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Church Planting

(From Conception to Birth)

by
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Church Planting

From Conception to Birth

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(From Conception to Birth)

- I. Conception phase**
 - A. Personal prayer for need seen 5.
 - B. Develop a vision 7.
 - C. Share the vision with the church 8.
 - D. Develop a strategic planning team (steering committee) 9.
 - E. Train the strategic planning team (steering committee) 10.
 - F. In some areas, determine the language to target 11.
 - G. Recruit a church planting team through prayer 12.
 - H. Develop daily prayer for relatives, co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances in the area of future church plant 13.
 - I. Develop a prayer team for each team member 14.

- II. Training phase**
 - A. The process of Biblical church development 15.
 - B. Basics for effective evangelism 17.
 - C. Team building 21.
 - D. Develop by example 23.
 - E. Qualify team members for Spiritual leadership 24.
 - F. Train team members for evangelistic Bible studies 25.

- III. Building a nucleus phase**
 - A. Meet regularly to pray as a church planting team 28.
 - B. Visit relatives, friends, co-workers and other acquaintances in the area of the future church plant 29.
 - C. Begin multiple Bible studies 30.
 - D. Pray for the Lord to open hearts 31.
 - E. Begin follow-up Bible studies with new Christians 32.
 - F. Focus on reaching the extended family and network of the new Christians 33.
 - G. Invite new Christians to join church planting team for times of prayer and worship 36.
 - H. Prepare for the beginning of public services 37.

I. Conception Phase

Planting of a church that desires to bring glory to the Lord is the result of the leading of the Lord in the lives of individuals, church leadership teams and entire churches.

A. Personal prayer for need seen

1. Isaiah was praying and the Lord called Him

Isaiah 6:1-8

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: ‘Woe *is* me, for I am undone! because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here *am* I! Send me.’”

**Isaiah saw the Lord in all of His glory
Isaiah heard that the Lord is Holy
Isaiah realized his own sinfulness
Isaiah was cleansed by the Lord
Isaiah heard the Lord ask who would go for Him
Isaiah told the Lord he was available and to send him**

2. Peter was praying and the Lord called him

Acts 11:4-12

“But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But I said, “Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.” But the voice answered me again from heaven, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.’”

**Peter was given a vision by God
Peter learned that God is the One who cleanses
Peter had people come to him sent by God
Peter was led by the Holy Spirit
Peter was told to go with the men
Peter took six other men with him**

**3. The leaders in Antioch were praying and the Lord called part of them
Acts 13:1-3**

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

**the leaders were praying for the leading of the Lord
the leaders came from several different areas
the leaders were sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
the leaders were told to send Barnabas and Saul
the leaders then fasted and prayed
the leaders laid hands on Barnabas and Saul
the leaders sent them to the work God had called them**

**4. Epaphras saw a need in his home area
Colossians 2:1, 4:12-13**

“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.”... “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.”

**Paul had not been to Colosse or Laodicea
Paul had not been to many areas of Asia
Epaphras was from the city of Colosse
Epaphras was a bondservant of Christ
Epaphras prayed continually for the Colossians
Epaphras wanted them to stand and be mature
Epaphras wanted them to be complete in all the will of God
Epaphras had a great zeal for the people of these cities**

B. Develop a vision

1. Paul developed a vision in Epaphras

Colossians 2:1, 4:12-13

“For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh.”... “Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.”

**Paul had not been to Colosse or Laodicea
Paul had not seen the Christians from there face to face
Paul had developed a vision in the heart of Epaphras
Paul had helped Epaphras become a bondservant of Christ
Paul had encouraged Epaphras to pray for those cities
Paul had seen Epaphras take the Gospel to those cities**

2. Paul developed the vision of many for Asia

Acts 19:8-10

“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”

**Paul had led people to Christ in Ephesus
Paul had seen a hardening by some toward the Gospel
Paul continued to teach the disciples daily
Paul helped many Christians develop vision for home areas**

3. Paul developed a vision for a third and fourth generation

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

**Paul had helped Timothy develop a vision
Paul encouraged Timothy to pass that vision on to faithful men
Paul told Timothy how to develop vision in those men for others**

C. Share the vision with the church

1. The church sent out Barnabas and Saul

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

**the church leaders were seeking the will of God
the church leaders set aside time to fast and pray
the church leaders received a message from the Holy Spirit
the church leaders spent additional time in fasting and prayer
the church leaders commissioned Barnabas and Saul and sent them out**

2. The church sent Timothy with Paul

Acts 16:1-3

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.”

**the church leaders had developed Timothy
the church leaders gave a good report about Timothy
the church leaders encouraged Paul to take Timothy with him**

3. The church in Ephesus sent people throughout Asia

Acts 19:10

“And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”

**the church in Ephesus developed a vision for all of Asia
the church was being taught daily by Paul for two years
the church in Ephesus sent people to cities throughout Asia
those going out were equipped to share with Jews and Greeks**

D. Develop a strategic planning team (steering committee)

1. Christ developed the apostles and others

Acts 1:14-15

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty)...”

