



# **Planting a Group of Churches in an Urban Area**

**by**

**Duane L. Anderson**

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**American Indian Bible Institute  
Box 511  
Norwalk, CA 90651-0511  
[www.aibi.org](http://www.aibi.org)**

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## **Introduction**

### **Planting a Group of Churches in an Urban Area**

Today there is a great need for a strategy for planting healthy reproducing churches in urban areas or regions of a country. When we look at the book of Acts, we learn several things that can help us to develop such a strategy. We see the following things:

1. Church planters were always sent out as teams – Acts 13:1, 14:41-42, 16:3, 20:4, etc.
2. Church planting teams had a goal to start several churches in an area that could then reach out to a region – Acts 19:8-10, Acts 20:20.
3. Church planting teams focused on the development of reproductive disciples – Acts 14:21.
4. Church planting teams focused on strengthening disciples and preparing them for tribulation – Acts 14:22.
5. Church planting teams developed those that they reached until they were reproducing disciples who could lead reproducing churches – Acts 14:21-23.
6. Church planting teams trusted the Lord to work through the leaders that they developed – Acts 14:23, 20:32.
7. Church planting teams started with a plan to phase out and leave behind a group of churches that would then continue to reach out to other areas – Acts 19:10, compare Colossians 2:1 with Colossians 4:12-13.
8. Church planting teams returned periodically to encourage the churches – Acts 15:36, Acts 18:23, Acts 20:2, Acts 20:17-38.

Applying these principles to the planting of multiple churches in an urban area:

1. Begin building a contact list

Begin building a contact list for each urban area – Romans 16 shows that Paul had developed an extensive contact list before he ever went to Rome. If we have a contact list of both Christians and non-Christians before we even get to an urban area, we have an immediate source of contacts. These may be relatives and friends of Christians in other areas.

2. Build the church planting team

Christ and the early church developed church planting teams through prayer. Luke

6:12-13 says that Christ spent the entire night in prayer before selecting the twelve. Acts 13:1-3 shows that the church leaders at Antioch were led by the Spirit to select the church planting team as they prayed. Add team members as the Lord leads – Acts 16:1-3.

### 3. Begin building relationships

Build relationships by praying the Lord will lead us to people who are open – Acts 8:26-30. Build relationships with a plan to begin evangelistic Bible studies in various parts of the urban area (each tent making team member can begin one or two evangelistic Bible studies while each full-time team member can begin three or more) – Acts 18:1-3, 7, Acts 19:9. Build relationships where people live, work and spend their free time – Acts 17:17, Acts 18:1-3. Observe carefully those things that may provide bridges for presenting the Gospel – Acts 16:13, Acts 17:22-23.

### 4. Develop the evangelistic ministry

Pray for boldness to witness – Acts 4:29-31, Ephesians 6:18-20. Pray that the Lord will lead the team to individuals who are open and searching – Acts 13:46-49, Acts 16:14-15. Use those homes to begin evangelistic Bible studies. Often these initial evangelistic Bible studies will involve only one family or one extended family – Acts 10:24-27. However, in some cases evangelistic Bible studies can involve larger groups – Acts 17:10-12.

### 5. Begin group meetings

As those involved become Christians, the evangelistic Bible studies become follow-up Bible studies – Acts 20:20. Develop multiple follow-up Bible studies (group meetings) in each urban area or region – Acts 2:42. To begin with, team members are the spiritual parents of the new Christians – I Cor. 4:14-17, I Thes. 2:7-12. However, we want to help each developing Christian develop to the point where he or she becomes a spiritual parent to one or more new Christians – II Timothy 2:2.

### 6. Begin local team (leadership) development

Begin initial development as soon as the first person follows Christ by getting that person to begin praying for relatives (John 1:41-42), friends (John 1:43-46), co-workers (Matthew 9:9-10), neighbors and other acquaintances (Mark 1:30-33). Offer to go with that new Christian to share the Gospel with those for whom he or she is praying. Develop new Christians by your example as you take them with you to minister – Mark 1:14-20. As growing Christians develop their spiritual life, three or four groups in one part of the urban area or region may join together to form a church

nucleus. In other cases, one Bible study will become multiple Bible studies that form a church nucleus. (At this point you may need to begin to rent facilities for joint worship when the entire group comes together because of the size of the group when multiple Bible studies join together. In most urban areas there are facilities that can be rented for a few hours each week.)

7. Develop organization only as it is needed

Develop the structure as it is needed – Acts 2:42. Be prepared to expand the structure as new needs arise – Acts 6:1-7. Appoint leadership as it becomes qualified – Acts 14:21-23. Focus on the continuing development of additional team members – compare Acts 13:1 and Acts 15:35.

8. Develop teams to plant churches in other areas

These teams may be developed from a single urban area (Acts 13:1-3) or multiple areas (Acts 20:4). Sometimes they will be formed by an experienced church planter recruiting another team member or team members to become a part of a new church planting team – Acts 15:40, 16:1-3, Acts 16:8-10 (notice the change from they to we).

## **I. Begin Building a Contact List**

A very helpful key before ever getting to an urban area where you will be working to plant a group of churches is to begin developing a list of contacts as soon as you begin to target an area. This is demonstrated for us in several ways in the New Testament.

### **A. The Lord prepared contacts for many areas on the Day of Pentecost**

#### **Acts 2:5-11**

“And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? “And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, “Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, “Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

#### **1. This included people from the area of the Jewish captivities**

Parthians

Medes

Elamites

dwellers in Mesopotamia

#### **2. This included people from Judea**

#### **3. This included people from the area of Asia Minor**

Cappadocia

Pontus

Phrygia

Pamphylia

#### **4. This included people from North Africa**

Egypt

Libya from the area around Cyrene

#### **5. This included people from Rome**

#### **6. This included people from the island of Crete**

#### **7. This included Arabians from south of Damascus**

#### **8. This included both Jews and proselytes**

Proselytes were Gentiles who had become followers of Judaism (they regularly attended the synagogues and learned the Word of God) Devout or religious proselytes (Acts 13:43) were Gentiles who had been circumcised and followed the dietary restrictions given to the Jews

**B. The Lord led the church to send leaders to assist believers who had taken the Gospel to other areas**

**Acts 8:1, 4**

“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

**1. The church sent Peter and John to assist Philip in Samaria**

**Acts 8:5, 14**

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them...Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.”

**2. The church sent Barnabas to assist the believers who went to Antioch**

**Acts 11:19-22**

“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. 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.”

**3. Barnabas needed more help and recruited Saul (Paul)**

**Acts 11:25-26**

“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.”

**Principles from these passages**

**Equip every Christian to explain the Gospel**

**Send leaders to assist newer Christians in outreach**

**Recruit mature members to add to the team**

**Help maturing Christians continue to develop**

**Help new Christians become mature disciples**



**C. Paul developed a great list of contacts prior to arriving in Rome  
Romans 16:1-16**

**1. This included the woman who delivered the letter  
Romans 16:1-2**

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”

**2. This included a couple who had assisted Paul in planting other churches  
Romans 16:3-5a**

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house.”

**3. This included Paul’s first convert in Asia  
Romans 16:5b**

“Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.”

