



SESSION
ONE

STUDENT EDITION

GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

Billion Soul Network® | Global Church Learning Center®

Global Church Training Curriculum

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THE GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

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INTRODUCTION

You hold in your hands the very first Global Church Training Curriculum. It represents the circumference of Christianity in the twenty-first century. The Gospel that has been sent to the four corners of the earth has now come back to the places where it originally was sent out. The mission field has become a mission force. We are witnessing an unparalleled move of God throughout all the nations of the world. Truly, these are the greatest days of Gospel advancement and Kingdom establishment since Jesus Christ came out of the grave more than two thousand years ago.

In January of 2002, the Billion Soul Network was launched in Orlando, Florida. More than five thousand pastors and leaders came from all fifty states, every province in Canada, and more than twenty nations around the world. We established a God-sized goal to help plant five million new churches for a billion soul harvest in our generation. The spine of this vision was to pull together the finest teachers and training and make it available worldwide through Internet technological devices. We said that this training must be online, on-ground, and on-time! We are watching today as that vision is becoming a reality. I remember, as if it were yesterday, sitting in the back of a Bangkok city bus with several U.S. pastor friends. We were watching a choppy video, *Red Sky in the Morning*, by the late Dr. Bill Bright, on a PalmPilot handheld device. At that moment I heard the Holy Spirit whisper to me, “They will study like this one day.”

As the Billion Soul Network was launched, it was released and unfolded in several different phases. The first phase is what we called the **Discovery Phase**. Dr. Elmer Towns, cofounder of Liberty University and dean of the Global Church Learning Center, has often said, “You’ll never know something new until you learn something new.” When we think of synergy being the summation of all the parts having greater value than its individual parts, we think of this in terms of the global nature of the Body of Christ. We decided to go out and host Billion Soul Summits in every major world region. More than ten thousand leaders joined us in these summits. Leaders were not invited to participate in the summits unless there were at least fifty pastors or churches underneath them. We chose not to just have summits for the sake of having meetings; rather, we invited decision makers to come so that real synergy and strategy could be developed. At Billion Soul we often say, “If your movement is not moving, it is not a movement. It’s a monument.”

On the heels of the discovery phase came the **Development Phase**. In the development phase we began to listen to key men and women as they articulated the training subject needs throughout the Body of Christ. This was not *the West going to the rest*; it was *the best around the world going to the rest of the world*. Out of this development phase

came what is called the Global Church Learning Center (www.gclc.tv). The Global Church Learning Center is comprised of five major categories: leadership development, global missions, church multiplication, evangelism and discipleship, and visionary networking. For this Global Church Training Curriculum, we chose the top thirty nonnegotiable courses that every pastor and Christian leader needs to study for effective ministry today.

But what good is great content if you don't have a channel of distribution? As we continued in the development phase, we moved into the **Distribution Phase**. The distribution phase was the streaming technology and the relationship development that took place over a long period of time, so that the training content is now made available online, on-ground, and on-time.

At the time of this writing, more than forty thousand pastors and leaders are taking courses in the Global Church Learning Center. Each course is designed to have fifteen sessions of approximately six to seven minutes each. We did not ask each of the teachers to tell us everything they knew about a particular subject, but rather to tell us the best they had learned about that particular subject. In the future, more than 100,000 pastors and leaders will take the training courses offered through the Global Church Learning Center.

In 2013, we began to execute the **Deployment Phase**. The deployment phase is what we call the *Global HUBS of Christianity*. In 2004 I was in a public park in Springfield, Missouri, with my oldest daughter, Olivia, who at the time was three years old. I remember holding her up over my head while she was laughing. It was in this divine moment, as I looked into her Asian eyes, that I sensed the Holy Spirit say, "Look at what I've raised up all over the world." If you want to know what God is up to, just look at what He's raised up! From that point until today, we have determined to seek out those leaders whom God has raised up throughout the earth and do our best to tie relational knots with them and others for the largest harvest possible. The Global Church Training Curriculum and the Global HUBS of Christianity go hand in hand as we march forward into the future.

There are three overarching outcomes for a Global HUB. First, a HUB *synergizes the best relationships*. Second, it *systematizes the best training*. Third, it *strategizes for the unreached people groups in the area*. A HUB is a real place where men and women come together to synergize, systematize, and strategize in their region. In the years ahead there will be more than eight hundred HUBS throughout the Global HUBS of Christianity. There will be one HUB for every ten million people on the planet. For example, in India we will need 130 HUBS. (This takes into account future growth.) In China we will need approximately 125 HUBS. In North America, the country that I come from, we need thirty-five HUBS.

Every two years, a new group of pastors and leaders register for the training that will be taught in the HUB. Every six months, they return to that location to be taught ten courses from the top thirty courses in the Global Church Learning Center. In less than twenty-four months, they will have been taught thirty courses and will be empowered to go and start their own HUB in their village, town, or city.

Never before in the history of the Global Church has there been such a willingness to synergize efforts together, moving beyond egos and logos, to help finish the Great Commission. I'm often asked, "James, do you really believe that we can finish the Great Commission in the twenty-first century?" My response is always the same: "It is the only century I have!" Let's believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts, instead of doubting our beliefs and believing our doubts. Together we can make it a lot harder for people to live on this planet and not hear the glorious Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James O. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. James O. Davis
Cofounder/Billion Soul
Founder/Cutting Edge International

COURSE FEATURES

Part: Unless otherwise noted, each “Part” is numbered to correspond with the original video session on the Global Church Learning Center website.

Activator: Engages and focuses your thinking before instruction. Often accompanied by a quote from the original instructor or a Bible verse.

Purpose: Communicates the intent of the instruction in that “Part,” and whenever possible, the objectives of the original video instructor.

Term: Provides understanding for a term that is specific to the topic, and therefore may not be easily understood, or is used in a unique way during the course.

Key for Understanding: The main organizing principle for the course content. The Keys may be represented by one word, a phrase, or a useful generalization. (Seen as “Key” “Key One,” “Key Two,” etc. in the course).

Narrative: Printed in *italics*, this is an example or story from the original instructor. As much as possible, the original wording has been maintained, and has not been significantly edited for syntax (word order) or word choice, to maintain the voice of the original instructor. If significant editing has occurred, it is marked [Edited Version].

Knowledge for Insight: Explanations, helpful facts, and conclusions based on the original instructor’s vast ministry experience.

Wisdom: Spiritual wisdom passed on from the original instructor.

Effect (Outcome): Promotes thought about the potential effect of the ideas presented when applied in real life. Occasionally it includes a prayer.

Review: Connects main ideas from the previous section, or the entire course.

In Conclusion: Provides a space for identifying valuable insights, reflecting, and writing questions that have emerged as a result of the course.

*Not all of the features are present in every course.

CHARACTER FORMATION

Stan Toler

Dr. Stan Toler is a General Superintendent Emeritus for the Church of the Nazarene, a denomination of two million members headquartered in Lenexa, Kansas. He served for forty years as a pastor in Ohio, Florida, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. As an author, speaker, and teacher, Dr. Toler has trained over one million church, organization, and corporate leaders both nationally and internationally.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Stan Toler, this course explores six challenges of leadership, and how they relate to character formation. In doing this, we will consider our personal responses to these challenges.

Part One: Challenge #1 - Courage

Scripture: Joshua 14:10-12, NIV

Activator: How would you define what it means to be a courageous leader?

Purpose: To identify the attributes of courage, and its effect on leaders.

☞ **Key One:** Attributes of Courage

- Courage is **contagious, risk taking, and belief in action**. Courage in the leader **encourages others**.

☞ **Key Two:** Courage Like Joshua

- Ask God to give you courage, like He gave to Joshua. Begin to exemplify courage in the Almighty; believe that you can take new mountains for God.

Effect: Write down the attributes of courage that you would like to see manifested in your life. Keep them as prayer requests before God.

Notes:

Part Two: Challenge #2 – Perspective

I often say that the Church that's really moving forward has the ability to focus on what God wants them to do, and that is our biggest challenge, getting that perspective.

—Stan Toler

Activator: What affects perspective the most?

Purpose: To highlight the factors involved in having the right perspective.

☞ **Key: Determining Perspective**

- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).
- Believe that God will help you capture your community for Christ.

Effect: How does your current perspective line up with the verse, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”?

Notes:

Part Three: Challenge # 3 – Trust

The way we earn trust is by understanding the qualities of leadership. —Stan Toler

Activator: What are some ways other leaders have been able to earn your trust?

Purpose: To identify the ten qualities of leadership based on Romans 12: 9-18 that will help a leader to earn trust from the people he or she leads.

☛ **Key:** 10 Qualities of Leadership (Romans 12:9-18, NIV)

- Sincerity
- Spirituality
- Loyalty
- Empathy
- Fervency (Acts 4:31)
- Flexibility
- Generosity
- Proximity
- Stability
- Humility

Wisdom: Great churches are more interested in inventing than copying.

Effect: Refer back to the 10 Qualities of Leadership. Inserting each one in the blank, as yourself, “Do people see _____ in me?”

Notes:

Part Four: Challenge #4 – Discipline

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1,2

Those words, “and the sin that so easily entangles,” deals with a couple of issues. I think it deals with the sin of unbelief. But I think it also deals with us having the discipline, the intestinal fortitude, and the courage to do what is right in the sight of God and in the sight of man. —Stan Toler

Activator: What are the obstacles for a leader who is trying to do what is right?

Purpose: To identify three challenges to being disciplined, and how to overcome them.

🔑 **Key:** Three Challenges

- Giants; Criticism; Personal Growth

Effect: Which of the three challenges are most significant in your life right now?

Notes:

Part Five: Challenge #5 – Mentoring

I've learned over the years that if I want spiritual vibrancy in the church, I have to take people under my wing and work with them. —Stan Toler

Activator: What role does mentoring have in the ministry of a leader?

Purpose: To highlight important areas for mentoring to occur between a leader and church members.

🔑 **Key One:** Mentoring to Multiply Your Ministry

- Mentor others in pastoral care: compassion, visiting the sick, encouragement.
- Model, and mentor witnessing (Romans 3:23; John 1:12; Romans 10:9).

🔑 **Key Two:** Mentoring in the Spiritual Disciplines

- Teach people how to pray.
- Teach people the principles of giving (Malachi 3:10).
- Teach people to use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God.
- Call them to places of leadership.

Effect: Which areas of mentoring do you want to become more intentional about? Write down your ideas about how you might begin to mentor in those areas.

Notes:

Part Six: Challenge #6 - Passion

Leaders have a real passion, and that's people. They take joy in the "yes" moments with their associates. —Stan Toler

Activator: How does a leader maintain their passion?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of passion, and how a leader can maintain it in his or her life.

🔑 **Key One:** Principles of Passion

- Followers need passionate leaders (Philippians 3:13; Psalm 19:14).
- Passion is the birthplace of the vision.
- Passion turns dreamers into doers (Matthew 24:13, KJV).
- Passion ensures resolve.

Let the fire of God burn in your heart again, that you might be the most passionate leader the world has ever known. —Stan Toler

Effect: How would you describe your passion for ministering to people right now? How would you describe your passion for your vision? How would you describe your resolve in difficult situations?

Notes:

Review: The Six Challenges of Leadership are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

HOW TO CAST VISION

Elmer Towns

Dr. Elmer Towns is cofounder of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Dean Emeritus of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He has published over two hundred books, many of which have become standards in Christian college classrooms. As one of the Church's best-loved elder statesmen, he travels worldwide, teaching preaching and leadership principles to pastors and church leaders.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Elmer Towns, this course explores how to cast vision. In doing this, we will consider how to receive a clear vision from God, as well as how to communicate it to others. Also, we will read and learn from several stories of men and women of great vision.

Part One: Introduction

God has a plan for your life...you need to find that plan and you need to do it. I want to help you learn what I've learned and do what I've seen others do. —Elmer Towns

Activator: Think of someone you know of who has great vision. What were they able to accomplish through their vision?

Purpose: To highlight Proverbs 29:18, and what it teaches us about vision.

🔑 **Key:** Proverbs 29:18

- Vision is absolutely necessary.
- Vision is for everyone.
- Vision originates from obedience to Scripture.

Effect: As we begin the course, write down your questions about casting vision. Review them at the end of the course, to see what questions remain.

Notes:

Part Two: Leaders with Great Vision

Activator: What do you know about Jerry Falwell, Bill Bright, Billy Graham, and Yonggi Cho? What have you heard about their lives?

Purpose: To identify leaders with great vision from God and to provide brief highlights from their life stories.

Jerry Falwell, Cofounder of Liberty University (with Elmer Towns)

Conversion and Early Ministry: Jerry Falwell attended Baptist Bible College, where he attempted to teach his first Sunday school class with just one boy in attendance. When he was told that he would not be a good teacher, he decided to commit to prayer. As he met with God, he began to get vision.

The Vision for Liberty University: Originally, Jerry Falwell and Elmer Towns, cofounders of the university, set a vision of having five thousand students one day. But in the university's second year, Jerry Falwell felt that God had told him to set the vision at fifty thousand students. Today, Liberty University has 103,000 students.