**Christ had told the disciples to wait for power from on high
these disciples were all in one accord as they met together
these disciples continued in prayer and supplication
these disciples included both men and women
these disciples totaled 120 in number**

2. Paul and Barnabas developed a team in each city

Acts 14:21

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.”

**Paul and Barnabas preached the Gospel
Paul and Barnabas made many disciples
Paul and Barnabas visited other cities while the disciples matured**

3. Paul and Barnabas later appointed elders

Acts 14:22-23

“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

**Paul and Barnabas strengthened the souls of the disciples
Paul and Barnabas exhorted the disciples to continue in the faith
Paul and Barnabas prepared the disciples for many tribulations
Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in every church
Paul and Barnabas prayed with fasting for these new elders
Paul and Barnabas commended the elders to the Lord
Paul and Barnabas believed the Lord would work through the elders
Paul and Barnabas then returned to Antioch**

E. Train the strategic planning team (steering committee)

1. The teams led until Paul returned and helped the churches organize

Acts 14:21-23

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

**the team of new Christians led while Paul visited other cities
the team of new Christians received further strengthening
the team of new Christians was encouraged to continue in the faith
the team of new Christians was prepared for tribulation
the team saw qualified men appointed as elders**

2. Paul returned to strengthen the churches

a. this happened on Paul’s second trip

Acts 16:4-5

“And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

**Paul explained the Gentiles were not under the Jewish law
Paul explained the decision of the Jerusalem Council
Paul continued to strengthen the churches in the faith
Paul saw that the churches were increasing in number daily**

b. this happened on Paul’s third trip

Acts 18:23

“After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

**Paul spent more time with the churches that had been established
Paul traveled to the churches in the region of Galatia
Paul traveled to the churches in the region of Phrygia
Paul was strengthening all of the disciples**

F. In some areas, determine the language to target

1. Jews began with Jews, and later, some spoke to the Hellenists

Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

**the disciples could speak to the Jews in their own language
the disciples had to speak Greek to speak to the Hellenists**

2. Paul always started with the Jews

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

Acts 13:14-15

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, ‘Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.’”

**Paul said that he began with the Jews
Paul provided an example of his concern for the Jews**

3. Paul later turned to the Gentiles

Acts 13:46-49

“Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us: “I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.”’ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.”

**Paul turned to the Gentiles when the Jews rejected
Paul was concerned to spread the message throughout the region**

G. Recruit a church planting team through prayer

1. Christ spent the night in prayer before choosing the Twelve

Luke 6:12-13

“Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.”

Mark 3:14-15

“Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.”

**Christ went alone to the mountain to pray
Christ spent the entire night praying
Christ spent this time praying to the Father
Christ called all of His disciples to Him
Christ chose twelve of them to be with Him
Christ called those that He chose to be apostles
Christ chose the twelve to be with Him
Christ chose the twelve to send them out to preach
Christ chose the twelve to have power to heal sicknesses
Christ chose the twelve to have power to cast out demons**

2. The church at Antioch chose the team through prayer

Acts 13:1-4

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

**the church had leaders from various areas
the church had leaders who realized the importance of prayer and fasting
the church had leaders who were sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
the church was led to separate Barnabas and Saul for a special work
the church spent additional time in prayer and fasting
the church commissioned them and then sent them out
the church acted under the leading of the Holy Spirit**

H. Develop daily prayer for relatives, co-workers, neighbors, and acquaintances located in the area of the future church plant

1. Many families in Jerusalem reached out to their households

Acts 1:14, 2:46-47

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” ... “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**the church at Jerusalem was planted with a team of 120
the church at Jerusalem met in the homes of the believers
the church saw family members becoming believers daily**

2. Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends

Acts 10:1-2, 24, 27

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ...And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. ...And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together.”

**Cornelius was continually praying to God
Cornelius was waiting to hear the message of the Gospel
Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends
Cornelius had many people waiting to hear the Gospel**

3. Lydia reached out to her household

Acts 16:14-15

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ So she persuaded *us*.”

**Lydia was the first person in Europe to become a Christian
Lydia saw her whole household turn to the Lord
Lydia used her home to start the first church in Europe**

I. Develop a prayer team for each team member

1. The church in Antioch prayed for Paul and Barnabas

Acts 13:3, 14:26-28

“Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” ...
“From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”

**the church at Antioch prayed for Paul and Barnabas
the church at Antioch had placed them in the hands of God
the church at Antioch received a report of all that God had done
the church heard how God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles**

2. The churches in Derbe, Lystra and Iconium prayed for Timothy

Acts 16:1-2

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.”

