

Church Planting Through Disciple Making

by

Duane L. Anderson

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**American Indian Bible Institute
Box 511
Norwalk, CA 90651-0511
www.aibi.org**

Church Planting Through Disciple Making

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 - 1. Christ had to build a team
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 - 1. This may be a group of Christians being sent out together
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IV. Disciple making begins in stage one

- A. Leading people to Christ is a process - Mark 4:26-29
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 - 4. We spend time with people in their homes - Acts 18:1-3
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V. Disciple making develops in stage two

- A. New Christians grow best in Bible study and fellowship groups
 - 1. This provides opportunity for Bible study
 - 2. This provides opportunity for fellowship
 - 3. This provides opportunity for communion (breaking of bread)
 - 4. This provides opportunity for prayers
 - 5. This provides opportunities to share the needs of others
 - 6. This provides opportunities for meals together
 - 7. This provides opportunities for additional evangelism
- B. New Christians grow best as they develop new relationships
 - 1. Groups provide opportunities to ask questions
 - 2. Groups provide opportunities to minister to each other
 - 3. Groups provide opportunities to develop spiritual gifts
 - 4. Groups provide opportunities to grow in spiritual maturity
 - 5. Groups provide opportunities for leaders to develop
- C. New Christians grow best as they grow in the unity of the Spirit
 - 1. The Spirit is our source of unity - Ephesians 4:1-6
 - 2. The Spirit is our only source of power - Acts 1:4-8
 - 3. The Spirit moves us from fear to love - Romans 7:14-8:39
 - 4. The Spirit guides us and makes us fruitful- John 14:15-17,26-27
 - 5. The Spirit gifts us to minister to one another - Romans 12:3-8

VI. Disciple making leads to church beginnings in stage three

- A. Churches develop as Christians begin to think as a body
 1. A body has both strong and weak members - I Cor. 12:1-27
 2. A body cares for the weak members -I Cor 12:20-25
 3. A body corrects the unruly members - II Thess 3:6-15
 4. A body encourages the fainthearted and weak -I Thess 5:11-14
- B. Churches develop as Christians learn to function as a body
 1. A body helps each part develop and learn to function -Eph 4:16
 2. A body helps each part discover its SHAPE
 3. A body provides each part with opportunities to serve
- C. Churches develop as Christians develop in godly leadership
 1. Godly leadership develops a learner's attitude
 2. Godly leadership develops a servant's heart - Mark 10:42-45
 3. Godly leadership develops others - II Timothy 2:2

VII. Disciple making results in church organization in stage four

- A. Church organization happens as we develop a leadership team
 1. The early church always developed leadership teams
 2. The early church gives principles for selecting team members
 3. The early church gives examples for developing team members
- B. Church organization happens as we develop leaders from within
 1. Leaders develop as people grow to spiritual maturity
 2. Leaders develop as they are equipped for ministry
 3. Leaders develop as they gain experience in ministry
- C. Church organization happens as we develop to meet needs
 1. The early church developed people before developing organization
 2. The early church developed organization to meet needs
 3. The early church focused on developing every Christian

VIII. Disciple making results in church extension in stage five

- A. Church extension happens as we develop vision for the world
 1. Vision was developed by Christ in the disciples
 2. Vision was developed in a progressive fashion
 3. Vision was developed by stretching people
- B. Church extension happens as we build outreach teams
 1. Outreach teams equip people for local evangelism
 2. Outreach teams equip people to train others for ministry
 3. Outreach teams develop a vision for other areas

- C. Church extension happens as we plan to parent daughter churches
 - 1. Planning to parent provides vision for churches
 - 2. Planning to parent provides purpose for churches
 - 3. Planning to parent provides opportunity for new leaders to develop
- D. Church extension happens as we send teams to other parts of the world
 - 1. Train teams for cross cultural ministry
 - 2. Lead teams in cross cultural ministry
 - 3. Build multicultural teams for cross cultural ministry

Church Planting Through Disciple Making

The Purpose of this Manual

This manual is designed to give guidelines to help us understand God's purpose for each local church. It will help us to understand what God has commissioned us to do as Christian leaders, to understand how that relates to planting churches and to provide practical steps for the planting of churches through the making of disciples. We will look at the commission Christ gave to each of us to **Make Disciples**. We will also see how that commission relates to the planting of healthy churches.

Purpose

The next page gives a Biblical definition for a purpose led church.

Power

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

Pattern

Acts 6:7

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. (NKJV)

Characteristics of the early church which helped it multiply churches

The focus was on spreading the Word of God

The focus was on multiplying disciples

The focus was on obedience to the faith

Product

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. (NKJV)

The churches had peace

The churches were being built up

The churches were walking in the fear of the Lord

The churches were walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit

The churches were multiplying

The Purpose Led Church

Our purpose is to glorify God by becoming disciples and making disciples who love God with our whole heart, our whole soul and our whole mind: who love our neighbor as ourselves: who love one another as Christ loved us; and who have a vision for the world.

To fulfill this purpose we will focus on the following objectives:

Magnify - Glorify God
Maturity - Become Disciples
Multiplication - Make Disciples and Multiply Churches
who:
Exalt - Love God with our whole heart, soul and mind
Evangelize - Love our neighbor as ourselves
Edify - Love one another as Christ has loved us
Equip - Each Christian to reproduce himself
Extend - our ministry in the world by planting churches

Our purpose **I Corinthians 10:31**

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (NKJV)

Our Great Commission **Matthew 28:19-20**

"Going therefore, **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.

Our Great Commandment **Matthew 22:36-40**

"Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is *the* first and great commandment. "And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (NKJV)

Our New Commandment **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." (NKJV)

Our Vision for the World **Acts 1:8**

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

I.

Disciple making

the basic foundation for church planting

Over the past generation or two a number of worldwide organizations has placed a strong emphasis on disciple making. However, there has been much confusion about what it means to make disciples. Some have emphasized that it means leading people to Christ. Others have stressed having people study a series of books on selected topics which various organizations have prepared.

However, making disciples is more than leading people to Christ or having them study a series of books. In the course of this manual we will see that making disciples is sharing our lives with people so that they become like us whether that is good or bad. Only as we are becoming like Christ will those with whom we are sharing our lives become like Christ. That is why Paul said in I Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.” (NKJV) In order to share our lives with people we have to spend time with them in a variety of different situations.

In Mark 3:13-14 we see that the first reason why Christ chose the twelve was so that they might be with Him, “And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,” (NKJV) Christ also spent much time talking with other individuals like Nicodemus or the Samaritan woman. We see that the various words for disciple are used many times in the New Testament.

mathetueo (3100) - to make disciples used 4 times
mathetes (3101) - a disciple used 269 times
mathetria (3102) - a female disciple used 1 time

These words are from the root manthano (3129) - to learn by use and practice
(Throughout this manual if a Greek word is used and followed by a number,
the numbers are the numbers from Strong's Concordance.)

One very interesting thing to observe is that although the various words for disciples are used many times, they are not used after the book of Acts. We will see in the Epistles that Paul, James, Peter, John and Jude used other words to help us understand how we make disciples. One such example is I Corinthians 4:14-16, “I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. 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. (NKJV)

A. Making disciples commanded

Matthew 28:19-20

"Going therefore, **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.

One Command

**Make Disciples
matheteuo (3100)**

Three participles which tell us how to obey that command

**Going (to all - Mark 16:15)
Baptizing (all who repent - Acts 2:38-41)
Teaching (them to obey all that Christ commanded - Matt. 7:24-27)**

Where should this command be carried out?

**Among all the nations (ethnos)
Among all the ethnic and people groups
Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8**

Whose power should we depend on?

**We cannot depend on our 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. (NKJV)

**We must depend on the power Christ provides
"Lo, I am with you always"
Acts 1:4-5, 8**

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "*which*," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."... "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

B. Making disciples defined

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." (NKJV)

**instructed
matheteuo (3100)**

One who has been made a disciple

A person who has been made a disciple of the kingdom of God is like:

**A householder - the head of a spiritual household or family
(to have a spiritual family, we must be a spiritual parent)**

a spiritual newborn - I Peter 2:2

a spiritual toddler - I Corinthians 13:11

a spiritual child - I John 2:13, Luke 2:40

a spiritual young man - I John 2:13-14

a spiritual parent - I John 2:13-14, I Corinthians 4:14-17

Has a treasure - that treasure is the Word of God

1. involves hearing the Word of God - Romans 10:17

2. involves reading the Word of God - Revelation 1:3

3. involves studying the Word of God - II Timothy 2:15

4. involves memorizing the Word of God - Psalm 119:11

5. involves meditating on the Word of God - Psalm 1:1-3

**Brings out of that treasure things that are new
(is continuing to learn new things)**

a learner's attitude - Philippians 3:7-14

growing in Christ's righteousness

growing in knowing Christ

keeping our eyes focused on the goal

Brings out of that treasure things that are old

(can teach the basics of Christianity)

a spiritual mother provides tender care - I Thessalonians 2:7-9

a spiritual father provides example and teaching - I Thessalonians 2:10-12

C. Making disciples practiced by Christ

Matthew 27:57

Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. (NKJV)

**had become a disciple
matheteuo (3100)**

One who had become a disciple

Christ was continually spending time with people so that:

His disciples could become like Him

Matthew 5:1 - His disciples came to Him

Matthew 8:23, 25 - His disciples followed Him, His disciples came to Him

**Matthew 9:10 - Many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him
and His disciples**

Matthew 10:1 - When He had called unto Him His twelve disciples

**Matthew 16:13 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He
asked His disciples**

**Matthew 24:3 - And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came to
Him privately**

Other individuals could become like Him

**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 4:7 - A woman of Samaria came to draw water, Jesus, said to her, Give me
a drink**

**John 5:6 - When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been
in that condition a long time, He said to him, Do you want to be made
well?**

**John 8:10 - When Jesus had raised Himself up, and saw no one but the woman,
He said to her, Woman were are those accusers of yours?**

**John 9:35 - Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found
him, He said to him, Do you believe in the Son of God?**

**John 11:20 - Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went
and met Him**

John 20:15 - Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping?

D. Making disciples practiced in the book of Acts

Acts 14:21

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, (NKJV)

**made many disciples
matheteuo (3100)**

The early church started with at least 120 disciples

Acts 1:15

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, (NKJV)

The early church focused on making disciples

Acts 6:1a

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying,

The early church focused on multiplying disciples in Jerusalem

Acts 6:7

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. (NKJV)

The early church focused on making disciples throughout Judea and Samaria

Acts 9:38

And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring *him* not to delay in coming to them. (NKJV)

The early church focused on making disciples in Antioch

Acts 11:26

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. (NKJV)

The early church focused on making disciples everywhere

Acts 16:1-2

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

Making Disciples was the key ministry of the early church

E. Making disciples defined by Paul

1. Disciple making is not mentoring

The word “Mentor” was first introduced to the world by Homer in his *Odyssey*. Mentor was the name of the slave (paidagogos) who was given the responsibility for raising the son until he reached maturity in the *Odyssey*. Historically the Greeks used the word (paidagogos) to speak of the slave who was assigned the responsibility to raise the child until puberty. The “paidagogos” usually focused on severe discipline to prepare the boy for manhood. The Greeks felt that raising a child was not the work of a parent but just the work of a slave. Today many people have the same attitude.

In recent years the world has placed great emphasis on the role of mentoring in the business world. As a result, in recent years many Christians have started to use the word “mentoring” to describe their concept of how to make a disciple. (Isn’t it interesting how the church often tries to follow the world which has absolutely no concept of spiritual life and spiritual maturity to describe spiritual ministry.)

However “paidagogos” is only used three times in the New Testament and it is always used in a negative sense. Making Disciples is not providing a “mentor” to help a Christian in his development. Notice how the word “paidagogos” is used in the New Testament.

Galatians 3:24-25

Therefore the law was our tutor (paidagogos) *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (paidagogos). (NKJV)

I Corinthians 4:14-17

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors (paidagogos) 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. (NKJV)

The Old Testament Law caused us to recognize our sin so that we came to Christ. However, we have been set free from the Old Testament Law.

Just like in Corinth, many Christians try to help others grow as Christians by laws instead of through love and example.

We Make Disciples by inviting others to imitate our lives.

We motivate others by the Love of Christ - II Cor 5:14-15

2. Disciple making is spiritual parenting

Characteristics of the parenting of Paul of the Corinthians I Corinthians 4:14-17

I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. 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. (NKJV)

Paul warned them as beloved children

Paul became a father instead of a mentor

Paul taught them to imitate his example

Paul sent Timothy to remind them of his ways

Paul was consistent in his teaching everywhere

Characteristics of the parenting of Paul, Silvanus and Timothy in Thessalonica I Thessalonians 2:7-12

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. 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. (NKJV)

They provided the gentle care of a nursing mother

They shared their lives and not just the Word of God

They provided an example of godly Christian living

They provided encouragement and challenge to a worthy walk

3. Disciple making must focus on developing “adult sons”

Spiritual maturity is the goal of disciple making

New born babes - I Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

Spiritual toddlers

I Corinthians 3:1-3, I Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:14, Hebrews 5:11-14

(everything it says about the spiritual toddler is bad)

Spiritual children

Spiritual young men

Spiritual parents

I John 2:12-14

I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one. (NKJV)

Spiritual maturity requires helping Christians become “adult sons”

An “adult son” is a Christian who gives as well as receives

Titus has begun as a new convert of Paul - Gal 2:3

Titus became a spiritual son to Paul - Titus 1:4

Titus provided rest to the spirit of Paul - II Cor 2:12-13

Titus provided encouragement to Paul - II Cor. 7:5-7

Titus brought joy to Paul - II Cor 7:13-15

Titus ministered on behalf of Paul - II Cor 8:6

Titus had the same concern for others as Paul - II Cor 8:16

Titus was viewed as a partner by Paul - II Cor. 8:23

Titus walked with the same spirit as Paul - II Cor 12:18

Christ illustrated the transition as Christians become “adult sons”

A child is provided with supervision - Gal 4:1, Matt 4:18-22

A friend shares plans and reproduces - John 15:12-16

A brother is treated as an equal partner - John 20:17-23

An “adult son” is one who has become an equal partner in ministry

Questions to ask about my understanding of Disciple Making

1. Questions about our command to Make Disciples

- a. Do I feel comfortable in asking people to imitate me? - I Cor.11:1
- b. If I do not feel comfortable asking people to imitate me, what things do I need to change in my own life so that I am working to imitate Christ?
- c. If I do feel comfortable asking people to imitate me as I imitate Christ, are there adjustments that I need to make in my life so that a small group of people can have the opportunity to observe me in many situations?
- d. Am I learning to Make Disciples in the strength that Christ provides rather than in my own strength? - Acts 1:4-8
- e. Do I have a clear understanding of the Biblical definition of a disciple? - Matthew 13:52
- f. In what ways can I structure my ministry so that Disciple Making is my key ministry in the planting of a church?- Acts 6:1, 6:7

2. Questions about the process of Making Disciples

- a. Do I clearly understand the Biblical difference between mentoring and Making Disciples? - I Cor. 4:14-17, Galatians 3:24-25
- b. Do I clearly understand why Paul used spiritual parenting as the model for Making Disciples? - I Cor 4:14-17, I Thess. 2:7-12
- c. Do I have a clear process in my mind of how I will help new Christians grow in the various stages of spiritual maturity? - I Pet. 2:2, I John 2:12-14
- d. Am I prepared to help spiritual children become adult sons and daughters with whom I share my plans? - John 15:12-16
- e. Am I prepared to help “adult sons and daughters” become equal partners in ministry? - John 20:17-23
- f. Am I prepared to serve “adult sons and daughters” in love? - Gal. 5:13

II. Understanding Biblical Church Development five stages for a healthy church

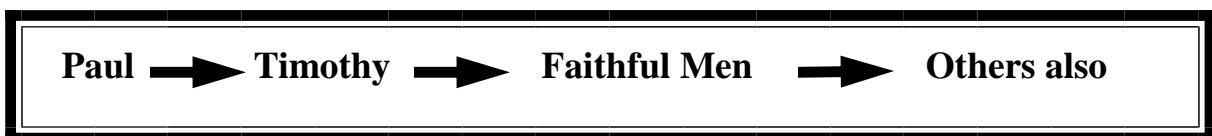
On the next page you will find a diagram of the five stages of Biblical Church Development that each of the churches in the book of Acts experienced. In order for a church to be a healthy church, these stages will occur in the development of that church. In addition, once a church has begun each stage, it will continue to practice that stage in order to remain healthy.

