



Risky Multiplication

Life Group Resource

"in order to risk seeing multiplication, we may need to see some healthy division to create room to grow" Ricky

If we're smart, we can make room on Sunday mornings for us to grow:

- Average Attendance for the start of the year: 140
- Currently 86% full (if we don't use the balconies)
- Currently 59% full (if we use the balconies well - room to grow)
- With additional chairs: can reach 240 avg. before reaching the problematic 80% full again

That's by sticking with the status quo, adding more chairs and making better use of space, and only thinking about those gathered "in the room". But there are other things we can do if we have a little bit of imagination.

"Our current form of Church is perfectly designed to produce the results it is producing, and it is no accident that historical/established denominations are in decline; they have been establish for maintenance not mission."
John McGinley

"The inflexibility of our current forms of Church is a significant challenge today." John McGinley

[The following sticks with the idea of Sunday Gatherings running concurrently - but we don't have to be so limited in our thinking, we can have imagination about that too]

If we are happy with the "results" our Sunday Gatherings are producing, we can keep things largely unchanged. But does that mean we can't be creative, imaginative and adventurous?

Jesus' story of the wine and wineskin suggests we can have a "both/and" approach, we don't have to be limited to an "either/or" approach.

? What wisdom does this passage of Scripture speak into our topic/situation?

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved." **Matthew 9:16-17**

The suggestion is that if we mix the old and the new we risk wasting/losing both. But by putting new wine into new wineskins both can be preserved.

In Acts 13 we saw Paul and Barnabas going to new places and sharing the Good News in new ways and in contexts. They shared the message by preaching in Synagogues to both Jews and Gentiles.

? Think about what we currently do during our Sunday Gatherings and how we do it...
Is it for "us" or for "others"?
Is this the best environment for those seeking Jesus or new to faith to explore and learn?

- ? What might we be able to learn from the Tesco model mentioned on Sunday morning?
(Tesco Superstore, Extra, Metro, & Express)
[proximity to your community means you know them better]
[knowing your community better enables you to share a more contextual message]

On Sunday we explored how we might use the Tesco approach by considering some creative ideas which might assist not just in creating room to grow, but also in increasing appeal/accessibility. The suggestions made on Sunday to kick-start our thinking and during the feedback from discussion were very different.



Reminder:

Café style Gathering in the "Meadow" (the hall in the Hive)
Satellite gathering for residents at King George's Court
Once a month Life Groups do "Church @ Home" - gather to watch the Live Stream

- ? What other ideas do you think might be worth considering?

Whenever a new idea is presented we can all think of 101 reasons why it **might** not work and therefore shouldn't be attempted.

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."

-

Samuel Johnson

It is better to reframe our thinking and consider these "reasons something might not work" as "obstacles to overcome in order to make something work".



Think more deeply about one or two of the ideas you shared above and use the lens of "overcoming obstacles" to see how realistic the ideas are.

Consider the

who, what, when, where, why & how of each idea.

Are those ideas suitable first steps towards a relationship with Jesus?

Or are they stepping stones to a deeper relationship with Him?

How might people be too connected/signposted to other opportunities?

"ekklesia: 'a community of disciples with Jesus at its centre, seeking to obey Him and see His Kingdom come in this world'. When our understanding of Church is expressed in these simple basic requirements, we are liberated to imagine how it can be expressed in new ways."
John McGinley



No matter how good, creative or innovative an idea might be, as we think about whether it's an appropriate thing for us to put into practice, what must we consider?

- is it God's will for RBC? is it for right now or a future time?

- does it help us achieve our vision?

 - Loving our Community, Sharing God's Hope, Seeing Lives Transformed

- does it help us embody our values?

 - Generosity, Risk-Taking, Authenticity, Participation, Expectation