**the churches of Galatia encouraged Paul to consider taking Timothy
the churches of Galatia prayed for Timothy as he ministered with Paul**

3. The church in Philippi prayed for Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:25-27, 4:18

“Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.” ... “Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.”

**the church at Philippi sent Epaphroditus to minister to Paul
the church at Philippi was distressed when they heard of his sickness
the church at Philippi prayed for him during his sickness**

II. Training Phase

A. The process of Biblical Church development

Each main church in Acts developed the following five stages:

Stage 1 – initial contacts

goal - evangelism

Acts 11:19-21, 14:21a

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.” ... “And when they had preached the gospel to that city...”

**they began by preaching the Gospel to the Jews
they continued by preaching the Gospel to the Hellenists
they continued by preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles**

Stage 2 – group meetings

goal - stable Christians

Acts 2:42, 14:21b

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” ... “and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.”

**they continued in the apostles' doctrine
they continued in fellowship
they continued in breaking of bread
they continued in prayers**

Stage 3 – church beginnings & leadership development

goal - spiritual trained leadership

Acts 14:22

“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

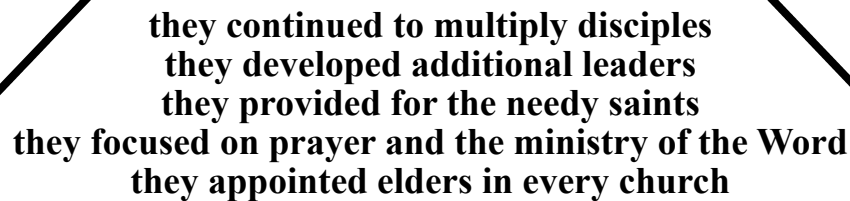
**they strengthened the souls of the disciples
they helped them learn to abide in the faith
they prepared them for much tribulation**

Stage 4 – church organization

Goal - independent churches

Acts 6:1, 3-4, 14:23

“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ...Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ... “So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”



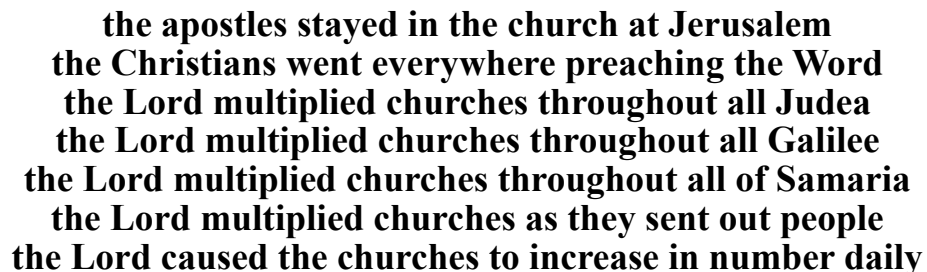
- they continued to multiply disciples**
- they developed additional leaders**
- they provided for the needy saints**
- they focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word**
- they appointed elders in every church**

Stage 5 – church extension

Goals - sending churches and sister churches

Acts 8:4, 9:31, 16:1-5

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” ... “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” ... “Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”



- the apostles stayed in the church at Jerusalem**
- the Christians went everywhere preaching the Word**
- the Lord multiplied churches throughout all Judea**
- the Lord multiplied churches throughout all Galilee**
- the Lord multiplied churches throughout all of Samaria**
- the Lord multiplied churches as they sent out people**
- the Lord caused the churches to increase in number daily**

B. Basics for effective evangelism

1. Working with the Trinity in evangelism

a. working with the Holy Spirit in evangelism

John 16:8-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

**the Holy Spirit convices of the sin of unbelief
(the Holy Spirit shows people they believe God or believe Satan)**

**the Holy Spirit convices of the fact that Jesus is the “Righteous One”
(Jesus is now in heaven so the Holy Spirit shows He is the Righteous One)**

**the Holy Spirit convices of the fact that Satan is judged
(Satan knew he was judged at the moment of the resurrection)
those who continue to follow him with share his judgment**

b. working with the Father in Evangelism

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

**the Father draws people to Christ
Christ will raise all those who come to Him**

c. working with the Son in Evangelism

Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 15:3-7

Jesus seeks those who are lost
He seeks those who are lost
He finds those who are lost
Jesus saves those who are lost
He brings those who are found
He celebrates those who are found

2. Understanding the four “c’s” for evangelism

a. confrontation

John 3:5-7 (John 3:1-21)

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”’”

**a person must be born physically and spiritually
a physical birth produces physical life
a spiritual birth produces spiritual life
a person should not be surprised he needs spiritual life**

b. clarification

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to *find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

**fair-minded people will receive the Word with readiness
fair-minded people will search the Scriptures daily
fair-minded people will get their questions answered
fair-minded people will usually believe**

c. compassion

John 4:10, 40-41 (John 4:5-42)

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give Me a drink,” you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’... So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.”