If you are starting with a church planting team, the first thing you want to show that team is how to share the Gospel and lead people to Christ. Christ said to His first followers in Matthew 4:19, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Christ knew that His followers would learn how to share the Gospel and lead people to Himself by observing His example. The early disciples realized the same thing. The results are seen in Acts 8:4 when the early church was scattered, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” (NKJV)

If you do not start with a church planting team, you will need to begin building that team through evangelism. As you lead individuals to Christ, let them help you build bridges to their friends as Christ did in 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.” (NKJV)

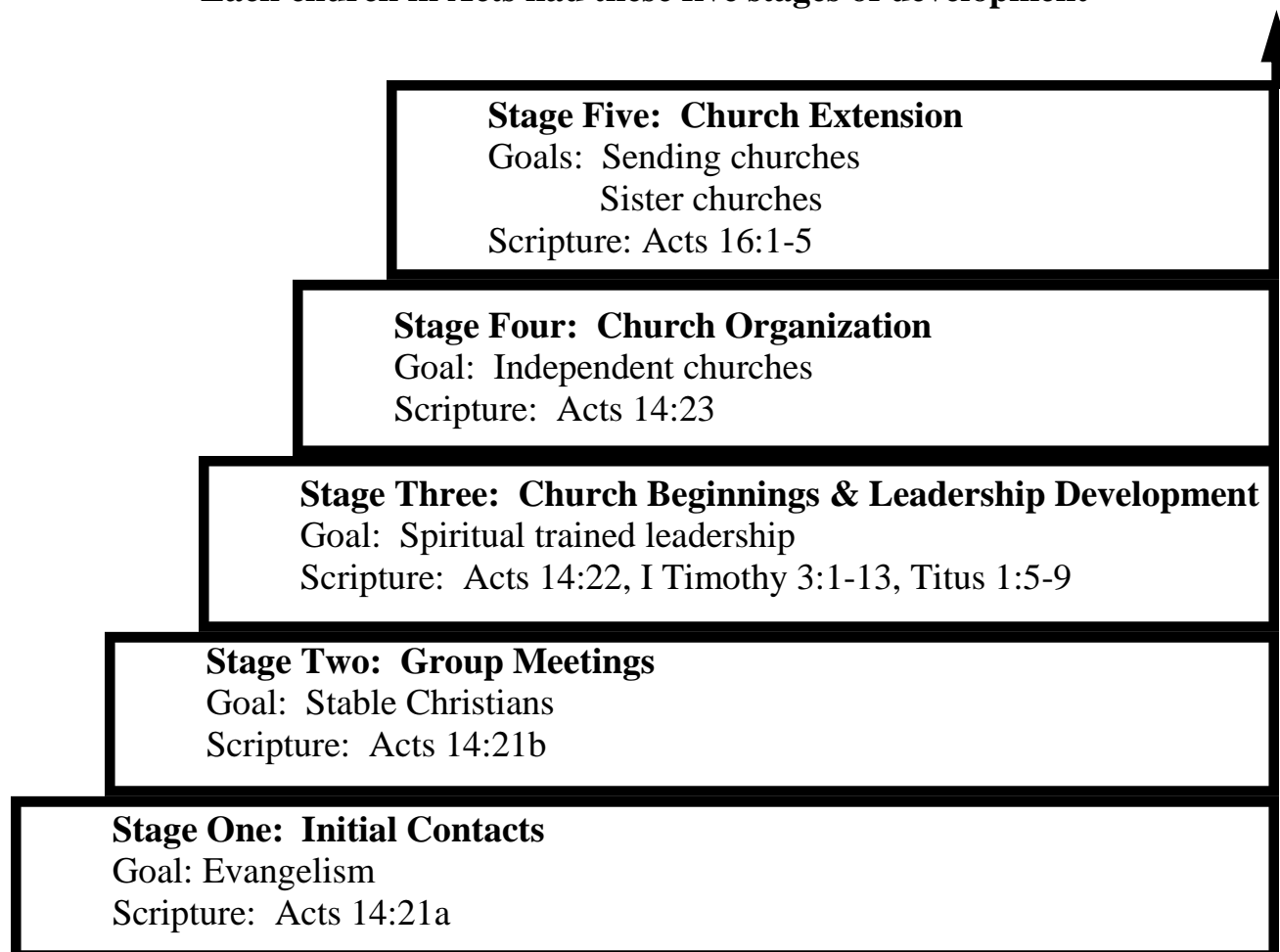
Christ invited Matthew to follow Him. Then He immediately encouraged Matthew to become a bridge to his friends by inviting them to his house to dinner to meet Christ. In this way the Lord was given many new contacts. Later Christ chose Matthew to be one of His disciples so that Matthew could learn how to Make Disciples among those friends. Christ showed Matthew how to reproduce in the lives of His friends the things that were happening in his own life.

We will only plant a church through Disciple Making as we build a team that learns to imitate us by making disciples who learn to make disciples. II Timothy 2:2 says, “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)



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

A. Defining the five stages of Biblical Church Development

1. Stage One: Initial Contacts

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

In sharing the Gospel, we may have to cross one or more barriers:

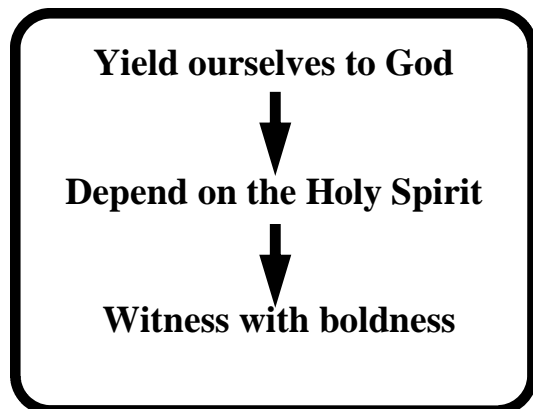
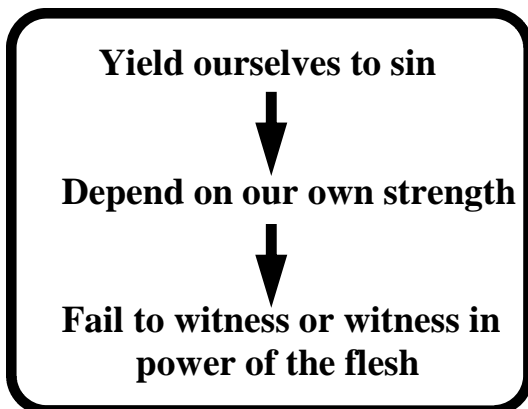
Jerusalem	the barriers of our own fear
Judea	the barrier of making contacts
Samaria	the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group
uttermost	the barrier of another language

Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

Romans 6:13, 16

And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God... 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? (NKJV)

Our Choice

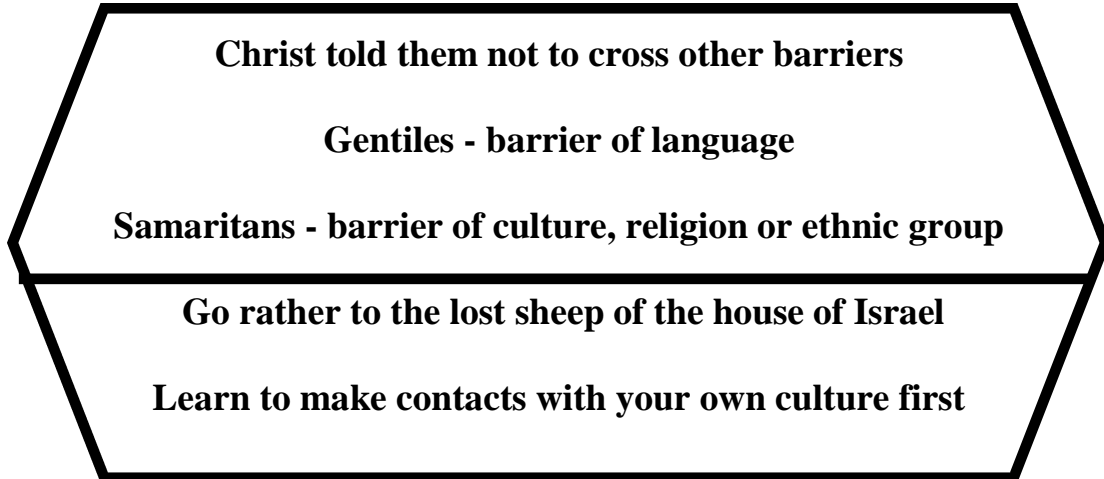


Learning to cross the barrier of making contacts

Matthew 10:5-7

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (NKJV)

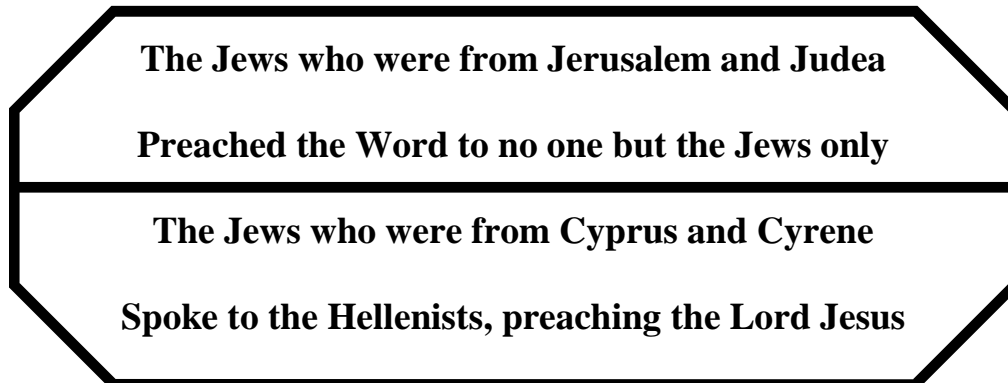
Christ sent the twelve out to make new contacts



Acts 11:19-21

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

The natural way to learn to make contacts is with your own culture first



We should encourage people to learn to cross one barrier at a time!

Learning to cross the barrier of another culture, religion or ethnic group

Crossing the barrier of another culture should be modeled by leaders

Acts 8:4-5, 14

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 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, (NKJV)

Philip was one of the seven chosen in Acts 6

Peter and John were two of the apostles

Learning to understand another religion should be modeled by leaders

Acts 17:22-23

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: (NKJV)

Paul observed the religious nature of the people

Paul observed the objects that the people worshipped

Paul used their religion as a bridge to share the Gospel

Learning to accept another ethnic group should be modeled by the leaders

Galatians 2:11-14

Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? (NKJV)

**Peter had to be rebuked by Paul for acting out of fear
Peter had set a poor example for Barnabas and the others**

Learning to cross the barrier of another language

Crossing the barrier of another language should be modeled by leaders

Acts 14:11-17

Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." (NKJV)

Paul and Barnabas had preached to the Jews in that area

Paul and Barnabas had looked for ways to reach out to the Gentiles

Paul and Barnabas had shown kindness to a crippled man

Paul and Barnabas did not understand the language of the Lycaonians

Paul and Barnabas observed the actions of the people

Paul and Barnabas used actions to communicate thoughts

Paul and Barnabas looked for some who had partial understanding

Paul and Barnabas began their message by going back to the Creator

Paul and Barnabas pointed out that the nations followed their own ways

Paul and Barnabas moved from the Creator to His creation

Paul and Barnabas showed that God did good even to the ignorant

2. Stage Two: Group Meetings

Once the first person becomes a Christian, we are ready to begin the second stage of Biblical Church Development. In this stage we want to help the new Christian and others who will become Christians develop their relationship with God, with us and with other Christians. As we spend time one-to-one and in small groups we create opportunities to act as spiritual parents to new Christians develop.

I John 1:3-7

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (NKJV)

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with us

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with God

We want the new Christian to learn to have fellowship with other Christians

Fellowship develops best in the context of group Bible study and fellowship

The early church focused on four things to help new Christians develop

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

**Bible study (apostles' doctrine)
Fellowship (sharing Bible study together)
Communion (breaking of bread)
Prayer (fellowship with God)**

The early church did these things both in the temple and in homes

Acts 2:46

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, (NKJV)

Small group meetings provide opportunity for several things to happen

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. (NKJV)

Small groups provide opportunity to develop eagerness to learn

Small groups provide opportunity to search the Word for answers

Small groups provide opportunity to get questions answered

Small groups provide opportunity to evangelize others

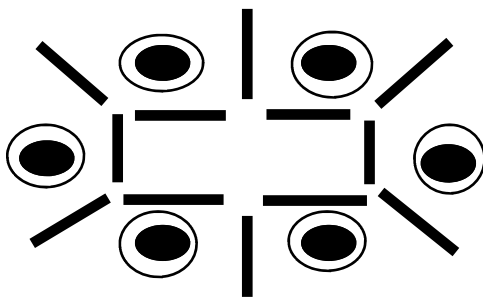
Small groups provide opportunity to bridge cultures

Small group meetings provide opportunity to develop healthy relationships

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. (NKJV)

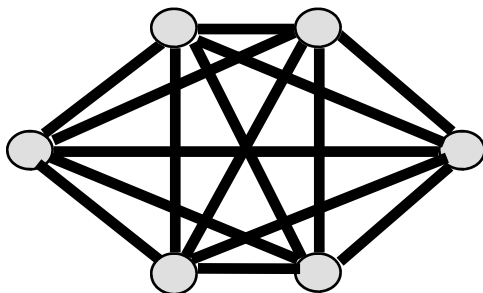
Fear Based Relationships



Fear Relationships

relationships are controlled by fear
people erect barriers with others
people create a shell to protect their feelings
there is a lack of trust
there is a breakdown of communication

Love Based Relationships



Healthy Relationships

relationships are controlled by love
barriers have been replaced by acceptance
shells have been replaced by openness
trust is a characteristic of relationships
communication is direct

