



SESSION
THREE

STUDENT EDITION

GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

Billion Soul Network® | Global Church Learning Center®

Global Church Training Curriculum

Copyright © 2014 by James O. Davis

Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or part in any form without written consent of the authors.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible, New King James Version*. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked KJV are taken from the *King James Version*. Public domain.

Scripture quotations marked TLB are taken from *The Living Bible*. Copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, *New Living Translation*. Copyright© 1996, 2004, 2007, 2013 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked AMP are taken from the *Amplified Bible*. Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation.

Scripture quotations marked NCV are taken from The Holy Bible, *New Century Version*®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*. Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked MSG are taken from the *The Message*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson.

Editor and Developer: Robin MacIntosh

Robin MacIntosh serves on staff at Grace Fellowship of Four Corners, an interdenominational church plant in the Orlando, Florida area. She received her M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from the School for International Training (SIT) Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont. Her experience includes writing curricula for students from a variety of cultural, professional, and educational backgrounds.



Billion Soul Publishing
Orlando, Florida
www.billionsoulpub.com

CONTENTS

<i>The Global Training Church Curriculum</i>	3
<i>Introduction by Dr. James O. Davis</i>	5
<i>Course Features</i>	8
1. <i>Becoming a Kingdom-Minded Leader by Eddy Leo</i>	9
2. <i>Unreached People Groups by Alex Abraham</i>	17
3. <i>The Strategic Church by Frank Damazio</i>	33
4. <i>How to Plant a Church in a Global City by David Sobrepeña</i>	41
5. <i>Doing Church in Multiple Locations by Greg Surratt</i>	53
6. <i>Prayer and Fasting by David Mohan</i>	61
7. <i>Everyone in Ministry by John Ed Mathison</i>	75
8. <i>Synergizing Apostolic Movements by Glenn Burris</i>	89

THE GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1. Character Formation *by Stan Toler*
2. How to Cast Vision *by Elmer Towns*
3. Strong Families *by Paul Cole and Joann Cole Webster*
4. Winning My Race *by Ben Lerner*
5. **Becoming a Kingdom-Minded Leader *by Eddy Leo***
6. Stewarding Your Life's Mission *by Jack Hayford*

GLOBAL MISSIONS

1. **Unreached People Groups *by Alex Abraham***
2. Developing a Global Christian Worldview *by Philip Jenkins*
3. Funding the Mission *by Kenneth Ulmer*
4. The Making of a Missional Church *by Leonard Sweet*
5. **The Strategic Church *by Frank Damazio***
6. Turning Members into Missionaries *by Ronnie Floyd*

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

1. Principles of Church Planting *by Ed Stetzer*
2. How to Plant a Church in a Village *by Alex Mitala*
3. The Healthy Church *by David Dykes*
4. **How to Plant a Church in a Global City *by David Sobrepeña***
5. **Doing Church in Multiple Locations *by Greg Surratt***
6. The Five Core Commitments *by Mark Balmer*

EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

1. How to Share Your Faith *by John Sorensen*
2. Understanding the Great Commission *by James Hudson Taylor IV*
3. **Prayer and Fasting *by David Mohan***
4. How to Study the Bible *by Howard Hendricks*
5. **Everyone in Ministry *by John Ed Mathison***
6. Knowing the Whole Bible *by Walter Kaiser*

VISIONARY NETWORKING

1. Essentials of Networking *by James O. Davis*
2. Developing a Synergy Plan *by Doug Beacham*
3. Crafting a Global Networking Church *by Suliasi Kurulo*
- 4. Synergizing Apostolic Movements *by Glenn Burris***
5. Climbing Visionary Mountains *by Peter Mortlock*
6. Synergizing Across Generational Lines *by George Wood*

ELECTIVES

1. How to Lead a Church *by Joel Hunter*
2. The Seven Organizational Shifts *by Jo Anne Lyon*
3. Conflict and Resolution *by Ademola Ishola*
4. How to Preach to Any Audience *by James Merritt*
5. How to Coach a Winning Team *by Tom Mullins*
6. Godly Women Who Helped Shape the World *by Kimberly Tibbs*

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.

BECOMING A KINGDOM-MINDED LEADER

Eddy Leo

***Eddy Leo** is the senior pastor of Abbalove International Ministries in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the chairman for Christian Men's Network Indonesia. In the last thirty years, Pastor Eddy has seen more than 100,000 people, including many Muslims, come to Christ in Indonesia alone. He travels extensively, teaching Christian leaders around the world how to grow churches and disciple men into Christ followers.*

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Eddy Leo, this course explores the ways a leader can become more kingdom-minded. In doing this, we will define and describe the kingdom of God, how leaders can fulfill their roles in it, and what key concepts leaders need to keep in focus.

Part One: What Is the Kingdom of God?

Video Sessions 1-3

There are many misunderstandings of the Kingdom of God. —Eddy Leo

Activator: How have you heard the “kingdom of heaven” defined? What do you confidently know about the Kingdom of God?

Purpose: To define the kingdom of heaven based on Jesus’ teachings.

☛ **Key One:** Jesus Teaches Us How to Define the Kingdom

- Jesus’ first message “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17) This tells us that: 1) The Kingdom of God is very close; 2) The Kingdom of God already exists and is ready to be entered; 3) The King is present. (If the Kingdom is present, the King must be present). What does this tell us? *The Kingdom of God is the presence and the rule of the King.*
- In Luke 17: 20, 21 the Pharisees demanded that Jesus tell them when the Kingdom of God would come. What does this teach us? *The Kingdom of God is within us and among us.*

☛ **Key Two:** Insights from the Book of Acts

- The beginning verses of Acts give insight about the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:1-8).

Why did Jesus repeat this topic? ...because the Kingdom of God is hard to be understood. And because the Kingdom of God could only be understood if they [the disciples] heard it again and again. —Eddy Leo

- What is the main theme of the book of Acts? “...all that Jesus began...” (Acts 1:1).
- What does this mean for the church today?

The King is only present through His body. When He is present through the body, the Kingdom will be manifested in that domain. And when the King is present and rules, what happens? Transformation will happen. You will see that souls will be translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light. You will see healings happen. You will see miracles happen, even the raising of the dead. You will see the domain will be transformed because the value of the Kingdom of God will be implemented in that area. I pray so that every one of us, when we understand this, will see that the Kingdom of God will be present in all the domains of life. In every nation from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth. —Eddy Leo

The Simple Definition: The Kingdom of God is the presence and the rule of the King in our lives, within us and among us.

Effect: How has this impacted the way you think about the Kingdom of God? Write down questions you have pertaining to the Kingdom of God and revisit them at the end of the course.

Notes:

Part Two: Insights from Paul – Fulfilling the Vision

Video Sessions 4 and 5

Activator: What were some ways that Paul fulfilled the work of the Kingdom?

Purpose: To highlight the apostle Paul's vision of the Kingdom of God and how he fulfilled its purpose.

☛ **Key One:** Paul's Vision of the Kingdom

- Paul was driven by the vision of the Kingdom (the presence and rule of the King among the people of God; Colossians 1:27-29).
- Paul described how to fulfill the vision of the Kingdom in Colossians 1:28, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

☛ **Key Two:** One-on-One Discipleship Is Essential

- Paul developed a lifestyle and practice of one-on-one discipleship (Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:11; Acts 20:31).

Knowledge for Insight: How effective is discipleship in large groups in changing lives and producing leaders? In a survey, teaching done in large groups, such as Sunday services, seminars, conferences, and large classrooms, was found to be 0 percent effective. Small groups were 10 percent effective. One-on-one discipleship was ____ percent effective. *(Survey by Dr. Carl Horton, cited by Eddy Leo)*

- Paul was able to build powerful churches in short time periods through one-on-one discipleship:

So today God wants us to be that kind of leader. I believe if you practice this, you will see powerful things happen. When we practice this in our church, we see people change so fast...become leaders so fast. Some, only in six months, already lead a cell [group]. They already disciple others. Some become pastors in only two or three years. They grow so fast because this is a very effective principle.
—Eddy Leo

Effect: How does your discipleship compare with what we read about Paul's methods? How well do you think you are doing in fulfilling the vision of the Kingdom? What changes do you want to make?

Notes:

Part Three: Understanding Discipleship and the Kingdom

Video Sessions 6-10

Make sure that the disciples will go, not only to the second generation, but to the third. Make sure that you, yourself, are being duplicated into the third generation. This is the goal of discipleship. In order to reach this goal we need two parties: the disciple and the disciple maker. —Eddy Leo

Activator: How do you define discipleship? What's the process like?

Purpose: To define discipleship, identify its process, and explain the roles of those who are involved.

🔑 **Key One:** The Definition of True Discipleship

- The goal of discipleship is to bring every man to Christlikeness (Colossians 1:28; Colossians 2:6,7).
- There are two extremes to avoid: 1) Because we are Jesus' disciple, we don't need any man to disciple us; 2) We make people our personal disciple. The focus is on the disciple maker as the source of everything. The disciple maker controls the life of the disciple.
- True discipleship is making people into Jesus' disciples. That means the disciple maker is the instrument through which disciples become Christ followers.

🔑 **Key Two:** The Simplicity of Discipleship

- Paul teaches us that discipleship is very simple. We bring someone from their present conditions through a process so they can reach their goal—to become like Christ.