**4. This included a woman who had worked hard for the Lord  
Romans 16:6**

“Greet Mary, who labored much for us.”

**5. This included fellow countrymen and former fellow prisoners  
Romans 16:7**

“Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.”

**6. This included entire households and relatives  
Romans 16:10-11**

“Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus. Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the *household* of Narcissus who are in the Lord.”

**7. This included friends probably from many different cities  
Romans 16:12-15**

“Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.”

#### **D. Biblical sources of contacts before moving to an urban area**

1. Relatives of team members who have moved to that urban area - Romans 16:11
2. Friends of team members who have moved to that urban area - Romans 16:
3. People with whom team members have ministered as coworkers in other places - Romans 16:1-5
4. Other acquaintances of team members from any former contact - Romans 16:1-16
5. Relatives and friends of other Christians that team members have not personally met - Colossians 2:1
6. Contacts from that urban area that team members have met in other places - I Corinthians 16:17-18
7. People who have moved to that urban area from other churches - Acts 11:19

#### **E. Other sources of contacts before moving to an urban area**

1. Contacts you have had through e-mail, the internet, telephone calls or some other form of correspondence or contact.
2. Contacts you have met in meetings in other places.
3. Extended family members or other acquaintances of relatives and friends.
4. People with whom the Lord has brought you in contact while traveling.
5. People that are friends or relatives of people in other churches.

#### **Some helpful ideas**

**Begin to pray for these contacts that the Lord would prepare their hearts**

**Keep the name and address of the person who gave you the contact**

**Write down any helpful information that will help you when you make contact**

**E. Helpful information about contacts**  
(depending on the area, some of this information will be omitted)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Original Source of Contact:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**E-mail:**

**In some cases a person who has a number of contacts in an urban area will come and help make the initial contacts.**

**Spiritual state of Contact:**

**Probably not a Christian:**

**Possibly a Christian:**

**A growing Christian:**

**A spiritual leader:**

**Spiritual leaders who are already involved in another church can be a key source of contacts (even though they may never participate on the church planting team) because they may know areas of the urban area that have few churches.**

**Religious background of Contact:**

**Other helpful information:**

## **II. Build the Church Planting Team**

### **A. Biblical principles for building a church planting team**

#### **1. Build the team through prayer**

**Acts 13:2-3**

“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.”

#### **2. Build the team with people who are already spiritual leaders**

**Acts 8:14, 11:22, 25-26, 13:1**

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them...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...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.”

#### **3. Add to the team other developing spiritual leaders**

**Acts 13:5, 16:1-3, 18:18-19**

“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...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...So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.”

#### **4. Build a team that is multiethnic and multilingual when possible**

**Acts 13:1, 20:4**

“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...And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

## **B. Build a team that has the same purpose**

### **1. The purpose should be to make disciples**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

“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. This purpose illustrated by Paul**

**Acts 14:21**

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

### **3. This purpose produces leadership for the developing churches**

**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.”

## **C. Build a team that will continue to pray together**

### **1. The team prayed regularly together before they started to plant the church**

**Acts 1:14, 16:13**

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers...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*. ”

### **2. The team prayed regularly together as they established the church**

**Acts 3:1, 4:23-24, 31**

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

**A team that neglects continued prayer is a powerless team - John 15:5**

## **D. Build a team that has a unified philosophy of ministry**

### **1. The philosophy of ministry should be developed from Scripture (a Biblical philosophy will focus on people rather than programs)**

#### **a. Christ saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion**

**Matthew 9:36-38**

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”**”

#### **b. Christ also saw individuals not just multitudes**

**John 3:1-2a**

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night...”

**John 4:4-7**

“But He needed to go through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **“Give Me a drink.”**”

### **In an urban area we need to:**

**See each of the specific ethnic groups that make up the multitudes  
we are to make disciples of each ethnic group - Matt. 28:19**

**Determine what bridges we have to some of those ethnic groups  
each team member has ethnic bridges - Acts 13:14  
each team member has cultural bridges - Acts 11:19-20  
each team member has one or more linguistic bridges - Acts 21:40**

**Focus on ways to build bridges to other individuals and groups  
pray that the Lord will lead us to open people - Acts 16:13  
determine if there are places to meet devout persons - Acts 17:17  
make contacts where people live - Matthew 19:11-12  
make contacts where people do their shopping - Acts 17:17  
(market places, shopping centers, malls, etc.)  
make contacts where people work - Acts 18:1-3  
make contacts where people spend their free time - Acts 17:18-23**

**2. The philosophy of ministry should tell what we want to accomplish**

**a. we are called to Make Disciples**

**we are not called to build buildings  
we are not called to just do good works  
we are not called to just sow seed  
we are not called to just make converts**

**We are called to Make Disciples - Matt. 28:19-20  
We are called to Make Reproducing Disciples - II Tim. 2:2**

**b. we are called to help those who become disciples develop into churches**

**we gather believers into groups for growth - Acts 2:42  
we strengthen and mature disciples - Acts 14:22  
we show disciples how to minister publicly - Acts 16:1-3  
we show disciples how to minister in homes - Acts 2:46, 20:20  
we organize the churches with appointed elders - Acts 14:23**

**c. we are called to develop godly leaders for each church**

**we develop disciples who have basic qualifications - Acts 6:3  
we appoint godly leaders in each church - Acts 14:23  
we entrust these elders to lead the church - Acts 14:23  
we provide further training and encouragement - Acts 15:36  
we provide periodic strengthening for all the disciples - Acts 18:23**