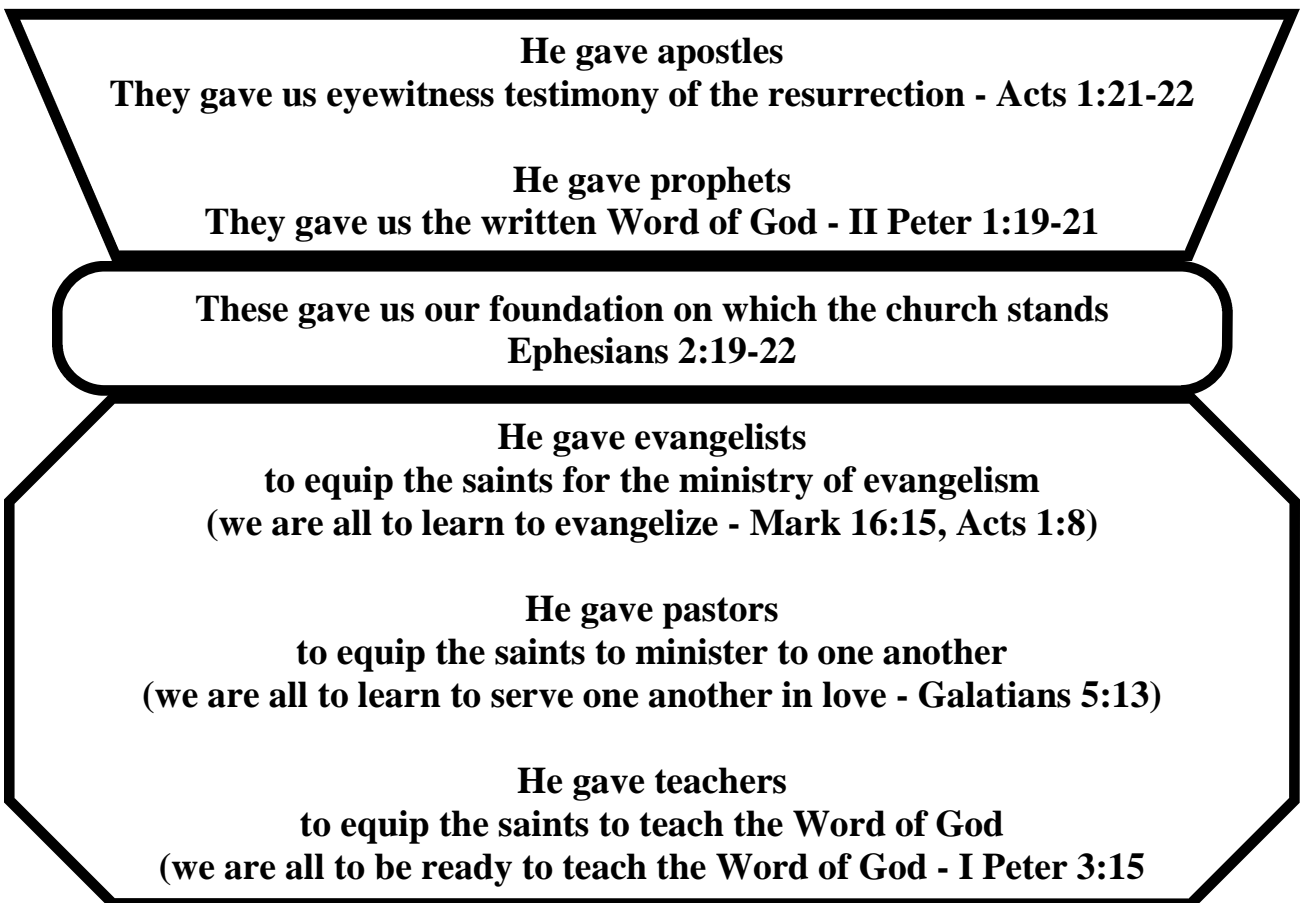
3. Stage Three: Church Beginnings & Leadership Development

A healthy church is a church where each person in the body is learning to function as a healthy part of the body. In order for a church to be healthy and function effectively, the best time to develop a healthy body is right from the beginning. The health of a church is determined by the maturity of the leadership and an understanding by that leadership of how they build a healthy body. Before a church has its first public service, it is wise to have the leadership team already exercising their gifts in the development of those who are becoming Christians. Ephesians 4:11-16 gives us a pattern for healthy church development.

**God is the One who gifts people for leadership as they mature
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, (NKJV)

God is the giver of the equipping gifts



The goal is the building up of the body of Christ, the church!

God has a goal for each Christian and for the whole body

Ephesians 4:13

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; (NKJV)

**God wants the body to come to the unity:
of the faith and
of the knowledge of the Son of God**

**We already have the unity of the Spirit which we are to maintain
Ephesians 4:4-7**

**We come to the unity of the faith as we mature
in our knowledge of the Word of God
Philippians 1:27**

**We come to the unity of the knowledge of the Son of God
as we grow in our relationship with Christ
Philippians 3:10, II Peter 3:18**

God wants each Christian and the whole body to grow to spiritual maturity

**We are to be mature in understanding - I Cor 14:20
We are to be mature in knowing the will of God - Col. 4:12
We are to be mature in recognizing good and evil - Heb. 5:14
We are to be mature in following the law of liberty - James 1:25
We are to be mature in patience - James 1:4
We are to be mature in speech - James 3:2
We are to be mature in love - I John 4:18**

God wants us to grow to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

**We are to be filled to the fullness of God - Ephesians 3:19
We are to grow to the fullness of Christ - Ephesians 4:13
We are to be continually filled with the Spirit - Ephesians 5:18
Christ possesses all the fullness of the Godhead - Colossians 2:9
Christ says that we are complete in Him - Colossians 2:10**

God does not want us to remain spiritual toddlers

Ephesians 4:14

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (NKJV)

Characteristics of a spiritual toddler

A spiritual toddler is deceived by false teachings - Eph 4:14

A spiritual toddler is deceived by false teachers - Eph 4:14

A spiritual toddler is carnal (fleshly) - I Cor 3:1

A spiritual toddler is not able to eat solid food - I Cor 3:2

A spiritual toddler behaves like a mere man - I Cor 3:3

A spiritual toddler is limited in his understanding - I Cor 13:11

A spiritual toddler is dull of hearing - Heb 5:11

A spiritual toddler needs to relearn the basics - Heb 5:12

A spiritual toddler is unskilled in the word of righteousness - Heb 5:13

A spiritual toddler is not mature enough to discern - Heb 5:14

God wants us to grow up into the head who is Christ

Ephesians 4:15

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- (NKJV)

We are to learn to speak the truth

We are to learn to speak in love

We will see that happen as we grow in all areas

We will see that happen as we grow in Christ

We will recognize that Christ is our head and that we will speak in truth and love as we obey Him

**Do I make it a habit to speak the truth?
Do I make it a habit to speak that truth in love?**

God wants every Christian to become a functioning part of the body

Ephesians 4:16

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

The various parts of the body make one whole body

The various parts of the body are connected to each other

The various parts of the body are to be connected in love

*requires developing healthy relationships between the various Christians
relationships that are controlled by love
relationships that show acceptance of one another
relationships that demonstrate openness
relationships that are characterized by trust
relationships where communication is direct*

The various parts of the body each have something to supply

The various parts of the body work together through supernatural power

The various parts of the body each have a job to do

*a healthy church body will help each person learn to function effectively
a healthy church body will help each person learn to function in love
a healthy church body will help each person learn to depend on
supernatural power*

The various parts of the body work together to cause the body to grow

*the body experiences spiritual growth
(growth in depth)
the body experiences numerical growth
(growth in breadth)*

The various parts of the body work to build up each other

The various parts of the body build one another up in love

4. Stage Four: Church Organization

In this stage of church development the focus is on the development of godly leadership who can lead the church to develop according to Biblical principles. In Acts 14:21-23 we see that it was on the second visit of Paul and Barnabas to the cities of Lystra, Iconium and Antioch that the churches in those cities were organized. Paul and Barnabas realized that it was important to wait until godly leadership developed rather than organizing the churches with immature leadership who would organize the churches based on worldly principles. Titus was left in Crete to develop godly leadership and then organize the churches. Titus 1:5 says, “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 --.” (NKJV)

To develop healthy churches, Titus was told to develop leaders who were:

Titus 1:6-9

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. (NKJV)

This meant that the primary responsibilities of Titus were to:

Help potential leaders develop a respected life

Help potential leaders develop a healthy marriage

Help potential leaders develop a healthy family relationship

Help potential leaders become Christ centered and not self centered

Help potential leaders deal with former sinful habits

Help potential leaders learn to use their homes for ministry

Help potential leaders develop godly character

Help potential leaders learn to teach the Word of God

Help potential leaders learn to correct those who contradict

God wants us to develop the leadership potential of each person

This involves helping each Christian grow to maturity

Colossians 1:28-29

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. (NKJV)

This involves giving each Christian an example to follow

Acts 20:19-21

"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. (NKJV)

We are to be an example of service with humility

We are to share all that is helpful

We are to teach people publicly

We are to teach people from house to house

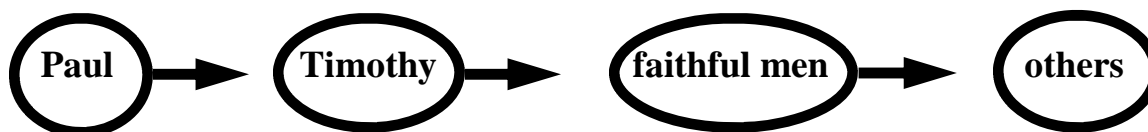
We are to show people how to share the Gospel

This involves helping each Christian learn to reproduce himself

II Timothy 2:2

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

True reproduction develops a vision for the third and fourth generation



**We need to ask ourselves,
Do we have a vision for the third and fourth generations?**

5. Stage Five: Church Extension

During stages three and four a healthy church helps individuals learn to reproduce themselves in the lives of others. Now in stage five a healthy church learns to reproduce itself by planting other churches. This involves planting sister churches in our Jerusalem, Judaea and Samaria and becoming a sending church as we send some of our congregation to plant churches in the uttermost part of the world. In the book of Acts we see that each church had a vision to extend itself to the surrounding areas. This will also be the vision of the healthy church.

A healthy church equips the entire congregation for evangelism

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. (NKJV)

**The entire church was scattered except the apostles
The entire church was prepared to share the Gospel**

A healthy church assists those who have moved to other areas

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, (NKJV)

**Philip shared the Gospel in Samaria
Philip was then assisted by leaders from Jerusalem**

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. (NKJV)

**Unknown Christians shared the Gospel in Antioch
Unknown Christians were then assisted by a leader from Jerusalem**

A healthy church thinks regionally and not just locally

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. (NKJV)

The church at Ephesus began through the ministry of Paul's team

The church at Ephesus focused on making disciples

The church at Ephesus had a vision for all of Asia

The church at Ephesus spread the Gospel throughout Asia

A healthy church sends part of it's own to the uttermost

Acts 16:1-3a

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. (NKJV)

Paul had planted churches at Derbe and Lystra

Paul received a good report from those churches about Timothy

Paul added Timothy to his team on their recommendation

A healthy church works with other churches to plant new churches

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. (NKJV)

The church at Antioch sent Paul out with a church planting team

The church at Berea sent Sopater with the church planting team

The church at Thessalonica sent Aristarchus and Secundus

The church at Derbe sent Gaius and Timothy

The churches of Asia sent Tychicus and Trophimus

Questions to ask about my understanding of the five stages of Biblical Church Development

1. Questions about making initial contacts

- a. Am I overcoming my fear of sharing the Gospel by learning to yield to God?
- b. Am I learning to make new contacts in my own culture?
- c. Am I learning to build bridges to people of other cultures?
- d. Am I learning how to reach out to people of other languages?

2. Questions about developing group meetings

- a. Do I understand what the early church focused on in group meetings?
- b. Do I know how to help people move from fear based relationships to love based relationships?

3. Questions about church beginnings and leadership development

- a. Do I understand how God uses the equipping gifts to help each Christian grow and mature?
- b. Do I understand how to help each Christian become a functioning part of the body?

4. Questions about church organization

- a. Do I understand how to develop mature godly leaders?
- b. Do I limit my vision of what God can do by focusing on a person's past performance rather than on helping each person grow to maturity?

5. Questions about church extension

- a. Am I prepared to equip each Christian for evangelism?
- b. Am I helping each Christian develop a vision for the region and the world?

B. Understanding why each stage is necessary for a healthy church

1. The five stages of development are progressive

A healthy church must reach people before it can teach them

Acts 17:2-4

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. (NKJV)

Paul went where people were open to the Word

Paul shared with them from the Scriptures

Paul took time to explain the death and resurrection of Christ

Paul did not get discouraged when only a small group of Jews responded

Paul realized the synagogue was a bridge to the devout Greeks

Paul saw a great number of Greeks respond to Christ

A healthy church begins by reaching people for Christ

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. (NKJV)

**Churches that begin by all the people transferring from other churches
are only reshuffling the saints**

Churches begin when people become open to the Word of God

Churches begin when people begin to search the Scriptures

Churches begin when people believe in Christ

A healthy church focuses on teaching all who are reached

Acts 2:41-42

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

Christians were immediately involved in Bible study and fellowship

Christians were immediately involved in the breaking of bread

Christians were immediately involved in prayer

A healthy church focuses on helping new Christians learn to fellowship

I John 1:3-4,7

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full... But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (NKJV)

Fellowship is a shared life with God and with other Christians

Fellowship with God is a new experience for a new Christian

Fellowship with others is based on fellowship with God

Fellowship with God and others brings a full joy

Fellowship requires walking in the light

A healthy church focuses on building loving relationships between Christians

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." (NKJV)

Christ commands us to love one another

Christ commands us to love one another as He loves us

Christ says this is how the world will recognize Christians

Christ says we are to be known for our love

A healthy church helps growing Christians develop as spiritual leaders

Christ made fishermen into fishers of men

Matthew 4:19

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (NKJV)

The disciples were invited to follow Christ

The disciples were promised Christ would change them

Christ made fishermen into shepherds

John 21:15-17

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. (NKJV)

The basic requirement for shepherding is loving Christ

**The basic ministry of shepherding is loving Christ's sheep
(feed Christ's lambs, shepherd Christ's sheep, feed Christ's sheep)**

A healthy church multiplies fishers of men and shepherds

Fishers of men - Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. (NKJV)

Shepherds - I Peter 5:1-4

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (NKJV)

Is your goal to develop fishers of men and shepherds?

A healthy church becomes a reproducing church

A church must multiply leaders before it can multiply churches

Acts 13:1, 15:35

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. (NKJV)

Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. (NKJV)

the leadership team at Antioch grew from two to five

the leadership team sent out Barnabas and Saul (Paul)

the leadership team at Antioch continued to grow

A church will multiply itself as it sends out part of its leadership team

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. (NKJV)

the churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria were being built up

the churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria were multiplying

A church will impact an entire region if it sends out part of its leaders

Acts 19:10

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

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, (NKJV)

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. (NKJV)

The church at Ephesus had a vision for all of Asia including such cities as Colosse, Laodicea and Hierapolis!

2. The five stages of development must continue

The five stages of Biblical church development will continue as we abide in Christ and fellowship with Him

We will continue to Evangelize - Reach

We will continue to Edify - Teach

We will continue to Equip - Train

We will continue to Expand the leadership

We will continue to Extend - Send

The danger of leaving our first love as Ephesus later did
“Abiding in Christ and Fellowship with Him”

Revelation 2:4-5

"Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent. (NKJV)

Christ points out the one failure of the church at Ephesus
they had left their first love

the difference between left and lost
to lose means to lose something that you want to keep
to leave means to abandon or forsake
(they had actually turned away from the love that they once had)

The remedy when we fail to abide in Christ and fellowship with Him

Remember - from where you are fallen
Repent - to turn back in heart, purpose and love
Repeat (do) the first works

The results if we fail to abide in Christ and have fellowship with Him

Removal

3. The reasons why healthy churches often become unhealthy

Once a church loses its first love, it will turn inward instead of look upward

Compare two churches Ephesus and Thessalonica

Revelation 2:2

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; (NKJV)

I Thessalonians 1:3

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, (NKJV)

The church at Ephesus	The church at Thessalonica
works labor patience	work of faith labor of love patience of hope

An inward look rather than an upward look will affect all five stages of Biblical Church Development

An inward look causes us to make the following change in stage one
*Instead of evangelizing and reaching the lost,
 we become concerned about getting our own needs met*

An inward look causes us to make the following change in stage two
*Instead of edifying by teaching the Word of God to others,
 we become concerned about protecting our buildings*

An inward look causes us to make the following change in stage three
*Instead of equipping others and training them for effective ministry,
 we begin to focus on learning worldly methods of success*

An inward look causes us to make the following change in stage four
*Instead of expanding the leadership team and multiplying ministry,
 we begin to focus on losing our own position of control*

An inward look causes us to make the following change in stage five
*Instead of extending the ministry by sending part of our leaders out,
 we become self centered until we are removed by Christ*

Questions to ask about how to remain a healthy church

1. Questions about why the five stages are progressive

- a. Why is it important that we begin and continue with evangelism?
- b. Why is it important that we help each new Christian develop his or her relationship with God through Bible study and and their relationship with other Christians through loving fellowship?
- c. Why is it important that we help growing Christians develop some spiritual maturity before we place them in positions of spiritual leadership?
- d. Why is it important that we have a spiritual leadership team functioning before we organize the church?
- e. How do we help a church develop a vision for becoming a reproducing church?