- Christlikeness means being obedient in three areas. **The Three Ws:** 1) The **W**ord of Jesus: Obey His teaching; 2) The **W**orks of Jesus: Be an apprentice by learning and doing what the Teacher does (See Matthew 16:18); 3) The **W**orld Mission of Jesus: fulfilling the Great Commission, multiplying disciples.

Knowledge for Insight: Paul was able to reach multitudes by discipling only _____ people (including Timothy) during his three years in Ephesus.

☞ **Key Three: The Role of the Disciple (Colossians 2:6)**

- A follower of Jesus
- A learner or an apprentice of Jesus
- One who is transformed by Jesus in the process of following Him and apprenticing with Him

Knowledge for Insight: In biblical times, when an Israelite wanted to learn something, they learned it from either their parents or a _____. It was in that manner that they learned about everything and anything: from mathematics to fatherhood. They learned by following, not in a classroom.

- Evaluating the walk of a disciple: How is their fellowship? How do they follow Jesus every day? Are they conscious of His presence? Do they talk to Jesus every day? How much time do they spend with Jesus?

☞ **Key Four: The Disciple Maker (Colossians 1:28)**

- Four works of the disciple maker: preach, warn or advise, teach, present.
- A disciple maker can accomplish the four works using the **M.A.K.E.** model:
 - 1) **M**ake known – Make Jesus Christ clearly known to the disciple (See Galatians 2:20);
 - 2) **A**dmonishing – Warning every man. Advise and remind that Jesus is the priority and center of life;
 - 3) **K**now How – Teach or instruct how to practice faith, how to walk with Jesus;
 - 4) **E**scort – Present or lead people to become Christlike. Show them by example.

Wisdom: If you know Jesus as only a Savior, you will not need Him beyond the moment of salvation. If you see that He IS your life, then you will need Him twenty-four hours a day.

Focus on the heart. God wants to transform from the inside out. If the heart doesn't change, the outward character will not change. If the heart doesn't change, we will not become Jesus' disciple. —Eddy Leo

Effect: What did you learn about discipleship in the Kingdom? How could this affect the way you do ministry?

Notes:

Part Four: Guidance for a Kingdom-Minded Leader

Video Sessions 10-15

Activator: What goals do you think a Kingdom-minded leader would need to have to be successful?

Purpose: To provide guidance and insights for pastors who want to become Kingdom-minded leaders.

🔑 **Key One: Network by Serving**

- Become a servant to other pastors. Help them in any way possible.
- Follow Paul's example of promoting unity (1 Corinthians 3:17).
- Follow Barnabas' example of encouraging and helping.

🔑 **Key Two: Overcome the Enemy**

- To overcome the enemy, you must first overcome yourself. Meaning, die to self every day, and take up the cross. If you can do that, you can overcome any persecution or situation.
- Practice Jesus' teaching from His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 – The attitudes of the heart; Matthew 6 – Godliness: for the right reasons. See Matthew 6:8, 33).

🔑 **Key Three: Seek to Fulfill the Eternal Purpose**

- Keeping build the places where God's presence dwells. (His Church)
- Let your goal stay the same: that the fullness of Christ can dwell among His people and in His people, and be manifest fully through His people.

☛ **Key Four: Stay Focused on the Main Things**

- Christ must be the center of everything.
- Love one another; this is the sign of being His disciples.
- Go and make disciples—teach them to obey what Jesus taught.

Effect: Which points are most meaningful for you? Take time to write down the ways God may be prompting you to become more Kingdom-minded.

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: 90

Part Three: 8, rabbi

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Alex Abraham

Dr. Alex Abraham, a well-known neurosurgeon in Northern India, is considered to be one of the world's foremost authorities on unreached people groups. He is the founder and director of Operation Agape, a network of nearly fifty partner organizations serving together to reach some of the least-reached areas of the world—in North India, Nepal, and Bhutan—with the Gospel.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Alex Abraham, this course provides biblical foundation and practical instruction on reaching the unreached. In doing this, we will consider strategies related to the process of church planting, discipleship, and training leaders.

Part One: Introduction – The Journey Towards the Finish Line

What is the task the Lord has given us? How do we define the completion of the task of the Great Commission? What has been done so far? And what is the remaining task? Or what is the task yet to be done? How do we go from where we are to the finish line?

—Alex Abraham

Activator: Do you think most Christians in your context have the “finish line” of the Great Commission in sight? How close do you think we are to the “finish line?”

Purpose: To highlight why we need to fulfill the Great Commission and to present key considerations as we attempt to complete the task.

🔑 **Key One:** The Passion

- It is the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 4:34).
- The apostle Paul had a similar passion (Acts 20:24).
- God is speaking to the hearts of many Christian leaders in the Body of Christ all around the world to come together to see the task of the Great Commission completed in this generation.

🔑 **Key Two:** Essential Considerations

- The task: Matthew 28:19 summarizes the task of the Great Commission: “Make disciples of all nations.”
- How to determine the completion of the task (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 7:9).

Knowledge for Insight: Nearly one hundred years ago, evangelist D. L. Moody was considering the spread of the Gospel to the whole world by the end of _____. He said, “It can be done. It ought to be done. It must be done.” However, five years before the end of the century, his colleague A. T. Pierson conceded, “We are despaired of hope.”

- This point in history: It has been two thousand years since Jesus gave the Great Commission and we are nearing a milestone; for the *first time ever*, reaching every person for Christ is within sight.

Many times we are satisfied by our past achievements and feel proud of what [our] ministry, church, or denomination has accomplished. But a Great Commission leader will not be satisfied until his Master’s will is accomplished. Today, it is time, as global Christian leaders, that we come together to focus on the land that remains, focus on the unfinished work. —Alex Abraham

Effect: How would you describe your current involvement in completing the Great Commission? How would you describe your passion for the Great Commission? In what ways are you willing to let God use you to fulfill the Great Commission?

Notes:

Part Two: Understanding the Task

Activator: What verses come to mind when you think about the Great Commission?

Purpose: To bring clarity and understanding to the task of the Great Commission.

☞ **Key One:** Great Commission Verses

- Primary Great Commission verses: Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 24:14
Mark 16:15; Mark 13:10; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
- Secondary Great Commission verses (*help us to better understand the Great Commission and its implications*): Luke 8:1; Luke 9:6; Revelations 7:9;
Revelations 5:9; Daniel 7:14

☞ **Key Two:** Our Response to the Great Commission

- Commit to obey: Our first step is a commitment to obey the Great Commission. This is special because this was the last command that Jesus gave before His ascension.
- Answer these questions: Where should we go? And what should we do as we go? What is our target? Every people group, language, urban and town/village area.

P.L.U.G. Strategy—based on the verses listed above and summarized in Revelations 7:9: **P**eople group; **L**anguage Group; **U**rban Areas; **G**eographical Villages

☞ **Key Three:** The Best and Only Way

- Church planting is the only biblical way of completing the task of the Great Commission. Why? The heart of the Great Commission is *making disciples*, and church planting is the best and the only biblical model for making disciples of all nations.
- Mercy ministries are not the way to complete the task. Acts of mercy should be the “fruit” of the mission and not the “root” (as pointed out by David Hasselgrave).

🔑 **Key Four: The Necessary Elements**

- Four necessary elements to complete the task of the Great Commission: P.R.E.M. **P**rayer – for people groups, language groups, urban or rural church planting; **R**esearch – to know what has already been accomplished and what is the remaining task; **E**quip – training the harvest force; **M**obilize – The fourth element is mobilizing. We must focus our resources on the unfinished task (Romans 13:11).

Knowledge for Insight: There are more than 2,300,000,000 Christians in more than 5,000,000 churches worldwide. There are more than 43,000 denominations and more than _____ Christian workers across the globe.

We need to mobilize the whole Body of Christ, casting the mission, providing information and tools, and helping them to equip their believers in the task of the Great Commission. Together, we can do it. —Alex Abraham

Effect: Consider the key words in Great Commission verses. Using as many as possible, write down your tasks in the Great Commission. How many of the Great Commission verses do you have memorized?

Notes:

Part Three: Making Disciples of All Nations

Activator: What do you know about the definition of “people groups?” What do you already know about unreached “people groups?”

Purpose: To define people groups, elaborate on the concept of reaching every people group, and to identify the types of people groups.

🔑 **Key One: What Are People Groups?**

- Matthew 28:19 says, “Make disciples of all nations,” or “panta ta ethne.” The word “ethne,” or “nation,” is used in the Bible to refer to a people group rather than a geopolitical nation, as we normally understand them.
- General definition: A distinct, homogeneous tribe, caste, or group or people, with the same cultural and ethnic background, and using the same language.
- Definition for strategic purposes: The largest group through which the Gospel can flow without encountering significant barriers of understanding and acceptance.

☛ **Key Two: A Shift in Focus**

- There has been a significant shift in understanding the concept of reaching in *people groups* the last few decades.
- **Key Three: Types of People Groups**
- Reached People Group (RPG): At least 2 percent of the population is evangelical Christians.
- Unreached People Group (UPG): less than 2 percent evangelical Christians.
- Unreached and Unengaged People Group (UUPG): One which has no active church planting underway.

*As a young Christian, when the Lord called me to missions, He spoke to me through Nehemiah 8:10. "Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions unto them **for whom nothing is prepared.**" May the Lord help us to prioritize where we need to go when we consider missions as part of our church, as part of our ministry. —Alex Abraham*

Review: The three types of people groups are: _____,
_____, _____.

