

Natural Church Development Growth Forces

Growth Force	Key Word	Image	Definition	Bible	Key Question	Example
Interdependence	Connecting or Causing	Eco-System	Individual units are connected to each other in a larger system and therefore affected by all changes.	1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (Members of one body)	What are the short and long-term effects of this action?	Regular meetings of ministry team leaders
Multiplication	Reproducing	Plants and seeds	Healthy organisms do not grow endlessly, but reproduce themselves.	Matthew 25:14-30 (parable of the talents)	How does this action contribute toward multiplication, not just addition?	Small groups designed to divide and multiply
Energy Transformation	Leveraging <i>or</i> Harnessing	Surfing	Momentum or energy already flowing, whether positive or negative, can be redirected to accomplish God's purpose.	Romans 8:28 (God causes everything to work together)	How can we utilize positive and negative resources to fulfill God's purpose?	New members involved in evangelism ministries
Sustainability	Continuing	Trees and leaves	Resources used should increase the capacity for on-going growth and development, as well as serve multiple purposes.	Matthew 3:18-22 (Fish for people)	How do these actions contribute to future ministry cycles?	All leaders have co-leaders they are training while on-the-job
Symbiosis	Cooperating <i>or</i> Mutually benefiting	Tickbirds and the rhinoceros	Different ministries can cultivate cooperative relationships so the mutual benefit is greater than operating separately.	Ephesians 4:11-16 (different gifts work together to build up church)	How can we work together to enhance ministry effectiveness?	Members linked to ministries based on their spiritual gifts
Fruitfulness	Evaluating	Pruning	Each ministry needs to produce discernible results in line with its intended purpose.	Matthew 7:15-20 (Tree and fruit)	How can we maximize the fruitfulness of this ministry?	Regular assessment of the fruitfulness of programs and ministries

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