Insights: 1) Jerry Falwell received his vision as a result of meeting God in prayer. 2) Prayer is relationship. Relationship turns to fellowship. Fellowship turns to intimacy. Intimacy turns to worship, and worship turns to answers to prayer. 3) If you want a vision, start by knowing God. Start where you are with the burden God has given you, and start immediately. 4) If you get your vision from God, you can change the world.

Part Three: Leaders with Great Vision (Continued)

Bill Bright, President and Founder of Campus Crusade for Christ

Conversion and the Beginning of the Vision: Bill Bright was a businessman in Dallas, Texas, with a small sandwich company. He and his business partner would sell and deliver wrapped sandwiches to truck stops. One day, as he was driving, he picked up a hitchhiker who told him about Jesus Christ. At their very next stop, Bill Bright prayed to receive Christ as his savior. The hitchhiker told Bill Bright that he would move to Hollywood, California, and that he needed to seek out Henrietta Mears when he arrived.

Bill came to find out that his partner had stolen the sandwich company from him. So, he found that the only place he could go where he didn't need capital to buy a company was in Hollywood, California. He attended First Presbyterian Church and discovered that the pastor and the director of Christian Education was Henrietta Mears. He told her his story. She invited Bill and his wife, Vonette, to visit her home. Bill and Vonette moved into her house. This is where Bill received his vision for reaching the world.

The Vision for Campus Crusade for Christ: It was in Henrietta Mears' 400-seating capacity dining room that Campus Crusade for Christ had its beginnings. It was from that place that Bill Bright went on to teach soul winning and the Four Spiritual Laws that would transform how evangelism would be done all over the world. Today, people work for Campus Crusade in universities all over the world. There are over 250,000 paid and volunteer workers involved in the ministry, making it one of the biggest Christian evangelical organizations in the whole world.

Insights: 1) Bill had a vision of reaching the world. He didn't have a vision to build great buildings, but simply to reach people. 2) If you focus on people—reaching people, changing their lives, and saving them—God can use you to change the world.

Notes:

Part Four: Leaders with Great Vision (Continued)

Billy Graham, Evangelist

Modesto Manifesto: Billy Graham, along with Cliff Barrows, George Beverly Shea, and other leaders, were part of a crusade in Modesto, California, when they decided to take a day of prayer and fasting to seek God's power and blessing on their ministry. As a result of their time of prayer, they decided on five key points for moving forward in God's plan. They identified four areas that were often snares to ministers, and made a commitment to have accountability.

1. **Immorality:** They decided they would never be in a situation alone with a woman. They would commit to being completely pure, completely apart from the lust of the flesh, and make sure their reputations would remain clear.
2. **Money:** They would never take an offering. They would work in their organization and receive regular salaried pay.
3. **Exaggeration:** They would never count salvations or release figures to the media. They wanted to save souls, and not become tempted to promote an organization with the numbers.
4. **Criticism:** They would never attack another brother in Christ. And they would never answer anyone who would attack them.
5. **They agreed to be accountable to one another:** Anyone on their team could ask another member about these commitments at any time.

Out of this time of prayer and this Manifesto came a real commitment to preach the Gospel around the world.

The Vision for Amsterdam: Billy Graham and his committee were planning how to reach people for Christ in the Amsterdam 2000 Crusade. He decided he wanted to bring in eight thousand evangelists from around the world who evangelized the way he did—preaching Jesus Christ and nothing else. He wanted to pay their way. He said, "It'll cost \$35 million. I'm going to write a letter to all my friends and ask each one of them to give me \$1,000." In a month, \$35 million came in, and the event was under budget.

Insight: Billy Graham's commitment and vision were solely to reach the world for Jesus Christ. God used him to change the world.

Notes:

Part Five: Leaders with Great Vision (Continued)

Yonggi Cho, Pastored the World's Largest Church

Yonggi Cho began the church from a small house. It grew to a bigger house, then to a 2,500-seat auditorium. When his church met in the 2,500-seat auditorium, everything changed. He was baptizing after preaching three times one hot Sunday, and he had a heart attack in their baptistery. People prayed over him. He got up and walked home. He thought he was going to die. The next week, he came back, did the same thing, and had a second heart attack. As a result, he took six months to convalesce to try to get well. He felt he had “lost face” to be sick in front of his people and not to be healed. (It was only years later that he was healed.)

At the end of six months he came back and talked to his board, telling them of a vision to plant house churches in homes all over Seoul, South Korea, beginning with one hundred homes. He knew that he could not physically care for the church body, but that they would be cared for in the house church environment. The board was not supportive, and he was discouraged. But the women in the church caught the vision and began small groups called “cell groups” all over Seoul, with ladies teaching ladies. The power of God was there, and eventually men began to get saved. Even in Yonggi Cho's highest day, 50 percent of the groups were led by women. The women reached men, and men came, and men began coming to the church. The church began to grow.

The church now has a large auditorium that seats 25,000, with about eight or nine services each Sunday. The church also has fifty multisite places, with churches all over Seoul. There are now about 35,000 cell groups. Sunday school meetings are held in a stadium. The total number of members is now approximately 760,000. Dr. Cho describes cell groups as the best picture of church in the Bible.

Insights: 1) The phrase that built the largest church in the world: “The body grows by the division of cells.” 2) Vision has a methodology and methods change. Methods are many; principles are few. Methods may change, but principles never do. 3) Reaching people always counts, regardless of how many.

Effect: Which leader do you find the most inspiring? Why? In your own words, what do these stories communicate about being a man or woman of vision?

Notes:

Part Six: What Characterizes a Person with Vision?

Activator: What characteristics do leaders with vision have in common?

Purpose: To identify characteristics of a leader with vision.

🔑 **Key:** Characteristics

- A person with vision sees first what God can do.
- A person with vision sees most; he or she sees all the details of the vision.
- A person with vision sees farthest into the future.

Elmer Towns tells the story of his time as preacher at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia. The church was very small, with just seventeen people in attendance. The majority of the locals had no interest in attending because of the church's appearance—it was in need of a paint job.

Sunday morning, I came to the church and said, "People are criticizing us...because we need to paint the church." I began to talk about painting the church. I could tell by body language, they weren't listening to me. I took up the offering and got an idea. I went charging to the pulpit with the only piece of chalk from the Sunday school class and said, "See this piece of blue chalk? With this blue chalk, I'm going to paint the whole church on Saturday!"

I said, "Brother Miller, on Saturday, meet me at the front door of the church. I'm going to walk ten feet, I'm going to draw a blue line, and I'm going to (write) 'Miller' on the bottom board. I want you to start at the top, scrape it down, and paint it." He said, "I can do that." (Addressing another lady, Mrs. Hare) "I'm going to walk another ten feet and draw a blue line. I'm going to write 'Hare.' I want you and your boys to scrape it." She said, "We can do that." "I'm going to walk another ten feet; I'm going to draw another line, and write 'Smith'" (and so on.) The blue chalk was credible. I said, "Meet me Saturday." (There were about fifteen adults there at the time.)

(On Saturday) I drove up to that church...there were seventy adults from all over the community, ready to paint. One man got all the paint donated. We needed twenty ladders to reach to the top; we got up. Everybody was buzzing around, saying "All right, preacher. We're burning sunlight. Let's get started." I didn't understand the power of vision. I thought it was the chalk. It wasn't the chalk; it was the vision. —Elmer Towns (Edited Version)

Wisdom: When people buy into your vision, they buy into your leadership.

Effect: What similar experiences have you had to this story about painting the church? Were people able to buy into your vision? Which of the three characteristics of a leader with vision do you need to receive from God?

Notes:

Part Seven: Questions Every Leader Needs to Answer

Activator: What do you think holds most leaders back from embracing a vision?

Purpose: To identify the questions about vision that will inspire and challenge a leader.

☛ **Key:** Life-Changing Questions About Vision

- What would you try if you thought you might succeed?
- What goals would you set if you knew you could not fail?
- What price are you willing to pay?
- What sacrifices are you willing to make?

Effect: What would you try if you thought you might succeed? What goals would you set if you knew you could not fail? What price are you willing to pay? What sacrifices are you willing to make?

Notes:

Part Eight: What Is Vision?

Activator: What comes to mind when you think about the word “vision”? How might you define it?

Purpose: To provide four definitions of “vision,” along with explanations and direction for your personal vision.

🔑 **Key One:** Four Definitions of Vision

- Vision is a bridge from the past to the future.

Wisdom: If you don't have a vision, you don't have a future. If you don't have a future, people are not going to follow you.

- Vision is an eye of faith to see the invisible, a decision to make it happen, and a burden to share it with others.
- Vision is a clear mental image of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants, and is based on an accurate understanding of three things: knowing God, knowing yourself, knowing your circumstances. (George Barna, *Power of Vision*)
- Vision is painting a portrait of what does not yet exist, so you can make things happen to give existence to a vision.

🔑 **Key Two:** Your Vision

- Realize *who* your partner is; you are partnering with *God*.
- Have a vision for your family and your own personal walk with God.
- Have a ministry vision and a vision for character. What kind of a person do you want to become?

Vision is important; it's a bridge to take you from where you are to where you're going to be. Because we deal with God and the future, we ought to be people of action that act on the vision that God has given us. —Elmer Towns

Effect: In your own words, how would you summarize the four definitions of “vision”? What is your vision: For your family? For your walk with God? For the ministry? For your character?

Notes:

Part Nine: Painting a Picture of Your Vision

The vision is “within” you. You’ve got to put it “without.” —Elmer Towns

Activator: What are some methods a leader can use to fully develop their vision?

Purpose: To describe how to fully develop a vision by comparing it to the steps involved in painting a landscape.

🔑 **Key One:** The Elements in Your Painting

- Paint a horizon, mountains, and a path.
- Paint flowers, bushes, or trees. Paint birds in your sky. The birds need to be detached from the earth.
- Paint people. Put them on the path, moving towards the mountains.
- Paint yourself.

Vision is important. I quite often say, "Sometimes the announcements you make in church are more important than the sermon itself." For the announcements communicate vision: who you are, what you're going to do for God, (how) you're going to step out in faith for God. —Elmer Towns

Effect: Think about these seven elements and how they relate to your vision: horizon, mountains, path, flowers, bushes, trees, birds, people, self. How would you paint the picture of your vision?

Notes:

Part Ten: Insights from Habakkuk

Video Sessions 10-14

Activator: What do you think is the best way to "get" a vision from God? What is the best way for a leader to cast a vision?

Purpose: To reveal important insights on vision from Habakkuk 2:1-4.

🔑 **Key One:** Vision Comes to the Spiritually Alert

- Habakkuk set himself on the rampart, the wall.
- Every leader needs to find their rampart, their wall, and meet God.

🔑 **Key Two:** Vision Gets Stronger and Clearer When You Have Communication with God

- Your communication with God needs to go two ways.

- When God shows you the vision, say “yes” and surrender to what God has called you to do.

☞ **Key Three: Vision Becomes the Person**

- When you get your vision from God, you become the vision. In other words, your identity begins to align with the vision.

☞ **Key Four: Write the Vision**

- Writing the vision is like putting your vision on a billboard.
- Writing the vision is how you communicate what God is doing, and what you are going to do for God.
- Writing the vision is a faith statement; it’s important for following through and accomplishing the vision.
- Writing a vision allows people to see what God is doing and gives them an opportunity to capture the vision.

☞ **Key Five: Patience and Flexibility**

- Realizing a vision requires patience and flexibility.

☞ **Key Five: Your Vision Must Be Tied to Faith and the Supernatural**

- Don’t have a vision of what you can do; get a vision from God and let Him tell you what He can do for you, through you.

Review:

The Keys learned from Habakkuk 2:1-4 are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Effect: Which story inspired you most? Why? Which Keys do you need to implement in your life? Write down thoughts on how you believe God would have you approach each one in your life.

Notes:

Part Eleven: Conclusion

Video Session 15

Activator: What effect does it have on someone's life when they have a clear vision?

Purpose: To identify what having a vision can do for you.

🔑 **Key:** What Vision Does for You

- When you have a vision, you will have a future commitment.
- When you have a vision, you have a reason for your actions.
- When you have a vision, you will sacrifice to make it happen.
- When you have a vision, you get energy for your dreams.
- Moving towards a dream gives you happiness.

What are you going to do for God? If you don't give yourself now to accomplish the dream that God has put upon your heart, you'll never realize it.... May God help us to find the vision and do what He has called us to do. —Elmer Towns

Effect: Which of the five points do you need to be more active in your life? How do you believe God wants you to respond?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

DEVELOPING A GLOBAL CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Philip Jenkins

Philip Jenkins is Distinguished Professor of History at Baylor University in Waco, TX, and serves as Codirector for the Program on Historical Studies of Religion. As one of the world's leading scholars on Christian history, Dr. Jenkins has published twenty-four books that have been translated into ten languages, including The Next Christendom: The Rise of Global Christianity.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Phillip Jenkins, this course explores how to develop a worldview of Christianity as a global faith. In doing this, various perspectives and trends will be presented. We will also consider the history of the church and what the global church looks like today.

Part One: Overview

It's very strange to think about global Christianity because it suggests that there is a kind of Christianity that is something other than global. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: What is meant by “global Christianity?” Which part of the world do you think will see the most growth in their Christian population in the next fifty years?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the content of the course.