Effect: Write down anything new you learned about: 1) People Groups; 2) The Shift in Focus; 3) Types of People Groups. Are you focused on the unreached? If not, how do you plan to shift your focus? How are you willing to become involved in reaching the unreached?

Notes:

Part Four (A): Four-Field Concept

Having looked briefly at the task of the Great Commission and the land that remains, we need now to ask, "How do we go from here and move forward to the finish line?" We need to have a clear, well-defined strategy if we are serious about our goal to achieve the Great Commission. —Alex Abraham

Activators: In your context, are most church plants successful? What do you think is involved in a successful church planting strategy?

Purpose: To provide an overview of the Four-Field Concept of church planting as it relates to reaching the unreached.

☞ **Key One: The Farmer's Strategy (Mark 4:26-29)**

- The farmer utilizes several steps in the process of sowing and reaping.
 1. Selects an empty field for sowing, defines the boundaries clearly, and decides what type of crop he should cultivate.
 2. Prepares the field for sowing.
 3. Selects the best seeds.
 4. Mobilizes sowers.
 5. Scatters the seeds.
 6. Takes care of the budding seeds.
 7. Mobilizes laborers for the harvest.
 8. Puts the sickle to it and gathers the harvest.
 9. Selects the best seeds for resowing.
 10. Evaluates what went well, and what can be done better in the next harvest.

☞ **Key Two: The Church Planter's Strategy**

- Using the farmer's strategy, we can identify seven steps for a church planter. We will refer to these as:

7-E Principles of Church Planting: 1) *End Vision for an Empty Field* – Choose a churchless community (an empty field) and write down goals for the next few years; 2) *Entry Strategy for an Empty Field* – Prepare the ground; 3) *Evangelism Strategy* – Select seeds and scatter them; 4) *Effective Discipleship* – Take care of the budding seeds; 5) *Establishing Churches (Planting Churches)* – Gather the harvest; 6) *Equip Leaders (Indigenous Leadership Training)* – Select and prepare seeds for resowing; 7) *Evaluation & Accountability (and Exit Strategy)* – Look for the best ways to improve the harvest in the next season.

Effect: Which of the points above are significant to you? Write down any questions you have about the 7 Es.

Notes:

Part Four (B): Choosing an Empty Field – The End Vision

Activators: What factors do you think are typically involved when a pastor decides where to plant a church? What factors do you think should influence a decision to plant a church in a particular area?

Purpose: To identify key factors to consider when choosing where to share the Gospel and plant churches.

☛ **Key One:** Choosing an Empty Field in the Context of a Church

- In the context of the local church: One simple exercise is to encourage every believer to identify names of people (empty fields) they know and would like to see coming into the Kingdom of God, a relationship where they can sow the seeds of the Gospel.

The F.R.A.N. Principle: 1) **F**riends; 2) **R**elatives; 3) **A**ssociates; 4) **N**eighbors

The OPEN PRAYER: 1) Open the hearts; 2) Open the homes; 3) Open the doors;
4) Open Heaven and bless them; 5) Open eyes and ears

Knowledge for Insight: According to Luke 10, “men (or women) of peace” are those that are _____ for the Gospel in their lives.

B.L.E.S.S.: 1) **B**ody; 2) **L**abor; 3) **E**motions; 4) **S**ocial Needs; 5) **S**piritual Needs

☛ **Key Two:** Choosing an Empty Field in the Context of Missions

- *The Romans 15:20 principle* for choosing an empty field
- Know the Soil
- Set Goals

Knowledge for Insight: Many missiologists think that there should be a minimum of one church for _____ people in a pioneer field or a language people group.

These are practical steps for you to take at this time. Identify your empty field formations. Gather all the available information about your mission field. Design your own field survey form. Use information for prayer. As [you] pray, God will open doors for you to enter the chosen field. —Alex Abraham

Effect: How does your current emphasis on praying for the unsaved compare with the “empty field” model for the local church in Key One? Will you utilize the FRAN model and the OPEN prayer with your church? How can you lead or support planting churches in the empty fields today?

Notes:

Part Five: Entry Strategy

Just like a farmer prepares the field by plowing and removing all the stones, thorns, and thistles from the field, we need to prepare the hearts of the people in the community where we want to share the Gospel and plant churches. —Alex Abraham

Activator: What do you think would be involved in an entry strategy to plant a church?

Purpose: To highlight important considerations when developing an entry strategy.

🔑 **Key:** An Appropriate Strategy

- Create an entry strategy that provides opportunities for the church planter to enter an empty field, establish relationships, and make them interested in the Gospel.
- Make a list of possible entry strategies.
- Choose a simple, reproducible entry strategy, which will not put a burden on the next generation of church planters. Example: prayer, and prayer walking.

Wisdom: Just like a sower removing the stones and thorns from the field, prayer breaks open the spiritual strongholds and softens the hearts of the people to receive the Gospel.

- Assess the unique needs of the chosen field based on the social and cultural situation. Many times evangelism fails because of inadequate preparation of the empty field.

*Here are certain things that you can do at this stage. Think about the possible entry strategies for your chosen field and implement what is most appropriate.
— Alex Abraham*

Effect: Think about a people group you would like to reach: What kinds of strategies would provide an opportunity to establish relationships and develop interest in the Gospel? How often do you pray over the unreached? What kind of commitment are you willing to make to pray for the unreached?

Notes:

Part Six: Evangelism Strategy

We have chosen an empty field; we have prepared the ground. The next step is sowing the seeds...deciding on the most appropriate evangelism strategy for your chosen field. Now a wise farmer will choose the best seed for sowing. What kind of seeds are we sowing? —Alex Abraham

Activator: Do you think most believers know how to share the Gospel in a simple way?

Purpose: To highlight important considerations in utilizing evangelism strategies.

☞ **Key One:** Sharing the True Gospel

- The Gospel message, or “Kerygma” (Greek), is clear, pure, and complete.
- Consider which methods communicate the Gospel clearly, purely, and completely.

Wisdom: Why is it important that a person hears the right Gospel? Unless the roots are strong, the fruit will be weak.

☞ **Key Two:** Choosing Evangelism Strategies

- Write down possible evangelism strategies.
- Choose the most appropriate and effective for your chosen field. Consider which methods are the simplest, reproducible, and effective evangelism strategies for church-planting beliefs and reproducing church-planting movements.

☞ **Key Three:** Mobilizing the Sower

- A visionary church plan will train every believer to be a sower of the Gospel; train them in the art of one-to-one evangelism.
- There are three essential components of one-to-one evangelism: 1) Listen to their story; 2) Share your story; 3) Share Jesus’ story.

*Let us mobilize every believer in our churches to be a sower of the Gospel.
—Alex Abraham*

Effect: How would you like to be more effective in your evangelism strategies? What ideas from this section do you plan to utilize in your context?

Notes:

Part Seven: Effective Discipleship

Once the seeds are sown, what is the sower's role? He has to wait patiently for the seeds to grow. He has to wait patiently in prayer for the Holy Spirit to start working on the seeds that have been sown until they start budding. Discipleship is the process of helping the new believers to grow to maturity, just like a farmer who waters the field, fertilizes the ground, and builds fences for protection. —Alex Abraham

Activator: Think about some effective discipleship strategies you have observed or tried. What made them effective?

Purpose: To highlight the importance of developing effective discipleship strategies.

🔑 **Key One:** Milk Strategies and Meat Strategies

- Consider: What will you teach a new believer in the first few days, or weeks, or months, after their conversion? What is your short-term discipleship plan? What is your long-term discipleship plan for the new believers?
- Develop a *Milk Strategy*: a short-term discipleship model.

Knowledge for Insight: Around the world there is a growing emphasis on the use of Bible stories in the discipleship process. They are an effective means of discipleship among both the _____ and _____.

- Develop a *Meat Strategy*: a longer-term discipleship model uses the same principles as the Milk Strategy.

Effect: How could the Milk Strategy and the Meat Strategy be used in your context? Write down your thoughts and ideas.

Notes:

Part Eight: Establishing Churches in an Empty Field

Just like the farmer who has selected an empty field, prepared the ground, sowed the seeds, watered the budding sprouts, and is now ready to gather the harvest, new believers have to be gathered into an existing church, or must be formed into a new church, if there is none.

Activators: Are there areas near you where there are no churches? Which people groups in your region have not really been reached by churches?

Purpose: To identify and answer these essential questions before developing a church planting strategy: Why should we plant churches? Where should we plant churches? Who can plant churches? What type of churches should we plant? How do we plant churches?

☞ **Key One: Why Should We Plant Churches?**

- A church is the only context for accomplishing the ultimate goal of the Great Commission, to “make disciples of all nations.”

Knowledge for Insight: What is a “church?” The original Greek word, "Ekklesia," is better translated as “assembly or a congregation.” In simple terms, “church” is a gathering or assembly of the followers of Jesus who meet _____.

- Newer churches reach more people than older churches.
- Church planting is modeled in Scripture: Apostles went to strategic cities, preached the Gospel, planted churches, and appointed elders in every church.
- Church planting helps established new believers in their faith and will continue to encourage and support them to remain faithful.

☞ **Key Two: Where Should We Plant Churches?**

- Use these three basic principles: 1) Plant churches where there are no churches; 2) Plant churches in a specific community where there are no effective churches; 3) Plant churches where the existing churches do not fulfill the mission of the church.

