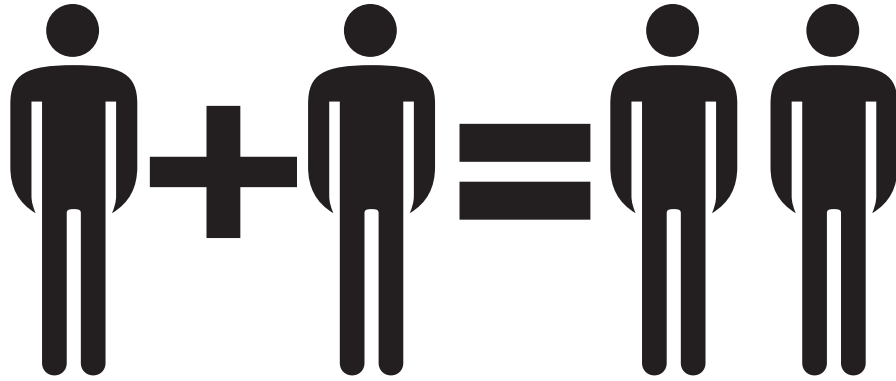


# PARADOX

## CHURCH



Church Growth for the sake of just getting a bigger attendance or a bigger crowd is vanity and in the end, empty. On the other hand though, church growth for the sake of discipleship, fellowship, and community worship is Biblical...as a matter of fact Jesus tells us to do that. This summer we want to expose as many people as we can to the story of the Bible, the Good News of Jesus, and the wholeness that He offers a broken world. Jesus says in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." He doesn't tell us how to go, but leaves it open-ended. The only requirement is that we "go." What better way this summer to fulfill this and partner with Jesus than to bring somebody to one of our gatherings. There will be teaching, possible baptizing, and disciple-making, so we will be doing what Jesus tells us to do.

The plan is simple...as a matter of fact, it resembles the most basic and most simple thing you learned in elementary school... $1 + 1 = 2$ . How hard is that? If each person invites just one person then people hearing the story of the Bible is doubled. How important is it to you to let someone in on what has changed your life. Who knows, the gathering that you invite them to could be the defining moment in their life in which they encounter God, Himself--face to face. What do you say? Let's start changing our community, our family, our friends, our co-workers for Jesus through our Sunday morning gatherings as the Word of God is opened.

### **Things you can do to help us prepare for an awesome Sunday morning:**

- 1) Pray for our band, children's ministry/youth ministry, greeters, speaker, and workers that God would speak through them
- 2) Begin praying that God will open up a door for you to invite someone or share with someone about Jesus
- 3) Pray that God will prepare your heart before you come on Sunday
- 4) Pray that God will pour Himself out like never before each Sunday
- 5) Pray that God would reveal Himself to each person that walks through the doors
- 6) Pray that God would give you a deep hunger and thirst for His Word and a heart for broken people

$$1 + 1 = 2$$