**d. we are called to entrust churches to the Lord**

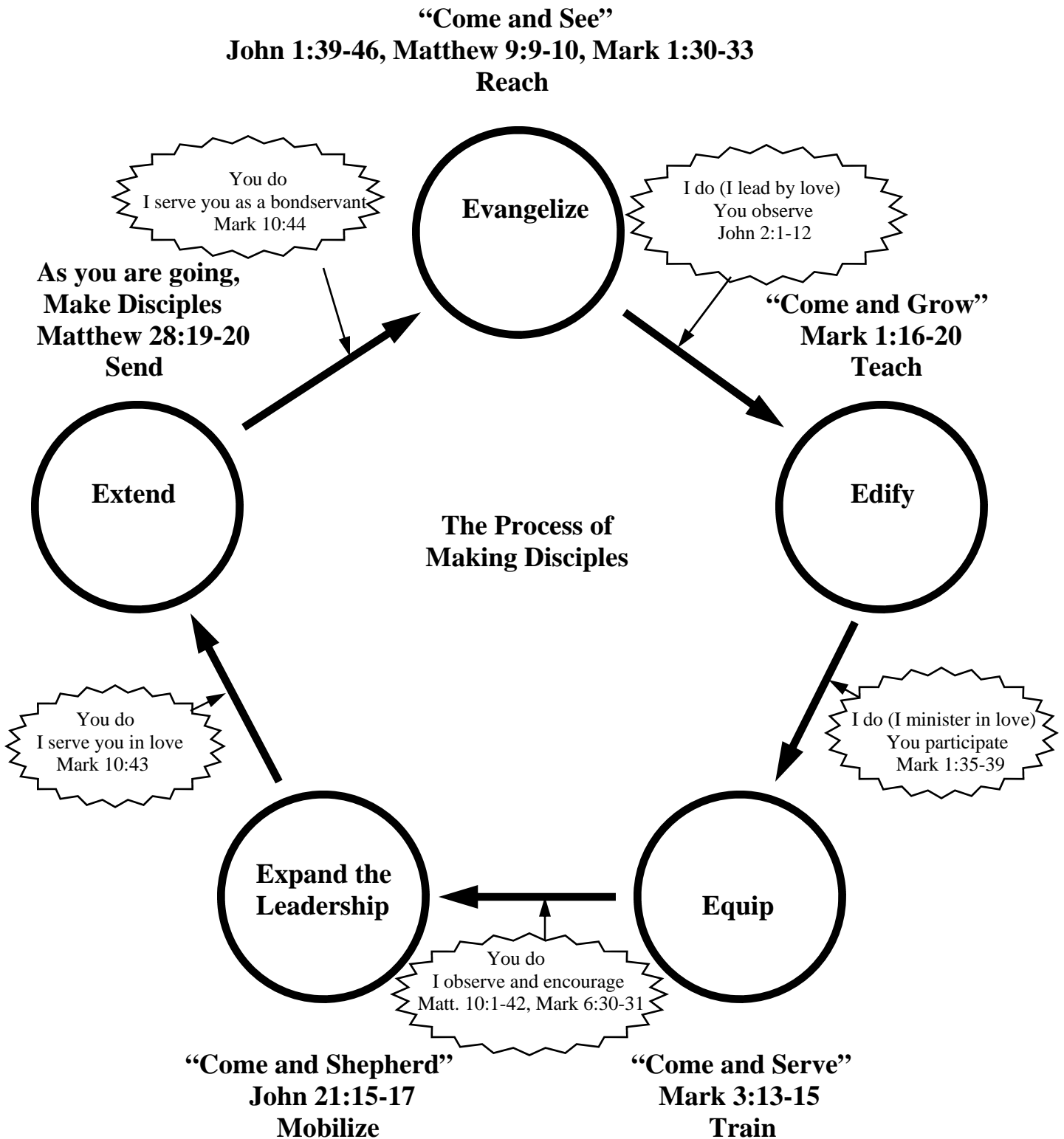
**we do not appoint new converts as leaders - I Timothy 3:6  
we appoint people that have basic qualifications - Acts 14:23  
we may leave team members to continue spiritual development  
where spiritual leadership has not fully matured - Titus 1:5  
we entrust the Lord to continue to build the leaders - Acts 20:32  
we provide continuing development as needed - I Tim. 1:3**

**Three Stages of Healthy Reproducing Churches**

**Dependence → Independence → Interdependence**  
**process of development      an event      ministry partners**

3. The philosophy of ministry should tell us how we Make Disciples

# Four Calls and a Commission



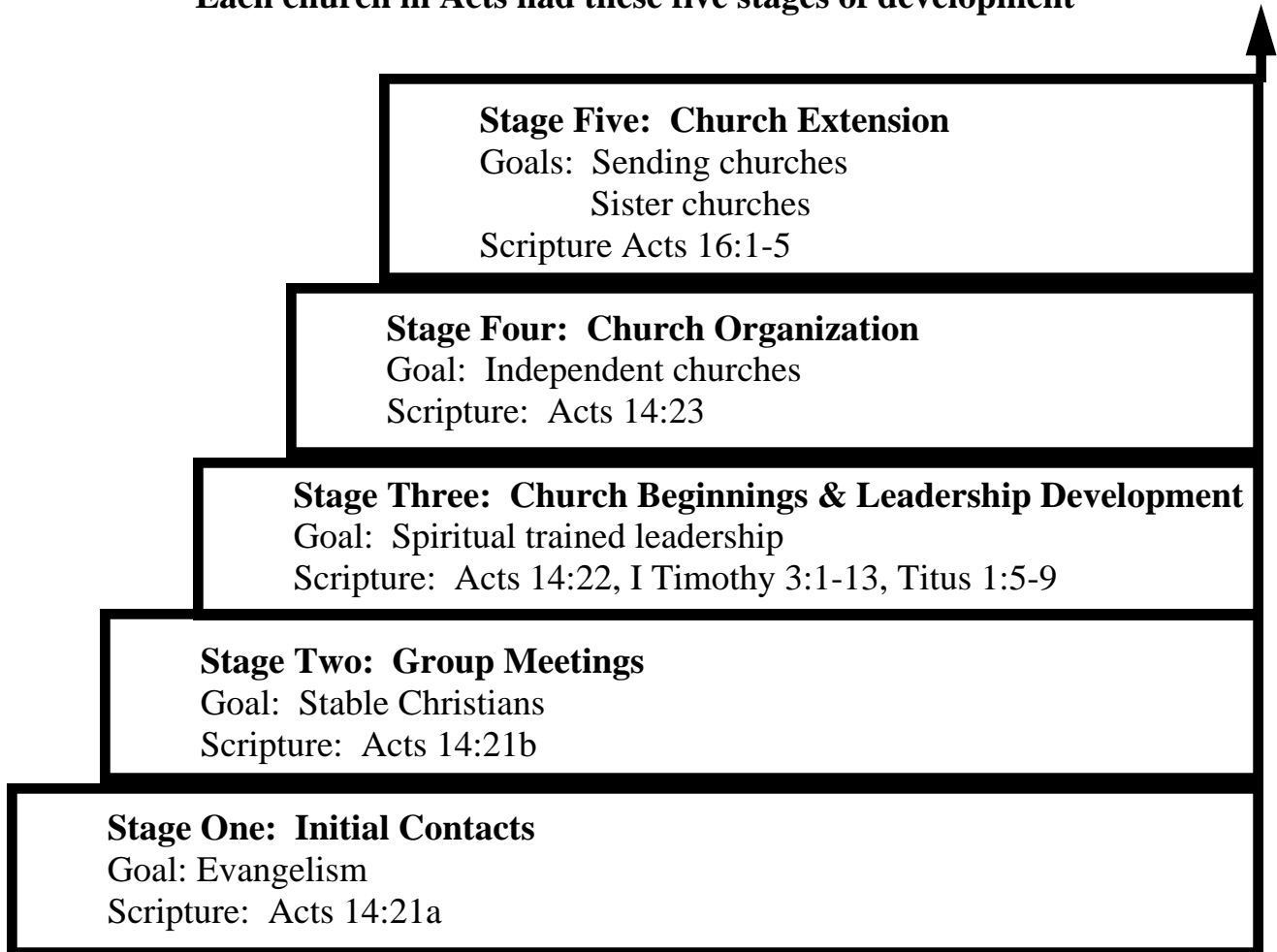
**World Model (Greek Model) - Develop by Telling**  
**Biblical Model (Hebrew Model) - Develop by Showing**



#### 4. The philosophy of ministry should tell us the process of developing churches

### Biblical Church Development

Each church in Acts had these five stages of development



As each new stage develops, the previous stages must continue for a church to remain healthy!