☞ **Key Three: Who Can Plant Churches?**

- Every obedient disciple of Jesus has the potential of becoming a self-multiplying church planter (Acts 11:19-21).
- Every healthy church should plant new churches in order to remain healthy. (It is a reflection of the “DNA” of the church.)

☞ **Key Four: What Kind of Churches Should We Plant?**

Wisdom: We should respect all models of churches with their advantages and disadvantages. The outcome is more important than the model we choose.

- We need to plant reproducible churches

I was working in a pioneer location. One church with two people grew to six people in just six months' time (300 percent growth). Today it has more than six hundred people with multiple services and branch churches. —Alex Abraham

- Plant churches in any location possible.
- Plant participative churches (1 Corinthians 14:26).
- Plant house churches.

I remember the story of a group of anti-Christian fanatics who heard that people are getting converted in a village in Northern India. They went to the village as a mob to destroy the church, and asked the village chief, "Where is the church? We want to destroy it." The village chief said, "No, there is no church in this village." What he did not know was that there were already four house churches in that village. —Alex Abraham

☞ **Key Five:** How Do We Plant Churches?

- Design a well thought-out strategy to plant churches in your chosen field.

Effect: Write down one point that was most significant to you from each of the five questions: 1) Why should we plant churches? 2) Where should we plant churches? 3) Who can plant churches? 4) What kind of churches should we plant? 5) How do we plant churches (will be addressed in next sections as well)? Where do you believe God wants you to plant a church? Write down a people group that you want to reach and ask God to reveal the best strategy to reach them.

Notes:

Part Nine: Equipping Indigenous Leaders

Once the farmer gathers the harvest into the barn, he then selects the best seeds and prepares them for resowing. The same principle applies in church planting. Once a church is formed, the goal of the church planter is to raise up indigenous leaders from within the church to reach the remaining needs of the same community. —Alex Abraham

Activators: In your context, what percentage of believers is actively mentored? Are they expected to become leaders?

Purpose: To highlight the biblical foundations for equipping indigenous leaders and to identify types of leaders in the church.

☞ **Key One:** The New Testament Basics

- Train every believer to become a leader.

- The New Testament model for church planting and raising up indigenous leaders can be summarized based on Acts 14:21-23.

☞ **Key Two: Believer to Leader Model**

- The goal of a pioneer church planter should be to see a nonbeliever eventually become a Type V Leader.
- There are five types of church leadership (based on this model): **Type I** – leader of a small group, or a house church, or a cell group. **Type II** – leader who supervises two or more type-one leaders and their groups. **Type III** – leader of a church or a full-time missionary who trains and mentors type-one and type-two leaders. **Type IV** – leader with regional influence that oversees multiple full-time church planters and their leaders. **Type V** – leader with national and international influence.

☞ **Key Three: The Mentorship Model “2-2-2”**

- Based on 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul passes the responsibility to his disciples.
- The church planter’s goal should be to train leaders within the church.
- Every new believer should be mentored as a potential leader.
- Each believer may have different gifts and different roles in the church.

☞ **Key Four: Types of Leadership – Based on the Four-Field Concept**

- People who will be trained as entry strategists: includes prayer warriors, intercessors, and also people with different skills in mercy ministries, research, health education, etc.
- People who are prepared as sowers and evangelists. (Though every believer should be trained to be a witness and to be a soul winner.)
- Disciple makers: trained to take care of the new believers, although our goal is to make every believer into a disciple maker.
- Church planters: selected based on their level of obedience, competence, and commitment as sowers and disciple makers.

☞ **Key Five: How Do We Then Train Leaders?**

- What is our strategy for training leaders in the context of the local churches that we plant? We know there is no one single training strategy applicable worldwide.
- Every church or movement of churches should have a clear, well-defined strategy for training effective, quality leaders in the context of the local churches.

- Use the Five C formula (developed by Malcolm Webber of LeaderSource) to evaluate the development of leaders: **C**hrist-centered, **C**ommunity-impacting leaders, with **C**alling, **C**haracter, and **C**ompetence.
- Decide what a leader needs to know.

How did Jesus train the disciples? He chose them, lived with them, and taught them. He modeled them with His practical life and ministry. He corrected them and commissioned them, and finally, interested them with the task of the Great Commission. What a great model for us to follow. —Alex Abraham

Effect: How would you describe the leadership training in your context? How would you like to better equip leaders based on what you have studied in this section?

Notes:

Part Ten: Evaluation and Exit Strategy

Once a diligent farmer has completed a sowing and reaping cycle, he always will consider how he can get a better harvest next time. He will evaluate what went wrong, asking himself, “What can I do differently next time?” A church planter should be willing to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of his model and be willing to correct and see what is needed. —Alex Abraham

Activators: What tools do you use to evaluate your strategies in ministry? What tools do you use to evaluate the health of your church?

Purpose: To provide an overview of evaluation, accountability, and exit strategy.

🔑 Key One: Evaluation

- The purpose of evaluation should be holistic development of the leader and of the church planter.
- Ask evaluation questions
- Determine the health of your church/gathering.

Suggestion: Write down the names of all the attendees and chart them based on their spiritual maturity. This will help you to evaluate the health of every member of your church and focus the attention on them based on the degree of their maturity.

EVALUATION OF THE HEALTH OF EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR CHURCH								
Name of Church Leader:								
Location:		Station 1	Station 2	Station 3			Station 4	Station 5
State:		Believer	Seed Sower	Obedient Disciple			Disciple Maker	Church Planter
	Member Name	New Believer/ Old Believer/ Seeker	Sharing faith with others	Baptized Y/N	Giving Tithes Y/N	Lord's Supper Y/N	Name your disciples (Fruits)	Next Generation house church started yet?
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
Church Leader's Name :					Signature:			
Place :					Date :			
		Old Believer: Is a person who accepted Christ more than 6 months ago.						
		New Believer: Is a person who accepted Christ less than 6 months ago.						
		Seeker: Is a person who has not accepted Christ, but is keenly interested in the gospel.						
If the answer is Yes in Station 5, please start a new form								

🔑 **Key Two: Exit Strategy**

- All apostolic leaders need an exit strategy.
- We should not exit until the task has been completed.
- Consider the Pauline model: Although he did not continue to stay in the pioneer fields, he did not abandon the leaders in the churches that he planted.

Effect: Which points on evaluation and exit strategies will be most useful in your context? How do you plan to evaluate the health of your church? How would you utilize an exit strategy right now?

Review: Write as many of the 7 Es as you can remember.

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

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 One: 1900

Part Two: 12,000,000

Part 4 (b): open, 1000

Part Seven: literate, nonliterate

Part Eight: Regularly

THE STRATEGIC CHURCH

Frank Damazio

Dr. Frank Damazio is the lead pastor at the multisite City Bible Church based in Portland, OR. He is also the Chairman of Ministers Fellowship International, a fellowship of hundreds of churches nationwide and thousands around the world. As a speaker and author of over thirty books, Dr. Damazio is dedicated to raising up leaders and building world-impacting local churches.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Frank Damazio, this course explores the key components of a strategic church. In doing this, the role of the committed leader and the importance of vision will be highlighted.

Part One: Basic Requirements of a Leader

Video Sessions 1 and 2

In Matthew 15:18 and 19 Jesus says, "I will build my Church." That's a very familiar Scripture to most people. We understand that as Christ's declaration that the will and the purpose of God is to build the church, the builders of the Church are the leaders. We partner with the Holy Spirit, partner with Christ's purpose and vision, and we build the church the way Jesus wants us to build the church. —Frank Damazio

Activator: What are the basic requirements for a leader who is going to build the church?

Purpose: To identify the basic requirements of a leader who will build the church.

☞ Key One: A Leader Is Committed to Christ

- Every person that builds the church needs to be committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Leadership starts with a deep commitment to follow Jesus (Mark 2:14; Matthew 4:20; Matthew 10:38).

☞ Key Two: A Leader Is a Disciple

- A disciple is a person who has discipline.
- A leader is a person who has practiced the disciplines long enough that they are trustworthy and people can follow them.
- A leader must meet the narrow qualifications of being a disciple before they can meet the narrow qualifications of leading in the local church (Matthew 7:13,14; Luke 13:23,24).
- Becoming a complete and fully devoted disciple means knowing Christ and being committed to Christ. That's the foundation that leadership will be built upon.
- Characteristics of a Disciple:
 - A disciple undergoes a changed life and develops a lifestyle that is committed to the values of the Kingdom of God.

Wisdom: Christianity does not consist of a partial amendment of our lives or a change in any moral virtues, but a life wholly devoted to God.

- A disciple has a continual deepening of a relationship with Christ, discovering new insights of living by faith in God and His Word.

- A disciple has a continual developing of a relationship with the Holy Spirit, discovering how to submit to and partner with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17).
 - Disciples must deepen the awareness of those things that need to change within them, the things that the Holy Spirit will point out to them.
 - Disciples have a continual deepening of the understanding of the cross— learning to deny self, pick up their cross, and follow Jesus.
- Summary of what it means to be a disciple: 1) Live a changed life; 2) Have a prayer life; 3) Read the Word of God; 4) Speak with the Holy Spirit; 5) Be open and honest; 6) Be able to deny self and pick up your cross.

Effect: Where you are in your walk with Jesus? How committed are you? What can you do to partner with Jesus as you move ahead in your own personal development? What characteristics of a disciple do you have?