**Christ showed compassion and offered eternal life
Christ saw many receive eternal life**

d. creation

Acts 17:22-34

**Paul started with their belief in the unknown God
Paul began his sharing with creation
Paul finished his sharing with the resurrection**

3. Developing prayer for boldness in witnessing

a. developing boldness as individuals

Ephesians 6:18-20

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

**we pray in the Spirit at all times
we pray for one another with perseverance
we pray that the Lord will give us the words to speak
we pray that we will be able to open our mouth with boldness
we pray that we will be good ambassadors for Christ
we pray that we will be able to speak boldly**

b. developing boldness as a body

Acts 4:24, 29-31

“So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them. ...Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

**we recognize that God is the Creator of all things
we recognize that Satan is the source of opposition
we recognize that we are the servants of Christ
we ask the Lord to give us boldness to speak His Word**

**we recognize that the Lord is the One who must work
we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit
we act in the power of the Holy Spirit
we speak the Word with boldness**

4. Evangelistic Bible studies

a. realize that the Lord is the One who adds to the church

Acts 2:46-47

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**the church discussed the Word of God in their homes
the Lord added to the church those who were being saved**

b. encourage people to search the Word of God

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to *find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

**people searched the Scriptures daily to learn about Christ
many people believed as a result of this searching**

c. show other Christians how to teach evangelistic Bible studies

Acts 20:20

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.”

**Paul showed how to share all that is helpful
Paul showed how to teach the Word publicly
Paul showed how to teach the Word of God from house to house**

d. share the message of repentance and faith

Acts 20:21

“Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Paul showed how to share the Word of God in various cultures
Paul showed how to share the message of repentance toward God
Paul showed how to share the message of faith in Jesus Christ**

C. Team building

Learn to practice the one anothers of Scripture as a team

31 positive, 12 negative

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The one anothers we are to practice as a team

- 1. accept one another - Romans 15:7**
 - 2. admonish one another - Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16**
 - 3. bear one another's burdens - Galatians 6:1-2**
 - 4. bear with one another - Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13**
 - 5. build up one another - Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11**
 - 6. care for one another - 1 Corinthians 12:25**
 - 7. encourage one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11;
Hebrews 3:13, 10:25**
 - 8. be encouraged together through faith in one another - Romans 1:12**
-
- 9. have compassion one of another - 1 Peter 3:8**
 - 10. confess your sins to one another - James 5:16**
 - 11. be devoted to one another - Romans 12:10**
 - 12. fellowship with one another - 1 John 1:7**
 - 13. forgive one another - Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13**
 - 14. seek what is good for one another and for all men -
1 Thessalonians 5:15**
 - 15. greet one another - Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20;
2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Peter 5:14**
 - 16. be hospitable to one another - 1 Peter 4:9**
 - 17. clothe yourselves with humility toward one another - 1 Peter 5:5**
 - 18. be kind to one another - Ephesians 4:32**
-
- 19. love one another - John 13:34-35, 15:12, 17;
Romans 13:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 4:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3;
1 Peter 1:22, 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 5**

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Additional one anothers we are to practice as a team

- 20. be members one of another - Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25**
- 21. be of the same mind one to another - Romans 12:16, 15:5**
- 22. be at peace with one another - Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13**
- 23. pray for one another - James 5:16**
- 24. regard one another as more important than self - Philippians 2:3**
- 25. serve one another as a slave - Galatians 5:13**
- 26. employ your gift in serving one another - 1 Peter 4:10**
- 27. stimulate one another to love and good deeds - Hebrews 10:24-25**
- 28. submit to one another - Ephesians 5:21**
- 29. teach one another - Colossians 3:16**
- 30. wait for one another - 1 Corinthians 11:33**
- 31. wash one another's feet - John 13:14**

Twelve things we are to avoid with one another

- 1. do not judge one another any more - Romans 14:13**
- 2. do Not go to law with one another - 1 Corinthians 6:7**
- 3. do not deprive one another - 1 Corinthians 7:5**
- 4. do not bite one another - Galatians 5:15**
- 5. do not devour one another - Galatians 5:15**
- 6. do not consume one another - Galatians 5:15**
- 7. do not challenge (provoke) one another - Galatians 5:26**
- 8. do not envy one another - Galatians 5:26**
- 9. do not lie to one another - Colossians 3:9**
- 10. see that no one repay another with evil for evil - 1 Thessalonians 5:15**
- 11. do not speak against one another - James 4:11**
- 12. do not complain against one another - James 5:9**

Destroying Relationships

The twelve things mentioned above will bring fear into a marriage or any other relationship. They will destroy trust and break down communication between individuals and groups. God says we can choose to obey His Word and build good relationships, or we can choose to satisfy self and destroy relationships and replace them with fear.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:18-19)

D. Develop by example

1. Christ developed by example

Mark 1:16-20, 38-39

“And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also *were* in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him. ...But He said to them, ‘Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth.’ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.”