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
<b>Jerusalem</b>	Acts 2:1-41	2:42-47	3:1-5:42	6:1-8	8:4, 14, 11:22
<b>Antioch</b>	Acts 11:19-21	11:22-25	11:26	13:1	13:2-4
<b>Galatia</b>	Acts 14:21a	14:21b	14:22	14:23	16:1-5
<b>Corinth</b>	Acts 18:1-6	18:7-8	18:9-11	18:12-18a	18:18b-19
<b>Ephesus</b>	Acts 18:24-19:7	19:8-9	19:10	19:11-21	19:22, 20:4

### **III. Begin Building Relationships**

#### **Introduction**

Over the past period of months or years, you have developed a contact list to prepare for the move of a church planting team into an urban area. The Lord has led to bring together the initial team to move into that urban area. The team has been praying together. The team has the same purpose. The team has developed the same philosophy of ministry. Now it is moving day and the team is assembled in that urban area to begin to plant a group of reproducing churches. Now what do you do when you get to that area to begin to plant that group of churches?

#### **The Biblical Models**

##### **What did the church planting team at Jerusalem do?**

###### **Acts 1:14, Acts 2:1**

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers...When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”

##### **How did the leaders at Antioch prepare the church planting team?**

###### **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.”

##### **What did the church planting team do when it reached Philippi?**

###### **Acts 16:11-13**

“Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next *day* came to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. 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*.”

**The church planting team arrived in the main city of the area  
The church planting team observed the city and people for several days  
The church planting team gathered together for prayer for God to lead  
The church planting team began to share the Gospel with people they met**

**A. Take time to observe and get acquainted with the urban area or region**

**Things to do as we observe**

**1. illustrated at Philippi**

**the team observed it was the main city of that region  
the team observed it was a Roman colony  
the team observed there was no Jewish synagogue**

**2. illustrated at Athens - Acts 17:16-34**

**Paul observed their religious practices - Acts 17:16  
Paul talked with Jews and devout persons - Acts 17:17  
Paul talked with people he met in the market place - Acts 17:17  
Paul talked with some of their philosophers - Acts 17:18  
Paul observed they had a fear of the gods - Acts 17:22  
Paul observed their objects of worship - Acts 17:23**

**3. practical ideas as we begin initial observation in a new area**

**Go to the malls or marketplaces and observe the people  
(this will help you recognize what groups are in that region of the city)**

**Go to the grocery stores  
(this will help you to recognize what groups are in a particular neighborhood)**

**Go to the parks or other public meeting places  
(this will provide opportunities to ask questions of individuals)**

**Observe what religious groups are present in various parts of the city  
(this will help you understand what beliefs you may meet)**

**Begin visiting the homes of the contacts you already have  
(these will provide additional sources of contacts)**

**relatives - John 1:40-41**

**friends - John 1:43-46**

**coworkers - 9:9-10**

**neighbors and other acquaintances - Mark 1:30-33**

**Begin praying daily by name for the individuals you meet**

## **B. Pray that the Lord will lead to key contacts**

### **1. key contacts are respected by others**

**Matthew was respected by the tax collectors and sinners**

**Matthew 9:10**

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

**the disciples were told to find out who was worthy (respected)**

**Matthew 10:11-12**

“Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. “And when you go into a household, greet it. “If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

### **2. practical ideas for locating and making key contacts**

**Matthew was respected by tax collectors and sinners  
but not by the religious leaders**

**Matthew 9:11**

“And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

**a. key contacts are respected by others but not always by everyone**

**b. key contacts may be mentioned by several people**

**c. key contacts are people who influence many others**

**d. key contacts are people others seek for guidance**

**e. key contacts can often be located through others  
(notice the disciples were to ask who was worthy)**

**f. key contacts are prepared by the Lord**

**Acts 16:13-14**

“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*.<sup>14</sup> 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.”

## **C. Key contacts usually have at least four networks**

### **1. they have a network of relatives**

**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).”

### **2. they have a network of friends**

**John 1:43-46**

“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.”

### **3. they have a network of coworkers**

**Matthew 9:9-10**

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “**Follow Me.**” So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

### **4. they have a network of neighbors and other acquaintances**

**Mark 1:29, 32-33**

“Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John...At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

### **5. they will introduce you to their network**

**John 4:28-29, 39**

“The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?...And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.”

**Key Contacts Become Your Bridges to Others**

## **D. Develop contacts in a variety of areas in the urban area**

### **1. places to make other contacts**

#### **a. make contacts where people live**

**Luke 19:5-6**

“And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, **“Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”** So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.”

#### **b. make contacts where people work**

**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.”

#### **c. make contacts in the religious centers and market places**

**Acts 17:17**

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

#### **d. make contacts where the people spend their free time**

**Acts 17:18-19, 22**

“Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak?... Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious.”

#### **e. make contacts as you meet people in the streets or along the roads**

**Acts 8:29-30**

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

#### **f. make contacts anywhere you find people**

**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*.”

**2. ways to make contacts in various parts of the urban area**

**a. develop a directory of addresses as you make contacts  
(see page 9 for information you want to gather from contacts)**

**this includes contacts you had before you came to the area  
this includes the key contacts that you have made in the area  
this includes the contacts you have from key contacts' networks  
this includes any other people you have met while getting acquainted**

**b. regularly compare those addresses to a map  
(this helps you begin to see where you have clusters of addresses)**

**c. begin to visit the key contacts in each area in their homes (go as a team)**

**1). pray that the Lord will open a door of utterance at each home  
Ephesians 6:18-19**

“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.”

**2). give the family your source of contact if this is the first contact  
(if possible have the source of the contact go with you to visit the home)**

**3). ask how you can pray for them and their family?  
(listen for a specific request that indicates a need)**

**4). ask the Lord to give you discernment of their spiritual background**

**a). with people with no Biblical background, begin with:**

**Creation - Acts 17:22-25**

**b).with people who have been hurt by religion, begin with:**

**Compassion - John 4:5-42**

**c). with people who are searching, begin with:**

**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.”

**d). with people who are working to earn salvation, begin with:**

**Confrontation - John 3:1-21**

## **IV. Develop the Evangelistic Ministry**

### **A. Share the Gospel through individual contacts**

#### **1. Christ spent time sharing the Gospel with individuals**

**Nicodemus - John 3:1-21**

**The Samaritan woman - John 4:5-26**

#### **2. Philip spent time sharing the Gospel with individuals**

**The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-40**

#### **3. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel with individuals**

**Aquila and Priscilla - Acts 18:1-3**

#### **4. Focus on regularly sharing the Gospel with individuals**

**We will share with individuals if we are motivated by the love of Christ**

**II Corinthians 5:14-15**

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

**We will share with individuals as we pray for boldness**

**Ephesians 6:18-19**

“Pray...for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”

**We will share with individuals as we are led by the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 8:29-31, 35**

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him...Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”

**We will share with individuals that the Lord has prepared**

**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.”

**Unless we plan time for evangelism, we will often fail to take time**



## **B. Sharing the Gospel through Evangelistic Bible Studies**

### **1. Paul taught evangelistic Bible studies**

**Paul taught evangelistic Bible studies in Antioch of Pisidia - Acts 13:48**

**Paul taught evangelistic Bible studies in Berea**

**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.”

### **2. Plan to develop evangelistic Bible studies in several areas (these can be taught by various team members)**

**This is a key for the planting of a group of churches in the urban area**

### **3. Pray for individuals who will open their home for an evangelistic Bible study**

these may be seekers who want to know more about forgiveness of sins  
these may be new Christians who want to reach family and friends  
encourage the host to invite their network of relationships  
(family, friends, coworkers, neighbors and other acquaintances)  
go with the host to visit their network of relationships  
some may have only one person - Acts 8:26  
some may have only one couple - Acts 18:1-3  
some may have a group - Acts 17:11-12

### **4. Pray for the Lord to open the hearts of those in the Bible study Acts 16:13-14**

“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*.<sup>14</sup> 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.”