Notes:

Part Two: Defining “The Church”

Video Sessions 3-5

Activator: What do you understand the term “universal church” to mean? Which Scriptures refer to the universal church?

Purpose: To define both the universal and the local church.

☞ **Key One:** The Difference Between the Universal Church and the Local Church

- The universal church speaks of the mystical union of the body of Christ worldwide, with Jesus as the head that is joined by the Spirit to all believers everywhere at all times (Matthew 16:18).
- The local church is where believers gather together in true spiritual harmony in one place, identifying with the vision and leadership of that local church that is structured to a New Testament pattern (Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 2:47).

☞ **Key Two:** Defining the Local Church

- The local church is a congregation of assembly. It is a people in a given locality who join together to fulfill the vision and reach the lost. It is a church with fervent prayer and worship that gives of themselves with total commitment to Christ (Ephesians 4:15,16).

- The local church is a wineskin that must be kept fresh and flexible by the power of the Holy Spirit working continually within and upon the church (Matthew 9:16,17).
- The local church is a place to develop fully devoted followers of Christ by following the biblical model set forth in the Scriptures.
- The local church is from God and must be respected and protected against any and all destroyers, human and spiritual.
- The local church is the manifestation of God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9,10).

The more I serve that church the more the virtues of Christ can begin to develop in me. My own passions and my own gifting will find room in that purpose and in that church. I will find fulfillment as I serve the purposes of God. It's not just about my destiny. It is about the purpose of the local church and how healthy I can make the local church with my own serving and what I can do with my own gifting. —Frank Damazio

Effect: How well does your local church fit the definition of the local church above?

Notes:

Part Three: Building the Local Church

Video Sessions 6-11

Activator: What adjectives would you use to describe the early church in the Book of Acts?

Purpose: To identify the kind of church a leader should want to build and the kinds of commitments they need to have to that church.

☛ **Key One:** The Kind of Church We Want to Build (Book of Acts)

- A Spirit-driven and Spirit-filled Church (Acts 2-4).
- A growing and spread-out church.
- A praying and interceding church (Acts 1:24; Acts 3:1; Acts 4:23; Acts 4:31; Acts 6:4-7).
- A preaching and teaching church (Acts 2:40).
- A church that builds a sense of belonging (Acts 2:41; Acts 5:14).
- A church celebrating life and fulfilling the purpose of God.
- A church that is reaching people and impacting the region.

🔑 **Key Two:** The Commitments We Need to Have

- A leader has a conviction for the local church.
- A leader values the local church.
- A leader has a passion (Psalm 26:8; Psalm 69:9; Romans 12:11).
- A leader has vision for the local church (Proverbs 29:18).
- A leader intentionally builds the church (Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 9:38; 1 Corinthians 1:10).

Wisdom: Prayer is what makes a leader see more than others see.

- A leader keeps their spirit clean and free so as to speak God’s word and build an atmosphere of faith and vision fulfillment (Proverbs 6:2; Romans 6:17; 2 Corinthians 6:3).

Your culture has to cement to the Holy Spirit. You can’t be in a negative culture and be in the Kingdom of God. You have to be a person who covers other people’s sin. You can’t gossip.... You can’t tear down the church. You can’t speak evil words or negative words. —Frank Damazio

- A leader attends church strategically.
- A leader intentionally builds a spirit of community (John 13:34).
- A leader intentionally partners with church builders.
- A leader intentionally chooses a lifestyle to serve the church.

Wisdom: To find credibility, you have to be an example. To find loyalty, you have to express loyalty. To find honor, you have to be faithful, and to find greatness you have to be a servant.

Effect: Do you have a conviction that you have been placed in your local church by the Holy Spirit? Are you unshakable in your belief system? How is your intentionality? How is your passion? Has the Lord showed you great and mighty things about your church? Which points above are most meaningful for you right now? Why?

Notes:

Part Four: Vision

Video Sessions 11-15

Activator: Why do you think a leader needs vision? What is the role of vision in the leadership of a local church?

Purpose: To describe the origin of vision, define vision, and highlight the ways that vision is involved in the leadership of a local church.

☛ **Key One:** God Is the Author of Vision

- It is God’s nature to be purposeful in everything He does. He created the world with a purpose in mind, He first imagined and then created (Psalm 33:11).

Knowledge for Insight: Vision cannot be separated from _____. And _____ cannot be separated from the Word of God.

- God appointed the earth to be both 1) the scene of the revelation of His invisible essence, *and* 2) for the operation of His eternal vision for His created masterpiece—the head and crown of all creation—humanity (Genesis 1:26-28).
- Creation was brought into reality only by God’s Word (Genesis 1:1-3).

Knowledge for Insight: The Greek word for leader is “episcopas.” “Epi” means to look beyond and “scopas” means to focus. It is more _____ in nature than it is pastoral.

- God is the initiator of the vision—the leader becomes the responder and the implementer.
- God is the source of the vision—revealing His vision for those people who have hearts to receive it and a mind to understand it (Hebrews 1:1).
- Visions are often revealed “precept upon precept...line upon line...here a little, there a little.” (See Isaiah 28:10)

As a born-again person, you have the Holy Spirit; and because you have the Holy Spirit, you have the potential to be like God. To be like God means you have to have vision. You have to have capacity for faith, capacity to build, capacity to see where formlessness will give way to a form because of the Holy Spirit working. [You have] capacity to see what is barren but is going to be fruitful.
—Frank Damazio

☛ **Key Two:** Defining Vision

- Vision is a view from above.
- Vision is having the ability to see into the future.
- Vision is having a divine encounter with God (2 Chronicles 1:7).
- Vision is having a bridge from the present to the future.
- Vision is spiritual perspective.

☞ **Key Three: Receiving Vision**

- The receiving of vision will bring motivation, passion, direction, purpose, and strategy. Responding to the vision will bring clarity.
- Great men who received vision: Noah received a vision to build what had never before existed; Abraham received a vision of a blessing that no one had ever received before; Joseph received a vision of unmistakable supremacy that would happen through his own lineage; Moses received a vision of changing the course of history; Joshua received a vision of leading the next generation; the apostle Paul received a vision of building world-changing churches.
- Receive the vision knowing God will provide everything you need to fulfill it.

☞ **Key Four: The Leader's Principles of Vision**

- The principle of receiving the vision: receive vision in prayer, in fasting, in an encounter with God (a vision is received in different ways; Habakkuk 2:1).
- The principle of processing the vision: Write it down and receive counsel.
- The principle of imparting the vision: Find people that have the same Spirit and faith who will run with the vision.
- The principle of pacing the vision: Know how fast and how slow to pace it through the people who will join in the vision.

☞ **Key Five: Training People to Walk in the Vision**

- A leader must not only receive the vision himself, but also take the vision and impart it to everybody around him, making sure everyone is on the same page, walking in the same path, having the same values, and united in mind.
- Help other leaders to develop their capacity for vision.
- Help other leaders to own their vision by taking time to help them understand it and praying with them.
- Align every leader with the vision

See the big picture. Fulfill the big picture. Get yourself rooted in that. Train leaders that way. And God will give you a great local church. —Frank Damazio

Note: Frank Damazio suggests three books that expand on the topic of training leaders: 1) Life-Changing Leadership 2) Strategic Church; 3) Strategic Vision. All authored by Frank Damazio

Effect: What is the vision in your heart? What are the obstacles that you need to see beyond (what stands in the way of multiplying your church)? What kind of training do you do to help other leaders walk in your vision? Which points from this section will be most useful for you right now? Why?

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 Four: purpose, purpose, prophetic

HOW TO PLANT A CHURCH IN A GLOBAL CITY

David Sobrepeña

Dr. David Sobrepeña is the founding pastor of Word of Hope Christian Church in Manila, Philippines. Today Word of Hope has over four thousand cell groups and sixteen satellite campuses throughout Metro Manila, with a combined weekend attendance of nearly 50,000. Under Dr. Sobrepeña's leadership Word of Hope has gone beyond Manila to plant numerous churches throughout East Asia and beyond.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by David Sobrepeña, this course provides practical steps for planting churches. In doing this, we will explore the entire church process, from vision to reality. We will also be looking at the importance of prayer in church life, both in planting churches, and in accomplishing God's will for the church.

Part One: Testimony

Video Sessions 1 and 2

Activator: Has God ever called you out of a comfortable situation?

Purpose: To read David Sobrepeña's testimony on how he came to plant his first church in the Philippines.

Answering the Call:

About twenty-one years ago we were living in Dallas, Texas. We had arrived to what you might call the American dream: a nice custom home, three cars in the garage. At one time I had a speedboat. I was working for the largest investment bank in the world, Merrill Lynch; and then afterwards I was acquired by A. G. Edwards. My wife was working in the largest accounting firm in Texas, Arthur Young. We were living a happy family life and also serving the Lord in the church in Irving, Texas.

*What more could we ask for? But somehow during that time, **I was increasingly becoming uncomfortable by being comfortable.** I'd been asking God, "God, what is it that You want to do in my life?"*

For many, many nights I could not go to sleep. One night I saw footage of the People Power Revolution that's happening in the Philippines. God spoke to my heart. It was a very clear voice of the Lord. Not an audible voice, but within my heart.

He said, "David, I want you to go back to your nation to preach to your people a message of hope." When I heard that I melted and I cried and I said, "Lord, if that is Your will, I will do it. I will do it. Just provide for the needs."