2. Questions about why each of the five stages must continue

- a. What will happen if we begin to neglect evangelism?
- b. What will happen if we begin to neglect Bible study and fellowship?
- c. What will happen if we begin to neglect godly leadership development?
- d. What will happen if we fail to expand our leadership team?
- e. What will happen if we lose our vision for the world?

3. Questions about why churches often become unhealthy

- a. What happens to a church when its leaves its first love?
- b. What happens to a church when it turns its focus inward?
- c. What happens to a church that begins to become self centered?
- d. What does God say will happen to a church that has lost its vision?

III. Where do we begin?

It is a tremendous privilege to be used by God to make disciples. It is an even greater privilege to be called by God to plant a church. However, it is one thing to know that God has chosen us and called us. It is another thing to know how to begin doing what God has called us to do. As we go through the rest of this manual we will be looking at various churches in the New Testament to see how they began and developed. We will see the Biblical principles that helped them develop and then look at the practical application of how we apply those principles to develop a church in the area where God has called us to serve Him.

One of the things that we see in the New Testament is that the Lord used a team of people to develop every church that is mentioned. Christ did not give any of us all the spiritual gifts. Instead Christ chose to use teams of people to carry out His ministry of planting and developing churches. The reason for that is found in 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." (NKJV) Christ says that the way that the world is going to know that we are His disciples is because they will see that we love one another. The only way that they can see that we love one another is if they see us functioning as a team.

This chapter will give us Biblical illustrations of church planting teams and how they were developed. Christ is the chief cornerstone of the church and He used the apostles and prophets to lay the foundation on which we are to build. Ephesians 2:19-22 says, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (NKJV)

Christ chose to build His church by using us
Evangelists - equip us to share the Gospel
Pastors - equip us to minister to one another
Teachers - equip us to teach the Word of God
Apostles - gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection
Prophets - gave us the written Word of God

Christ, the chief cornerstone

A. The ideal: Begin with a team (demonstrated often in Acts)

1. The early church in Jerusalem began with a team of 120

Acts 1:15

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, (NKJV)

Christ took 3 1/2 years to build this team before starting the church

Christ began by inviting individuals to join the team

Mark 1:16-17

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (NKJV)

Christ developed the core team by spending time with them

Mark 13:13-14

And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, (NKJV)

Christ provided on the job training as He expanded the team

Luke 10:1

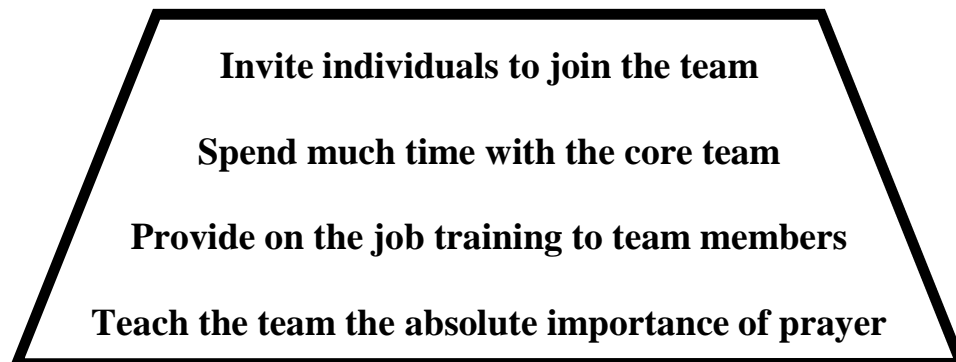
After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. (NKJV)

Christ taught the importance of prayer as He expanded the team

Luke 10:2-3

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. (NKJV)

Principles Christ taught for developing a church planting team



2. The early church usually sent teams

The church at Jerusalem sent a team to help Philip

Acts 8:14

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

The church at Antioch sent out a church planting team

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. (NKJV)

The church at Antioch sent two teams rather than two men alone

Acts 15:39-40

Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. (NKJV)

Principles the early church modeled for developing church planting teams

The early church realized that individuals needed a team to help them

The early church chose church planting teams through prayer

The early church even used conflicts to multiply church planting teams

Action steps for you to begin developing your church planting team

Spend much time in prayer seeking the team Christ desires

Invite the individuals the Lord places on your heart to join the team

Spend much time with the core team to learn to love one another

Spend time training the core team to share the Gospel with others

Spend much time praying together as a team to seek God's leading

B. The common reality: We have to build a team (demonstrated often in Acts)

1. Christ had to build a team

Christ chose people who had responded to Him earlier

John 1:39-41

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 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). (NKJV)

Christ chose people who were workers

Mark 1:16-17

And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (NKJV)

Christ chose people from a variety of backgrounds

Mark 2:14

As He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. (NKJV)

Christ chose three subteams within the twelve

Matthew 10:1-4

¹ And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, (Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother); ³ (Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector); (James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him). (NKJV)

Mark 3:16-19

¹⁶ (Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter; ¹⁷ James the *son* of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; ¹⁸ Andrew), (Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas), (James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him). And they went into a house. (NKJV)

Luke 6:14-16

¹⁴ (Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John); (Philip and Bartholomew; ¹⁵ Matthew and Thomas); (James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; ¹⁶ Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor). (NKJV)

Simon (Peter) James John Andrew	Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew	James the son of Alphaeus Thaddaeus (Judas) Simon the Canaanite (Zealot) Judas Iscariot
--	--	--

2. Barnabas had to build a team

Barnabas originally introduced Saul to the apostles

Acts 9:27

But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. (NKJV)

Barnabas added Saul to the church planting team at Antioch

Acts 11:22-26

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 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. (NKJV)

Barnabas and Saul (Paul) were sent out as a church planting team

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. (NKJV)

Barnabas added John Mark to the church planting team

Acts 13:5

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

Acts 15:37-39

Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; (NKJV)

Principles from the church planting teams of Barnabas

Barnabas saw potential where others saw problems

3. Paul often built a larger team

Paul added Timothy to the team at Lystra

Acts 16:2-3

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. (NKJV)

Paul added Luke to the team at Troas

Acts 16:10

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. (NKJV)

Paul added Priscilla and Aquila to the team at Corinth

Acts 18:18

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. (NKJV)

Paul added several others to the team at Ephesus

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. (NKJV)

Paul built church planting teams that were:



Paul built church planting teams that knew how to plant churches

Aquila and Priscilla used their home to help plant the church in Corinth

Acts 18:1-4

Aquila and Priscilla used their home to help plant the church in Ephesus

Acts 18:18-19, 18:24-27

Aquila and Priscilla used their home to plant a church in Rome

Romans 16:3-5

C. We begin by building a church planting team

1. This may be a group of Christians sent out together

**This most frequently happens when a church plants a sister church
(although not planned, the church at Antioch illustrates this)**

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. (NKJV)

These Christians left Jerusalem together because of persecution

These Christians only shared the Word with other Jews at first

These Christians had some who had grown up in the Greek culture

These Christians because to share with other Greek speakers

These Christians needed training to do more than just evangelism

These Christians were assisted by the leaders of the home church

Action steps to begin developing your church planting team

Begin to look for Christians who know how to:

share the Gospel

Begin to look for Christians who are learning to:

cross cultural barriers

cross language barriers

2. This may be gathering a group of existing Christians in an area

**This most frequently happens when we keep contact with Christians who move
(this is illustrated by the Christians who were scattered from Jerusalem)**

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. (NKJV)

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. (NKJV)

Churches were planted by Christians who were scattered by persecution

these unknown Christians were preaching the Gospel

these unknown Christians were being built up in the Word

these unknown Christians were walking in the fear of the Lord

these unknown Christians were depending on the Holy Spirit

these unknown Christians were planting new churches

Action steps to take as you prepare for church planting in another area

keep contact with Christians who move to other areas

**begin taking people with you as you go to homes to share the Gospel
(these individuals may not be a part of your
church planting team but you will learn how to
train people by example to share the Gospel)**

**begin a one-to-one Bible study with a new Christian to help him grow
(this new Christian may not be a part of your
church planting team but you will learn how to
help a new Christian grow and mature)**

2. This may require building a team though evangelism

(you may be planting a church in an area where there are not yet Christians)

Paul, Silas and Timothy began building the church planting team for Philippi at a prayer meeting

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*. (NKJV)

Paul, Silas and Timothy began building the church planting team for Thessalonica through evangelistic preaching

Acts 17:1-4

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. (NKJV)

Paul and Silas began building the church planting team for Berea through Bible studies

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. (NKJV)

Action steps to take as you plant a church in an area without a team

ask the Lord to lead you to people who are searching

build relationships with individuals by spending time with them

ask the Lord to lead you to people seeking God

offer to help them seek God through a Bible study

let God speak to them through His Word

Questions to ask about where we begin

1. Questions about why it is important to have a team

- a. Am I building the church planting team through prayer?
- b. Am I prepared to build a team by spending much time with them?
- c. Am I prepared to develop the team through on-the-job training?
- d. Am I helping the core team learn to love each other?
- e. Are we spending time as a team together in prayer?

2. Questions about how Biblical church planting teams were built

- a. Am I learn from Scripture how Christ chose people to be on the team?
- b. Am I building a team with a variety of backgrounds?
- c. Am I looking at the potential or the problems of a possible team member?
- d. If I will be crossing language, cultural or ethnic barriers, am I building a team that is multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic?
- e. Am I learning to use my home for effective ministry?

3. Questions about things I can do to build a team

- a. Am I learning to cross language, cultural or ethnic barriers myself?
- b. Am I training others to cross these barriers?
- c. Am I keeping in contact with Christians who move to other areas?
- d. Am I learning how to build relationships with strangers?
- e. Am I learning to recognize people who are seeking God?
- f. Am I learning how to let the Word of God speak to the hearts of people?

IV. Disciple making begins at stage one

In the first chapter we saw that we are commanded to make disciples. We also saw that Matthew 13:52 defines what it means to be made a disciple. In that verse we saw that:

A person who has become a disciple of the kingdom of God is like:

**a householder - the head of a spiritual household or family
has a treasure - that treasure is the Word of God
brings out of that treasure things that are new
brings out of that treasure things that are old**

We saw that Christ spent time with the disciples and many others so that they could become like Him. The process of Making Disciples is spending time with people so that they become like us - they will pick up the bad as well as the good. That is why it is so important that we are continuing to grow spiritually so that we can say as Paul said in I Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.” (NKJV)

We saw that Paul defined Disciple Making as spiritual parenting. Spiritual parenting involves providing godly love and a godly example for others to follow. For that to happen we have to spend time with them so that they can experience that love and we have to let them examine our lives so that they can have a godly example to follow. We also saw that the goal of spiritual parenting is the development of “adult sons”.

An “adult son” is one who has become an equal partner in ministry.

In this chapter we are going to see that we begin making disciples when we first contact individuals for the purpose of evangelism. Our love and our example will usually be one of the keys in drawing them to Christ. Since our goal is to plant a church, we will also focus on the fact that each person we lead to Christ can be used by God to help us develop relationships with their relatives, friends, fellow workers and partners in sin in their former life.

Christ gave the key example of how to reach people for Christ. Christ spent time with people. Christ loved people. Christ reached out to hurting people. May He be our example to follow as we share the Gospel.

A. Leading people to Christ is a process - Mark 4:26-29

1. God uses us to plant the seed - Mark 4:1-20, 26

Christ says that we will plant the soil on four kinds of ground - Mark 4:1-20

**some will fall on hard ground - people who hear and forget
some will fall on stony ground - people who are focused on their problems
some will fall on thorny ground - people who are focused on the present**

**some will fall on good ground
these people will hear the Word of God
these people will then accept the Word of God
these people will allow the Word to transform their lives
these people will experience various levels of fruitfulness in their lives**

Christ calls us to plant the seed which is the Word of God

Mark 4:26

And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,
(NKJV)

Action steps to take as you plant the seed (share the Word of God)

Pray that God will prepare you for people who will reject you

Pray that God will prepare the hearts of those that you contact

Understand that some will hear and immediately forget

Understand that some can only focus on their problems

Understand that some only think of the present

Pray that God will cause you to recognize those who are open

Pray that God will give you wisdom about how to approach each person

Some people need to begin at creation - Acts 17:17-34

Some people need to be shown compassion - John 4:5-29

Some people need to have clarification - Acts 17:11-12

Some people need confrontation - Luke 18:18-27

2. God causes the seed to take root and grow - Mark 4:27

"and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. (NKJV)

With most people evangelism is a process that happens over a period of time

“and should sleep by night and rise by day”

With some people we will begin to see a growing interest

“and the seed should sprout”

With some people that interest will develop into a real search

“and grow”

We do not understand what God is doing in a person’s life but God does

“he himself does not know how”

Action steps to take as the seed takes root and grows

Water the process of development every day with prayer
(pray daily for those with whom you are sharing the Word)

Listen to see what each person is thinking about
(a person who is having the seed take root will begin to ask questions if we will listen)

Be prepared to answer questions from the Word of God
(a person who is giving thought wants to know that there are answers and where those answers can be found)

Realize that God does the drawing to Christ not us
(we do not need to depend on our efforts to save people)

Realize that a true harvest usually takes time
(since God is working in the hearts of those with whom we share, God is in control of the timing)

3. God causes the interest to develop - Mark 4:28

"For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. (NKJV)

God is the source of the harvest not us

“For the earth yields crops by itself”

God has an orderly process of development in the spirit of each person

“first the blade”

God has an orderly process of development in the mind of each person

“then the head”

God has an orderly process of development in the will of each person

“after that the full grain in the head.”