Term: *New church: Refers to churches that are rapidly growing around the world that do not have traditionally western styles and do not follow the typical western format.*

🔑 **Key:** Christianity Is a Global Religion

- It is a global faith not limited to one part of the world.
- It was born with global ambitions and directions.
- It was born in Africa and Asia and has now returned there.
- Prophecy of St. Vincent de Paul: St. Vincent de Paul prophesied that the church of the future would be the church of South America, Africa, China, and Japan.
- Statistics and predictions: In 2000 there were approximately 2 billion Christians in the world, with the largest segment in Europe, followed by Latin America, and then Africa. By 2025, Africa and Latin America will be competing for the title of the most-Christian Continent. By 2050, Christianity will be a religion of Africa and the African Diaspora (people who will move outside their ancestral homeland).
- Christianity in Africa: In 1900, African Christians comprised about 1.5 percent of the world's Christian believers, totaling about 10 million (about 10 percent of Africa's population). By 2000, there were 360 million Christians in Africa (just under 50 percent of Africa's population). This is the largest change numerically that has every happened in the history of religion. In 2014, there are 500 million Christians in Africa. By 2050, there will likely be 1 billion Christians in Africa, which will account for one-third of the Christian world. It will be the first time in history that there have ever been 1 billion Christians in any one continent.

Effect: What thoughts or questions do you have after reading this information?

Notes:

Part Two: History of Christianity

Video Sessions 2 and 3

While the apostles are heading to the west, they're also heading to the south to Africa and to the east to Asia. And if your goal is to think in a global way about Christianity, one of the most important ways to start is to recognize that history. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: In which regions has Christianity thrived in the last two thousand years?

Purpose: To outline the history of Christianity as it relates to the locations and people groups who embraced the Gospel in the first two thousand years after Christ.

☞ **Key One:** Christianity's Spread to the West

- After the resurrection of Christ, the apostles went west into Greece and on to Italy.
- The book of Acts ends with Paul in Rome and suggests that the church grew into France and Germany.
- Over time those churches would reach America.
- Christianity spread east and south.

☞ **Key Two:** Christianity's Spread to the South and the East

- The apostles also headed south to Africa and east, to Asia.

Knowledge for Insight: For the first one thousand years of the faith, if there was a center of the Christian church, it was in _____.

- The first one thousand years of Christianity

☞ **Key Three:** Putting It in Perspective

- Around the year 1000, halfway through the Christian story, there were still more Christians in Asia than in Europe.
- Prediction: In the year 2050, the countries with the largest Christian population will be: the United States, followed by (in no particular order) Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, China, India, and the Philippines. What countries are not on that list? Britain, France, Italy, Spain, and Germany.
- For only five hundred years of the last two thousand, Christianity was really a “western” religion.

- For a large portion of Christian history, Christians interacted with people of other religions, such as Buddhists, Hindus, and Confucians.

When we look today at Christianity coming to terms with other religions, we have to remember that history, learn from that history, and learn from the people of all races, all nations, who walked these paths before. —Philip Jenkins

Effect: What did you learn about the history of Christianity? Did any of the historical details surprise you? What are your thoughts about the predictions for 2050?

Notes:

Part Three: Christianity in Modern Times

Video Session 4

As Christianity has grown in modern times in Africa, Asia, and Latin America...so much of that story has been told in the Western media in terms of conflict. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: What do you think makes a Christian, in any part of the world, adhere less to the authority of Scripture?

Purpose: To highlight the variations in attitudes toward Christianity and the Scriptures in modern times.

🔑 **Key One:** The Media Highlights Denominational Conflicts

- The Western media has highlighted the conflicts in the Asian, African, and Latin American churches in issues of theology, morality, and sexuality.
- The best-known example of publicized conflict is that within the Anglican Church (the Episcopal Church in the United States).
- Some Westerners make an assumption that African and Asian churches must be suffering from ignorance, lack of education, or sophistication in order to adhere to the Scriptures on such issues.

Knowledge for Insight: The Anglican Church in Nigeria has grown rapidly. It had 5 million members in 1975; 20 million members in 2000; and is expected to reach _____ members by 2025.

🔑 **Key Two:** The Fundamental Underlying Difference in Attitude

- Many Western believers find much of the social, economic, and cultural terms in the Bible to be foreign and even irrelevant. For that reason, it seems to be much easier to question the authority of Scripture as a whole.
- For many Asian and African believers, their societies operate in ways in which the social, economic, and cultural terms of the Bible are relevant and make perfect sense. For that reason, there seems to be a more readily accepted and obvious authority of the Scripture.

Effect: How much do you connect with the social, economic, and cultural aspects of the Bible? What insights have you gained about the growth of Christianity in certain parts of the world?

Notes:

Part Four: Identification with Christianity

Video Session 5

Activator: Is animal sacrifice practiced in your region? How easily can the people in your region understand the concept of the atonement?

Purpose: To highlight the effect that identification with the Scriptures can have on believers of different cultures.

Terms: *Global South: Generally refers to Latin America, Africa, and most of Asia; Global North: Generally refers to the United States, Canada, developed parts of Europe, and East Asia. (United States, Canada, and Europe are also referred to as the “West.”)*

🔑 **Key One:** Familiar Themes

- Martin Luther believed there were certain books that should not have been respected as much as the other books of the Bible: Hebrews, Revelation, and James. All three books do very well in the global South, and specifically in Africa.
- New churches, particularly in Africa, are able to identify with certain biblical themes that may not make sense or seem relevant to a Western church.

☞ **Key Two: Blood and Sacrifice**

- Consider: The blood of Jesus and Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb are familiar ideas to the Western church and all Christians. But how much more relevant are the themes of blood and sacrifice when they are not ancient ideas but common practices in your culture?
- In the early church, people were very familiar with sacrifice rituals.
- In many parts of Africa animals are sacrificed to initiate an event. The idea of atonement is easily understood and accepted.

Effect: What concepts in Scripture do you want to be able to identify with better? How well do the people in your church understand the themes involved in the atoning sacrifice of Christ? Which books of the Bible could your church benefit from learning more about and identifying with more?

Notes:

Part Five: Global South and Newer Churches

Video Session 6

There are some things that are truer in newer churches than they are in the older lines of Christianity. One of the most important areas is that of poverty. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: What effect do you think poverty has on a believer's interpretation of Scripture?

Purpose: To highlight the role of poverty in newer churches in the global South and its effect on the interpretation of Scripture.

☞ **Key One: Poverty in Newer Churches**

- The fastest growing churches across Africa tend to be associated with the poor and the hungry.
- Christianity is currently a religion of the poorest.

☞ **Key Two: Reading the Bible through the Eyes of Poverty**

- When the Bible is read by a person living in poverty, there are certain realities of life they can immediately connect with Scripture.
- The meaning of some verses becomes more immediately obvious to those living in poverty (Psalm 126: 5,6).

- The Bible speaks to people around the world in ways it can perhaps not speak to people in wealthier societies.

Effect: Which passages relate much more to the struggles of someone in a poor society? Which passages would be hard to understand when read in a wealthier society? How could the insights into poverty be useful for you in your context?

Notes:

Part Six: New Ways to View the Bible

Video Session 7

As I've looked at the new Christianity that is emerging around the world, it's really changed the way I look at the Christian faith and as I look at the Bible. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: If you had to choose a portion of the Scripture to introduce someone to the Christian faith, what would it be? What passage would have an impact in a church where the average age is twenty or twenty-five and the average age of death might be as low as thirty-eight?

Purpose: To highlight the role of wisdom literature in different parts of the world, and to identify the book of the Bible with the broadest impact around the world.

🔑 **Key One:** Wisdom Literature

- Biblical wisdom literature (proverbs and other passages with words of wisdom) became unfashionable for many years in the Western world.
- Around the rest of the world, proverbs have great importance and are taken very seriously.
- Regardless of the different levels of respect given to wisdom literature in different cultures, it should be acknowledged that the Bible is full of proverbs and wise sayings suggesting how you should operate in the world.

🔑 **Key Two:** The Epistle with the Broadest Impact

- The epistle of James contains a wise saying that has been used widely around the world for evangelism and had a surprising global impact (James 4:13-15).
- Challenge: Read the epistle of James twice; once with “Western eyes,” and then try again with the “eyes of the global church.”

Effect: How do you typically interpret James 4:13-15? Do you see it differently now? How could these insights be useful in your ministry?

Notes:

Part Seven: Expansion of Churches Worldwide

Video Session 8

As I look at the churches which have expanded around the world, particularly in Africa, Asia and Latin America, there are so many things that separate them from traditional churches in the global North. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: Other than poverty and the authority given to Scripture, what other differences do you think exist between the traditional older churches and the newer churches spreading in Africa, Asia, and Latin America?

Purpose: To identify differences in the newer churches in the global South from those of traditional churches.

🔑 **Key One:** The Concept of Healing

- Churches in the United States that practice healing, deliverance, and spiritual warfare are not typically mainstream churches.
- In much of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, the idea of healing, deliverance, and spiritual warfare crosses denominational lines.

🔑 **Key Two:** Liberation and Deliverance Are Inseparable

- In the United States and much of the West, some churches aim to overthrow social injustices. Others are focused on healing, deliverance, and spiritual warfare.
- In African churches, liberation and deliverance are one in the same. In other words, any church that does not offer the healing of body, self, spirit, and society is only offering a partial message.
- Psalm 23 highlights the major differences in perspectives of Christians from two different parts of the world.

Effect: How have you typically thought about healing, deliverance, and liberation? Which insights in this section will be most useful in your context?

Notes:

Part Eight: Revolutionary Changes Around the World

Video Session 9

Activator: What kinds of factors would contribute to the global North and the global South interacting more?

Purpose: To highlight significant changes in the world as they relate to the global church.

☞ **Key One:** The North Is in the South; The South Is in the North

- Global North is in the south in terms of media and money (persuasion).
- Global South is increasingly part of the global North:

☞ **Key Two:** Shifts in Denominations

- The Roman Catholic Church
- Almost every worldwide denomination is seeing a shift to the global South.
- Potential for conflict within denominations lies in the fact that while the believers are increasingly in the global South, the money is in the global North.

We are living through one of the greatest ages of change in the history of Christianity, and one that is greater, wider, and faster than the era of the Reformation itself. And it would be astounding if an era of such change did not produce tumult and turbulence...turulence which is a sign of growth and health and birth. —Philip Jenkins

Effect: What do you think about the changes outlined in this section? How do you think they could affect your region?

Notes:

Part Nine: Christianity and Islam

Video Sessions 10 and 11

Today the typical Christian around the world lives alongside people of many other faiths, particularly Muslims, but also Hindus and Buddhists. —Philip Jenkins

Activator: What factors cause tension between Christianity and Islam?

Purpose: To identify some factors involved in the tension between Christianity and Islam.

🔑 **Key One:** Christianity's Growth

- *The Tenth Parallel* by Eliza Griswold identifies a line of ten degrees north of the equator around the world and suggests that is the *critical frontier* between Christianity and Islam. Wherever you find it, it's an area of combat, tension, and persecution.
- The tension is partly (not completely) the result of the growth and success of Christianity around the world.
- In 1900, the area that would become Nigeria was 28 percent Muslim and 1 percent Christian. In 1970 Nigeria had become 45 percent Muslim and 45 percent Christian. In other words, Christians and Muslims are suddenly equal in numbers. (Today Christians represent a majority in that country.)

🔑 **Key Two:** Factors Involved in the Conflict

- Shifts in Islamic families causing destabilization.
- New and fanatical kinds of Islamic religion (such as the Islamic extremist groups now in Africa like the Boko Haram in Nigeria).
- New evangelistic styles, new churches emerging in places that used to be predominantly Muslim.
- Media, particularly American media, and technology that now invades spaces that were not invaded before.

Effect: What are your experiences with people of the Muslim faith? Have you been able to minister amongst Muslims?

Notes:

Part Ten: Will Prosperity Cause Christianity to Fade Away?

Activator: Why do people wonder if prosperity will cause Christianity to fade away?

Purpose: To describe the role of prosperity and modernization in the modern church.

Term: *Christian Arc: Stretches from the Chinese communities of Southeast Asia through the Philippines, South Korea, and through the Asian communities of the United States and Canada.*

☞ **Key One:** Christianity Thrives in Prosperity

- Christianity is not a faith of the poor, uneducated, and illiterate.
- Christianity is a faith that appeals to a wide variety of groups in different forms.
- Some of the most influential areas of Christian growth are in very prosperous areas, particularly of East and Southeast Asia.
- The most successful churches in the “Christian Arc” are those that appeal to professional and technological groups.

☞ **Key Two:** Christianity Is a Modernizing Faith

- The newer emerging Christianity is already playing a role in modernizing parts of the world where it is growing.
- Women’s roles are not restricting, as some wrongly assume, but are transforming their cultures.
- Foundations are being laid for civil societies.
- Consider the effect of the sometimes-controversial churches with “prosperity messages” on modernizing and healing a surrounding society.
- Consider the vast implications for a society when a church emerges that believes in healing, purity, and economic and political stability.