**Christ invited four fishermen to follow Him
Christ promised to show four fishermen how to become fishers of men
Christ took the four fishermen with Him as He went to the next towns
Christ took the four fishermen with Him as He went throughout Galilee**

2. Peter developed by example

Acts 11:12

“Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.”

**Peter took six brethren with him as he went to the house of Cornelius
Peter showed them how to share the Gospel with the Gentiles**

3. Paul developed by example

Acts 20:20-21

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Paul took those who became elders as he ministered in Ephesus
Paul showed them how to share the Gospel publicly
Paul showed them how to share the Gospel from house to house
Paul showed them how to share with both Jews and Greeks
Paul showed them how to explain repentance toward God
Paul showed them how to explain faith in our Lord Jesus Christ**

E. Qualify team members for spiritual leadership

1. Was Titus left to qualify or disqualify spiritual leadership on Crete? (the island of Crete was 160 miles long)

Titus 1:5-9

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

We see that the primary responsibility of Titus was to complete what was lacking in the lives of potential leaders and to appoint qualified elders in every city

- a. help potential leaders develop a respected life**
- b. help potential leaders develop a healthy marriage**
- c. help potential leaders develop a healthy family relationship**
- d. help potential leaders become Christ centered and not self centered**
- e. help potential leaders deal with former sinful habits**
- f. help potential leaders learn to use their homes for ministry**
- g. help potential leaders develop godly character**
- h. help potential leaders learn to teach the Word of God**
- i. help potential leaders learn to correct those who contradict**

2. Was Timothy left to qualify or disqualify spiritual leadership in Ephesus?

1 Timothy 1:3-5

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”

**Timothy was to teach the Christians what to avoid
Timothy was to show them how to love from a pure heart
Timothy was to show them how to love from a good conscience
Timothy was to show them how to love from a sincere faith**

F. Train team members for evangelistic Bible studies

Christ and Paul both used the following five-stage pattern to train

1. observation (I do, you observe)

Mark 1:17

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’”

Acts 16:1-3

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.”

**Christ invited several men to follow Him and learn by example
Paul invited Timothy to go with him and learn by example**

2. participation (I do, you participate)

John 6:5-11

“Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, ‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.’ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, ‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’ Then Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.”

Acts 13:5

“And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant.”

Christ invited the disciples to participate in problem solving

Philip saw the problem of the lack of money

Andrew saw the potential of a boy with a lunch

Christ had the disciples organize the people in groups

Christ had the disciples distribute the food to the groups

Paul and Barnabas took John as their assistant

3. on-the-job training (you do, I observe and encourage)

a. Christ provided on-the-job training for the disciples

Mark 6:7-8, 30-31

“And He called the twelve to *Himself*, and began to send them out two *by two*, and gave them power over unclean spirits. He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts. ...Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, ‘Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’ For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.”

**Christ sent them out in teams of two
Christ had them share what they had done
Christ had them share what they had taught
Christ took them aside to rest and discuss**

b. Paul provided on-the-job training for Timothy

1 Thessalonians 3:1-2

“Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith.”

1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

**Paul sent Timothy to minister to the new Christians
Paul recognized Timothy as a brother in Christ
Paul recognized Timothy as a minister of God
Paul recognized Timothy as a fellow laborer**

**Paul sent Timothy to establish the Christians
Paul sent Timothy to encourage the Christians**

**Paul told Timothy to lead by example:
Timothy was to be an example in word
Timothy was to be an example in conduct
Timothy was to be an example in love
Timothy was to be an example in spirit
Timothy was to be an example in faith
Timothy was to be an example in purity**

4. team leadership (you do, I serve you in love)

Acts 11:7-12

“And I heard a voice saying to me, “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But I said, “Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.” But the voice answered me again from heaven, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.” Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.”

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

**Peter had to realize the Gentiles were not unclean
Peter had to realize that God had cleansed the Gentiles
Peter immediately had Gentiles come to him
Peter was told by the Holy Spirit to go with them
Peter told six Jews to learn the lessons he had just learned**

**Paul taught and trained Timothy
Paul showed Timothy how to teach and train others**

5. repeat the process

Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

**Christ said that He is the One who has all authority
Christ commissioned the disciples to make disciples
they were to be going to make disciples
they were to baptize those who became disciples
they were to show those disciples how to obey all that Christ commanded**

**Timothy was to train faithful men
Timothy was to show those faithful men how to train others**

III. Building a nucleus phase

A. Meet regularly to pray as a church-planting team

1. The church in Jerusalem met to pray as a team

Acts 1:14, 4:23-31

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” ... “And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: ‘Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: “Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.” For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

the team prayed together before the church started
the team gathered together when they faced opposition
the team shared the Word to see what God said about opposition
the team told the Lord how Peter and John had been threatened
the team prayed for boldness to speak the Word of God
the team was filled with the Holy Spirit
the team spoke the Word with boldness

2. Paul and the team went to pray together

Acts 16:13

“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*.”