**We share the Gospel, the Lord opens hearts**

## **C. Sharing the Gospel through public meetings**

### **1. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel in the synagogues**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogues of Cyprus - Acts 13:4-5**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia - Acts 13:14-42**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogue at Thessalonica - Acts 17:1-3**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogue at Berea - Acts 17:10-12**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogue at Corinth - Acts 17:4-5**

**Paul shared the Gospel in the synagogue at Ephesus - Acts 19:8-9**

### **2. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel with people who had questions**

**this happened at Antioch of Pisidia - Acts 13:43**

**this happened in the city of Philippi - Acts 16:13-15, 25-31**

### **3. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel in the marketplace**

**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.”

### **4. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel in public meeting places**

**Acts 17:22-34**

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

### **5. Paul spent time sharing the Gospel in the prisons**

#### **a. as a prisoner in the Philippian jail**

**Acts 16:25**

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ”

#### **b. as a prisoner in his own hired house**

**Acts 28:30-31**

“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

**We want to help people learn to share the Gospel wherever they go**

## D. Key principles to equip people to share the Gospel

### 1. Take Christians with you as you share the Gospel with others

**Christ took the disciples with Him as He shared the Gospel with others**

**Mark 1:38-39**

“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.”

**Paul took the elders at Ephesus and showed them how to share the Gospel**

**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.”

#### **Let them observe what you do**

let them observe how you prepare through prayer  
let them observe the way you make contacts  
let them observe how you build relationships  
let them observe how you develop the opportunity to share

#### **Let them observe where you begin**

let them see that you begin with **creation** for those who have no background  
let them see that you begin with **compassion** with the hurting  
let them see that you focus on **clarification** for those who are searching  
let them see that you use **confrontation** with those who are depending on self effort

#### **Let them hear what you share**

let them hear how you share the message of repentance  
let them hear you share why Christ died  
let them hear you share why Christ rose from the dead  
let them hear how you share the message of faith  
let them hear how you give a person the opportunity to respond

#### **Let them see how you handle various responses**

show them your compassion for the lost - Matt. 9:36  
show them how to handle opposition with gentleness - II Tim. 2:24  
show how to minister to the hurting with compassion - John 9:4-7  
show them how to minister to the rejected with acceptance - John 8:1-11  
show them how to minister to the searching with the Gospel - Acts 8:29-35

## 2. Teach Christians how to present the Gospel clearly

### a. Teach Christians how to show that man is separated from God by sin

#### God gave Adam only one sin and warned of the consequence of that sin

##### Genesis 2:16-17

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

#### Adam chose to rebel against God and commit that one sin

##### Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

#### Adam immediately experienced the consequences of that sin

##### Genesis 3:7-13

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

#### Adam immediately experienced a changed relationship with God

Separation from God - Adam and his wife hid themselves - Gen. 3:8

#### Adam immediately experienced a changed relationship with himself (He was now controlled by)

**Fear** - I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid - Gen. 3:10

**Guilt** - I hid myself - Gen. 3:10

**Shame** - They knew that they were naked and made themselves coverings - Gen. 3:7

#### Adam immediately experienced a changed relationship with others

**Blame** - The woman whom You gave to be with me - Gen. 3:12

**b. Teach Christians how to explain to others the need for repentance**

**John the Baptist preached the importance of repentance for forgiveness**

**Luke 3:3**

“And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

**Christ said that He came to call sinners to repentance**

**Luke 5:32**

“I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

**Peter preached about the importance of repentance**

**Acts 2:38**

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

**Paul said that his message was a message of repentance**

**Acts 20:20-21**

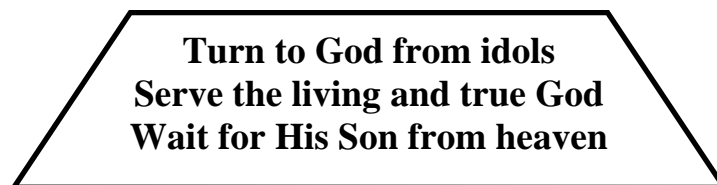
“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Paul explained the meaning of repentance and faith to the Thessalonians**

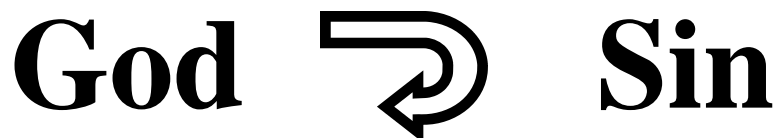
**I Thessalonians 1:9-10**

“For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

**True repentance will cause a person to:**



**Repentance is turning from sin and turning back to God**



**c. Teach Christians why the death of Christ was absolutely necessary**

**The shedding of blood was necessary for there to be forgiveness**

**Hebrews 9:22**

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

**The shedding of blood required a perfect sacrifice**

**II Corinthians 5:21**

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**Hebrews 7:25-28**

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.”

**Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**

**I Corinthians 15:1-5**

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

**Christ died for our sins to show the love of the Father for us**

**John 3:16-17**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

**Romans 5:8**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**Christ died for our sins to redeem us from all iniquity**

**Titus 2:14**

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.”

**d. Teach Christians why the resurrection of Christ was absolutely necessary**

**The resurrection showed the Father was satisfied with the payment of Christ  
( propitiation - that which satisfies)**

**I John 2:2**

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

**I John 4:10**

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”

**The resurrection is what gives us hope and life**

**I Corinthians 15:19-22**

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

**The resurrection is the message in which we stand**

**I Corinthians 15:1-5**

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

**The Gospel is the message of the death and resurrection**

**The Gospel is the message in which we stand**

**The Gospel is the message by which we are saved**

**The resurrection was verified by more than 500 witnesses**

**I Corinthians 15:5-8**

“And that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.”

