 4:19-20 –

God's Generational Promises

Read Genesis 12.1-3 and 15.1.

- What was God's promise to Abraham?

Check out Galatians 3.14, and 3.26-29.

- What do these verses say about our connection with Abraham?
- How does Christ fit into the equation between Abraham and us?

Continue reading Galatians 4.1-2.

- What qualification is placed on us before we can inherit (experience) God's promise to Abraham?

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

God's Generational Models

Check out Matthew 4.19 and 9.36-38. What did Jesus do in these passages to multiply himself?

Now read Matthew 10.1-5 and Luke 10.1-2. What was the result of his investment?

Read Acts 19.1-10. What did Paul do in this passage to multiply, and what was the result?

Study 2 Timothy 2.1-2.

- Identify and list the four generations of believers mentioned in verse 2.
- Based on these verses, describe Paul's method for raising spiritual generations.
- Compare this method with Acts 19.1-10 (especially 8-10), and describe its effectiveness.

Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

The very first command ever given to man was to "be fruitful and multiply". God's desire for his people has not changed since then! Jesus echoed this first command when he told his followers to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28.19). *Question: Is what's on God's heart on your heart?*

- Is the idea of spiritual generations a new thought for you? Explain.
- Think of your own story. Which individuals in your past invested in your spiritual life to help you mature where you are today? Who is currently investing in you?
- Who has God brought into your life that you are currently investing in? Who is the next link in your generational chain?
- Based on what you saw in the examples of Jesus Christ and Paul, how can you begin or improve your involvement in spiritual reproduction?