Forty or fifty years ago, everyone was predicting the end of the churches, the end of religion. And they would be killed by factors like urbanization, modernization, industrialization. You come back today and it is exactly those factors that have been most responsible for the growth, not just of churches, but of all the major faiths. And in their most fundamental and basic forms, what the religions have done is taught their believers ways of coping in an industrial world for which there really is no competition. They are the ultimate social and cultural revolutionaries. —Philip Jenkins

Effect: Consider the fact that Christianity not only heals societies but also brings stability and liberation. What implications does that hold for the potential impact your church could have in your region?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Two: Asia

Part Three: 35 million

THE MAKING OF A MISSIONAL CHURCH

Leonard Sweet

Dr. Leonard Sweet is the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University in Madison, NJ, and a Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University in Portland, OR. The founder and president of SpiritVenture Ministries, he is a preacher, international speaker, and best-selling author who communicates the Gospel with a signature bridging of the worlds of faith, academe, and popular culture.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Leonard Sweet, this course explores the key components of a missional church. In doing this, the metaphor of the “operating system” is used to represent the original mission of the Christian faith.

Part One: Rebooting the Faith

What I think God is doing today...is rebooting the church into the original operating system of Christian faith. —Leonard Sweet

Activator: Have you seen the churches in your culture change significantly in the last ten years? In what ways?

Purpose: To describe how the terms “defragment,” “reboot,” and “operating system” relate to the Christian Church.

Terms: *Defragment or “defrag”:* To reorganize separated fragments of related data (on a computer disk) into a contiguous arrangement.¹ *Operating System:* The software that supports a computer’s basic functions.² *Reboot:* To restart and put into a state of readiness for operation.

🔑 **Key One:** The Need to Return to the Original Operating System (OS)

- In some parts of the world, Christianity has become sluggish and needs to be “defragged.”
- Christianity’s original OS has been affected by “downloads,” “upgrades,” “new software,” and “viruses.”

🔑 **Key Two:** The Church Is Being Rebooted into Its Original OS

- God is bringing the church into proper order and relationship; He is “rebooting” His church.
- Rebooting the church means returning to the early church model: house church, biblical discipleship, and putting an end to competitiveness among denominations.

Effect: Before we begin the next section: do you think your church could use a “reboot?”

Notes:

¹ “Defragment.” *Merriam-Webster.com*. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 3 Sept. 2014. <<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/defragment>>.

² Operating system. (n.d.). Retrieved August 29, 2014, from [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/operating system](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/operating%20system).

Part Two: The Interface

Interfaces come and go; there's nothing good or bad about an interface. "Interface" just means how you connect that operating system to make it user friendly. —Leonard Sweet

Activator: What are some ways you try to engage, or interface, with the culture around you as you share Christ?

Purpose: To contrast the interface of today's digital culture with the interface of the Gutenberg World (print-based culture).

Terms: *Interface: The places where a user can connect with the operating system. Gutenberg world: A time when the primary technology was print and written sources (began in the fifteenth century). T.G.I.F.: Twitter, Google, iPhone, Facebook.*

Knowledge for Insight: Every operating system needs an interface, a means for people to use it and interact with it. In the same way, every church needs a way to interact with the _____ around it.

☞ **Key One:** The Interface That Works Today

- The world has transitioned out of the interface of the Gutenberg World into a new interface for the T.G.I.F. culture.
- The interface of today's world is E.P.I.C - Experiential, Participatory, Image-Rich, and Connective.

☞ **Key Two:** The Gutenberg World Was Rational; Today's World Is Experiential

- The church in the Gutenberg world was rational; it was very logical and linear. The church encouraged people to "intellectually understand and comprehend that the Lord is good" rather than to "taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)
- People today want to *experience* God.
- The Church can better interact with the world today by shifting to become more experiential rather than intellectual.

We are now back in a taste and see world. People want to experience God. They don't just want to have rational thoughts about God and concepts about God. —Leonard Sweet

☞ **Key Three:** The Gutenberg World Valued Performance; Today's World Values Participation

- Many people now live in a “karaoke” culture that is centered around interaction.
- The Church can better interact with the world today by shifting from performance to participation.

☞ **Key Four:** Gutenberg World's “Currency” Was Words, But Today's “Currency” Is in Images

- Today's world is image-rich; image-driven.
- The advertising industry of today utilizes storytelling with images much more than words.
- The Church can better interact with the world today by transitioning into using more images and stories from the Word (rather than single verses).

☞ **Key Five:** The Gutenberg World Was Based on the Individual, but Today's World Is Centered on Connection

- Social media has caused a major shift to a connective society.
- Today's world is focused on the community of which we are a part.
- The Church can better reach the world today by becoming more focused on community than on the individual.

You use an interface because you want to reach the culture of which you're a part, and unfortunately, tragically, by and large...the church has not embraced the culture, this TGIF culture, because we haven't used the interface that works with that culture. —Leonard Sweet

Effect: Consider this new interface, E-P-I-C: experiential, participatory, image-rich, connective. Does your ministry use this interface? Which of the parts of this interface are more successful/less successful in your context? What insights has the EPIC interface given you into your own ministry context?

Notes:

Part Three: The Right Operating System

Video Sessions 3 and 4

Activator: Have you seen churches with “operating systems” that were not aligned with the Great Commission? What did they look like?

Purpose: To highlight the main components of Christianity's operating system (OS) as it appears in the Great Commission, and to contrast that system with today's typical OS.

Scripture: Matthew 28:19,20

☞ **Key One:** Jesus Gave us the M.R.I. Operating System

- **Missional Component** – Go
- **Relational Component** – Make Disciples
- **Incarnational Component** – All the nations (embed the Gospel in all cultures)

Knowledge for Insight: Nations as we know them today did not exist in Jesus' time. In Matthew 28:19 "nations" refers to _____.

☞ **Key Two:** The Church Has Slipped into the A.P.C. Operating System

- **Attractational Component** – "Come to our church."
- **Propositional Component** – Truth is proposition instead of a Person, Jesus Christ.
- **Colonial Component** – Christians should all have the same culture.

Knowledge for Insight: Christianity is unique because it is the only religion where truth is a _____.

Whatever the culture is, we're to incarnate the Gospel in that culture. —Leonard Sweet

Wisdom: Christianity spreads not as a potted plant but as a seed.

Effect: Which operating system have you been using, the MRI or the APC?

Notes:

Part Four: The Missional Component

Video Sessions 5 -7

We have both a ministry and a mission. We are both ministers and missionaries. And this missionary consciousness, this missionary call, is one of the loudest voices I'm hearing from the Spirit in the world in which we live today. —Leonard Sweet

Activator: Why do you think believers need to be both ministers and missionaries?

Purpose: To define the role of believers as ministers and missionaries.

🔑 **Key One:** The Huddle and the Game

What does the church have in common with American football?

- In American football: The key is to score touchdowns. When a touchdown is scored, there is a great celebration. The football players first need to get together in a huddle where they have conversations, and most importantly, they make a plan to score a touchdown. It is only when the huddle time is over that the plan can be executed and a touchdown can be made.
- Touchdowns = making disciples.
- Huddle = ministry within the body of Christ game = mission to the world.

Knowledge for Insight: Everyone has both a _____ and a _____.

- Staying in the huddle too long results in a penalty: moving backwards!

🔑 **Key Two:** Rediscovering Our Missional Role

- Pastors and leaders need to train up disciples of Jesus Christ who can answer these two questions: What's your ministry to the body? What's your mission to the world?
- Our mission needs to permeate everything we do.
- Our identity should be completely missional.
- Let's stop practicing attractional church and begin practicing missional church.

Effect: What's your ministry to the body? What's your mission to the world? How well do the members of your church know the answers to those two questions? Which points from this section were most meaningful to you?

Notes:

Part Five: The Relational Component

Video Sessions 8 and 9

We have a missional God, but we also have a relational God. We are to create a missional church, but we're also to be a relational church. Just as we're trying to shift from attractional to missional, we're trying also, we need to shift from propositional to relational. —Leonard Sweet

Activator: What makes the Christian understanding of what truth is different from other religions?

Purpose: To highlight the value of relationship in the Christian faith.

☞ **Key One:** Truth Is a Person

- Jesus chose His disciples with two words, “Follow Me.”
- Truth is Jesus – This means that for the Christian, truth is not a set of principles or practices, rituals or rites, creeds or conducts, like it is for other religions.
- The heart of Christianity is a Person.

☞ **Key Two:** We Are Meant to Be Relational

- We live in a relationship-based world, yet people don't know how to have good relationships—they are hungry.

Wisdom: When people lose focus on Jesus, everything comes apart.

- At the very heart of Christianity (and its operating system) is a relational God: God who exists in relationship.
- We need to introduce people to a living relationship with Jesus (not just thoughts about Him).
- Jesus redeems and restores four broken relationships: with God, with ourselves, with each other, and with creation.

Everything the Bible presents is couched in relational terms. What a witness and a word for a relationship era culture. [In] The dawn of the relationship age, we have a God for the relationship age. —Leonard Sweet

Effect: Do you share Jesus with others in a propositional way or in a relational way?

Notes:

Part Six: The Incarnational Component

Video Sessions 10 and 11

Activator: What does “incarnational ministry” mean to you?

Purpose: To highlight the value of the incarnational component in the Christian faith.

☞ **Key One:** Incarnational Ministry

- Make disciples of “all nations” means making disciples of all cultures. Whatever that culture is, God wants Jesus to be incarnated in that culture.
- Christianity spreads as a seed that grows up differently in different cultures.
- An incarnational ministry is a ministry that is focused on revealing Jesus in the community where God has planted it.

☞ **Key Two:** Artisan Churches

- The artisan experience. (Read this short story from Leonard Sweet that highlights the meaning of the word “artisan.”)

A year ago I was speaking at a seminary in Switzerland. [The people] asked me, “Where would you like to go?” And I said, “I’d really love to go to Appenzell.” And they said, “Oh that’s great. It’s not too far from here. Why would you like us to take you to Appenzell?” And I said, “Well, my favorite cheese is Appenzeller.” So I went to Appenzell just to get a flavor of the village...that produced this very unique, wonderful Swiss cheese. —Leonard Sweet

- Everyone wants the “artisan” experience—a unique sense of community.
- The world needs “artisan churches” that reflect the uniqueness of the culture where God has planted them.
- A missional church must be an “artisan church” first.

Effect: How well do you know your community? How much do you love your community? How well does your ministry connect with the community and the culture around it?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Two: culture

Part Three: cultures, person

Part Four: ministry, mission

PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH PLANTING

Ed Stetzer

Dr. Ed Stetzer, Vice President of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, TN, has planted churches and trained pastors across the United States and on five continents. A visiting professor at two leading seminaries, he has authored or coauthored more than a dozen books and is a contributing editor or columnist for several national publications, including Christianity Today and The Christian Post.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Ed Stetzer, this course provides a brief overview of the process of church planting. In doing this, the biblical model will be outlined, as well as the many factors involved in the process.

Part One: Why Plant Churches?

Activator: Why should pastors have a desire to be engaged in church planting?

Purpose: To identify three reasons why Christians should become engaged in church planting.

☞ **Key One:** The Response of the Disciples

- Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).
- The church today is also commissioned to: Spread the Gospel and plant churches in the way that the disciples planted churches; and Spread the Gospel and plant churches so that all the ethnolinguistic groups of the world can hear the Gospel in their own language and have congregations among their people.

☞ **Key Two:** Paul's Model

- Churches should be planted based on the model seen in Paul's ministry.

☞ **Key Three:** The Church Matters

- God has chosen the church to make His manifold wisdom known (Ephesians 3:10,11).
- The church is the instrument through which the Gospel is to advance throughout the world (Matthew 16:18).

Effect: How engaged are you in church planting right now? Have you considered church planting a focus before? How involved are you willing to be in planting churches? What questions do you have about church planting? (Refer back to these at the end of the course)

Notes:

Part Two: Should I Plant a Church?

Activator: What characteristics and qualities should a church planter have? How can someone find out if they should plant a church?

Purpose: To identify ways to be involved in church planting, and steps to take to determine whether you could be an effective church planter.

☞ **Key One:** What Everyone Can Do

- Everyone can be supportive of church planting and praying for the advance of the Gospel through planting churches.
- Everyone can consider being engaged in church planting.

☞ **Key Two:** How to Know If You Are a Church Planter

- Important: Not every pastor is gifted to be a church planter. A church planter has certain characteristics and gifts.
- Steps to take: Seek the affirmation of God’s people; meet the qualifications of a pastor (1 Timothy 3); find out if you are “wired” to be a church planter.

If God’s people have affirmed and you meet the qualifications of pastoring in 1 Timothy 3 and you’ve been assessed, then at that point I think you can begin to say, “What would the next steps be for me ultimately to be a church planter?”
—Ed Stetzer

Effect: To what extent is your church active in supporting church planting (based on the “What Everyone Can Do” Key above)? Do you see yourself as a church planter? Why or why not? Who in your ministry do you think would be a good candidate to plant churches?

Notes:

Part Three: What Kind of Church Should I Plant?

Activator: What characteristics should a newly planted church have?

Purpose: To define what kind of churches are in alignment with the mission of the Gospel.

☞ **Key One:** The Right Mission

- A church should be driven by joining Jesus on His mission (John 20:21).

🔑 **Key Two:** Characteristics of a Church with Jesus' Mission

- Has a passion for serving the hurting (Luke 4:18,19).
- Driven to announce the Gospel to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

Wisdom: The Gospel is not about what you do. The Gospel is about what Jesus did.