## **e. Show Christians how to work with the Holy Spirit**

### **The Holy Spirit is the One who does the convicting John 16:7-11**

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. “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 convicts people of the sin of unbelief John 16:9**

“Of sin, because they do not believe in Me;”

#### **The Holy Spirit convinces people of the fact that Jesus is the Righteous One John 16:10**

“Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;”

#### **The Holy Spirit convinces people of the fact that Satan has been judged John 16:11**

“Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

**We cannot convict people through our own efforts**

### **We can learn to work with the Holy Spirit**

When I take people along with me on visitation to the homes of non-Christians, I ask them to observe if the Holy Spirit opens the door to share Scriptures about the fact that Christ has already provided salvation and that the sin of unbelief will keep people from receiving that salvation (John 6:28-29, 40, etc.). I also ask them to observe if the Holy Spirit opens the door to share Scriptures about the fact that Christ could provide salvation because He is the Righteous One (Hebrews 7:25-26, etc.). Then I ask them to observe if the Holy Spirit opens the door to share Scriptures about the fact that Satan has already been judged by the death and resurrection of Christ and that those who continue to follow him will share his judgment (Revelation 20:10-15, etc.) Then after our time of visitation, I ask if the Holy Spirit opened the door for me to share Scriptures about sin, righteousness or judgment. In this way those who are being trained learn to notice how to recognize opportunities to present the Scripture so that the Holy Spirit can use the Word of God to convict and convince those with whom we share the Word of God.



## **f. Show Christians how to lead a person to Christ**

### **Show Christians how to present Christ from the Scriptures**

**Acts 8:35**

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ”

### **Show Christians that it is the Holy Spirit who does the convicting**

**Acts 2:37**

“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?”

### **Show Christians how to present repentance from the Scriptures**

**Acts 2:38**

“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

### **Show Christians how to invite people to be saved through Christ**

**Acts 4:12**

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

### **Show Christians the prayer of one who repented**

**Luke 18:13-14**

“And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

### **Show Christians how to answer those who are not ready to become Christians**

**Acts 26:29**

“And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”

### **Show Christians how to make certain that people understand**

**Acts 8:36-37**

“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

**g. Show Christians how to begin immediate follow-up with new Christians**

**Show Christians how to provide the care of a nursing mother**

**I Thessalonians 2:7-9**

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”

**Show Christians how to provide the example of a godly father**

**I Thessalonians 2:10-12**

“You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

**Show Christians how to get new Christians started growing**

**The book of I John is written to new Christians**

**“My little children...”**

I encourage new Christians to read the book of I John every day for a month. I arrange for someone to meet with the new Christian weekly to go verse by verse through the book of I John.

**The book of I Thessalonians is written to recent Christians**

When new Christians have read I John for a month, I encourage them to read I Thessalonians the second month. This then becomes the second book for weekly Bible study with the new Christian.

**Give new Christians an easy way to begin praying for the salvation of relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors and other acquaintances.**

I give new Christians the two page diagram “Driven by Fear or Led by Love” (available at: [www.aibi.org](http://www.aibi.org) - then click on training diagrams)

**Offer to go with the new Christians to share the Gospel with their relatives, friends, coworkers, neighbors and other acquaintances.**

Have them introduce you and then you share the Gospel.

## V. Begin Group Meetings

### A. Focus on the example of the early church

**Since the goal is to start a group of churches in the urban area, as soon as you have two or three Christians in a part of the urban area, begin having a group Bible study in that area.**

**The church planting team knew the importance of group prayer**

**Acts 1:14**

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

**The church planting team Christ developed saw a great response**

**Acts 2:41**

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.”

**The church planting team immediately began multiple group Bible studies**

**Acts 2:42**

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

(The church planting team focused on four things in group Bible studies)

**Bible study  
Fellowship  
Breaking of Bread  
Prayer**

**The church planting team had both public and house to house meetings**

**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 planting team saw the Lord work mightily!!!**

## **B. Stage Two illustrated**

**The church planting team in Galatia had a pattern it followed**

**Acts 14:21**

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

**Stage One**

**“they had preached the gospel to that city”**

**Stage Two**

**“and made many disciples”**

**The Biblical definition of a disciple is given to us**

**Matthew 13:52**

“Then He said to them, **“Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.”**

**A disciple is one who:**

**Is instructed concerning the kingdom of God  
(can explain to others how to become a Christian)  
(a part of that kingdom)**

**Is the head of a spiritual household  
(has one or more spiritual children)**

**Is one who has a treasure  
(the Word of God)**

**Is able to bring out of that treasure things that are new  
(has a learner’s attitude and is continuing to learn from the Word of God)**

**Is able to bring out of that treasure things that are old  
(is able to teach others the basics of Christianity)**

Needless to say, it takes time to reach people for Christ and help them grow to the point where the five things above describe them. We see that a large number became believers in Acts 2:41-5:42. However, it is only in Acts 6:1 that we read:

**“Now in those days, when *the number of the disciples was multiplying...*”**

Then Acts 6:7 says:

**“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”**

## **C. Three Things we want to Accomplish in Stage Two**

### **1. We want to help people build their relationship with God**

#### **Help people realize they received the gift of the Holy Spirit at salvation**

**Acts 2:38**

“Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

#### **Help people realize they cannot change and grow in their own strength**

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

#### **Help people realize change happens as they learn to yield to the Holy Spirit**

**Romans 6:16**

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

#### **Help people learn to take root in Christ**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

#### **Help people realize the need to move from fear to love**

**I John 4:18**

“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.”

#### **Help people learn to take root in the love of Christ**

**Ephesians 3:16-19**

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

for a complete manual on this topic, download manual “**New Life in Christ**”: [www.aibi.org](http://www.aibi.org)

## **2. We want to help people build their relationship with other Christians**

### **Help every new Christian build a relationship with a spiritual parent I Corinthians 4:15-17**

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. ”

### **Help every new Christian build a relationship with a spiritual family (this is one of the key purposes for beginning group meetings)**

**Acts 2:42**

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

### **Help every new Christian understand the “one another” relationships the New Testament gives 31 positive “one anothers” the New Testament gives 12 negative “one anothers”**

**We want to help the new Christian learn to:**

**put the positive “one anothers” into practice  
avoid practicing the negative “one anothers”**

### **Help every growing Christian learn to serve one another in love 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.”

### **Help every maturing Christian become a spiritual parent to others I Timothy 4:12**

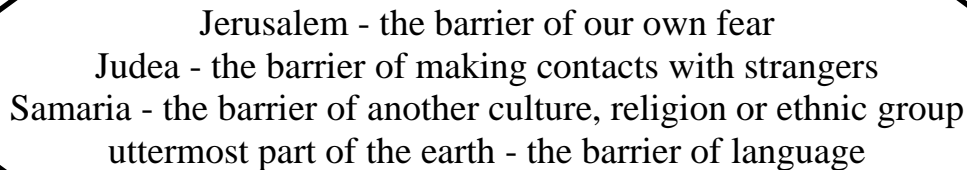
“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

**I Thessalonians 2:7-9  
this involves providing the care of a nursing mother  
I Thessalonians 2:10-12  
the involves providing the example of a godly father**

for a complete manual on this topic, download manual “New Life in the Family of Christ”

**3. We want to help people build their relationship with non-Christians  
(this is for the purpose of evangelism)**

**Building relationships in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of earth  
- Acts 1:8 (People learn to cross four barriers as they share the Gospel)**



Jerusalem - the barrier of our own fear  
Judea - the barrier of making contacts with strangers  
Samaria - the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group  
uttermost part of the earth - the barrier of language

**Building relationships through our spiritual gifts - Romans 12:3-8  
(every Christian is given one or more of these spiritual gifts at conversion)**