Action steps as God causes the interest to develop

Thank God that He is the One that is working in each life

**Focus on the spirit as you lay a foundation
(the human spirit is separated from God by sin)
the Holy Spirit convicts the human spirit of:**

sin - John 16:8-9

righteousness - John 16:10

judgment - John 16:11

**Focus on the mind once you have laid the foundation
(Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God)**

Romans 10:17

**Focus on the will as you explain repentance and faith
repentance toward God**

faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 20:21

4. God gives us the opportunity to lead people to Christ - Mark 4:29

"But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." (NKJV)

God is the one who leads a person to the point of repentance

“But when the grain ripens”

God calls us to be ready to harvest at the time of harvest

“immediately he puts in the sickle”

God is the One who is the Lord of the harvest

“because the harvest has come”

Luke 10:2

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (NKJV)

Action steps as God brings the harvest

**Thank God that He is the One who draws people to Christ
John 6:44**

**Pray that the Lord will help you to be sensitive to when each person
is ready to place his or her trust in Christ**

**Be ready to lead the person to Christ
Romans 10:9-13**

**Be ready to become or to provide a spiritual parent
I Corinthians 4:14-17**

**Be a spiritual parent who provides tender love and care
I Thessalonians 2:7-9**

**Be a spiritual parent who provides an example to follow
I Thessalonians 2:10-12**

B. Leading people to Christ builds bridges to others

1. A bridge to relatives - John 1:37-42

Christ invited two men to come and get acquainted

John 1:37-39

The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). (NKJV)

Christ invited two men to where He was staying

Christ chose to spend time with them

Christ saw the two men become bridges to their families

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). (NKJV)

Andrew spent time with Christ

Andrew went and found his brother

Andrew brought his brother to Christ

Actions steps to build bridges to reach families for Christ

Spend time with individuals and get to know them

Lead them to Christ

Encourage them to tell their families about Christ

Encourage them to introduce family members to you

2. A bridge to friends - John 1:43-47

Christ spent time getting acquainted

John 1:43-44

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. (NKJV)

Christ went and found Philip

Christ had a bridge to Philip through Andrew and Peter

Christ let Philip become a bridge to Nathanael

John 1:45-47

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote -- Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" (NKJV)

Philip developed a concern for Nathanael

Philip went and told Nathanael what he knew

Philip brought him to Christ to learn more

Actions steps to build bridges to reach friends for Christ

Pray that new contacts will develop a concern for friends

Help people develop a concern for their friends

Encourage people to tell their friends about Christ

Encourage people to share what they have learned

Be available to help their friends learn more

Spend time with their friends sharing Christ

3. A bridge to fellow workers - Matthew 9:9-13

Christ invited Matthew to follow Him

Matthew 9:9

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. (NKJV)

Christ went and found Matthew

Christ invited Matthew to follow Him

Christ let Matthew become a bridge to his fellow workers and friends

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. (NKJV)

Matthew invited Christ to his house for dinner

Matthew invited many of his friends for dinner

Matthew gave his friends an opportunity to meet Christ

Christ answered those who opposed Him

Matthew 9:11-13

And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. "But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (NKJV)

Actions steps to reach fellow workers for Christ

Pray that new contacts will develop a concern for fellow workers

Help people develop a concern for their fellow workers

Help people share Christ with their fellow workers

Spend time getting acquainted with their fellow workers

4. A bridge to partners in sin - John 4:28-30, 39-42

**Christ gave the woman an opportunity to talk to her partners in sin
John 4:28-29**

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?" (NKJV)

The woman left her waterpot

The woman spoke to the men

**Christ saw the woman bring her partners in sin to meet Him
John 4:30**

Then they went out of the city and came to Him. (NKJV)

The men went with the woman

The men met Christ for themselves

**Christ saw many believe through the ministry of this woman
John 4:39-42**

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." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." (NKJV)

Actions steps to reach partners in sin for Christ

Pray that new contact will develop a concern for partners in sin

Encourage people to talk to their partners in sin

Encourage people to introduce you to their partners in sin

Provide opportunities for their partners in sin to meet Christ

Let them see Christ through the Word of God

C. Leading people to Christ requires spending time with people

1. We spend time with people who are searching - Acts 16:13-15

Paul and the team looked for people who were searching

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*. (NKJV)

The team looked for people who were seeking God

The team spent time with people who were seeking God

The team shared Christ with people who were seeking God

Paul and the team waited for the Lord to open hearts

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. (NKJV)

The Lord led the team to a woman seeking to know God

The Lord had prepared this woman for the Gospel

The Lord opened the heart of this woman to the Gospel

Paul and the team began immediate follow-up

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*. (NKJV)

Actions steps to reach people who are searching

Pray that the Lord will lead you to people who are searching

Share the Gospel with those who are searching

Allow the Lord to open the hearts of those who are searching

2. We spend time in evangelistic Bible studies - Acts 17:11-12

Paul and Silas began a Bible study in Berea

Acts 17:11

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. (NKJV)

Paul looked for people who were open to receive the Word

Paul looked for people who would study the Word with them

Paul help them find answers in the Word to their questions

Paul and Silas saw great results through Bible study

Acts 17:12

Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. (NKJV)

Bible study will speak to many people

Bible study will speak to all cultures

Bible study will reach women for Christ

Bible study will reach men for Christ

Action steps to reach people through Bible studies

Pray that the Lord will speak through His Word

Look for people who are open to Bible study

Help people get their questions answered through Bible study

Realize that Bible study is effective with people of all cultures

Realize that Bible studies are effective with both men and women

3. We spend time with people where they are - Acts 17:16-34

Paul took time to understand the beliefs of the people

Acts 17:16-17

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 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. (NKJV)

Paul was waiting for the team to join him

Paul used the time to understand the beliefs of the people

Paul spent time with those who were open to the Word

Paul spent time with those uninterested in the Word

Paul built bridges to those uninterested in the Word of God

Acts 17:22-23

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: (NKJV)

Paul recognized their desire to know God

Paul focused on their search for God

Paul said He would assist their search to know God

Paul began with the Creator - Acts 17:24-25

Paul moved to God's creation - Acts 17:26

Paul moved to man search for the Creator - Acts 17:27-29

Paul focused on the need to repent - Acts 17:30

Paul focused on the resurrection - Acts 17:31-33

Paul saw some believe - Acts 17:34

Action steps as we spend time with people

Become a student of people and their beliefs

Begin with their beliefs about the Creator and His creation

4. We spend time with people in their homes - Acts 18:1-3

Paul looked for people who had a common background

Acts 18:1-2

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. (NKJV)

Paul was a Jew by background

**Paul immediately looked for other Jews
when he arrived in Corinth**

Paul spent time getting acquainted with Aquila and Priscilla

Paul looked for people who had a common trade

Acts 18:3

So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. (NKJV)

Paul found Jews who had the same trade (tentmakers)

Paul made arrangements to stay in their home

Paul began working for them making tents

Action steps as we make contacts with people

Find out if you and someone you know has a common background

Begin looking for people who have something in common with you

Take time to get acquainted with people in their homes

Show an interest in the type of work they do

Make arrangements to visit them in their home

Find things you can do with them

5. We spend time with people in our home - Acts 18:24-28

Apollos had a background of the Old Testament

Acts 18:24-25

Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. (NKJV)

Apollos was a very good speaker
Apollos knew the Old Testament very well
Apollos had a great desire to share with others
Apollos knew nothing about Christ

Apollos needed further instruction about Christ

Acts 18:26

So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (NKJV)

Apollos was a bold speaker
Apollos needed to learn about the death and resurrection of Christ
Apollos spent time with Aquilla and Priscilla receiving instruction
Apollos began to understand accurately

Apollos became a great witness for Christ

Acts 18:27-28

And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ. (NKJV)

Action steps as we have people in our home

Listen carefully to what they understand
Explain clearly what they do not understand
Encourage them to share with others

Questions to ask about making disciples in stage one

1. Questions about the process of leading people to Christ

- a. Do I understand how to approach people with different backgrounds?
- b. Do I understand how to help people move toward Christ a step at a time?
- c. Do I understand how to focus on the spirit, the mind and the will as I lead people to Christ?
- d. Do I understand how to become a spiritual parent to a new Christian?

2. Questions about leading people to build bridges to others?

- a. Am I helping people develop a concern for their relatives?
- b. Am I learning how to build bridges to the friends of new Christians?
- c. Am I learning how to help new Christians reach their fellow workers?
- d. Am I concerned to reverse the patterns of sinful living by using those bridges to help new Christian lead their partners in sin to Christ?

3. Questions about how to get opportunities to spend time with people

- a. Am I praying that the Lord will lead me to people who are searching?
- b. Am I prepared to begin evangelistic Bible studies with people who are open?
- c. Am I taking time to understand the beliefs of people?
- d. Am I building bridges to those who are uninterested in Christ?
- e. Am I effective at ministering to people in their homes?
- f. Am I effective at ministering to people in my home?
- g. Am I learning to listen carefully to see what people do not understand?

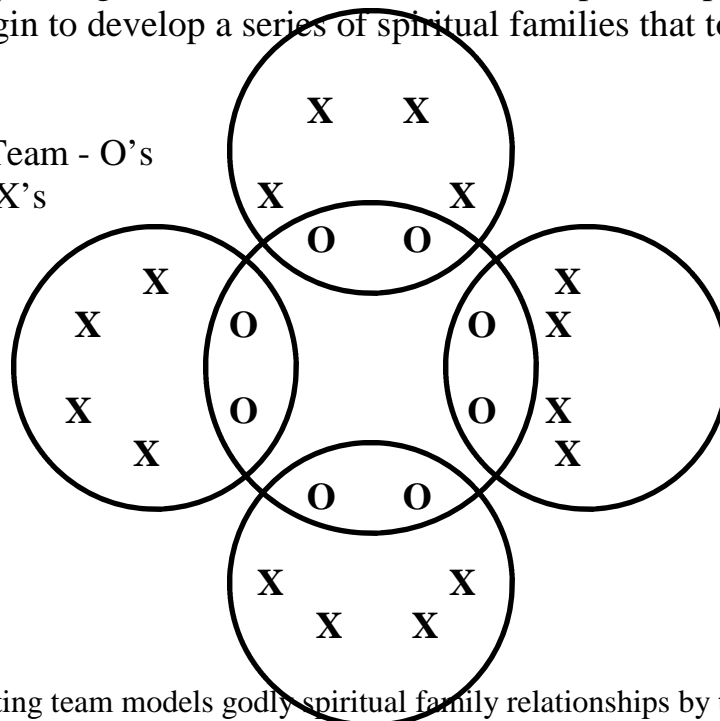
V. Disciple making develops in stage two

Once individuals become Christians, our goal is to help these new Christians become active, functioning parts of the body of Christ. This means that we want to help them learn to develop healthy relationships with other Christians. The early church did this very effectively as we see in Acts 2:42-47. We will be looking at those verses to learn some principles for the development of these healthy relationships.

In Ephesians 3:15 we see that Christians are also described as a family. Healthy family relationships develop best when the parents have a great love for the children. In I Thessalonians 2:7-12 we see that healthy spiritual families develop when spiritual parents show the loving care of a mother and provide the godly example of a father. We have already seen that Paul describes disciple making as spiritual parenting.

A healthy church is actually a group of spiritual families who have a healthy relationship to one another. This is one reason why it is so important to have a church planting team. The church planting team provides a model of a healthy spiritual family. Then the various members of the church planting team become the spiritual parents for those who are becoming Christians so that the new Christians also become a part of a spiritual family. The following diagram gives an example of how the church planting team can then become the spiritual parents for the new Christians and begin to develop a series of spiritual families that together will make a local church.

Church Planting Team - O's
New Christians - X's



The church planting team models godly spiritual family relationships by their relationships.
The church planting team members also develop spiritual families with new Christians.

A. New Christians grow best in Bible study and fellowship groups

1. This provides opportunity for Bible study

Bible study was the focus of the early church

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

Christians met in groups for Bible study

Christians met in groups for fellowship

Christians met in groups to break bread

Christians met in groups to pray

Bible study provides opportunity for questions

Acts 19:9

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. (NKJV)

Bible study focuses on those becoming disciples

Bible study focuses on those who want to learn

Bible study focuses on sharing in discussion

Action steps in Bible studies for new Christians

Study the Bible not just about the Bible

Study in small groups which also allow fellowship

Study the Bible to develop disciples who know the Word

Study the Bible with those who want to learn

Study the Bible to find answers to questions

2. The provides opportunity for fellowship

Fellowship is sharing our lives with God and others

I John 1:3

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Sharing about Christ is the foundation for fellowship

Sharing our lives with one another strengthens us

Sharing our lives begins with the Father and with Christ

Fellowship provides opportunities to share with one another

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)

We are to pay close attention to one another

We are to stir up the love of one another

We are to stir up the good works of one another

**these things happen as we get together
these things happen as we encourage one another**

Action steps to develop fellowship among Christians

Focus on helping people learn to share their lives with God

Focus on helping people learn to share their lives with each other

Focus on helping people learn to pay close attention to each other

Focus on helping people learn to love each other

Focus on helping people practice good works toward each other

3. This provides opportunity for communion (breaking of bread)

The early church broke bread at their Bible studies

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

Bible study, fellowship, breaking bread and joint prayer are to be shared

The early church broke bread from house to house

Acts 2:46

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, (NKJV)

The church met daily in the temple

The church broke bread in the homes

The church shared meals together

The early church came together to break bread

Acts 20:7, 11

Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight... Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. (NKJV)

The church broke bread as a body

The church shared the Word as a body

The church talked together as a body

Action steps to develop understanding of Christ's death among Christians

Break bread in Bible studies to teach the meaning of communion

Break bread from house to house to answer questions about communion

Break bread as a whole body to focus on the unity of the body

4. This provides opportunity for prayers

Prayer was the focus of the early church

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. (NKJV)

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. (NKJV)

The 120 prayed before the coming of the Holy Spirit

The early church prayed as they met for Bible study

The early church prayed regularly as a whole church

Prayer should focus on spiritual development not just physical needs

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 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. (NKJV)

Pray that others will be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man

Pray that Christ might dwell in their hearts by faith

Pray that Christians will be grounded in love

Pray that Christians would know the love of Christ that passes knowledge

Pray that Christians would be filled with all the fullness of God

Action steps to develop prayer among Christians

Focus on praying for the leading of the Holy Spirit

Focus on praying for spiritual growth and development

5. This provides the opportunity to share the needs of others

People may share their physical needs in small groups

Acts 2:45

And sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (NKJV)

The early church learned about the needs of one another

The early church shared to meet those needs

People may share their burdens in small groups

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (NKJV)

People develop burdens through the pressures of life

People can share these burdens with one another

People may share their sins and struggles in small groups

James 5:16

Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (NKJV)

People can confess their sins to one another

People can then pray for one another

People will then see God answer prayer

Action steps as we share the needs of one another

Focus on being open and sharing needs

Focus on helping one another with physical needs

Focus on helping one another bear burdens

Focus on helping one another have victory over sin

6. This provides opportunities for meals together

The early church spent time eating together

Acts 2:46

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, (NKJV)

This provides opportunities to share their joy together

This provided opportunities to grow in spiritual oneness

Christ often spent time eating in the homes of people

Luke 10:38-42

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (NKJV)

Christ had opportunities to share the Word

Christ had opportunities to handle family problems

Christ had opportunities to deal with people's worries

Christ had opportunities to teach priorities

Action steps as we eat with others

Make your home a place to minister to others

Minister to others in their own homes

Share principles from the Word about family life

Share principles from the Word to meet family needs

7. This provides opportunity for additional evangelism

Christ was able to share with the friends of Matthew in his home Matthew 9:10-12

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. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. (NKJV)

**Many people are willing to come to the home of a friend
Many people can meet Christ in the home of a friend
Many people can receive spiritual healing in the home of a friend**

Peter was able to share with relatives and friends of Cornelius in his home Acts 10:24

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. (NKJV)

**Cornelius himself wanted to learn more about Christ
Cornelius invited his relatives to learn about Christ
Cornelius invited his friends to learn about Christ**

Paul and Silas were able to share with the extended family of the jailor Acts 16:31-33

So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. (NKJV)

**Paul and Silas had Bible study with the entire household
Paul and Silas saw the entire household turn to Christ**

Action steps as we look for opportunities for evangelism

Get acquainted with the extended family of new Christians

Get acquainted with the friends of new Christians

**Pray for opportunities to reach the entire extended family
and friendship circle of new Christians**

B. New Christians grow best as they develop new relationships

1. Groups provide the opportunity to ask questions

People can discuss questions in small groups

Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (NKJV)

Christ was able to hear what the disciples were observing in the lives of others

Christ was able to hear what the disciples were believing in their own hearts

People can have their confusion clarified in small groups

Acts 18:24-26

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

Apollos had a good knowledge of the Old Testament
Apollos had learned the message of John the Baptist
Apollos had boldness to speak about what he know
Apollos needed to grow in his understanding
Apollos had things clarified in a small group

Action steps to encourage people to get their questions answered

Ask questions to see what people observe

Ask questions to see what people believe

Discuss things that need to be clarified

2. Groups provide opportunities to minister to each other

God gives us the opportunity to comfort one another

II Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (NKJV)

**God comforts us in all of our tribulation
God give us opportunities to share that comfort with others**

God gives us the opportunity to provide Biblical counsel to one another

I Thessalonians 5:14

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. (NKJV)

**Some Christians need to receive warning
Some Christians need comfort and encouragement
Some Christians need to be held up because they are without strength**

All Christians need examples of patience

God gives us the opportunity to share the physical needs of one another

II Corinthians 8:1-2

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. (NKJV)

The churches in Macedonia were very poor

The churches in Macedonia were quick to share with the needs of others

Action steps to develop ministry to one another

Give people opportunities to comfort one another

Give people opportunities to provide Biblical counsel to one another

Give people opportunities to share the needs of one another

3. Groups provide opportunities to develop spiritual gifts

Small groups provide opportunities to develop spiritual gifts

I Peter 4:7-11

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.* As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