We're going to announce the saving message of His Gospel over and over again. The end result is we'll plant a church that's a mission-shaped, Gospel-centered, Jesus-focused church. —Ed Stetzer

Effect: How well does your church align with Jesus' mission? What steps could you take to instill Jesus' mission in those who plant a church with you?

Notes:

Part Four: The Elements Every Church Should Have

Activator: What elements should be involved in every church's development?

Purpose: To identify the steps in Paul's missionary journey as they relate to church-planting cycles.

🔑 **Key: The Pauline Cycle** *(by David Hasslegrave)*

1. Missionaries are commissioned. (See Acts 13)
2. An audience is contacted. (See Acts 13, 14, and 16)
3. The Gospel is communicated (clear, unadulterated presentation). (See Acts 13:17 and 16:31)
4. The hearers are converted. (See Acts 13:48, Acts 16:14)
5. Believers are congregated. (See Acts 13:43)
6. Faith is confirmed. (See Acts 14:23)
7. Leadership is consecrated (pastors, elders, deacons).
8. Believers are commended (exhorted in growth and disciple-making). (See Acts 14:26)
9. Relationships continued.
10. Sending churches convened. (Acts 15:1-4, Acts 26 and 27)

This needs to be something that's universally applicable in churches that are planted; churches plant churches that plant churches that plant churches, and so on. —Ed Stetzer

Effect: Where is your church in the Pauline Cycle?

Notes:

Part Five: Contend and Contextualize

Video Sessions 5 and 6

Activator: What does it mean to contend for the Gospel? What does it mean to contextualize a church?

Purpose: To describe the importance of contending for the Gospel, and contextualizing for the surrounding culture.

Terms: *Contend: To stand up for, battle for, essentials in the church. Contextualize: To take into account the unique area in which the church is being planted.*

☞ **Key One:** The Importance of Contending and Contextualizing

- Certain essential aspects of the church need to be contended for (Jude 1:3).
- Certain aspects of the church need to be contextualized (1 Corinthians 9:22,23).
- When you plant a church, you need to both contend and contextualize: If you contextualize everything, you're not going to preach the pure Gospel. If you don't contextualize at all, you will preach the Gospel only from your own cultural lens, not from the context of the people who are listening.

☞ **Key Two:** Contending for the Gospel

- A church planter should contend for the church to be a biblically faithful, culturally relevant counterculture community.

Wisdom: If the Bible is not the authority and guide of the church, then it's not a church; it's a religious society.

- Marks of a biblical church: Scriptural authority; Biblical leadership; Ordinances – Lord’s Supper, baptism; Community and accountability; Mission – a sense of being on and joining in the mission of Christ.

🔑 **Key Three:** Contextualizing the Ministry

- In church planting there are preset issues and there are issues that are open for contextualization.
- When contextualizing, ask yourself: Are my preferences driven by personal desires or by Jesus’ mission? What preferences might I need to give up in order to better engage people for the Gospel in my context?
 - Keep essentials and convictions in place, but recognize that some choices are preferences.

Church planting ultimately is about the Gospel of Jesus going to a new group of people...preferences may ultimately have to be sacrificed. Church planting’s not about your preferences; it’s about God’s glory and God’s mission. —Ed Stetzer

Effect: In what ways are you contending for the Gospel in your setting? How do you contextualize your church for your setting? What kinds of cultural factors do you take into account?

Notes:

Part Six: Indigenous Churches

Video Session 7

Activator: How important is it for a church to reflect the culture around it?

Purpose: To describe indigenous churches.

Terms: *Indigenous church: A biblical church planted in its cultural context.*

🔑 **Key One:** The Church Should Take Root in the Local Culture

- An indigenous church preaches an unchanged Gospel and expresses it in a way that connects with the local culture.
- The Gospel should be communicated in a way that allows people to retain their cultural identity.

I was in Japan a few years ago and I was teaching Japanese pastors and leaders, and one of the Japanese pastors raised his hand and said, “Dr. Stetzer, how do we advance the Gospel?” I asked him, “Why do you think that it’s not growing and taking root here?” And here’s what he said that was so important: “Because to become a Christian in Japan means to become an American.” —Ed Stetzer

Wisdom: People should not feel that they need to become foreigners to become Christians.

- In every culture there will be areas that need to be rejected, adapted, and adopted.

🔑 **Key Two:** Characteristics of an Indigenous Church

- Indigenous churches are: Self-supporting; Self-propagating; and Self-governing.
- Indigenous churches *reflect* their context and *grow* within their context.

Effect: Do you consider your church indigenous? Why or why not? Consider your current church or a church you are planning to plant in the future: What elements of the local culture should to be rejected? Adapted? Adopted?

Notes:

Part Seven: How Do I Develop a Core Church Planting Team?

Video Session 8

Activator: Where does a church leader find a core team for a new church plant?

Purpose: To identify where and how to gather a core team for a new church plant.

🔑 **Key One:** Where to Find the Core Team

- Sponsor churches can send out “seed families” to assist in the church plant.
- Other believers in the community where the church will be planted can join the core team.
- People from “harvest”: men and women who are not yet followers of Christ but will hear the Gospel as a result of a relationship with you and will become part of the church.

🔑 **Key Two:** How to Gather the Core Team

- Host home groups or Bible studies that could ultimately create a core team.

Effect: How does your church develop connections with people who don't know Jesus? How do you cultivate the new faith of new believers? Do you have home groups where a community could develop and potentially become a new church plant? If not, where could you begin a home group in your context?

Notes:

Part Eight: How Do I Reach People in the Community?

Video Session 9

Activator: Where should a church planter go to reach people in the community for Christ? Who should he/she try to connect with?

Purpose: To identify principles for planting seeds and reaching people in the community for Christ.

🔑 **Key:** Farming Principles – How to Plant Seed

- Leadership farming – develop relationships with leaders in the community.
- Marketplace farming – hold outreach events and become a visible presence in the community.
- Farming journal – keep track of those you have connected with and how often you are in contact with them.

Wisdom: Always be looking for every opportunity to share Christ in the community and in personal relationships.

God is already working in the hearts of women and men in the community where you want to plant a church. Find them; share the Gospel with them. —Ed Stetzer

Effect: How could you engage in leadership farming in your context? Marketplace farming? What method do you use to keep track of ministry connections? How could you utilize the farming journal concept?

Notes:

Part Nine: Launching the Large Group Worship Service

Video Session 10

Activator: What is the purpose of launching a weekend worship service?

Purpose: To highlight the purpose of a large group worship service and to highlight what praise and worship should look like in a new church plant.

🔑 **Key One:** The Purpose of a Worship Service

- Exalt God through song, public reading of Scripture, and preaching.
- Edify the believer through the teaching of the Scriptures, equipping for works of ministry, and building up the body of Christ.
- Evangelize the lost.

Wisdom: Planting the worship service is not the goal. Planting the Gospel is the goal. The worship service is an expression of the Gospel.

🔑 **Key Two:** Praise and Worship in a New Church Plant

- Praise and worship is a time for people to encounter God before the preaching of the Word.
- Praise and worship should be biblical, edifying, and integral to the life of the church.
- Authentic and free worship should be modeled by the core team members to help new believers feel comfortable to freely engage in worship.
- Remember, nonbelievers can't yet experience worship, but they can see the effects of worship in the lives of others.

Effect: Have you made sure that planting the Gospel was the goal rather than planting the worship service? How could you encourage people to freely engage in worship?

Notes:

Part Ten: Shifts After the Launch

Video Session 11

Activator: What shifts might happen after a church transitions from only meeting in small groups to worshipping together on the weekends?

Purpose: To highlight ways a pastor can prepare for the shifts within a church after the launch of the worship service.

🔑 **Key:** Preparing for the Shifts

- Prepare the Core Group.
- Develop the church.
- Gather leaders regularly to discuss how the church will be moving forward.
- Continually cast the vision in all church settings.
- Help members to move into small group communities where they will stay connected.

Effect: How well does your core group know the vision for your church? How often do you cast the vision for your church? What expectations does your church have for new members? How could you gather your leaders to keep them connected with the vision and future plans for the church?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Next Steps

Video Session 12

Activator: What are the next steps after taking this course?

Purpose: To highlight important considerations for the future (an exhortation).

🔑 **Key:** Considerations for the Future

- Find solid, Bible-based resources to help you learn more about what is involved in church planting. Get additional training in areas that are unfamiliar to you.
- Start by creating a church planting culture in your current church.
- Caution: Don't plant a church because you are angry about another church experience.

- Support other church planters—the journey can be very challenging.
- Love the church—it is God’s instrument of Kingdom advance (Matthew 16:18).

Wisdom: Don’t just plant a tree; plant a reproducing orchard.

Effect: What next steps do you have in mind?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

HOW TO PLANT A CHURCH IN A VILLAGE

Alex Mitala

***Alex Mitala** was General Overseer of Uganda's National Fellowship of Born Again Churches, a network of more than 22,000 churches and parachurch organizations, from 2003 to 2013. A highly respected spiritual leader throughout East Africa, Dr. Mitala led GLOVIMO, the world-renowned youth abstinence movement that reduced Uganda's AIDS epidemic from nearly 30 percent of the population to 6 percent today.*

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Alex Mitala, this course outlines the important processes and considerations for planting a church in a village. In doing this, information on locations, methods, preparations, sustainability, and networking will be presented.

Part One: Before Planting a Church

Video Sessions 1-8

Activator: How do you decide where to plant a church? What factors need to be considered?

Purpose: To identify important steps to take before planting a church in a village.

☞ **Key One:** Listen to the Voice of the Holy Spirit

- Learn the discipline of listening to the Holy Spirit.
- Always listen to the Holy Spirit to see if the timing is right to plant a church.

Wisdom: Because the Holy Spirit is in charge, there is no way you can plant churches *for Him* if you don't pay attention *to Him*. He will always guide you on where to go and what to do.

- Let the Holy Spirit be in charge. You may not understand why He says yes or no, but you must obey.
- When the Holy Spirit sends you to plant a church, regardless of the challenges, believe that the church will be planted.

☞ **Key Two:** Identify the Type of Location

- Category One: The Injured Location – A community that has witnessed a backsliding preacher or was once evangelized by a noncommitted evangelist.
- Category Two: The Virgin Location – A community where no local evangelical church has ever been planted.
- Category Three: The Slum Location – A community populated by poor and needy low-income earners living in the slum.
- Category Four: The Crime-Related Location – A location where most people commit crimes. This could be a lonely hideout community for lawbreakers.
- Category Five: The Isolated Location – A community isolated by its status. For example, an organized housing estate with only middle-class families.
- Category Six: The Bush and Rural Location – A community with scattered homes due to the culture of dwellers in that area. It could also be a community based on a communal family.
- Category Seven: The Welcome Location – A location where an invitation was given to church planters to preach and to plant a church. It could also mean a free gift of property or a facility with a request for church planting.

- Category Eight: The Controversial and Vividly Difficult Location – A location where a majority are hostile to any Bible teachings. It could as well be a location where witchcraft is celebrated or where there are any other occult beliefs.

🔑 **Key Three:** Choose the Right Method

- Open Bible Study
- Church Structure
- House Prayer Meeting
- Open-Air Gospel Meeting or Gospel Crusade
- Social and Economic Approach of Love and Mercy

I planted a church in one of the biggest slum areas in Kampala, Uganda, where I come from. It was known for people who smoke marijuana. It was dangerous. The police were even afraid of that area, but I was able to plant a church there. The system I used was this: showing love, showing mercy to the people, talking to them, helping them. I remember we used to cook food for the needy children. As I speak now, there is a very big church there...over two thousand people in that church today. —Alex Mitala

- Children’s Sunday School or Children’s Outreach
- Send Church Members Out

🔑 **Key Four:** How to Prepare for a Church Plant

- Church planting is always for tangible results. All planning and all effort must result in planting a local church.
- Church planting is a long-term project. All church planters should have a long-term action plan in place.

Wisdom: When people trust the church planters, the church will grow.

- Church planters should ponder on the following before engaging in a church-planting exercise: There must be a trusted ministry partner (a mission or denomination) to oversee the church; There must first be agreement on the kind of method you are going to use; There must be an identified pastor to pastor the church; The ministry partner must take full responsibility on matters of legality and obtaining the permits if need be; The ministry partner should demonstrate the capacity to grow the church into becoming a very resourceful church.

God has called us to do and to act wisely. The Bible says, “Bear fruit and let your fruit remain.” —Alex Mitala

Review:

The categories for identification of location:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

The methods:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | |

Effect: Consider the list of categories for identification for location: How can those be utilized in your next church planting effort? What methods seem realistic for your next planting effort? What preparations will you need to make?

Notes:

Part Two: Considerations for Church Planters

Video Sessions 9-12

Activator: Who is qualified to plant churches? What mistakes do you think are common among church planters? Is there such a thing as an “unplanned” church?

Purpose: To identify some essential considerations for church planters.

☛ **Key One:** Common Sense

- The resident pastor (the pastor who is going to take care of the newly planted church) should, as much as possible, match with the character of the location.
- The resident pastor should have the capacity to add value to the lives of new converts, which would gradually demonstrate tangible results (changes in the lifestyle of the newly converted Christians).
- The resident pastor should introduce transformation of some kind in order to attract the general public to the goals and the visions of the local church in the community.
- The newly converted Christians and the entire community need to build trust in the new pastor and the church.