Paul and the team went to a place of prayer together
Paul and the team took the opportunity to share about Christ

B. Visit relatives, friends, co-workers and other acquaintances in the area of the future church plant

1. Peter spent time in the house of Cornelius even though the Jews considered that unlawful

Acts 10:28

“Then he said to them, ‘You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.’”

**Peter went to the home of a Gentile
Peter had to break with his traditions**

2. Paul spent time in the home of Aquila and Priscilla

Acts 18:1-3

“After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.”

**Paul spent time in the home of Aquila and Priscilla
Paul shared a common trade with Aquila and Priscilla
Paul became a co-worker of Aquila and Priscilla**

3. Aquila and Priscilla followed the example of Paul

Acts 18:24-26

“Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**Aquila and Priscilla saw that Apollos was an eloquent man
Aquila and Priscilla saw that Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures
Aquila and Priscilla saw that Apollos was fervent in spirit
Aquila and Priscilla saw Apollos was limited in his knowledge
Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside and spent time with him
Aquila and Priscilla explained the way of God more accurately**

C. Begin multiple Bible studies

1. The church at Jerusalem began Bible studies house-to-house

Acts 2:42, 46-47

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**the team had Bible study and fellowship in the homes
the team had breaking of bread and prayers in the homes
the team was filled with joy as they shared about Christ
the team received grace from all the people
the team saw the Lord save people daily**

2. Paul had Bible studies in the synagogue and also in the marketplace in the city of Athens

Acts 17:17

“Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”

**Paul had Bible studies with the Jews in the synagogue
Paul had Bible studies with Gentile worshippers
Paul had Bible studies in the marketplace**

3. The church in Ephesus had Bible studies house-to-house

Acts 20:20-21, 27

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ...For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

**Paul shared all that was helpful
Paul shared these things publicly
Paul shared these things from house-to-house
Paul shared with both Jews and Gentiles
Paul shared both repentance and faith
Paul shared the whole counsel of God**

D. Pray for the Lord to open hearts

1. The Lord opened hearts on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2:37, 41

“Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ ...Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.”

**the Lord used the Word that was preached to cut to the hearts
the Lord caused the people to ask what to do
the Lord led many to gladly receive the Word
the Lord opened the hearts of about 3000 people**

2. The Lord opened the hearts of all who were at the house of Cornelius

Acts 10:44

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.”

**the Lord interrupted the preaching of Peter
the Lord opened the heart of all those who heard the Word**

3. The Lord opened the heart of Lydia

Acts 16:14

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

**the Lord worked in the heart of a God worshiper
the Lord opened the heart of Lydia**

4. The Lord opened the hearts of the Gentiles

Acts 14:27

“Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

**the Lord had worked with Paul and Barnabas
the Lord opened the door of faith to the Gentiles**

E. Begin follow-up Bible studies with new Christians

1. The church at Jerusalem began Bible studies for all new Christians

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

**the new believers were immediately participating in Bible study
the new believers were immediately participating in fellowship
the new believers were immediately participating in communion
the new believers were immediately participating in prayer**

2. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to begin follow-up Bible studies at Antioch

Acts 11:22-23

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.”

**Barnabas was sent to help the new believers in Antioch
Barnabas saw the new believers experiencing the grace of God
Barnabas encouraged the new believers to continue with the Lord**

3. Paul began Bible studies for new Christians

Acts 11:25-26, 14:22, 19:9

“Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” ... “Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”... “But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”

**Paul and Barnabas taught a great many new believers
Paul and Barnabas strengthened the souls of the believers
Paul and Barnabas encouraged them to continue in the faith
Paul and Barnabas prepared them for opposition
Paul reasoned with new believers daily**

F. Focus on reaching the extended family and network of the new Christians

1. Andrew first found his brother and brought him to Jesus

John 1:40-42

“One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).”

**Andrew heard John speak about Jesus
Andrew immediately followed Jesus
Andrew was the brother of Peter
Andrew immediately found his brother
Andrew brought Peter to meet Jesus**

2. Philip found his friend and brought him to Jesus

John 1:43-49

“The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’ Nathanael said to Him, ‘How do You know me?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’ Nathanael answered and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’”

**Philip was invited to follow Jesus
Philip immediately found his friend Nathanael
Philip said that Jesus fulfilled the promises given by Moses
Philip said that Jesus fulfilled the promises given by the prophets
Philip heard Nathanael question whether Jesus was the Christ
Philip invited Nathanael to come and see
Philip heard Jesus describe the character of Nathanael
Philip heard Nathanael question how Jesus knew him
Philip heard that Jesus knew Nathanael before he called him
Philip heard Nathanael recognize Jesus as the Son of God**

3. Matthew had a great feast to help his co-workers meet Jesus

Luke 5:27-32

“After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, ‘Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.’”