We are to develop fervent love for one another

We are to show hospitality to one another

We are to use our spiritual gifts to minister to one another

We are to speak the Word of God to one another

We are to serve one another with the ability God supplies

Small groups provide opportunities to exercise our spiritual gifts

II Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (NKJV)

People with the gift of teaching will usually focus on doctrine

People with the gift of prophecy will usually focus on reproof

People with the gift of exhortation will usually focus on steps to correct

People with all gifts should train each other in godly living

Action steps to develop spiritual gifts

Give people opportunities to show love through their spiritual gifts

Give people with speaking gifts opportunities to speak in small groups

Give people with serving gifts opportunities to serve in small groups

4. Groups provide opportunities to grow in spiritual maturity

Christians grow as they minister to one another in truth and love

Ephesians 4:15

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- (NKJV)

**Groups provide opportunities to learn to speak the truth
Groups provide opportunities to learn to speak in love**

Christians learn to speak truth as they encourage one another from the Word

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (NKJV)

**We get together in groups to share the Word of God
We encourage one another from the Word of God**

Christians learn to speak in love as they take root in the love of 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. (NKJV)

We receive Jesus Christ as Lord

We learn to walk in Christ

We learn to take root in Christ

We learn to be built up in Christ

We become established in our faith in Christ

Action steps to help people grow in spiritual maturity

Focus on learning to obey the Word of God - Matthew 7:24-27

Focus on moving from fear to love - I John 4:18

5. Groups provide opportunities for leaders to develop

In the early church all were given opportunities to develop

I Corinthians 14:24-26

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. 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. (NKJV)

All the men were given opportunity to read the Word of God

All the men were given opportunity to participate in services

In the early church all were given opportunities to explain the Word

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. (NKJV)

It was common for two or three to speak

It was the responsibility of the others to evaluate

It was expected that correction was involved

It was normal for each man to read and explain the Word

The goal was that all would learn and be encouraged

Action steps to develop leaders

In small groups give each man opportunities to read the Word

In small groups give each man opportunity to explain the Word

In small groups help people learn to evaluate what is said

C. New Christians grow best as they grow in the unity of the Spirit

1. The Spirit is our source of unity

Unity is the result of walking to please the Lord

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. (NKJV)

The Spirit has called all Christians to be one in unity

The Spirit has already created that unity and we are to keep it

The Spirit will give us peace when we have unity with Him

Unity happens as we learn to yield to the Spirit

Romans 6:13, 16

And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God...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? (NKJV)

We are to present our lives to God to do righteousness

We are slaves to what we present ourselves too	
Sin	Obedience
leads to	leads to
Death	Righteousness

Action steps to grow in unity

Focus on the fact that as Christians we now have the Holy Spirit in us

Focus on the fact that the Holy Spirit gives us power to yield to the Spirit

2. The Spirit is our only source of power - Acts 1:4-8

Christ said we can do nothing without Him

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. (NKJV)

Christ said we would be fruitful as we abide in Him

Christ said that we can do nothing without Him

Christ said He would send the Holy Spirit to give us power

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (NKJV)

Christ told the disciples to wait for His power and not depend on their own

Christ promised to baptize the disciples and all believers with the Spirit

Christ said the Holy Spirit would give us power to witness

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

Christ promised the Holy Spirit would come upon us

Christ said the Holy Spirit would give us power to witness

Action steps to depend on the Holy Spirit for power to witness about Christ

Focus on the fact that human strength has no power for spiritual conflict

Focus on the fact that all Christians are given the Holy Spirit at salvation

Focus on the fact that we are able to witness as we depend on the Spirit

3. The Spirit gives us the power to move from fear to love

Fear kept us in bondage before we trusted in Christ

Hebrews 2:14-15

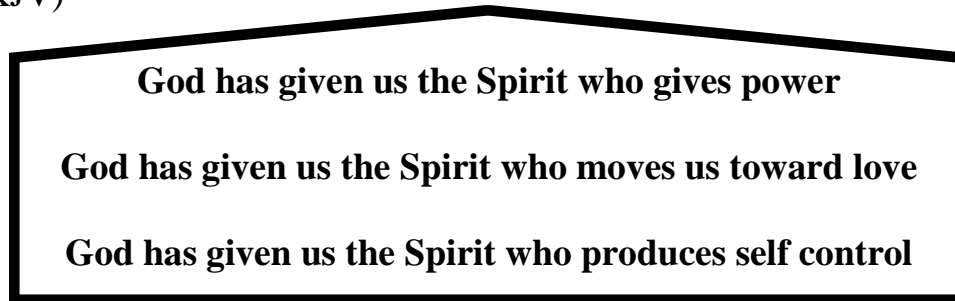
Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (NKJV)



Fear is being replaced by love through the Holy Spirit

II Timothy 1:7

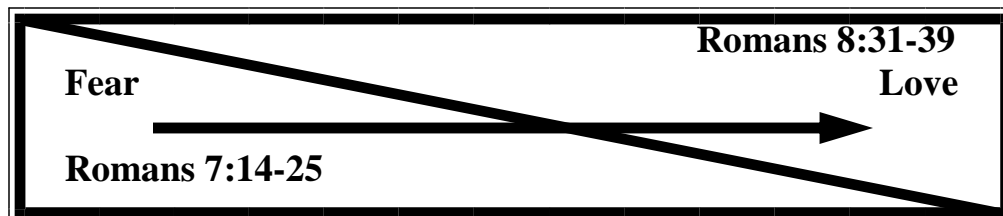
For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (NKJV)



Fear decreases as we grow in the love of Christ through the Spirit

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. (NKJV)



Action steps to help Christians move from fear to love

Help Christians understand why they do not need to fear death any longer

Help Christians learn to be strengthened by the His Spirit - Ephesians 3:16

Help Christians learn to take root in the love of Christ - Ephesians 3:17-19

4. The Spirit guides us and makes us fruitful

The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth

John 16:13

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (NKJV)

The Spirit is the Spirit of truth

The Spirit guides us into all truth

The Spirit speaks in agreement with the Father and Son

The Holy Spirit teaches us all things and gives us peace

John 14:26-27

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit teaches us all things

The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Christ taught

The Holy Spirit helps us experience Christ's peace

The Holy Spirit makes us fruitful

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJV)

The fruit of the Spirit develops in our lives

The fruit of the Spirit in our lives draws others to Christ

Action steps to help Christians grow in dependance on the Spirit

**Help Christians learn to let the Spirit guide them to the truth
Help Christians learn to let the Spirit give them understanding
Help Christians learn to let the Spirit change their inner attitudes**

5. The Spirit gifts us to minister to one another

Spiritual gifts are given to every Christian

Romans 12:3-8

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (NKJV)

God has given each of us a measure of faith

God has given us different functions

God has made us dependent upon one another

God has given us a variety of different gifts

Spiritual gifts are given to serve one another

I Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

God has given every Christian at least one gift
God has given us these gifts to serve one another
God has given some of us speaking gifts
God has given some of us serving gifts

Actions steps to help Christians develop their spiritual gifts

Help each Christian understand the various spiritual gifts
Help each Christian realize that our gifts are to serve one another
Help each Christian develop opportunities to use their gifts

Questions to ask about making disciples in stage two

1. Questions about helping Christians grow in Bible study and fellowship

- a. Do I understand why the early church focused on Bible study and fellowship?
- b. Am I helping people to get their questions answered?
- c. Am I helping people learn to develop true fellowship?
- d. Am I helping people become people of prayer?
- e. Am I helping people learn to share in the needs of others?
- f. Am I helping people learn the importance of sharing meals together?
- g. Am I helping people learn how to reach their family and friends for Christ?

2. Questions about helping Christians develop new relationships

- a. Am I helping small groups feel free to share their questions together?
- b. Am I helping small groups learn to minister to each other?
- c. Am I providing opportunities for people to develop their spiritual gifts in small groups?
- d. Am I providing opportunities for people to grow in spiritual maturity?

3. Questions about learning to depend on the Holy Spirit

- a. Am I helping people to understand the unity that we have in the Spirit?
- b. Am I helping people to understand the power that we have in the Spirit?
- c. Am I helping people learn to move from fear to love?
- d. Am I helping people to become fruitful?

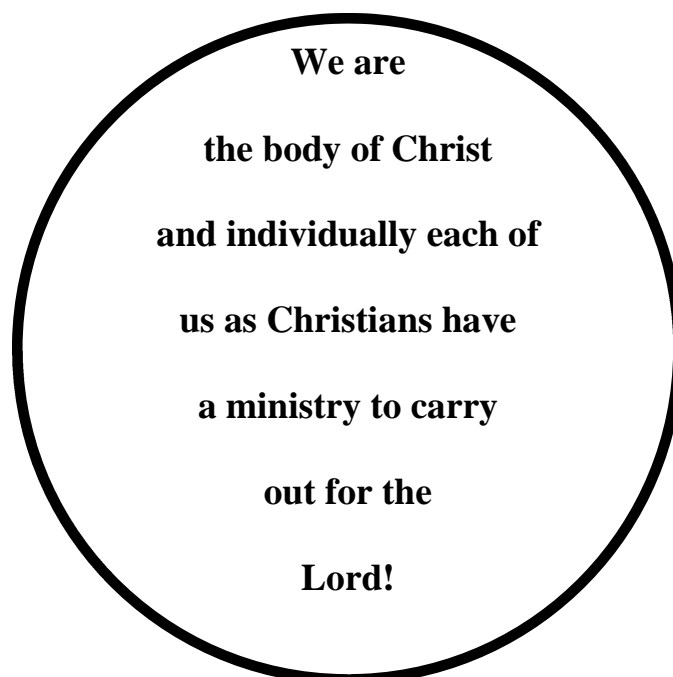
VI.

Disciple making leads to church beginnings in stage three

In stage one of Biblical church development we want to help people develop a personal relationship with Christ. In stage two we want to help Christians begin to learn to develop healthy relationships with each other. Now as we come to stage three we want to help Christians begin to learn to function as the body of Christ in a local area. This is usually the stage where we begin to gather all of the Christians together for meetings of the whole church.

Since opportunities have already been present for people to become Christians and develop their relationship with God and opportunities have been given to grow in their relationship to one another, they now need to learn to become functioning parts of the body. If we begin public services at this time, we already have a number of Christians who are able to participate in the worship services through reading a call to worship, leading singing, reading Scripture or leading responsive reading participating through music or functioning in the worship services in some other way.

One of the goals that we have as a body of Christians begins to function is that those who have become Christians will begin to think as a family or a body. This involves a change in thinking from thinking about my needs and my problems to thinking about how we can begin to minister to each other. This means that we also learn how to begin to function as a body and not just as a group of unrelated individuals. A church also needs godly leadership to lead it so we want to help each Christian to continue to grow in spiritual maturity.



A. Churches develop as Christians begin to think as a body

1. A body has both strong and weak members - I Cor. 12:1-27

A body has many parts but only one body

I Corinthians 12:12

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. (NKJV)

We are all different in Christ

We are all one body in Christ

A body has both strong and weak parts

I Corinthians 12:22-23

No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, (NKJV)

The weaker members of the body are very necessary

The less honorable parts of the body receive honor

A body needs to help the weaker parts

I Corinthians 12:26-27

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (NKJV)

We are all to suffer with the weaker parts
We are all to rejoice with the honored parts
We are all individually members of the body

Action steps to help weaker Christians

We need to begin to thank God for the weaker Christians
We need to help people see that every Christian is necessary
We need to help people learn to suffer with the weaker Christians

2. A body cares for the weak members - I Cor 12:20-25

Some parts of the body want to reject other parts

I Corinthians 12:20-21

But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." (NKJV)

The members are all parts of the same body

The members have no right to reject other parts

Some parts of the body have much to give

I Corinthians 12:24

But our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, (NKJV)

God causes some parts to become very strong

God gives greater honor to the weaker parts

Some parts of the body need to realize their interdependence

I Corinthians 12:25

That there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. (NKJV)

We are not to create divisions in the body

We are to have a great care for one another

Action steps to help those who are weak Christians

We need to show by our example how to accept one another

We need to show by our example how to honor the weaker Christians

We need to show by our example how to heal divisions in the body

We need to show by our example how to care for the weaker Christians

3. A body corrects the unruly members - II Thess. 3:6-15

We are not to ignore the sin of unruly Christians II Thessalonians 3:6-7

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; (NKJV)

We are to avoid fellowship with disorderly Christians

We are to avoid fellowship when people reject the Word

We are to provide an example of godly living

We are given examples of disorderly conduct II Thessalonians 3:10-11

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. (NKJV)

**A person who refuses to work is disorderly
A person who is a busybody is disorderly**

We are told how to correct disorderly conduct II Thessalonians 3:12-15

Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother. (NKJV)

Action steps to correct unruly Christians

We command and beseech them to go to work

We provide our own example by doing good

We remove fellowship from those who do not respond

We admonish them as a brother not treat them like an enemy

4. A body encourages the fainthearted and weak - I Thess. 5:11-14

**We are to encourage and build up one another
I Thessalonians 5:11**

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. (NKJV)

We are to comfort (encourage) one another

We are to edify (build up) one another

**We are to show respect to our leaders
I Thessalonians 5:12-13**

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. (NKJV)

We are to respect those who are working hard

We are to accept it when they give us a warning

We are to think very highly in love of those who work hard

**We are to be concerned for the fainthearted and weak
I Thessalonians 5:14**

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. (NKJV)

We are to warn the disorderly (unruly)

We are to encourage the fainthearted

We are to hold up the strengthless

We are to be patient with everyone

Action steps to encourage the fainthearted and weak

We can look for ways to encourage and build up other Christians

We can show great respect for those who are working hard

We can encourage those who are easily discouraged

We can hold up those who are totally without strength

B. Churches develop as Christians learn to function as a body

1. A body helps each part develop and learn to function

A healthy body focuses on both truth and love

Ephesians 4:15

But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- (NKJV)

Truth without love develops legalism

Love without truth develops false teaching

Truth and love together cause spiritual growth

A healthy body focuses on helping each part learn to function

Ephesians 4:16

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

The whole body is connected to the head - Christ

The whole body is joined together by the various parts

The whole body needs what every person can supply

The whole body needs every part to do its share

The whole body is to build itself up in love

Action steps to help each part develop and learn to function

Help each person grow in their knowledge of the Word

Help each person learn to move from fear to love

Help each person develop connections to other Christians

Help each person become equipped to do his share in love

2. A body helps each part discover its SHAPE

The following five things are what gives each of us a unique ministry

S - spiritual gifts (what spiritual gifts has God given me?)
H - heart (what is my passion for ministry?)
A - abilities (what abilities has God given me?)
P - personality (how does my personality influence my ministry?)
E - experiences in life (what experiences has God given me in life?)