Every newly planted church must be a transforming force in the community. That comes from the pastor himself. The people need to know that “this church has come here to transform us.” —Alex Mitala

☞ **Key Two: What to Avoid**

- Church planters should avoid promising too much. Limit yourself to what you can fulfill within a limited amount of time.
- Don't make promises on behalf of the new pastor.
- Avoid appointing new leadership among novice converts.
- The new pastor should avoid being inconsistent in their availability.

☞ **Key Three: Finding Church Planters**

Wisdom: All ministries are born from Heaven, but all ministers are born from the local church.

- Born-again church members
- Marketplace believers (Businesspeople)
- Government or company-employed workers

Knowledge for Insight: A church planter does not need to know how to _____ a church. Planting and pastoring are not the same.

☞ **Key Four: Unusual Occasions**

- God has many means of planting churches. He sometimes goes beyond our own methods of church planting. On such occasions, a lot of flexibility will be needed.
- People may get saved after hearing a message at a Christian wedding, burial, or other ceremony, and the sudden and unexpected need for a church plant may arise.
- Christian workers retire from bigger towns or cities and return to their ancestral home villages to find that no churches have been planted. When they begin to witness and spread the Gospel, a church will naturally emerge.

Effect: Which points were most useful for you in the first two Keys (Common Sense, What to Avoid)? Who are you raising up to plant churches?

Notes:

Part Three: Healthy Churches

Video Sessions 13-15

Activator: What helps to sustain a church plant? What is the benefit of networking and partnering with others when planting a church?

Purpose: To identify important steps to sustaining a newly planted church and to identify the importance of networking and partnering.

🔑 **Key One:** How to Sustain the Newly Planted Church

- The entire body of Christ should share in the responsibility for supporting newly planted churches and their pastors.
- Pastors should be hard working and help to provide some of their own income.
- Denominations and organizations need to support the resident pastor in a new church plant.
- Structures (even temporary structures) are important for sustaining a new church plant.
- Bibles and training resources are needed as soon as the church is planted (many new believers may have never seen a Bible before).

🔑 **Key Two:** The Importance of Networking

- Networking defeats competition and promotes completion.

I have planted 147 churches in Uganda through this kind of networking, and they are very powerful churches up to now. They are pastored by different people. Actually, many of them are under different denominations. I've been doing this for the last thirty-nine years, and God has blessed it. —Alex Mitala

- Networking quickens the church-planting work and discourages duplication (starting a church where there is already a church).
- Networking discourages denominationalism and promotes Christianity.
- Networking can help you determine church-planting locations.
- Networking introduces true discipleship and it reduces cultism.
- Networking is more economical and effective.
- Networking provides the opportunity to share talents and gifts among churches.
- Networking attracts more trust and generates stability.
- Networking makes it easier to reach out to the unreached and to the unengaged communities.
- Networking promotes unity of work and spiritual maturity in the mission field.

- Networking opens doors to many different missions and mission boards to provide for the needs of the genuine indigenous church planters who might not be known to them.

Church planters, we have to network with others, first of all church planters with their fellow church planters, [secondly] church planters networking with other missions. You can't say, "I'm a church planter of only this mission." No. You're a church planter for the Kingdom of God. Learn how to network with other people. When you hear of a certain mission and people are struggling in their ability and the capability to plant more churches, will you avail yourself, saying, "Here I am, I am willing to help"? —Alex Mitala

Effect: How could you help to sustain a newly planted church? What needs does your church have that could be alleviated by networking and partnering with other churches?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answer:

Part Two: pastor

UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT COMMISSION

James Hudson Taylor IV

Dr. James Hudson Taylor IV, great-grandson of the renowned missionary who took the Gospel to China in the mid-nineteenth century, speaks to churches around the world about global missions and spearheads numerous ministries throughout China and Southeast Asia. He continues to work with OMF International, formerly the China Inland Mission and Overseas Missionary Fellowship, founded by his great-grandfather in 1865.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by James Hudson Taylor IV, this course provides an overview of the trends and challenges affecting the Great Commission in modern times. In doing this, it also presents a foundation, explanation of the Great Commission, and real-life scenarios in global missions. Throughout the course, we will also give consideration to how we might respond to these challenges individually and corporately.

Part One: The Foundation for the Great Commission

“Working While It Is Day”

Video Sessions 1 and 2

Activator: What images come to mind when you think of doing the works that Jesus did?

Purpose: To describe the foundation of the call of the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key One:** Partnership with Jesus

- “As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (John 9:4, NIV)

🔑 **Key Two:** Necessity of the Work

- “We *must* do the works.”
- A command to be obeyed, not an option to be considered. Jesus invites with a sense of necessity.

Knowledge for Insight: G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945) first identified the ten “musts” in the gospel of John. He called them the divine _____.

🔑 **Key Three:** Urgency of the work

- “Night is coming.” Jesus invites with a sense of urgency. We can only do the work “as long as it is day.”

There was a phrase that occurred over and over again in some of his (J. Hudson Taylor’s) writings and in his letters. As he thought of the 400 million Chinese in China, especially those in the inland parts of China, the phrase that he used over and over again was, “These souls are racing toward a Christ-less eternity.” It was that vivid picture that [he] had, as well as many other missionaries that painted a picture of the urgency of the task. —J. Hudson Taylor IV

🔑 **Key Four:** Missional Basis

- “We must do the works of Him who *sent* me.” (NIV).

Knowledge for Insight: The word “sent” appears _____ times in the gospel of John. It communicates the sense that Jesus was being sent on a mission.

- God has given us a mission and a vision that should lead to direction. Direction should lead to action.

🔑 **Key Five: The Work of Salvation**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:22)

- All men are born with spiritual blindness.
- All men are born with spiritual lameness (without the ability to walk with God).

The problem of humanity is not a problem of education. It's not a problem of economics. It's not a problem of culture. It's not a problem of other things. Rather it's a problem of the ability to live in a way that honors God. And that is the basic definition of sin. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and that work of salvation needs to be taken forward. —J. Hudson Taylor IV

🔑 **Key Six: The Work of Transformation**

- In the miracles of John 9 and Acts 3, the Gospel both healed and transformed.
- The Gospel is not only for souls to be saved, but lives to be changed.
- We are commissioned to take the Gospel of salvation *and* transformation forward.

🔑 **Key Seven: The Work of Proclamation**

- In the miracle of John 9, the disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.”
- *In and through* our lives the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed.

Review:

The seven scriptural foundations for the Great Commission are

_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
and _____.

Effect: Do you believe you have fully partnered with Jesus Christ in the Great Commission? Which of the seven foundations do you feel you have embraced the most? Which of the seven foundations do you want God to help you embrace more? How do you want to see the Gospel of Christ go forward *in* and *through* your life? Pray and ask God to make you even more effective in raising up others who will also fulfill the Great Commission.

Notes:

Part Two: The Challenge of Reaching the Unreached

Video Session 3

Activator: Which people groups come to mind when you think about those who have not heard the Gospel?

Purpose: To identify the largest unreached people groups, and to become aware of challenges and trends among those groups.

Terms: *People Groups: A distinct, homogeneous tribe, caste, or group of people with the same cultural and ethnic background and using the same language (in other words, the largest group of people through which the Gospel can flow without encountering significant barriers of understanding or acceptance). Unreached People Group: Groups that have less than a 2 percent Christian population.*

🔑 **Key One:** The 10/40 Window

- “10/40 Window” is the area of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, between (approximately) 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude.
- Less than 2 percent of money and resources given to the Great Commission go to outreach in this part of the world.
- Consider: How can we focus more on this area?

🔑 **Key Two:** Specific Unreached People Groups

- Muslims: The largest unreached group: 1.6 billion.
- Chinese: The second largest unreached group: 1.3 billion in China alone.
- Buddhists: The third largest unreached people group: 1 billion.
- Hindus: 700 million.

I was in Toronto, Canada, and saw a huge Hindu temple. My friends told me that it was built by Indians in Toronto. All of the supplies that went into the building of this Hindu temple were imported from India. I turned to my friends and I told them, "Well, you don't have to go to India to reach the Indians. God has brought them to Toronto, Canada." —J. Hudson Taylor IV

Effect: Which unreached people groups do you believe God has highlighted to you? Has God brought anyone from among one of these people groups across your path? How have you/are you responding? How are you investing in reaching the unreached?

Notes:

Part Three: The Challenge of Creative Access Ministry

Video Session 4

The second challenge that we see in global missions today is what I've called the challenge of creative access ministry. Perhaps for some people that phrase is an unfamiliar phrase...in the past we've often referred to creative access ministry as "tent-making ministry" or perhaps even using the phrase, "bi-vocational." —J. Hudson Taylor

Activator: Are you familiar with the term "Creative Access Ministry?" What do you understand it to mean?

Purpose: To provide an overview of potential impact of Creative Access Ministry.

Term: *Creative Access Ministry: Christians using their professions to engage in missions/evangelism/discipleship.*

🔑 **Key One:** Creatively Accessed, Not Unreachable

- Countries that deny missionary access are not completely closed countries, but creatively accessed in other ways.
- Christians can utilize various profession platforms to go to a country to live, work, and witness.

🔑 **Key Two:** Getting Involved

- Creative Access Ministry means Christians via their professions have a unique and strategic opportunity to be involved in the Great Commission.
- Opportunities: In the medical field, education, teaching languages, community development, business.

- Consider: How can we mobilize Christians to use their professions in the furtherance of the Gospel?

Effect: How might this be useful in your context?

Notes:

Part Four: The Challenge of Urbanization

Video Sessions 5 and 6

There are twenty-six megacities (population over 10 million) in the world today; eleven of these megacities are in Asia itself. In just a number of years, the population of China will be nearly 60 percent urbanized. In other words, out of every ten people, six live in cities. —J. Hudson Taylor

Activator: What percentage of your friends and family lives in a city? How do you see urbanization affecting your country? How do you think it affects the rural communities in your country?

Purpose: To describe the impact of urbanization on the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key One:** Globalization

- Components: Economy; Migration; Travel; Advancement of Information Technology

🔑 **Key Two:** Population Trends

- World population becoming increasingly urbanized
- Urban to rural population ratio has reached a critical juncture: World population now includes twenty-six megacities (cities with a population over 10 million).
- Consider: How do we reach people with the Gospel within these urban centers?

Effect: What have you learned today about globalization and urbanization? How are you currently responding/would you like to respond to the need in urban areas? Ask God to give you wisdom on how to reach friends, family, and the general population in these growing urban areas.

Notes:

Part Five: The Challenge of Diaspora Ministry

Video Session 7

Activator: Do you have a large population of people originally from another country currently living in your region?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the impact of Diaspora ministry on the Great Commission.

Term: *Diaspora ministry: Reaching people who have left their home countries and now are residing in other parts of the world.*

🔑 **Key One:** Mission Field on Our Doorstep

- Christians have a strategic opportunity to reach individuals who may not have been easily reached due to restrictions in their home country.
- Consider: How can we effectively reach a particular people group living outside of their home country?

🔑 **Key Two:** Shift in Vision

- Remember: Globalization and local outreach are becoming interlinked.
- Pray for a “glocal” vision (global + local) to reach nationalities and ethnic groups God has brought to your doorstep.

Effect: What opportunities do you see among different people groups in your own local context? How are you currently responding? How would you like to respond?

Notes:

Part Six: The Challenge of Postmodernity

Video Session 8

People have their own religion and believe that, in a sense, their own religion has a degree of divine revelation to it. —J. Hudson Taylor

Activator: Do you sense people thinking differently about truth and religion than they used to? What changes have you noticed in your society?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the impact of postmodernity on the Great Commission.

☛ **Key One:** Dynamics of Postmodernity

- Truth is relative.
- Faith is personal.
- Religion is private.
- Salvation is consumer-focused.
- Salvation is earned.

☛ **Key Two:** Attack on Evangelism

- Postmodernity has attacked world missions in unprecedented ways.
- Modern view
- The Church has been increasingly aware of the challenge of postmodernity to world evangelism.

☛ **Key Three:** The Church's Response

- We are called to take the Gospel to the ends of earth.
- Truth is not relative; truth is absolute.
- Jesus is THE way.
- Emphasize three important aspects of Christianity: Uniqueness of Jesus Christ; Supremacy of Jesus Christ; Sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

Effect: How have you encountered postmodernity in your own context? How do you think your church/ministry should respond?

Notes:

Part Seven: The Challenge of Holistic Ministry

Video Session 9

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not only a gospel that saves souls, but also it is a gospel that transforms lives. —J. Hudson Taylor IV

Activator: Do you think that most churches are effective in helping people to transform their lives?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the impact of holistic ministry on the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key One:** The Gospel That Changes Lives

- Biblical example: The Samaritan Woman in John 4.
- We are not merely concerned with seeing souls saved. We want to see lives changed.
- The desire to see lives transformed will affect how we reach out to people and how we share the Gospel.
- Consider: How can we be more effective in holistic ministry?

🔑 **Key Two:** Ministries for Changed Lives

- Recovery Ministries
- Mercy Ministries
- Justice Ministries

Effect: How would you want to be used in holistic ministry? How do you want to see your church approach holistic ministry?