Prophecy - will often focus on grace or judgment when presenting the Gospel

Ministry (Service) - will often share the Gospel as they are serving others

Teaching - will often give a doctrinal presentation of the Gospel

Exhortation - will often share the Gospel as they help people with problems

Giving - will often share the Gospel as they meet physical needs

Leading - will often develop organized outreach to share the Gospel

Showing Mercy - will often share the Gospel while providing comfort

**Building relationships where people feel comfortable**

Build relationships with people in their homes - Acts 20:20-21

Build relationship with people where they work - Acts 18:1-3

Build relationships with people where they spend their free time - John 3:1-2

Build relationships in times of joy or sorrow - John 2:1-2, Luke 7:11-16

**Building relationships is best learned by example  
(people learn best how to build relationships as they observe us)**

**Use their homes to build relationships with their:**

relatives

friends

coworkers

neighbors and other acquaintances

**Take them with us as we build relationships:**

at social events or other types of events

while traveling or doing other things

for a complete manual on this topic, download manual “**New Life Through the Family of Christ**”

## **VI. Begin Leadership Development**

### **A. Leadership development prior to beginning public services**

#### **1. Developing leadership in the group Bible studies**

**Acts 2:42**

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

**The early church focused on four things in group Bible studies**

**Bible study  
Fellowship  
Breaking of Bread  
Prayer**

**a. Give the group members opportunities to read the Scripture in the group**

**b. Give the group members opportunities to lead a part of the Bible study  
(have them prepare to answer the following questions from the verses)**

**Who are you Lord? - Acts 9:5**

**Lord, what do you want me to do? - Acts 9:6**

**Lord, where do you want me to do it?**

**Lord, when do you want me to do it?**

**Lord, why do you want me to do it?**

**Lord, how do you want me to do it?**

**c. Give the group opportunities to ask questions**

**d. Give the group opportunities to answer the questions of others**

**e. Give the group opportunities to share their prayer requests**

**f. Give the group opportunities to pray for one another**

**g. Give the group opportunities to pray for the salvation of:**

**relatives  
friends  
coworkers  
neighbors and other acquaintances**



## **2. Developing leadership as people minister to their own families**

**Show people how you lead in your home so that they have an example**

Let them see you pray and thank God for meals  
Let them see you have family worship together  
Let them see you pray for one another as a family  
Let them see you have Bible study as a family  
**Let them observe how Christian families relate**

**Show people how to lead and minister in their homes**

### **Paul and the team stayed with Lydia**

**Acts 16:15**

“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.”

### **Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla**

**Acts 18:3**

“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 the Philippian jailer**

**Acts 16:32-33**

“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.”

### **Show people how to lead and minister to their families**

#### **Show men how to teach their children**

**Deuteronomy 6:7**

“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

**Ephesians 6:4**

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

#### **Show older women how to teach younger women**

**Titus 2:3-5**

“The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

### **3. Develop leadership as people minister with you**

**Show people how to minister by your example as they go with you**

**Acts 20:20-21**

“You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, “serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; “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 focused on developing leadership from the first day**

**Paul did this by living among the people**

**Paul let them see how he served the Lord even in trials**

**Paul shared everything that would help them develop**

**Paul did this by explaining things to them**

**Paul did this by showing them how to minister publicly**

**Paul did this by showing them how to minister house to house**

**Let people begin to participate as they go with you**

**John 6:11**

“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.”

**Let people begin to serve with you as they go with you**

**I Corinthians 4:17**

“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

**They will follow your example**

**They will say what they have heard you say**

**They will do what they have seen you do**

**They will expand your potential for ministry**

## **B. Leadership development as you begin public worship services**

**Remember God is the Audience  
We are the participants**

**Follow the model of a Biblical gathering of the whole church - I Cor 14:23-40  
(this is a key way to develop leadership during the early stages)**

“The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge” says:

“This passage gives the most complete insight into the nature of the worship services of the New Testament church. Evidently the services were characterized by individual participation and sharing of spiritual gifts by each member in the local body in ministry one to another.”<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Avoid those things that might bring confusion**

**I Corinthians 14:23**

“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?”

**In Acts 2 everyone understood in his own language  
In Corinth there was chaos and confusion**

### **2. Give all an opportunity to participate by prophesying (to prophesy means to publicly proclaim the Word of God)**

**I Corinthians 14:24-25**

“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.”

**the Word of God will bring conviction to an unbeliever  
the Word of God will reveal the secrets of the heart  
the Word of God will produce true repentance  
the Word of God will lead people to worship God  
the Word of God will cause people to realize God is among you**

<sup>1</sup>Jerome H. Smith, editor, *The new treasury of scripture knowledge [computer file], electronic edition of the revised edition of The treasury of scripture knowledge, Logos Library System,* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1992 by Jerome H. Smith.

**3. Help individuals learn to prophesy in ways that edify**  
**I Corinthians 4:26**

“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.”

**let all things be done to edify**  
**some can edify by reading a Psalm**  
**some can edify by explaining a doctrine from the Word**  
**some can edify even though they speak another language (see v. 27-28)**  
**some can edify by explaining a passage (22 v. 29-33)**  
**some can edify by interpreting for a speaker of another language**

**Verses 23-25 showed that services in the early church had an evangelistic impact**  
**however, evangelism was not the primary focus**  
**Verse 26 shows that the primary focus was to build up the believers**  
**the believers were to learn to share the Word and also minister to one another**

**the believers did this by individual participation**  
**the believers did this by focusing on the Word of God**  
**the believers did this by learning to share the Word of God**  
**the believers did this by using their spiritual gifts**  
**the believers did this to build up one another**

**4. Help individuals realize there are limitations on speaking in another language**  
**I 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.”

**only two or three could speak in another language**  
**each was to speak in turn, one at a time**  
**they could only speak if there was an interpreter**  
**otherwise they were to meditate and pray silently**

**5. Help individuals learn to edify by explaining a passage of Scripture**  
**I Corinthians 14:29-33**

“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 early church would have two or three men explain a Scripture**  
**the early church would have the others discern if they were correct**  
**the early church allowed for correction when needed**  
**the early church would give all of the men opportunity to share**  
**the early church would have the men speak one at a time**  
**the early church realized that those who speak learn the most**  
**the early church realized that all could encourage one another**  
**the early church expected those who spoke to come prepared**  
(the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets)  
**the early church was to show by action that God is a God of peace**

**6. Help individuals learn to practice obedience in church services**  
**I Corinthians 14:34-40**

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

**the early church helped women learn to be submissive**  
(this helped their husbands and sons learn to take Biblical responsibility)  
**the early church helped men learn to take the leadership in the home**  
**the early church recognized the leadership established in Genesis**  
**the early church was to recognize spirituality by obedience to the Word**  
**the early church was to be aware that some lacked knowledge (ignorant)**  
**the early church encouraged believers to desire to share the Word of God**  
**the early church recognized that some could share best in another language**  
**the early church focused on doing things in an orderly manner**

## **C. Focus on the development of godly character in developing leaders**

### **1. Moses was told how he would develop godly character in developing leaders**

**Exodus 18:20**

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.”