Matthew (Levi) was invited to follow Jesus
Matthew had been a tax collector
Matthew left tax collecting and followed Jesus
Matthew gave a great feast at his house
Matthew invited many tax collectors to dinner with Jesus
Matthew was rejected by the scribes and Pharisees
Matthew heard that Jesus came to help those who were sick
Matthew heard that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance

4. Peter had open house so the whole town could meet Jesus

Mark 1:16-18

“And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.”

Luke 4:38-40

“Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.”

Peter was invited to follow Jesus
Peter was promised he would become a fisher of men
Peter immediately chose to follow Jesus
Peter invited Jesus to come to his house
Peter had a mother-in-law who was very sick
Peter spoke to Jesus about his mother-in-law
Peter had many other people come to his house
Peter saw Jesus heal all who came

5. Cornelius had called together his relatives and close friends

Acts 10:22-24

“And they said, ‘Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.’ Then he invited them in and lodged *them*. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.”

**Cornelius was a Roman centurion
Cornelius was a just man who feared God
Cornelius had sent for Peter to tell him about Jesus
Cornelius was waiting for Peter to arrive
Cornelius had called together his relatives
Cornelius had called together his close friends**

6. Lydia reached her whole household

Acts 16:14-15

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ So she persuaded us.”

**Lydia had her heart opened by the Lord
Lydia immediately shared with her whole household**

7. The Philippian jailer was concerned for his entire household

Acts 16:31-34

“So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.”

**the Philippian jailer heard how to be saved
the Philippian jailer had Paul share with his household
the Philippian jailer and his whole household believed**

G. Invite new Christians to join church planting team for times of prayer and worship

1. The church in Jerusalem started worship in many homes

Acts 2:42, 46-47

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

**the new believers studied the Word together
the new believers enjoyed fellowship together
the new believers enjoyed communion together
the new believers prayed together
the new believers ate together
the new believers were filled with joy and gladness
the new believers saw other relatives become believers**

2. Paul had worship times in the house of Justus

Acts 18:7-8

“And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain *man* named Justus, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”

**they worshiped God in the house of Justus
they saw Crispus and his whole household believe
they saw many other Corinthians believe**

3. Paul had worship times in the school of Tyrannus

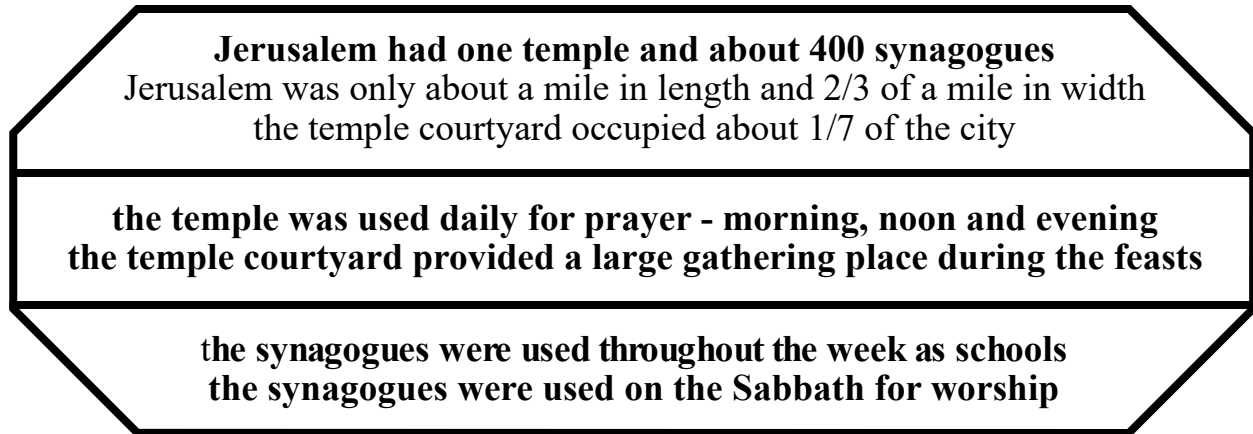
Acts 19:8-9

“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”

**Paul began to meet separately with those who believed
Paul and the believers met in the school of Tyrannus**

H. Prepare for the beginning of public services

1. Understand the use of the temple and the synagogues in Jerusalem



2. The church in Jerusalem used the temple for prayer and witnessing

a. the church continued to meet in the temple at the times of prayer

Acts 3:1

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.”