Notes:

Part Eight: The Challenge of Long-Term Missions

Video Session 10

Activator: What do you think makes a long-term mission trip effective? What do you think makes a short-term mission trip effective?

Purpose: To describe the role of short-term missions in supporting long-term missions, and the impact of long-term missions on the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key One:** The Role of Short-Term Missions

Knowledge for Insight: In America, 3-4 _____ people are involved in short-term missions every year.

- Short-term missions have a strategic impact on the mission field and a strategic impact with the individual. (Many missionaries refer back to the effect short-term missions had on their eventual pursuit of long-term missions.)
- Important: Think about short-term missions from a long-term perspective.
- Consider: Are we helping or hurting the mission field and the missionaries?

- Goal: Learn the needs of the people and meet them.
- Evaluate progress based on needs.

🔑 **Key Two:** Long-Term Missions and the Great Commission

- The church needs a renewed emphasis on long-term missions.
- Commitment: Many mission fields require Christians who are willing to go and live among the people. This means learn the language, culture, and worldview of the people.
- Strategy: Many people groups (including the Muslim world) require long-term mission contact and cannot be reached with short-term missions.
- Missionaries will need to build enough trust and friendship to share the Gospel.

Knowledge for Insight: Jesus did not call upon us to take the Gospel and make believers out of everybody, but rather to make _____ out of everybody.

- Church planting requires long-term commitment and a commitment to discipleship.
- Consider: How can we gain a better perspective between the role of short-term missions and the need for long-term missions?

Effect: How do you believe God wants to use you (or is already using you) to support missions work?

Notes:

Part Nine: The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Missions

Video Session 11

When Hudson Taylor first went to China in the middle of the nineteenth century, he went wearing his Western clothes. He was sharing the Gospel with some Chinese and he noticed a Chinese man looking at him inquisitively, wondering why he had two buttons on the back of the jacket, right in the small of his back. This Chinese man asked him, "Teacher Taylor, could you please tell me what those two buttons are doing in the back of your coat?" Of course Hudson Taylor didn't know how to respond because he really wasn't even sure why he had those two buttons. But that experience for Hudson Taylor was a catalyst for helping him think through the importance of cultural identification when we're engaged in cross-cultural missions. —J. Hudson Taylor IV

Activator: Think about a time you have immersed yourself in another culture. What was the most challenging? The least challenging?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the main principles of cross-cultural missions.

🔑 **Key:** Cultural Identification

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 22b, 23

- Seek in all ways possible to identify with the people that you are serving.
- Earn trust, gain confidence.
- Put aside your own culture and some practices.
- Consider: On the mission field, how can we better identify with different cultures we are serving amongst?

Effect: How is God calling you to engage with other cultures (locally or on the mission field)? How would you like to see your church involved in cross-cultural missions?

Notes:

Part Ten: Challenge of Raising Up Indigenous Churches

Video Session 12

I remember John Stott once made this observation: "In many parts of the world while Christianity might be a mile wide, it is only three inches deep." —J. Hudson Taylor IV

Activator: What do you think causes shallow Christianity in churches today?

Purpose: To identify important factors in planting indigenous churches.

🔑 **Key One:** The Right Objectives

- Support people in becoming followers of Christ, not just converts.
- Support the local culture in the church.

🔑 **Key Two:** Characteristics of an Indigenous Church

- Self-supporting
- Self-governing
- Self-propagating
- Self-theologizing
- Self-missionizing

Effect: How do you believe God wants to use you (or is already using you) to support healthy church plants?

Notes:

Part Eleven: Challenge of Going from Missionary Field to a Missionary Force

Video Session 13

Activator: Do you know how your nation or region first received the Gospel?

Purpose: To describe the paradigm shift in the majority world as it relates to missions.

Terms: *Majority World: The three major geographical areas in the world today: the Latin American world, the African world, and the Asian world. Missionary Force: A church or organization of churches that sends out missionaries.*

🔑 **Key One:** The Role of the Majority World in Missions

- There has been tremendous growth in the number of Christians in the majority world.
- Areas that were originally mission fields have now matured enough to send out their own missionaries.
- The task of missions today no longer rests only in the hands of the Western church.

Knowledge for Insight: In 1910, a large mission conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. The slogan of the conference was “Evangelization of the World in This Generation.” There was another slogan that came out of the conference, “The _____ to the Rest.”

🔑 **Key Two:** The Paradigm Shift in Missions

- See that God has provided a strategic opportunity for regions of the world to move from just merely a mission field to a mission force.

- Aim to send out missionaries cross-culturally to people beyond your own people group.
- Majority world: Accept the challenge to take the Gospel to the same population who initially brought it your nation.

Effect: Does this challenge your thinking about missions? How so?

Notes:

Part Twelve: What Can We Do?

Video Session 14

Activator: Have you gained understanding about global missions during this course?

Purpose: To review the challenges in global missions and to consider how to move forward in the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key One:** Considering the Challenges

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Reaching the Unreached | • Long-Term Missions |
| • Creative Access Ministry | • Cross-Cultural Ministry |
| • Urbanization | • Planting Indigenous Churches |
| • Diaspora Ministry | • Going from Missionary Field to Missionary Force Field to Missionary Force |
| • Postmodernity | |
| • Holistic Ministry | |

🔑 **Key Two:** Moving Forward

- Attempting all ten challenges is not a reasonable expectation.
- Consider which challenges God is calling you to tackle.

Wisdom: While we can't do everything, we must do something.

Effect: Write down thoughts about how you will respond to what you have studied in this course. Also ask God to highlight the areas He wants you to give your attention to in this season.

Notes:

Lord, help us to be obedient to the Great Commission in making disciples of all nations.

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part One: imperatives, sixty

Part Eight: million, disciples

Part Eleven: West

ESSENTIALS OF NETWORKING

James O. Davis

Dr. James O. Davis is the cofounder of Billion Soul Network and the founder of Cutting Edge International. Over the last decade, Dr. Davis has been considered to be the leading networker in the Global Church, with more than two thousand Christian organizations and 475,000 churches working together through Billion Soul to plant 5 million new churches for a 1 billion soul harvest.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by James O. Davis, this course identifies the essential principles for developing a network, using biblical passages as foundations for these principles. In doing this, we will also explore obstacles to networking and how to overcome them.

Part One: Introduction

Seems like it was yesterday. In October 2002, key leaders had gathered together to celebrate Dr. Bill Bright's eightieth birthday. Key leaders had come literally from all over the world. We were talking about networking, training, and synergizing.

Dr. Adrian Rogers was teaching on the elements of a healthy church, on networking. Something he said really intrigued me. "A net is a lot of little nothings tied together." He said, "What can you catch with a little nothing? Not very much. But what can you catch when they are all tied together is something quite significant." —James O. Davis

Activator: What key words come to mind when you think about networking?

Purpose: To introduce the content of the course and present the value of networking.

☞ **Key One:** What Does a Networker Do?

- A networker learns how to tie knots and knows how to work.
- A networker stays focused on the Great Commission.
- A networker gets people together who normally would not get together in order to achieve something they could never do as individuals.

☞ **Key Two:** Why Don't We Want to Network?

- Luke 5: 4-7 gives insight on this issue.
- Fear: Losing members and their money to another church.
- Truth: Regardless of our fears, we must all measure our lives by the Great Commission and the judgment seat of Christ; we must give account for our days.

I submit to you that this is one of the greatest journeys that you and I could ever take in this lifetime: helping to get the right people together in order to finish what is in God's heart. We all have a part in God's heart. We all have a role in God's goal. Our role is to finish the Great Commission and we've got to be about the Lord's business. —James O. Davis

Effect: Honestly examine your heart: Are you willing to share the harvest with other leaders? Write down any fears, concerns, and questions about networking below. (If they are not answered by the end of the course, be sure to seek out a teacher who can help you to find the answers.)

Notes:

Part Two: Establish Your Cause

Activator: Do you think most pastors have a clear sense of their cause?

Purpose: To explore the validity and value of establishing your cause in ministry.

☛ **Key One:** The Greatest Cause

- Consider: If we network people and help the body of Christ get to know one another, what would we be able to achieve in our lifetimes?

☛ **Key Two:** Your Cause

- Establishing a cause answers questions.
- Establishing a cause motivates people.
- Establishing a cause gives you a specific purpose that is unique to you and your ministry.
- Write your cause in clear language.

Establish your cause. Get it down really clearly. Write it down on paper, fifteen words or less, and you will find great clarity in your life. —James O. Davis

Effect: Are you establishing a network in your village, town, city, nation? Write down key words that come to mind when you think about the cause God has given you.

Notes:

Part Three: Examine Our Conditions

Just because there are obstacles does not mean there are not opportunities. Just because you have problems doesn't mean there are no solutions. In fact, we're talking about one of the greatest problems in the history of the world. The population is exploding; 80,000 babies were born last night in India.... Not too far down the road they are going to come to the age of accountability. —James O. Davis

Activator: Have you found it challenging to make your visions into reality? What are some obstacles you have encountered?

Purpose: To discuss the importance of examining conditions and identify practical steps involved in turning visions into goals based on those conditions.

☞ **Key One:** Eliezer's Conditions

- In Genesis 24, Eliezer dealt with unique conditions: traveling to a land he had never been to; attempting a mission no one else had ever done before; and taking an oath to Abraham that he would complete his mission.

☞ **Key Two:** Knowing Where You Are

- Find out where you are: Relationally, Politically, Geographically, Financially, Positionally, In your development, Spiritually.
- Take the time to assess, "Where am I on the journey that the Lord has for me?"
- Utilize G.O.A.L.S.
 - G – Gather the facts; do homework; ask a lot of questions; talk to several people; get the information that you need.
 - O – Organize a plan.
 - A – Act on the plan.
 - L – Look back, review, and assess. What was a good idea? What was a bad idea? Should you repeat the plan?
 - S – Set new goals. Set a target: Turn a vision into a measurable goal by assigning a date on a calendar. Assess whether you are ahead of schedule or behind schedule.

Wisdom: You can't organize what you don't have. You can't teach what you don't know. You can't lead others to a place where you have not been.

Cast your vision to the stars and it will land on the moon. Cast your vision at the trees and it will hit the ground. Cast vision with an arch, knowing that it takes time for the pieces to come together. —James O. Davis

Effect: Where are you on the journey the Lord has for you? Write down the vision heaviest on your heart. Commit to turning it into a goal as the Lord leads.

Notes:

Part Four: Embrace Our Commission

Activator: Do you think most Christians in your context feel a personal responsibility for participating in the Great Commission?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of embracing your role in the Great Commission.

🔑 Key: Ownership

- Embrace ownership of the Great Commission – Realize that *you* are essential to the cause.
- Don't: deflect the responsibility of sharing the Gospel or resort to excuses.
- Two main unchangeable principles: Your greatest privilege in life is knowing Jesus Christ. Your second greatest privilege is sharing Jesus Christ with others.

Wisdom: Our mission is not about egos and logos. It's about finishing the Great Commission.

- Biblical examples: In Genesis 24, Eliezer took ownership of the mission given to him by Abraham; The early church responded to the command, "Go." They took ownership and went out and did what the Lord asked them to do.
- Taking ownership of the Great Commission brings: Clarity; Compelling and convincing vision that attracts others.

Life is just too short to be wrapped up in trivial matters. So let's embrace our commission and work together to finish the Great Commission. —James O. Davis

Effect: How will you respond to the call to take ownership? How are you willing to let God use you in His Great Commission?

Notes:

Part Five: Engage Our Creativity

I believe any networker has to engage his or her creativity. I believe that engaging creativity is a key piece because we're dealing with relationships. We're not dealing with hardware or software, but people-ware. People come in different sizes and they have different worldviews. —James O. Davis

Activator: Who do you know that uses real creativity in ministry? Are the leaders around you creative? Do you think you are very creative?

Purpose: To identify the factors involved in engaging your creativity in networking.

☞ **Key One: The Way People Think**

- People all over the world, regardless of culture, will think in some similar ways: One side of the brain deals with principles (words), and the other side of the brain deals with perception (images).
- Understanding the way people think helps to connect with people.

☞ **Key Two: Our Definition of Creativity**

- Creativity in the context of networking is not: Fantasy; Irrelevant ideas; Wishful thinking.
- Creativity in the context of networking is: Imagination; Looking at the needs of the world; Relevant for today's world.

☞ **Key Three: How to Engage Your Creativity in Networking**

- Important note: Bringing attention to Jesus should take priority over building bridges to people; He is the greatest magnetic force (John 12:32).
- Become a student of: How people think; Where the Lord is taking the body of Christ; How to connect people.
- Find out what God is doing by finding out what He is raising up.

I believe that the Lord raised up every major denomination and fellowship in the world and sent people out of these organizations all over the world. Now He desires to connect them. —James O. Davis

- Rest assured, if you have an idea inspired by God, He is also putting it in the hearts of other people.
- Remember: Your creativity in networking comes from your God-given ability to think, reason, and connect with people to create something that you could never achieve alone.
- Ask God to help you to get larger and larger in your thinking processes in the days ahead.

Effect: What creative ideas has God placed in your spirit that seem too big for you alone?