I thought one of the best ways to start the church was to apply for foreign missions with my denomination. After waiting for several months, they wrote me a letter and said that they didn't see anything in my resume that qualified me for missions in my own country, and that they would not send someone to his own country.

I was happy to receive that letter. I raised that letter up to God and I said, "Thank You, God. I'm off the hook." But God had another plan.

Since that call would not leave me, we sold one of our family cars to finance my own missionary trip to the Philippines. I took a leave of absence from my job to see the land and to ascertain whether the Lord really wanted me to start a work there.

The Leap of Faith:

After preaching in youth camps and evangelistic crusades, I said to God, "God, if it's Your will that You want me to stay for an indefinite period of time and start a work, please speak to me now. Because otherwise I will go back to Dallas and never return here in the Philippines."

The Lord spoke to my heart and He said, "I want you to go to SM City" (a large mall in the Philippines). But when I went to the SM management, they told me that the

facilities were not open for religious activities. The manager told me, “Why don’t you go to Paramount Theater right across the street, along the busiest highway in the entire Philippines? We call it EDSA.”

I went to Paramount Theater and the owner was there. I couldn’t believe what came out of my mouth when I told the owner, “I want to lease your theater for church.” He thought I had thousands of members. I had none. He said, “Why don’t you come back and give me a real estate proposal?” I happened to know how to write one, so I wasted no time. The following day I went back to his office and I said, “Here is a lease agreement with an option to buy.” He read it and he liked it. He said, “I’ll have my lawyer study it. Come back in seven days and I’ll give you my decision.”

Now I had one prayer request to God at that time, **“God, if this is Your will—if it’s Your will for us to come back to the Philippines and start a church, this man must rent us the theater.”** I knew later that he said no to everybody.

I came back seven days later and he gave me the contract that was modified by his lawyers and said, “Here’s the contract. Sign it.” My knees began to shake because I didn’t have the money; I ran out of money. Besides, I had not told my wife about this yet.

When I was going home to Dallas, I had another prayer request. I said, “God, speak to Nellie, my wife, to be willing to approve everything.”

Leaving Dallas:

(After returning to Dallas and some conversation, Nellie agreed to go to the Philippines. The house was quickly sold, possessions auctioned off (for far below their value), and remaining items given away.)

We drove, my wife and I, and our three little children, from Dallas to Seattle, where our folks live and where her folks (parents) live. We dropped off our two younger children. **Then my wife and I and eldest son flew to Manila (Philippines), not knowing what’s really ahead of us, but only knowing that God was leading.**

Preparing for the Harvest:

We rented a small room, not even an apartment. We tried to conserve all the funds that we had; what little we had. The following day I went to the owner of the theaters and said, “I’ll give you the down payment for this lease for your theater.” A lot of people heard about it in Manila. They said, “This guy’s crazy. And you’re supposed to start a church in a small little house, in a garage, or under a coconut tree. Not in the largest theater in Manila.” It could seat 1,300 or more at one time. I said, “You know, I came from Dallas, Texas, where we believe big is beautiful. **If God is in it, then He’s going to give us the harvest.** If not, then I could just pack my bags and leave and go back to the United States and hopefully recover after two years.” Deep in my heart I believed that God was in it.

I went to three radio stations, advertised the event—evangelistic meeting in this large theater—about five to seven times a day for two and a half weeks. I printed tens of

thousands of flyers and leaflets to distribute around that mall in a 1.5-mile radius and to the slum area.

I went to a nearby Bible college and looked for volunteers, students who were not involved in any ministry. Together with them I began to share the vision that God put in my heart, and began to pray. The first Sunday that we had in that theater, there were seventeen of us. We made a Jericho march, so to speak, inside that theater, anointing every seat.

Good Beginnings:

On the first public opening day, about 150 people came. I preached my best sermon on Calvary. I said, “Lord, give me a harvest. And if no one is saved today, I’m going to quit. I am going to pack my bags and say it was just a good dream.”

When I gave an altar call, more than twenty people came forward. *The Holy Spirit, I felt, tapped me on the shoulder and said, “We’re now in business, boy.”*

(One family who came forward had an interesting story. They found out about the church’s opening night through a flyer that was used to wrap their dinner. A dried fish vendor had stolen hundreds of church flyers and used them to wrap his fish. Members of that family eventually went on to lead key ministries in the Word of Hope Church.)

I believe that church planting is one of the single most effective ways to disciple a nation. I also believe that church planting is the best way to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord, Jesus Christ. —David Sobrepeña (Edited Version)

Effect: What were the similarities between this testimony and your own? How would you respond if God asked you to leave everything and plant a church?

Notes:

Part Two: Visioning for Church Planting Eleven Practical Steps

Video Sessions 3-6

I strongly believe that today the single most effective way to disciple a nation and to obey and fulfill the Great Commission is to plant a church. —David Sobrepeña

Activator: Have you been part of or observed a church-planting vision that became a reality? What were some crucial elements in the process?

Purpose: To provide practical steps to casting and fulfilling a church-planting vision for your organization.

☞ **Key One:** Seek God for a Vision for your Movement

- All leaders (presidents of denominations, overseers, leaders of organizations, founders, etc.) must first and foremost seek God for His guidance.
- Leaders need to spend time in prayer.
- Leaders need to believe that God will answer with His plans for church planting.

☞ **Key Two:** Gain a Consensus of Your Coleaders

- The vision must be adopted by most, if not all of your leaders.
- Agreement in leadership is necessary to move forward.
- If discord is present, the movement will not be successful.

Some people criticize denominations because of all the red tape they have to go through. But these are necessary things. I believe that denominations and organizations are powerful movements that God has given us in order to accomplish the Great Commission. —David Sobrepeña

☞ **Key Three:** Enlist and Empower Key Leaders in Every Region of the Country

- Identify key leaders in your organization—those whose churches have grown large and who have an influence in their region.
- Focus on widening your base of involvement.
- A larger network will increase the success of your vision.

☞ **Key Four:** Launch the Vision into National Orbit

- Utilize five useful methods to launch a nationwide vision campaign (pattern used by Winston Churchill): 1) Have a strong beginning; 2) Have a single theme; 3) Use simple language; 4) Choose powerful pictures; 5) Passionate Ending – Invite the best speakers to speak on church planting.

☞ **Key Five:** Church-Planting Goals for Every Church

- Give every church a church-planting goal based on their size.
- Key leaders and pastors in every region must be sold on the vision.
- Creates momentum and some healthy peer pressure.

*During my time in the Assemblies of God, we were planting almost one church a day nationwide. So this is an action plan that can be implemented.
—David Sobrepeña*

☞ **Key Six:** Solicit and Establish Strategic Partnerships to Support the Mission or the Vision

- Make a church planting budget a priority in your own organization first—should be set aside from the regular budget.
- Build strategic partnerships

☞ **Key Seven:** Establish Regional Hubs

- Establish hubs of church planting—places where church planters are trained
- The apostle Paul made Ephesus a hub for church-planting activities—he sent many workers out from there.
- Hubs are very effective in both the corporate world and the church-planting world.

☞ **Key Eight:** Hold Annual Regional Pastor and Church Leader Conferences

- Rationale: Every region has a uniqueness in both culture and practice.
- Encourage the development of friendships among pastors in the same region.
- Bring in the best speakers for inspiration, motivation, and equipping of pastors.
- Use the regional conferences to affirm the vision of planting churches for the glory of God and to keep the vision alive in pastors' hearts and minds.

☞ **Key Nine:** Encourage Teamwork Among Pastors and Churches

- Help pastors to see outside of their own limited world.
- Teamwork among pastors and churches is key for success in a nationwide vision.

☞ **Key Ten:** Maintain Constant Communication and Fellowship with Key Leaders

- Visit each region's key leader. Ask them to gather ten to fifteen pastors and leaders in the area for your visit.
- Fellowship around a meal if possible.

Every time that [Jesus] ate with [His followers] there was a very important message that He left with them. This is what I've done. I take them to the newest restaurant. (You don't have to spend a lot of money.) We have fellowship and then I remind them about church planting and how to implement the plan. I ask them to double their efforts for church planting. —David Sobrepeña

🔑 **Key Eleven:** Keep a Score Board for Measurement

- Monitor progress
- Important: Have an accurate understanding of your progress towards the vision.

Review:

The Eleven Practical Steps:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | |

Effect: What is your vision for church planting? Which steps do you need to implement in your ministry?

Notes:

Part Three: Seven Steps to a Successful Church Plant

Video Sessions 7-10

Scripture: Matthew 16:18

Activator: In your area, are most church plants successful? What factors are involved in the success of the church?

Purpose: To provide practical steps to effective church planting.

🔑 **Key One:** The Mother Church Adopts the Vision

- A mother church can develop to a large size, then send out several cell groups to start a church together.
- The mother church should endeavor to plant churches until the Lord returns.
- Note: For the mother church, planting is not automatic. It must be intentional. Many large churches have never planted a single church
- Trust God to replenish the mother church with the same or greater provision that is sent to the “daughter” church plant.

God has added more people to our church, and He has added businesspeople to our church. So the daughter church, the church that had been planted, is progressing, prospering, and growing as well as the mother church.

—David Sobrepeña

🔑 **Key Two:** Recruit and Equip Church Planters

- Recruiting and equipping requires methods.
- Identify pastors in the area who have a vision for church planting.
- Bivocational pastors (who work a second job during the week) can be very efficient and effective.
- Training and equipping with tools and resources needs to be ongoing.