b. the church witnessed to others in the temple at times of prayer

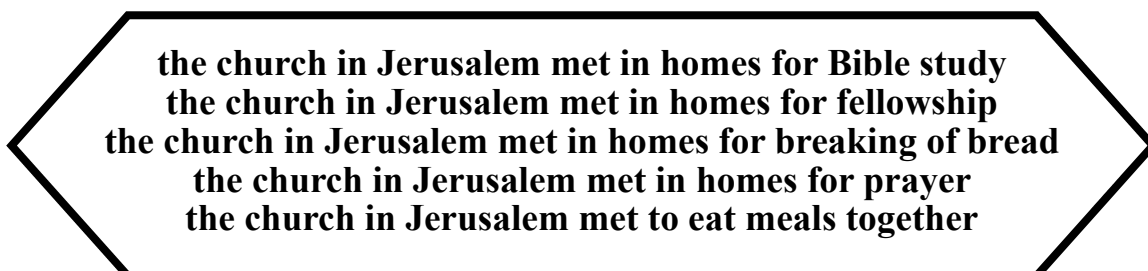
Acts 3:12

“So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: ‘Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?’”

3. The church in Jerusalem had public services in many different homes

Acts 2:42, 46

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.”



4. In Ephesus, the church had training meetings in the school of Tyrannus

Acts 19:9-10, 20:20-21

“But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”... “How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**these training meetings were during the afternoon break
(this usually lasted from about 11 until 4)
these training meetings were for the disciples
these training meetings focused on discussion
these training meetings were held daily
these training meetings were followed by on-the-job training
on-the-job training was held in homes
on-the-job training was used to train for cross cultural ministry
on-the-job training was used to train for effective evangelism**

5. In Troas, the church had public services in a third-story room

Acts 20:7-12

“Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, ‘Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.’ Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.”

**public services were held on the first day of the week
public services, in Troas, began in the evening
public services were when the disciples came together to break bread
this public service lasted a long time because Paul was visiting
this public service was interrupted by a man falling out of the window
this public service included much discussion
this public service lasted until daybreak**

**6. Public services of the whole church are only described in one place
1 Corinthians 14:23-40**

**a. true worship will reveal the secrets of the heart
1 Corinthians 14:23-25**

“Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in *those who are* uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

this passage talks about the whole church being together in one place!

the confusion if all were to speak in tongues

**it could happen that the uninformed might attend the service
it could happen that unbelievers might attend the service
both groups would say that people were out of their mind**

**the conviction that happens if all prophesy
(to prophesy means to speak the written Word of God)**

**both groups will be convinced by the Word
both groups will be convicted by the Word
the Word will reveal the secrets of the heart
the Word will bring repentance
the Word will cause some people to worship God**

**b. true worship involved participation by many
1 Corinthians 14:26**

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.”

**each person could participate
all things were to be done for edification**

God is the audience and we are the participants!

c. true worship limited speaking in other languages

1 Corinthians 14:27-28

“If anyone speaks in a tongue, *let there be* two or at the most three, *each* in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”

the church was allowed to let people speak in another language
the church was to limit this to only two or three people
the church was to have what was said interpreted by another
the church was not to let a person speak if they had no interpreter
the church was not to allow another language if there was no interpreter
the person of another language was then only to speak in his thoughts
the person of another language was only to speak to God

d. true worship involved two or three explaining the Word

1 Corinthians 14:22, 29-33

“Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. ...Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

the church was to recognize that prophesying was for those who believe
(prophesying is speaking forth the written Word of God)
the church was to have two or three speak and explain the Word of God
the church was to have the other leaders examine what was said
the church was to let another clarify when a speaker was not clear
the church was to give all the opportunity to explain the Word

the church was to have one person at a time explain the Word
the one who learns the most is the one who speaks
the others are encouraged as they see others learn
the church was to make sure that those who spoke were prepared
the human spirit was to be subject to the person as he spoke
the church was to recognize that God is not the author of confusion
the church was to recognize that God is the author of peace
the church was to recognize the example given by other churches

e. true worship was designed to help men learn to take family leadership

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

“Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but *they are* to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.”

the women were to be silent in meetings of the whole church
the women were not to teach the whole church
the women were to demonstrate a submissive attitude
the women were to develop the spiritual leadership of their husbands
they could best do this by asking their questions at home
the women were to bring honor to God by their respectful attitude

f. True worship caused people to recognize the commandments of the Lord

1 Corinthians 14:36-38

“Or did the word of God come *originally* from you? Or was it you only that it reached? If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.”

true believers recognize that they are not the source of authority
true believers recognize the Word of God as the source of authority
true believers recognize this authority through the Word
true believers choose to submit to the Word of God
they recognize the authority of the commandments of God
those who are ignorant do not recognize that authority

g. true worship does things decently and in order

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

“Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.”

we are to eagerly desire to share the Word of God
the Word of God is living and powerful - Hebrews 4:12
we are not to forbid one who speaks to us in another language
we have seen that this requires an interpreter to interpret
we are to do all things in an honorable manner
we are to do all things in an orderly way