Notes:

Part Six: Explore Our Core

Every great organization has core values—principles that they operate on, principles that they do not compromise. I believe that is also true in networking. So if we're going to make our net work, we need to find out what really works. —James O. Davis

Activator: What practices or attitudes might isolate a leader? What attitudes or practices might a leader engage in that would hinder networking?

Purpose: To identify core principles for networking.

🔑 **Key One:** Move from Being a Competitor to Being a Collaborator

- Being a competitor will hinder you from networking for the Great Commission.
- Take time to assess the ministries that already exist, their doctrinal position, and their level of success.
- Explore ways to network with ministries that you believe God has already raised up.
- Consider how to network to reach more people than your ministry could reach alone.
- Be realistic: A single church cannot accomplish alone what God has asked you to do in the Great Commission.

Knowledge for Insight: Our New Testament model is for Christians to plant churches. Why? We are called to disciple. Why? So we can _____ so that everybody may hear the Gospel.

- Important: Collaborating does not mean compromising doctrine or giving up your uniqueness.

🔑 **Key Two:** Move from Criticism to Complimenting

- Being critical of other leaders will hinder you from networking for the Great Commission.
- Find ways to get to know and encourage the leaders in your community and city.
- Suggestion: Go visit other leaders in your area. Ask them for fifteen minutes of their time.

You will find that the Lord has put people everywhere for divine purpose. Just like He sent you, He sent them. You will find that together you are better, and you can achieve more in a community, and in the world. —James O. Davis

☞ **Key Three:** Move from Complaining to Connecting

- Nobody is attracted to complaining.
- Negative people don't have large networks.
- Focus on promoting the Great Commission over your own organization or ambitions.
- A principle of connecting: Develop an interwoven network, not a linear one.

☞ **Key Four:** Move from Centerness (Being Self-Centered) to the Center

- Don't – Try to build a network on extreme theological stances and opinions that alienate other Christian groups.
- Do – Build networks with core doctrine: Scripture, who Jesus Christ is, and the role of the body of Christ.
- Develop a *circumference* in your life where you learn to connect people by their various strengths.

Nail down the nonnegotiables and build a foundation that is rock solid that will outlive your life. —James O. Davis

Effect: Which of the Keys is most significant to you in your ministry right now? Which areas do you think you need to embrace? (Collaborating, complimenting, connecting, moving to the center.)

Notes:

Part Seven: Equip Our Circle

When I grew up I was taught, when I practiced my sports or did my homework, that “practice makes perfect.” I think it’s “the right practice that makes perfect.” It is important that we equip our circle (with the right practices). —James O. Davis

Activator: Are you equipped with what you need for the Great Commission? How do you think a network of leaders could equip each other better than they could equip themselves?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of equipping the people God has connected in ministry.

☞ **Key One: The Circle**

- Providence: When we get on God's path, we get God's Providence and become connected with God's people at the time that we need them (Genesis 24).

Knowledge for Insight: "Providence" comes from the Latin word "vida" (from which we get the English word "video"), which means "to see." The "pro" added to the front of the word means "ahead of." What is Providence? With God, it is the ability to see and orchestrate ahead of time.

- Important: A networker needs to sense the uniqueness of the people whom the Lord is bringing around him or her.
- Ask God who He has placed you in connection with (who He has placed in your circle) by His Providence.

☞ **Key Two: Being Reproductive**

- Equipping the circle God has given you with right practices leads to a powerful and maturing network.
- Move from addition to multiplication. Move from production to reproduction.

☞ **Key Three: Strengthening Your Circle**

- Your chain will be no stronger than its weakest link.
- Equipping your circle will protect it from breaking under pressure.
- Utilize meaningful resources to strengthen your circle.

Wisdom: The more you equip the ones the Lord has put around you, the more productive and reproductive your life will be.

Effect: Have you ever asked God who He has placed around you? In what areas could you move from being productive to being reproductive? Pray and ask God to give you wisdom for equipping your circle so that all the "links" are strong.

Notes:

Part Eight: Encourage Our Confidence

We need to encourage our confidence. A networker, if he or she is not careful on his or her journey of building something that has never been built before, can get discouraged.
—James O. Davis

Activator: What things attack a leader's confidence in the vision God has given him or her? What things might discourage a leader from attempting to form a network?

Purpose: To highlight the need for encouragement and identify ways to encourage confidence in God's plan.

🔑 Key One: The Need for Encouragement

- A networker is susceptible to discouragement because they are going out into unknown territory.
- Naysayers will always doubt the call.
- The Truth: We have enough money, men and women, methods, and models. Motivation is all that we may lack.

Knowledge for Insight: There are 1.3 billion Christians, and counting, with about _____ being added each day. There are close to six million churches in the world, and that number is expanding faster now than ever before.

The other day somebody walked up to me and asked, "Do you really think we can finish it [the Great Commission] in the twenty-first century?" My response was, "This is the only century I've got." —James O. Davis

- In Genesis 24, Eliezer needed encouragement. "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land" (Verse 5). The Lord used people and circumstances to encourage him.
- Networkers need to be encouraged—to be renewed in their spirits and renewed in their hearts.

🔑 Key Two: Four Ways to Encourage

- The right promise
- The right people
- The right process.
- The right profit.

The darker the night, the brighter the sunrise. Right before the sun comes up, it is darker than any other time. A lot of people stop too soon. I encourage you to have a clear bottom-line understanding. —James O. Davis

🔑 **Key Three:** The Confidence of Joseph

- Joseph had great confidence in the plans of God for His people (Genesis 50:24-26).
- Joseph’s great confidence in God’s promise for the children of Israel pleased God (Hebrews 11:22).

Knowledge for Insight: More is said about _____ in the Book of Genesis than about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob combined.

- Joseph persevered through tough times.
- Joseph believed that since God had spoken to Abraham, that the promise would be fulfilled.
- Joseph was confident in the power of God to accomplish His promises; he was not concerned about who would become pharaoh or how strong the Egyptian empire would be.
- Joseph’s instructions were followed: his bones were carried out of Egypt over a century after his death (Exodus 13:18, 19).
- Joseph’s faith was ultimately honored (Joshua 24:32).

I encourage you to stay in it, tie those relational knots, and don’t care who gets the credit. God will bless you in a way that you have never imagined in this life and in the life to come. —James O. Davis

Review: Ways to encourage our confidence:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

Based on the four areas above, what changes do you need to make in your life? How would you compare your faith to Joseph's? Which area do you need to grow in the most (remembering God's unbreakable promises, relying on His unshakable power, resting in His unmistakable peace)?

Notes:

Part Nine: Exemplify Our Commitment

Dr. Bill Bright used to share this with me. He said, "Small dreams never inflame the hearts of great people." —James O. Davis

Activator: What qualities do you see in the lives of great people with great dreams?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of living and leading by example.

🔑 **Key One:** Attracting Who You Are

- You attract who you are, not what you want.
- Assess the kind of people you are attracting.

Wisdom: People cannot follow a commitment that is not modeled by their leader. To attract the right kind of people, you must first become the person God desires you to be.

🔑 **Key Two:** Leading By Example

How do we become the leaders God wants us to be?

- Model humility—be willing to serve in the last place.
- Trying to move ahead of others causes you to miss all of the value (Matthew 19:30; Luke 16:10; Matthew 25:23).
- Determine that you don't care who gets the credit; only that God gets the glory.

Networkers need to have the kind of ability, skill set, and humility that says, "I want to pull the right people together." Humility is the doorway to teach-ability.
—James O. Davis

Effect: What examples are you demonstrating in your life right now? How would the people around you describe your commitment? How would you like it to change or grow?

Notes:

Part Ten: Making Our Messages Memorable

As we were beginning the [Billion Soul] Network, we really had to get our messaging down right. Just because it's longer doesn't mean it is better. Just because it's bigger doesn't mean it is better. We kept refining it and working on it, because we have to make our message memorable. —James O. Davis

Activator: Think about the messages you are bombarded with in your culture. What makes them memorable?

Purpose: To highlight important factors involved in memorable communication.

☞ Key One: The Need for Good Communication

- Good communication skills are more essential in this digital age; people are constantly bombarded with information.

Knowledge for Insight: People think an average of _____ thoughts per day.

- Communication skills are essential for building a network.

☞ Key Two: Evaluating Your Communication

- Is it clear?
- Is it convincing?
- Is it compelling?

Effect: Do you consider yourself a clear communicator? Why or why not? Write down some areas you would like to improve.

Notes:

Part Eleven: Enlist Our Comrades

We've got to get over timidity and fear and invite people. Do what Jesus did. Invite people to become followers of Him, of something bigger than themselves.

—James O. Davis

Activator: Do you think most leaders are comfortable enlisting help from others?

Purpose: To highlight the need for leaders to enlist each other in the Great Commission.

🔑 **Key:** The Need to Enlist

- You can accomplish very little without help from others, but with help you can achieve great things.
- In Genesis 24, Eliezer needed people to help him on his journey—taking care of the camels, the marriage proposal, and safely returning with Isaac's bride.
- You must invite people to join you in your journey: Socially – Learn about their lives; go to visit them; Systematically – Develop a plan; Spiritually – Ask for a sense that the Lord is leading you to invite someone to participate.

Effect: What could you accomplish if you had more help? Who might you enlist to help you in your vision?

Notes:

Part Twelve: Enforce Our Character

Moral earthquakes are the result of secret faults in one's life. Once pressure is applied, the life can disintegrate and fall apart. It is important that we enforce our character.

—James O. Davis

Activator: What disciplines do you think are lacking in the church today?

Purpose: To identify ways to enforce character through disciplines using the Eliezer's assignment in Genesis 24.

🔑 **Key One:** Discipline Your Desires

- In Genesis 24, Eliezer took time to fast and pray on his journey to find a bride for Isaac.

- Fasting and prayer should be a regular discipline to stay focused on the right things.

☞ **Key Two: Discipline Your Decisions**

- Eliezer gave Rebecca an assignment before he decided she was the right bride for Isaac. Her faithfulness in the assignment indicated she would be faithful in greater issues of life (relocation and marriage) (Genesis 24: 14).

If you can't find the time to share the Gospel with your neighbor, you don't have to worry about distant lands, He's not going to call you there.... You're not up to the task. —James O. Davis

- Giving people assignments before you make decisions will allow you to see if they will be faithful in the small things. If they fail in the small assignments, don't give them important assignments.

☞ **Key Three: Discipline Your Direction**

- Eliezer stayed focused on the Master's plan (Genesis 24:55, 56).
- Eliezer's discipline in his direction resulted in a marriage that would produce the nation of Israel, eventually connected to the Messiah Himself.
- Your discipline is important to God and may result in great things for the Kingdom.

Effect: In what area would you like to practice more discipline? What steps could you take to become more disciplined?

Notes:

Conclusion

What a journey we've been on! We began with Peter fishing. That is where I want to end because it is a pregnant story. It is a story for our time. I don't know of any organization that is not praying for harvest. I don't know of one Great Commission leader who is not praying for harvest.

I remember some years ago hearing a key leader make a statement that was like barbed wire in my spirit then, and it still is today. He said, "We're praying for great

harvest, but are we preparing for it?" He said, "If the Lord were to give us millions in a matter of days, could we get the harvest in? And if we couldn't get the harvest in, then why would the Lord give us the harvest in the first place?"

Peter has toiled all night long with his attempts but didn't catch anything. The Lord says, "Throw the nets on the other side." And Peter replies, "I'm going to do it only because You asked me to." He does so and the nets are beginning to break. Is that the kind of harvest you want? Catch the urgency of the moment.

I think about what the Lord is doing in Indonesia: Over 20 percent of the society is Christian. I think about Africa: by 2035, Africa will be the very first Christian continent. I think about the churches that have been planted in Latin America over the last fifty years and the untold millions of people who have come to Christ. I think of India; 15,000 a day coming to Christ; 45,000 a day in China coming to the Lord.

On any given day, somewhere between eight hundred and a thousand churches are being planted every day. The nets are beginning to break. God is giving us harvest in an unparalleled way. The Lord has raised up people all over the world and He is dispersing them all over the world. In the past it was the West going to the rest, but today, it is the rest around the world going to the rest. If the Lord doesn't give His harvest, there won't be harvest. When He gives His harvest, He expects us to get it in.

There is not one single church or organization large enough to take care of the harvest. There are going to be fish in all kinds of boats. That's all right. If we will sow, we will reap. What made Peter so different was that he was willing to share what God had given to him. May you cultivate that in your life. That we can share, we can synergize, and still maintain our uniqueness.

What an opportunity. May the nets begin to break in your life to the point that you realize that you have to give it to others. May that be our prayer. May that be our invitation to as many as possible.

Come and be a part of filling the boats. Come and be a part of filling the churches that are being planted all over the world. We will be thankful to God that He chose to use us in this generation. —James O. Davis

Effect: We're praying for great harvest, but are we preparing for it? Do you want the kind of harvest in your life and ministry where you could say the nets are starting to break? Will you cultivate the willingness that Peter had to share his harvest?

Notes:

In Conclusion: What are the three most valuable insights you gained from this course?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down any questions you still have. Pray and ask God to reveal the answers as you seek Him.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Six: multiply

Part Eight: 120,000

Part Ten: 50,000 to 60,000