Discovering spiritual gifts

I Peter 4:10-11

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (NKJV)

We have all been given at least one spiritual gift

We are to use our gifts to serve one another

We are to speak the Word of God if we have speaking gifts

We are to serve in the strength God supplies if we have serving gifts

Action steps to discover spiritual gifts

Focus on growing toward spiritual maturity rather than spiritual gifts
maturity will cause the gifts to become evident
carnality will cause the gifts to be misused

Speaking gifts will become evident by how we share from the Word

3 examples - II Timothy 3:16-17

teaching - this person will focus on doctrine

prophecy (reproof) - this person will focus on right and wrong

exhorting - this person will focus on steps to correction

Serving gifts will become evident by the ways we serve (examples)

serving - this person will be busy doing things

giving - this person will focus on sharing things

3. A body provides each part with opportunities to serve

Every Christian needs to be shown how to serve

I Thessalonians 1:6

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, (NKJV)

Christians learn to serve as they are given examples to follow

Christians learn to serve as they become familiar with the Word

Christians learn to serve as they depend on the Holy Spirit

Every Christian can serve both by example and by word

I Thessalonians 1:7-10

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. 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. (NKJV)

Every Christian can become an example to others

Every Christian should be equipped to share the Gospel

Every Christian is called to serve the living and true God

Action steps to provide every Christian with opportunities to serve

Take new Christians with you as you share with others

Help new Christians learn what you share as they go with you

Help new Christians learn to depend on the Holy Spirit

Help new Christians to become an example to others

Help new Christians learn to share the Gospel

C. Churches develop as Christians develop in godly leadership

1. Godly leadership develops a learner's attitude

Christ spent time with those who wanted to learn

John 1:38-39

Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). (NKJV)

Christ looked for people who wanted to learn

Christ invited such people to come and spend time with Him

Christ was willing to spend extended time with them

Paul spent time with those who wanted to learn

Acts 19:9-10

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. (NKJV)

Paul spent much time with the disciples

Paul took time to teach the disciples daily

Paul helped the disciples become reproducing

Action steps to develop Christians into godly leaders

Focus on the individuals that want to learn

Focus on inviting those individuals to spend time with you

Focus on spending extended time with those who want to learn

Focus on discussing the Word of God with them

Focus on helping them become reproducing Christians

2. Godly leadership develops a servant's heart

Christ said we do not start with a servant's heart

Mark 10:42

But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (NKJV)

Worldly leaders like to lord it over others

Worldly leaders like to exercise authority over others

Christ calls those He chooses to lead to develop servant's hearts

Mark 10:43-44

"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (NKJV)

Godly leaders are called to become servants

Godly leaders are called to become slaves of all

Christ gave us the supreme example of servant leadership

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (NKJV)

Godly leaders do not desire to be served

Godly leaders look for opportunities to serve

Godly leaders are willing to sacrifice for others

Actions steps to develop servant leaders

Help people understand the contrast between worldly and godly leadership

Help potential leaders learn how to serve others by showing them

Give potential leaders an example of servant leadership by your example

Godly leadership develops others - II Timothy 2:2

Level One: We Lead

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. (NKJV)

Paul

We lead:

**(we lead through programs, abilities and gifts - personality centered leadership)
or (we lead through spiritual maturity and gifts - character centered leadership)**

Level Two: We Develop Godly Leaders

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, (NKJV)

Paul



Timothy

We develop other leaders

(we are servant leaders who serve people by developing their potential)

Level Three: We Multiply Godly Leaders

Acts 20:20 *And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shown you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, (KJV)

Paul



Timothy



Faithful Men

We train leaders who are developing other leaders

(we are servant leaders who lead by love) - John 13:34-35

Level Four: We Develop Godly Reproducing Leaders

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (NKJV)

Paul



Timothy



Faithful Men



Others

We serve leaders who are training other leaders to develop leaders

(we are servant leaders with the love of Christ flowing through us - II Cor. 5:14)

Questions to ask about making disciples in stage three

1. Questions about helping churches begin to think as a body

- a. Am I helping people become concerned to help the weaker Christians?
- b. Am I helping people learn how to care for weak Christians?
- c. Am I helping people learn how to heal divisions in the body?
- d. Am I helping people learn how to correct unruly Christians?
- e. Am I helping people learn to treat the unruly as brothers and not as enemies?
- f. Am I helping people learn to encourage the fainthearted and weak?

2. Questions about helping churches learn to function as a body

- a. Are we helping the body learn how to function both in truth and love?
- b. Are we helping Christians to discover their SHAPE?
- c. Are we helping Christians to learn how to recognize and use their spiritual gifts?
- d. Are we helping Christians learn how to serve and giving them opportunities to serve.

3. Questions about helping churches develop godly leadership

- a. Are we helping Christians develop a learner's attitude?
- b. Are we spending extended time with those who want to learn?
- c. Are we helping Christians develop a servant's heart?
- d. Are we helping Christians learn to sacrifice for each other?
- e. Are we helping godly leaders learn to develop additional godly leaders?

VII.

Disciple making results in church organization in stage four

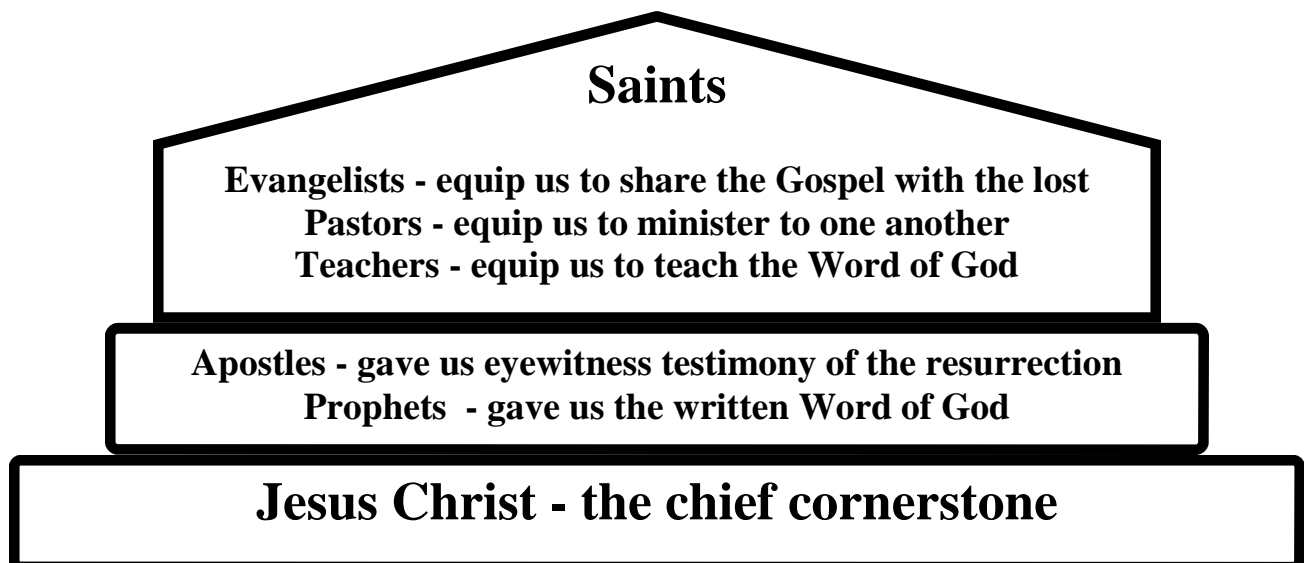
We saw in stage one that our goal in Biblical church development was to help people develop a personal relationship with Christ. Then in stage two we saw that our goal was to help Christians begin to learn to develop healthy relationships with each other. In stage three we saw that our goal was to help Christians begin to learn to function as a body of Christ in a local area and develop the leadership to make that possible. Now as we come to stage four our goal is to help this local body of believers organize so that it can function under its own Biblical leadership.

As you can see, we must continue to practice the first three stages as we develop stage four. We must continue to lead new people to Christ. We must continue to help each new Christian begin to develop healthy relationships with other Christians. We must continue to help these new Christians become active functioning parts of the local body. One of our goals at this stage is to help Christians develop to godly maturity where they are able to become spiritual parents to those who are just becoming Christians.

A healthy organized church will be led by godly servant leaders who are reproducing themselves in the lives of others.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (NKJV)

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, (NKJV)



A. Church organization happens as we develop a leadership team

1. The early church always developed leadership teams

The early church began with a leadership team

Acts 1:15

And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, (NKJV)

Christ had developed the initial leadership team

Christ had developed a team of 120 disciples

The early church developed additional leaders for the leadership team

Acts 6:5-7

And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 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. (NKJV)

**The additional leaders were were:
multicultural - Greek speaking Hebrews
and
multiethnic - a proselyte from Antioch**

The additional leaders were given responsibility by the apostles

The additional leaders made it possible to multiply disciples

Action steps for developing leadership teams

Spend much time with future key leaders as Christ did

Develop other leaders in addition to the key leaders

Develop leaders who are able to relate to various cultures

Develop leaders who are able to relate to various ethnic groups

2. The early church gave principles for selecting team members

Leadership should be chosen by character

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; (NKJV)

Select leaders who have a good reputation

Select leaders who are full of the Holy Spirit

Select leaders who are full of wisdom

Select leaders who can take responsibility

Leadership should be further developed to its full potential

Acts 16:1-3

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

Timothy already had a multicultural background

Timothy already had a good report by the brethren

Timothy was chosen by Paul for further development

Timothy was prepared for multicultural ministry

Action steps for building a team on principles and not personalities

Select leaders based on godly character

Select leaders based on their dependence on the Holy Spirit

Select leaders who demonstrate real wisdom

Select leaders and develop their full potential

3. The early church gives examples for developing team members

Barnabas realized the need to develop a teacher to assist him at Antioch

Acts 11:24-26

For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. 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. (NKJV)

Barnabas was very gifted in evangelism

Barnabas realized the need for a teacher

Barnabas knew a teacher who needed his potential developed

Barnabas gave Saul the opportunity to develop as a teacher

Barnabas and Saul taught many people

Barnabas and Saul developed disciples

Barnabas and Saul developed leaders who could take their place at Antioch

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. (NKJV)

Leaders were developed from within the congregation

Leaders developed who has a vision for outreach

Action steps to develop team members

Develop a team with different gifts

Develop the potential of undeveloped leaders

Develop leaders who have a vision for the world

B. Church organization happens as we develop leaders from within

1. Leaders develop as people grow to spiritual maturity

Spiritual maturity caused Paul, Silas and Timothy to become spiritual parents

I Thessalonians 2:7-12

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. 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. (NKJV)

**They showed the care of a nursing mother
They imparted their own souls in their ministry
They shared the Word of God with the Thessalonians
They provided their lives as examples to them
They encouraged them as their own children
They helped them to walk worthy of God**

Spiritual maturity begets spiritual maturity

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. (NKJV)

**The Thessalonians became followers of the Lord
The Thessalonians became examples to others
The Thessalonians shared the Word with others**

Action steps to develop maturity in developing leaders

**Provide the gentleness of a nursing mother
Provide the example of a godly father
Provide opportunities for ministry**

2. Leaders develop as they are equipped for ministry

God gives equipping gifts to equip all Christians for ministry

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, (NKJV)

Apostles - gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection

Prophets - gave us the written Word of God

Evangelists - equip us to share the Gospel with the lost

Pastors - equip us to minister to one another

Teachers - equip us to teach the Word of God

God wants every Christian to become equipped for ministry

Ephesians 4:16

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (NKJV)

Every Christian has something to supply to others

Every Christian is to do his share to help the body

Action steps to develop and equip leaders for ministry

Take someone with you as you share the Gospel with the lost

Take someone with you as minister to the needs of others

Take someone with you when you teach the Word of God

Take time to help each person learn how to serve others

Show them how to do a ministry while they observe

Have them do that ministry with you

Have them do that ministry while you observe

Have them do that ministry on their own

Discuss how things went as they did that ministry

Commission them to begin doing that ministry

3. Leaders develop as they gain experience in ministry

Christ sent out the twelve for experience to those of their own culture

Matthew 10:1, 5-6

And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power *over* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease...These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (NKJV)

Christ let the disciples know they were being sent

Christ gave specific instructions for ministry

Christ had them gain experience in their own culture

Christ had the twelve report when they returned

Mark 6:30-31

Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. (NKJV)

The disciples told what they had done

The disciples told what they had taught

The disciples spent time alone with Christ

Action steps to help people gain experience in ministry

Give people specific instructions as they gain experience

Give early experience in the culture people feel most comfortable

Give opportunity for people to tell what they have done

Give opportunity for people to tell what they have taught

Give people opportunity to discuss their questions

C. Church organization happens as we develop to meet needs

1. The early church developed people before developing organization

The disciples were developed before the church was developed

Mark 3:13-15

And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons: (NKJV)

**Christ chose the twelve to be with Him
Christ chose the twelve to send them out to preach
Christ chose the twelve to minister to hurting people**

The disciples developed others before giving them leadership

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (NKJV)

**They spent time in Bible study
They spent time in fellowship**

The disciples developed people by taking them with them to minister

Acts 20:20

I kept back nothing that was helpful, but have shown you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.

**The disciples showed people how to minister
The disciples taught the people what to share
The disciples did this publicly
The disciples did this house to house**

Action steps in the development of church organization

**Show potential leaders how to minister to hurting people
Develop potential leaders before giving them responsibility
Develop leaders in the homes of hurting people**

2. The early church developed organization to meet needs

The leaders of the early church selected leaders as needs arose

Acts 6:1-3

Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. "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; (NKJV)

The apostles were sensitive to needs that arose

The apostles did not try to do all the work themselves

The apostles gave guidelines for selecting additional leaders

The leaders of the early church focused on character in selecting leaders

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. (NKJV)

The church is to select leaders of godly character

The church is to select leaders who exercise family leadership

The church is to select leaders who exercise personal self discipline

The church is to select leaders who know the Word of God

The church is to select leaders who teach the Word

Action steps to develop organization to meet needs

We need to be alert to needs that arise

We need to develop only necessary organization

We need to develop godly leadership to lead

We need to develop leaders who share the Word

3. The early church focused on developing every Christian

Every Christian is to be equipped to grow in faith

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

**We have been saved through faith
We have now been recreated to do good works**

Every Christian is to be equipped to give an answer for his or her hope

I Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (NKJV)

**All Christians are to let the Lord rule in their hearts
All Christians are to be able to share what they believe
All Christians are to be able to share with gentleness**

Every Christian is to learn to love others as Christ loved us

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." (NKJV)

**Christ has commanded all Christians to love one another
Christ has given us the model of that love by His example
Christ said that is how others will recognize us as Christians**

Action steps to help people develop and become equipped for ministry

Help each Christian learn to do good works because of their faith

Help each Christian learn to share their hope with others

Help each Christian learn to love as Christ loved us

Questions to ask about making disciples in stage four

1. Questions about developing a leadership team

- a. Am I helping people to develop their spiritual leadership?
- b. Am I helping people become equipped to become a part of the leadership team?
- c. Am I helping people focus on developing godly character?
- d. Am I serving existing leaders to help them develop to their full potential?
- e. Am I developing a leadership team with different gifts?

2. Questions about developing leadership from within

- a. Am I helping developing leaders become spiritual parents?
- b. Am I helping people grow to spiritual maturity?
- c. Am I helping the leadership team develop their equipping gifts?
- d. Am I showing the leadership team how to ministry by taking them with me?
- e. Am I providing opportunity for leaders to gain experience in ministry?

3. Questions about developing church organization to meet needs

- a. Am I concerned to develop people before I develop the organization?
- b. Am I equipping people to meet needs?
- c. Am I prepared to develop the organization needed to meet those needs?
- d. Am I encouraging the church to look for men of character in selecting leaders?
- e. Am I focused on developing every Christian for the ministry to which God has called them?

VIII.