🔑 **Key Three:** Set Goals and Make Plans

- Identify and announce your target city/town/neighborhood.
- Make plans based on population. Determine if there are enough people to populate a church plant.
- Set goals.

🔑 **Key Four:** Send a Survey Team

- Suggestion: Send three or four people.

🔑 **Key Five:** Start Outreach and Evangelism

- Decide which methods fit your target area.
 - Send medical and dental teams to the target area along with the evangelism team.
 - Provide free services.
 - While people are waiting to be treated, the evangelism team can speak with them one-on-one.
 - It starts the future church plant with a good name in the community.
 - Citywide crusade (usually the most expensive).
 - Evangelist preaches Gospel in town square or auditorium.
 - Workers take names of those who were saved for follow-up.
 - Start Bible studies or cell groups (the most effective).
 - Meet in shops, marketplaces, homes.
 - Once ten groups of at least eight people are established, gather for worship or fellowship.

- Evangelistic music ministry teams.
- Evangelistic athletic teams—especially basketball, which is easy for passersby to join in.
- Door-to-door evangelism.

☞ **Key Six:** Establish a Worship and Fellowship Gathering

- Note: Do this after the outreach and evangelism, having established seven to ten Bible studies or cell groups.
- Secure a place to rent (or buy) for worship services.
- Launch a worship and fellowship gathering on a Sunday and include all small-group members.

☞ **Key Seven:** Form a Church Organization

- C.C.C. – Cell Celebration Church

Effect: How can these seven steps be useful in your context? How has God called you to be involved in church planting?

Notes:

Part Four: Keys for a Growing Ministry

Video Sessions 11 and 12

Activator: How often should a pastor give an altar call? Do you think a pastor needs to preach a message of salvation before he gives an altar call?

Purpose: To provide practical suggestions for developing a ministry that will grow.

☞ **Key One:** Have a Masterpiece Sermon on Calvary (1 Corinthians 1:18; John 12:32).

- Every pastor and every church planter needs to develop a strong message on salvation; the means by which men can be saved.

My first message was on Calvary. I remember the title of that message, "Remember Calvary." I sent it through three radio stations and it was played five to seven times a day for two and a half weeks. I began: Why do you remember Calvary? Because it is the place of the spiritual beginning. Remember Calvary

because it tells us of the love of God; Jesus Christ died for our sins. Remember Calvary because it reveals heaven. —David Sobrepeña

☛ **Key Two:** Give an Altar Call Every Time You Preach

- “Cast a net” for people to be saved by giving an altar call.

I was preaching a series on tithing. Some people say that sinners will be offended by that because you’re talking about money. But God showed me how powerful His Word is. I give an altar call after preaching on tithing and I give a one-minute Gospel (see below). We had more people raising their hands to receive Jesus Christ after preaching a message on tithing than the previous two Sundays when I preached other sermons! —David Sobrepeña

- The One-Minute Gospel
- The Holy Spirit is always eager for preachers to cast the net and give an invitation.
- Giving an altar call every Sunday will encourage your saved members to bring their unsaved friends and neighbors.
- Giving an altar call is an act of faith.
- Remember: If people reject it, they are not rejecting you but the invitation of Christ. Do not let your ego become a hindrance.
- Believe that someone will be saved as a result.

☛ **Key Three:** Be Intentional About Church Planting

- Take time to pray and talk with staff about the area where you would like to see a church planted.
- Determine if it is God’s will and timing.
- Begin the seven steps to church planting.
- Determine who will lead.
- Begin a church plant with several cell groups, including members who can help financially support the new plant.
- Make a commitment to the mandate to plant churches through your organization and by supporting others.

Effect: When do you preach on Calvary? How frequently do you use altar calls? Why or why not? How will you be involved in church planting? Write down your thoughts.

Notes:

Part Five: Prayer As the Backbone of Your Ministry

Videos 13-15

Activator: How do people learn to pray effectively?

Purpose: To provide practical suggestions for developing a culture of prayer so that it can become the backbone of your ministry.

☞ **Key One:** Be a Praying Church

- Cultivate prayer as one of your core activities.

Every first of the year in January we have what we call a season of prayer. The first two weeks we have prayer every day. Every morning, every noontime, and every night (6-9 p.m.) we have prayer gatherings and prayer rallies.

—David Sobrepeña

- Emphasize the importance of prayer.

☞ **Key Two:** Pray with Power and Effectiveness

- Pray the prayer of Jabez until breakthrough comes (1 Chronicles 4:10).
- Pray specifically.
- Pray expecting God to answer (1 John 5:14; Jeremiah 33:3).

☞ **Key Three:** Teach Your Church How to Pray

- The Lord's Prayer outline: Provides a biblical guide, prevents the mind from wandering, encourages longer times of prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Some people say, "I don't know what to pray for one hour." So basically I have to teach them, "Why don't you start with ten minutes?" Then you can graduate into praying for twenty minutes, thirty minutes. And then soon you can pray for one hour. Then I'll show them what to pray for because many people don't know what to pray for. —David Sobrepeña

☞ **Key Four:** Pray for the Unsaved

- Guide your church members into prayer for the unsaved.

Effect: What role do you want to see prayer take in your church? How could you utilize these keys in your own context?

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.

DOING CHURCH IN MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Greg Surratt

Rev. Greg Surratt is founding pastor of Seacoast Church, one of the early adopters of the multi-site model. Based in Mt. Pleasant, SC, Seacoast has thirty-five weekend worship services in eleven locations. Rev. Surratt is also a founding board member of the Association of Related Churches, a church-planting network that has given birth to over two hundred churches in the last nine years.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Greg Surratt, this course explores the process of transitioning from a single site church to a multi-site church.

Part One: Introduction – Process and Discovery

Activator: Have you ever reached a point of desperation in ministry when it seemed that you were out of ideas?

Purpose: To read Greg Surratt's testimony about his decision to go from a one-site church to a multi-site model.

We planted a church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1988. We started in a movie theater. We wanted to be a church that reached unchurched people and helped them to become fully devoted followers of Christ. I just knew that the church would immediately grow and that it would immediately have an impact (even though my experience had not been with rapidly growing churches). I had read books. I had seen examples....

We opened our first weekend with a significant number of people. Then the church gradually declined to less than half of the number we had in attendance on the very first week. I thought there would be a revival, but what happened was a Gideon revival. In other words, we had less people every week than we had the week before. That was very, very discouraging. In fact, this process continued for about three years. We didn't grow at all for three years. We had less people every year than we had the year before.

Finally, about three or four years after we began, the church started to grow. As the church grew, we began to seek God. I used to pray (and I still pray the same way), "God, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. If Your will was being done perfectly in the community where I live, what would it be like?" It was out of those prayer times that God gave a vision for what He wanted to do in our community.

Our church began to grow; it grew to two hundred people, then three hundred, then five hundred, then seven hundred.... I had never been a part of a church with those types of numbers or that type of growth. Our church grew to 1,200, 1,500, and finally in our eleventh or twelfth year, our church was reaching two thousand people. We were having multiple services—I think we were having five—on the weekend, all identical services, in a smaller auditorium. We began to realize that we needed to expand our facilities and that we needed to grow.

Our church is located in the southeast part of the United States, which is traditionally known as the church "Bible Belt." Our city is a little bit different because it's not as Christian oriented as most cities in the southeast. But still, there is, by and large, a great tolerance for churches, church growth, and church buildings.

So we thought we would have no problem building a larger building. In actuality, we went through a one-year-long process to get permitting to build a building. Our city turned us down. They said no.

Honestly, it was one of the most discouraging times in ministry for me because I thought, "We are in God's will; we are growing. We can't do more services in the same place. I physically can't handle it. Plus there's just not room for it. God, what are we going to do?"

So we began to look around, and seek God, and we landed on a concept called multi-site. Now back in those days the terms weren't quite as clear. There were a few people that were experimenting with multi-site churches. We decided to see if that was an area that God would direct us to. So, we began to meet in multiple locations, and now, several years later, the church has grown to about 15,000 people, and we've still never built that bigger building. —Greg Surratt (Edited Version)

Effect: Can you identify with anything in this narrative? What do you know about multi-site churches? What questions do you have about multi-site churches? (Refer back to these at the end of the course).

Notes:

Part Two: What Is Multi-site?

Activator: How does a multi-site church mind-set differ from a single-site church mind-set?

Purpose: To describe the multi-site church mind-set.

Terms: Multi-site Church: A church that has worship services in multiple locations.

🔑 Key One: What Multi-site Is Not

- A means to grow a church that is stagnant or in decline
- Easy
- A trend to experiment with
- God's plan for every church
- A way for one church to reach an entire city without needing to work with other ministries

🔑 Key Two: The Multi-Site Mind-set

- Being innovative enough to do something new

*I think "innovation" is just a fancy word for desperation in a pretty package.
—Greg Surratt*

- Believing that the spiritual impact of a church is not defined by a single geographical location.
- Believing that the ministry of a church can expand throughout an entire city and even beyond.

- Believing that it takes many churches and many multi-site churches to see the Kingdom of God take root in a city.

Effect: How does your mind-set line up with the multi-site mind-set?

Notes:

Part Three: Basic Principles

Video Sessions 3-6

There is a desire from heaven that our churches grow, that the Kingdom of God grows, that the kingdom of darkness be pushed out and forced out. And I believe that the primary tool for that is the local church. The local church is the hope of the world.