**we teach developing leaders the Word of God  
we show developing leaders how to walk by our godly walk  
we show developing leaders how to work by showing them what to do**

### **2. Moses was given some very basic qualifications for spiritual leadership**

**Exodus 18:21**

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

**we are to select men of spiritual strength (able men)  
we are to select men who fear God  
we are to select men of truth  
we are to select men who hate covetousness  
we are to recognize some are able to lead a larger number  
we are to recognize some are able to lead a small number**

### **3. the early church leaders gave basic qualifications for spiritual leadership**

**Acts 6:3**

“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.”

**we are to select men who have a good reputation  
we are to select men who are full of the Holy Spirit  
we are to select men who are full of wisdom  
we are to delegate authority and responsibility to them  
we are to keep two priorities in our ministry  
(prayer and the ministry of the Word)**

**We pray daily for people and teach them the Word of God  
We show people by example how to develop godly character  
We equip people by example to do the work of the ministry  
We share the ministry with them as they are developing**

## When planting churches develop a steering committee with basic qualifications

**this gives developing leaders opportunity to take part of the leadership  
this gives developing leaders opportunity to mature**

**as men function on the steering committee, they are being:**

**shown how to develop godly character in their lives  
shown how to become the leaders in their homes  
being prepared to take the leadership as churches organize**

### **4. we help people develop Biblical qualifications to become deacons**

#### **I Timothy 3:8-13**

“Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. Likewise *their wives must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

### **5. we help people develop the additional Biblical qualifications to become elders**

#### **I Timothy 3:1-7**

“This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

#### **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.”

## VII. Develop the Needed Organization

### A. Develop the leadership team before you appoint them

**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.”

#### 1. Five things to do before recognizing elders

**Reach people through sharing the Gospel**

**Help those reached grow and develop as disciples**

**Strengthen the souls of the disciples**

**Encourage the disciples to continue in the faith**

**Prepare the disciples for tribulation**

#### 2. Develop a team of elders not just one

**Acts 14:23a**

“So when they had appointed elders in every church...”

#### 3. Realize various equipping gifts are needed to equip the saints for ministry

**Ephesians 4:11-13**

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

#### 4. Organize churches only when you have qualified elders

**Acts 14:21**

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

**They organized these churches on the return trip, not the initial visit!**



## **B. Equip the elders for their various ministries**

### **Ephesians 4:11-12**

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”

### **1. The apostles and prophets provided the foundation**

#### **Ephesians 2:20**

“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*”

**The apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection - Acts 1:21-22**

**The prophets gave us the written Word of God - II Peter 1:19-21**

### **2. The ministry of the elders**

**The elders are to equip the saints**

**The elders are to prepare the saints for the work of ministry**

**The result is the building up of the body of Christ**

### **3. The specific ministries of the various elders**

#### **a. Evangelists equip the saints to preach the Gospel**

(every church needs one or more equipping for evangelism)

#### **Acts 8:1,4**

“And they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

#### **b. Pastors equip the saints to minister to one another**

(every church needs one or more equipping for ministry to one another)

#### **Galatians 5:13**

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

#### **c. Teachers equip the saints to teach and apply the Word of God**

(every church needs one or more equipping saints to teach and apply the Word)

#### **James 1:22**

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

### **C. Entrust the elders to carry on the leadership of the church**

#### **Acts 14:23**

“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 church planting team appointed elders in every church**  
**The church planting team prayed for the elders with fasting**  
**The church planting team entrusted the elders to the Lord**  
**The church planting team believed the Lord would work through the elders**

#### **1. The church planting team made visits to encourage the churches**

##### **Acts 15:36**

“Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing.”

##### **Acts 15:41**

“And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

##### **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.”

#### **2. The church planting team wrote letters to encourage the churches**

##### **I Thessalonians 1:1-4**

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.”

#### **3. The church planting team sent individuals to encourage the churches**

##### **I Corinthians 4:17**

“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

#### **4. The church planting team made visits to encourage the elders**

##### **Acts 20:17, 20:17-38**

“From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.”

## VIII. Develop Teams to Plant Churches in Other Areas

### A. Add members to the church planting team

#### 1. Add team members from the churches that have been planted

##### Acts 16:1-5

“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.”

**Add team members who have become disciples**

**Add team members who are multicultural and multiethnic**

**Add team members who have a good report in their home church  
(and the surrounding area)**

**Deal with cultural issues that might be a hindrance**

#### 2. Add team members from other ethnic groups

##### Acts 16:8-10

“So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

**In verse 8 the team is called “they”**

**In verse 10 the team is called “we”**

**Luke became a member of the team at Troas**

#### 3. Build multicultural, multiethnic, multilingual teams

##### Acts 20:4

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

## **B. Develop outreach teams from the churches being planted**

### **The new Christians in Ephesus helped reach the entire region**

**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.”

**The church planting team reached people for Christ**  
**The church planting team taught the disciples daily**  
**The church planting team helped the disciples expand their vision**  
**The church planting team helped the disciples reach the entire region**  
**The church planting team helped the disciples reach various cultures**

### **Epaphras and other new disciples took the Gospel back to their home areas**

**Colossians 1:5-7**

“Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,”

**Colossians 2:1**

“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 and other new disciples developed a vision for their whole region**

**Colossians 4:12-13**

“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.”

**Epaphras went from Ephesus to share the Gospel in his home town**  
**Epaphras also shared the Gospel in the nearby towns**  
**Epaphras helped those who believed become disciples**  
**Epaphras helped those who became disciples develop churches**  
**Epaphras became a part of the church planting team**  
**Epaphras continued to pray for those in his home area**

## **C. Develop the vision of the churches for the entire world**

### **Paul helped the Christians in Thessalonica develop a vision for the world**

#### **I Thessalonians 1:6-8**

“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

**the Thessalonians were providing an example to other believers  
this was true throughout their home province of Macedonia  
this was true in the neighboring province of Achaia  
this was true in others places as well**

#### **The Thessalonians sent some of their own to minister with Paul**

##### **Acts 19:29**

“So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions.”

#### **The Thessalonians had two become part of the church planting team**

##### **Acts 20:4**

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

**Aristarchus was from Thessalonica  
Secundus was from Thessalonica**

#### **Aristarchus later traveled to Rome with Paul**

##### **Acts 27:2**

“So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.”

#### **Aristarchus was a key part of the ministry team in Rome**

##### **Colossians 4:10**

“Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him).”

##### **Philemon 23-24**

“Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, *as do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.”

## **D. Help churches learn to reach out to their world**

### **1. Help churches learn to plant churches in their Jerusalem (the example of the churches in Galatia)**

**Acts 16:5**

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

### **2. Help churches learn to plant churches in their Judea and Samaria**

**Acts 9:31**

“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.”

### **3. Help churches learn to plant churches to the uttermost**

**Romans 15:20**

“And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation.”

**We help churches to do this by our own example**

**Romans 15:24**

“Whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your *company* for a while.”

**We share the vision Christ has for every tribe and tongue**

**Revelation 5:9-10**

**“You are worthy to take the scroll,  
And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.”**

**Our urban areas have people from many of these tribes and tongues!**

**Will you become a part of a church planting team  
to plant a group of churches in one of these urban areas?**