Disciple making results in church extension in stage five

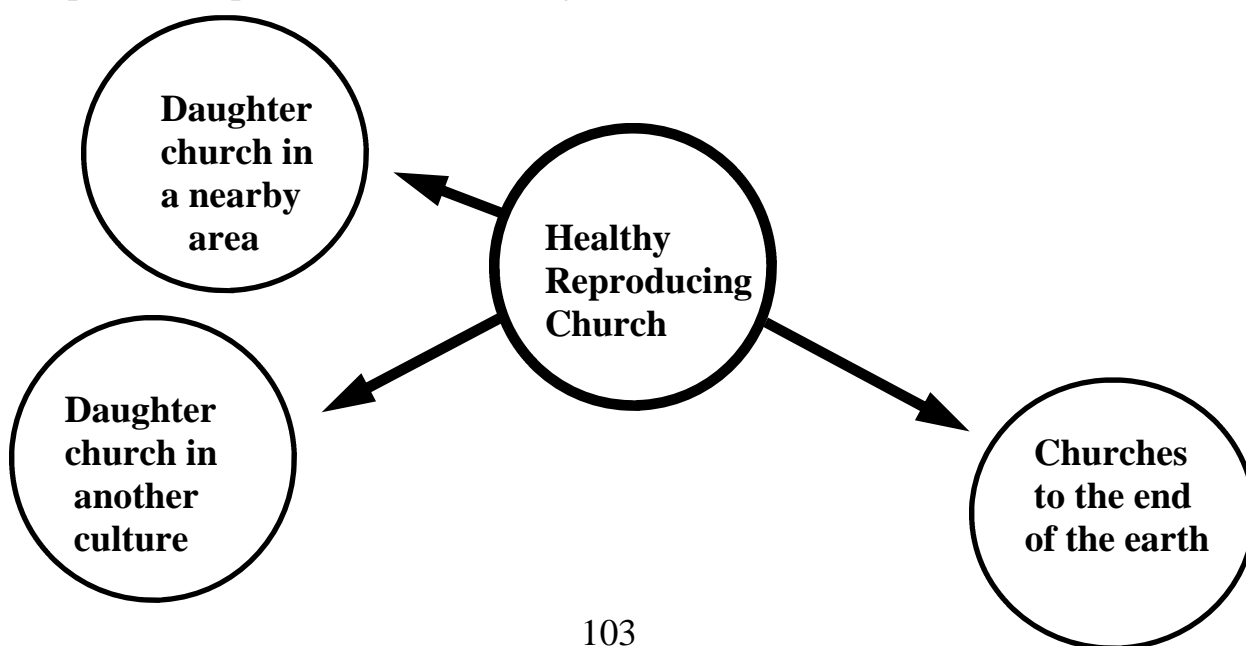
Healthy organisms are usually able to reproduce themselves. This is true of people. It should also be true of churches and Christians. In order for churches to reproduce themselves, they must look beyond themselves and begin to see the world as Christ sees the multitudes of the world.

Christ gave us His vision for the multitudes in Matthew 9:36-38 where we read,

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." (NKJV) As we see in these verses, Christ shared both His vision and the action that we are to take to help people develop a vision greater than themselves.

Once people begin to see what Christ wants to do in the world, we need to help them begin to develop outreach teams. This involves training them for ministry right in the areas where they live as well as training them to reach out to other nearby areas and for some to reach out to very distant areas.

Healthy reproducing churches develop a vision to plant daughter churches in nearby areas that need new churches planted. They also begin to focus on those of other cultures, languages or ethnic groups in nearby areas that need to have churches planted among those cultures. At the same time they begin to develop a vision to plant churches to the very ends of the earth. Once they have that vision they begin to develop teams to plant one or more daughter churches in at least one of those areas.



A. Church extension happens as we develop vision for the world

1. Vision was developed by Christ in the disciples

Christ developed a vision for the next towns

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. (NKJV)

Christ took the disciples to the next towns

Christ focused on His purpose

Christ took the disciples throughout Galilee

Christ developed a vision for people

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." (NKJV)

Christ modeled compassion for people

Christ told the disciples that many people were open

Christ told the disciples how to get involved

Action steps for developing vision in others

Take others with you as you share the Gospel

Help others become purpose led rather than problem driven

Model compassion for people

Help others learn to recognize people who are open

Help others begin to pray for the lost

Vision was developed in a progressive fashion

Vision developed first by looking

John 4:35

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (NKJV)

Lift up your eyes

Look on the fields

Vision developed next by praying

Luke 10:2

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (NKJV)

Look at the harvest

Look at the lack of laborers

Pray for the Lord to send out laborers

Vision developed further by going to their own people

Matthew 10:5-6

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (NKJV)

Christ sent the twelve out for short term ministry

Christ sent them first to their own culture

Action steps to develop the vision of people in a progressive fashion

Encourage people to look beyond themselves

Encourage people to expand their prayer ministry

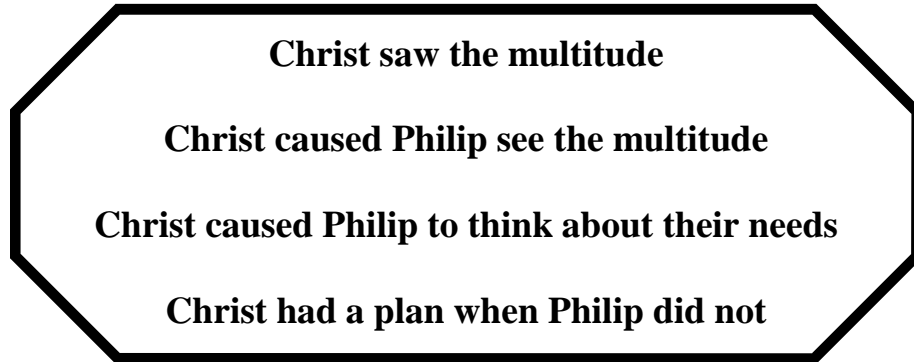
Encourage people to get involved in an outreach ministry

3. Vision was developed by stretching people

Christ often asked the disciples what they should do to make them think

John 6:5-6

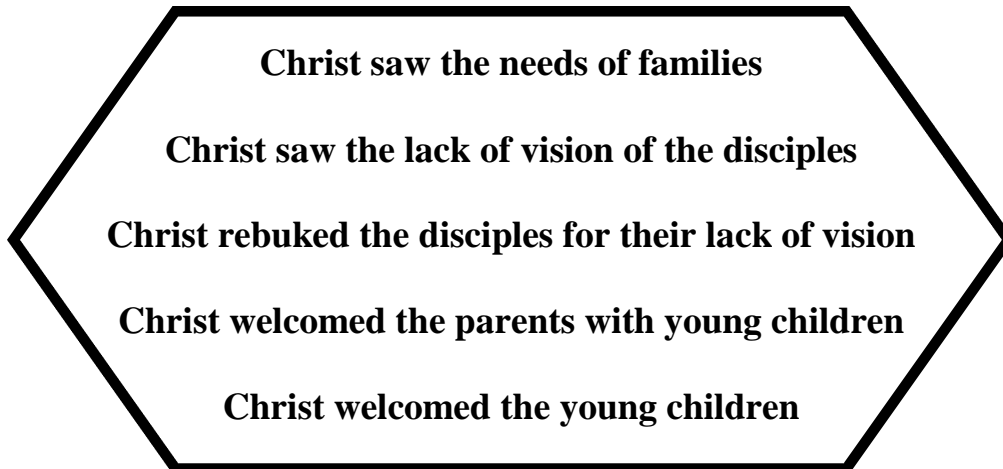
Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. (NKJV)



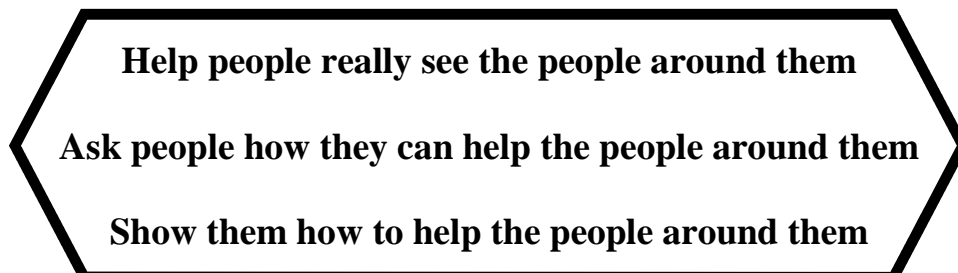
Christ helped the disciples develop a vision for all ages

Luke 18:15-16

Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (NKJV)



Action steps to help people stretch their vision



B. Church extension happens as we build outreach teams

1. Outreach teams equip people for local evangelism

The early church leaders taught the people to reach out to neighbors

Acts 2:46

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, (NKJV)

The church leaders ministered in the temple

The church leaders ministered house to house

The early church leaders taught the people to focus on the entire city

Acts 5:28-29

Saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. (NKJV)

The church leaders filled Jerusalem with the teachings about Christ

The early church leaders taught the people to focus on obeying God

The early church leaders saw the results when persecution came

Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. (NKJV)

The believers were scattered by persecution

The believers shared the Gospel wherever they went

Action steps to equip people for local evangelism

Show Christians how to evangelize in public

Show Christians how to evangelize house to house

Show Christians the importance of evangelizing everywhere

2. Outreach teams equip people to minister to others

Paul and Barnabas developed spiritual leadership in every church

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. (NKJV)

**They began by reaching people for Christ
They developed those reached into disciples
They strengthened those disciples and developed leaders
They then appointed leaders in every church
They expected God to use those leaders**

Paul and Silas trained Timothy to be a church planter

Acts 16:1-3

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

**Paul saw a disciple who wanted to serve the Lord
Paul confirmed his potential with the church leaders
Paul asked Timothy to go with them to spread the Gospel
Paul prepared Timothy for cross cultural ministry to Jews and Greeks**

Actions steps to equip people for ministry to others

**Focus on the process of making disciples not just decisions
Focus on the strengthening of people for leadership
Develop leadership within every congregation
Watch for Christians who are reaching out to other areas
Prepare those Christians for cross cultural ministry**

3. Outreach teams develop a vision for other areas

The church at Jerusalem developed a vision for the surrounding area

Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. (NKJV)

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. (NKJV)

The people were prepared to share the Gospel wherever they went

The people started churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria

The churches continued to multiply throughout these regions

The church at Antioch developed a vision for the world

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. (NKJV)

The church at Antioch developed a leadership team

The church leaders focused on ministry and prayer

The church leaders were led to send out part of their team

Action steps to develop a vision for other areas

Prepare each Christian to clearly share the Gospel

Prepare the church to plant churches in the surrounding areas

Prepare the church to focus on multiplying churches

The leaders lead the church in focusing on other areas through prayer

C. Church extension happens as we plan to parent daughter churches

1. Planning to parent provides vision for churches

Healthy churches develop a vision for parenting other churches

Acts 13:4-5

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 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. (NKJV)

The church was sensitive to the Holy Spirit

The church became a sending church and sent a church planting team

The church allowed a young man to go to assist

Healthy churches think in terms of their 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. (NKJV)

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. (NKJV)

The church at Ephesus was focused on making disciples

The church at Ephesus saw the disciples take the Word throughout Asia

The church at Ephesus planted churches in Colosse, Laodicea and Hierapolis

Actions steps to help a church plant daughter churches

Become a church that is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
Prepare a church planting team that is equipped to plant churches
Prepare disciples who plant churches as they move to other areas
Prepare the church to develop a vision for the entire region

2. Planning to parent provides purpose for churches

A church that is self-centered often develops much conflict

I Corinthians 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere men*? (NKJV)

Self-centered churches give no purpose for people to grow

Self-centered churches become carnal

Self centered churches experience envy, strife and divisions

A church that has a Biblical purpose becomes Christ centered

I Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (NKJV)

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

**A church that desires to glorify God
will equip the congregation to reach out to:**

**Jerusalem (those in the surrounding community)
Judea (those in nearby communities)
Samaria (those of other cultures and ethnic groups)
the end of the earth (those of other languages)**

Action steps to become a purpose led church

**Plan to glorify God by:
equipping people for evangelism in the local community
equipping people to plant churches in nearby communities
equipping people to plant churches in other cultures
equipping people to plant churches among other ethnic groups
equipping people to plant churches among other language groups**

3. Planning to parent provides opportunity for new leaders to develop

New leaders were developed by Barnabas and Saul to take their place in Antioch

Acts 13:1-2

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." (NKJV)

Barnabas and Saul had trained new leaders for Antioch

Barnabas and Saul were then sent out to plant new churches

New leaders had multiplied by the time they returned

Acts 15:35

Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. (NKJV)

Paul and Barnabas saw others growing when they returned

Paul and Barnabas saw many others sharing leadership

New leaders resulted in the church at Antioch sending out multiple teams

Acts 15:39b-40

Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. (NKJV)

Barnabas and Mark went to Cyprus

Paul and Silas went to Turkey and Greece

Action plans for developing leaders to multiply churches

Develop new leaders to share your ministry

Be prepared to expand your own ministry to other places

Train leaders to reproduce themselves in the local church

Train leaders to plant churches by taking them with you

D. Church extension happens as we send teams to other parts of the world

1. Train teams for cross cultural ministry

Christ told disciples with Him so they could learn to reach Samaritans

John 4:31, 34-35

In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."... Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (NKJV)

**Christ taught the disciples the need to do the will of God
Christ taught the disciples to finish the work God gives to do
Christ taught the disciples to see people of other cultures**

Peter took six men with him so they could learn to reach Gentiles

Acts 11:12

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

Peter was sensitive to the leading of the Spirit

Peter took six men with him to learn by observing

Barnabas trained Saul to teach Gentiles

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. (NKJV)

Barnabas had a passion to develop Saul

Barnabas shared ministry to develop Saul

Action steps to train teams for cross cultural ministry

**Teach people the importance of doing the will of God
Take people with you as you minister to other cultures
Develop people by sharing your ministry with them**

2. Lead teams in cross cultural ministry

Peter led a team when he went to Cornelius

Acts 10:23

Then he invited them in and lodged *them*. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. (NKJV)

Peter was making his first trip to the Gentiles

Peter took others with him on his first cross cultural ministry

Paul led a team when he went to Thessalonica

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. (NKJV)

The team ministered together to the church

The team prayed faithfully for the church

The team knew that God was working in the church

Paul led ministry teams every place he went except Athens

Acts 17:14-15

Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. (NKJV)

Paul had to leave for Athens on the midnight express for safety!

Action steps to lead team in cross cultural ministry

Take a team with you wherever you go

Teach the team to minister as a team

Teach the team to pray as a team

3. Build multicultural teams for cross cultural ministry

Paul had a team travel with him from several different cultures

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. (NKJV)

Paul was from Tarsus in Cilicia

Sopater was from Berea in Macedonia

Aristarchus and Secundus was from Thessalonica in Macedonia

Gaius and Timothy were from Derbe in Galatia

Tychicus and Trophimus was from Ephesus in Asia

Some of the others who traveled with Paul at various times

Barnabas from Cyprus - Acts 4:36

John Mark from Jerusalem - Acts 12:12

Silas from Jerusalem - Acts 15:23

Luke a Greek met in Troas - Acts 16:8-10

Aquila and Priscilla from Pontus and Italy - Acts 18:2, 18

Gaius and Aristarchus of Macedonia - Acts 19:29

Others who were involved in team ministry with Paul

Epaphroditus - Philippians 2:25-30

Tychicus, Onesimus, Justus, Epaphras, Demas - Colossians 4:7-14

Titus, Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, Claudia - II Timothy 4:10-21

Artemas - Titus 3:12

many who ministered with Paul - Romans 16

Action steps to build multicultural teams for cross cultural ministry

Take people of other cultures with you

Take people of other ethnic groups with you

Take people of other language groups with you

Questions to ask about making disciples in stage five

1. Questions about developing vision for the world

- a. Am I helping people develop vision for the next towns?
- b. Am I helping people develop a vision for people and not just projects?
- c. Am I helping people develop a vision that progressively extends further?
- d. Am I helping people learn to minister to their own culture?
- e. Am I stretching people by making them think and develop a plan?

2. Questions about building outreach teams

- a. Am I developing outreach teams for local evangelism?
- b. Am I equipping outreach teams to minister to others?
- c. Am I helping outreach teams develop a vision for other areas?

3. Questions about planning to parent daughter churches

- a. Am I helping my church develop a vision for parenting other churches?
- b. Am I helping my church to become a purpose led church?
- c. Am I helping my church to continually focus on the development of new leadership?

4. Questions about developing church planting teams for the world

- a. Am I training teams of people in my church for cross cultural ministry?
- b. Am I leading teams of people from my church in cross cultural ministry?
- c. Am I building multicultural teams for cross cultural ministry?
- d. Am I doing all that I do to the glory of God?