—Greg Surratt

Activator: What time is the best time to have a worship service? Does having multiple services affect attendance?

Purpose: To highlight four basic principles for churches considering transitioning to multiples services and multiple sites.

☞ **Key One:** Two Services Are Easier Than One

Knowledge from Insight: Two common concerns about transitioning to two services are: 1) Finding enough _____, and 2) how the pastor will be able to _____ with everyone.

- It is easier to recruit volunteers for two services.
- Having multiple services allows people to connect with multiple leaders rather than just one pastor.

☞ **Key Two:** Attendance Diminishes with More Than Two Services in One Location

- When moving to more than one service, there are two factors that can affect attendance at each service: 1) What are the prime-time hours when people are most inclined to attend church? 2) Is the ministry experience the same at each service?

- Two Services: The church should be able to balance the number of people equally, keeping in mind these two factors: 1) The services should happen during prime-time hours; 2) The services should offer identical ministry.
- With three or more services, there will be a diminishing return on those who will come to one location: 1) Third service: Expect it to be 70 percent full because the service time will be outside of prime-time hours; 2) Fourth service: Expect it to be 50 percent full because the service time will be *far* outside prime-time hours.

☞ **Key Three: Multi-Site Locations Maximize Prime-Time Hours**

- Services during prime-time hours (when people are most inclined to attend church) will reach the most people.
- Adding other sites allows your church to maximize its ministry during the prime-time hours.

☞ **Key Four: There Are Various Styles of Preaching for a Multi-Site Church**

Knowledge for Insight: There is no such thing as a _____ model that fits every multi-site church.

- Model 1 – One message preached by several teachers.
- Model 2 – Different message being preached by several teachers.
- Model 3 – Single teacher
- Model 4 – Teaching team

Effect: What are the prime-time hours for church attendance in your region? How could you expand your ministry at this time? Add a service? Add a location? Which of these points were most significant for you?

Notes:

Part Four: Essential Questions

Video Sessions 7-12

Activator: What are the main issues that determine whether a new site takes root and grows? Which is more influential, location or leadership?

Purpose: To identify three key questions that every pastor needs to answer if they are considering transitioning into multi-site.

☞ **Key One:** Essential Question #1 – “Why Would Someone Go to a New Location?”

People who live twenty minutes or more away from the original campus:

- Convenience (most influential factor): Significant numbers of people will attend church at a new site if it is closer to their home and offers a similar worship experience and equally powerful teaching.

People who live within twenty minutes of both the original church and the new site:

- Demographics: People will be willing to attend church at a new site if they prefer the particular demographic.
- Experience: People will choose to attend the site that has the overall experience they think is best.

☞ **Key Two:** Essential Question #2 – “Why Would Someone Follow the New Leaders to the New Location?”

- Send the best-seasoned leaders to the new site.
- Send leaders who are able to lead from the “second chair.”
- Send leaders who will build teams around them.

☞ **Key Three:** Essential Question #3 – “Is This Necessary or Just Helpful?”

- Determine what is necessary in ministry and what is helpful in ministry.
- Putting items in the wrong list can be detrimental to the church. Take a close look at the lists to see if anything from the necessary list and the helpful list needs to be switched.

Effect: How many of your church members would benefit from a site closer to their home? Would any of the leaders in your church be good candidates for a leadership position at a new site? What is on your “necessary” list? What is on your “helpful” list?

Notes:

Part Five: Reproducing the Church's DNA in Multiple Sites

Video Sessions 13 and 14

Activator: What is a church's "DNA?"

Purpose: To outline a model used to determine the DNA of a church, to reproduce it in new sites, and to monitor those sites.

🔑 **Key:** I.P.O.D Model

- Initial – What needs to be part of the experience at every site from the very first day of ministry? What needs to be exactly the same at every location?
- Preferred – What needs to be implemented at every site by the end of the first year but does not need to be in place immediately?
- Optional – Which aspects of the worship experience are optional for each site? (Allows for each site to develop a certain level of uniqueness.)
- Discouraged: "Don't even think about it!" These are things that are never to be done at any of the sites.

Effect: If you were going to reproduce your church's DNA, how would you describe it using the "I.P.O.D." model?

Notes:

Part Six: Conclusion

Video Session 15

Activator: What is the next step for a church that has outgrown its facility? What is the pastor's spiritual responsibility throughout the process?

Purpose: To identify considerations for the future and important spiritual responsibilities for church leaders.

🔑 **Key One:** Considerations for the Future

- If your church is outgrowing its facility: Go to multi-service (preferably three) before you go to multi-site.
- When you transition to multi-site, start with two services.

🔑 **Key Two: Responsibilities**

- Consider the three responsibilities outlined in Galatians 6:9: 1) “Doing good” – Keep learning to do the good works that God has called you to do; 2) “Don’t grow weary” – Develop systems so that what you have learned can be repeated by others; 3) “Do not lose heart” – Refuse to quit.

Effect: What is your vision for the expansion of your ministry? What are the next steps has God put on your 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.

Knowledge for Insight Answers:

Part Three: volunteers, connect, perfect

PRAYER AND FASTING

David Mohan

Dr. David Mohan is the founder and senior pastor of New Life Assembly in Chennai, India. Under his leadership, New Life Assembly has grown to 45,000 members and has planted more than two thousand churches throughout the India subcontinent. Dr. Mohan is also the General Superintendent of All India Assemblies of God and is Southern Asia's representative to the World Assemblies of God.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by David Mohan, this course will provide an opportunity to explore the topic of prayer and fasting. In doing this, we will consider biblical foundations and understanding gained from ministry experience. We will also be considering real-life application, both individually and in the context of ministry.

Part One: Introduction – David Mohan’s Story

Activator: Have you experienced clear direction from God as a result of prayer and fasting?

Purpose: To read the story of David Mohan and his experiences with prayer, fasting, and the move of the Holy Spirit.

The Dedication:

*My mother was a woman of prayer. One day, after much prayer, she came to me. I was nine years old. She put her hand upon me and said, “**My son, I have dedicated you for the life of prayer, and also that you must serve God faithfully.**” (We had seven children in our home, but my mother came to me and touched me.)*

From that time on, the Holy Spirit came up on me—gripped my heart. I wanted to go into the world, but the Holy Spirit never let me. All the time He was upon me, calling me to serve the Lord.

The Beginning of Ministry:

***When I was twenty-one years old, I gave my life to Jesus Christ.** Wholeheartedly, I wanted to serve Him. I was in a college studying for my secular education, and by the grace of God, I left everything and I went to serve God faithfully.*

One of my friends also got saved at the same time. He came into the ministry and he called me. He said, “We will serve the Lord together.” So we were together as evangelists.

One day God spoke to me, “My son, you are not an evangelist. You must establish a church for Me, as a strong witness in India.” I was really confused. Many people said, “You should not get married. If you get married, you will backslide.” And they said, “If you go to Bible College, if you study theology there, you will lose your anointing.”

*So I was really confused, but good thing. **I went to the Lord in prayer for seven days, with fasting.** I was waiting upon God. God spoke to me that I must get married, that I must have a background of studying the Word of God.*

So I left everything. I obeyed the voice of the Holy Spirit. I went to Bible College; I studied in an Assemblies of God Bible College in India. I kept myself to the teaching of the Word of God, and I was doing a ministry amongst the young people.

One day God told me, “Go to a city in Madras, a place called Chennai, to start a work.” I went there and wanted to take up a ministry over there. There were one hundred people in that church. The whole church stood up and said, “We don't want this young man to be our pastor.”

I was rejected by the people but I was never disturbed in my spirit, because whatever happens in your life happens for your good.

Part Two: Introduction – David Mohan’s Story (Continued)

Starting a Church:

So I prayed again, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” God said, “Go to a place where there is a crusade. After the crusade, you take up the follow-up addresses. Visit all the people and start a church.” So, I took up those addresses in my hands; I got 125 addresses.

I prayed day and night and walked on the streets of that city to find out a place of worship. Everybody was rejecting me.

*But one day as I was walking, God spoke to me, “My son, this is the house that I am going to give to you to start a church.” I obeyed. **I went inside the house and I prayed.** I went to the owner of the house and asked him and he gladly gave me that place to start a church.*

As I started the church, I was really praying. Early morning I gathered the people to pray and was teaching the people to do evangelism. One by one, people came and filled that place.

Overcoming with Prayer:

Then God moved me into another place and I started that work. There were about six hundred people who came. Then a cyclone came and destroyed that building. I didn't know where to go, what to do. I was really disturbed in my spirit. But the Holy Spirit came upon me and said, “My son, look up; don't look down. I am your God. I will prove myself that I am a Living God to you.”

***I went to a place and prayed continuously for six months**, asking God to give me a place. After six months of prayer, again, the Holy Spirit came upon me said, “Stop praying; start praising Me. I have given you a place on the main road of the city.”*

I got a place on the main road and started the work for the Lord. Again I started to pray and pray. God supplied all my needs according to His riches through Christ Jesus in glory. I was able to build a church for two thousand people; two thousand people came and worshiped God.

I started prayer in the church services and prayer and fasting periods from twenty-four hours to forty days. There was worship continuously going on in the church.

*That is where God really helped me to build a great church in India. God really blessed me. **Now we have more than 40,000 people coming to the church.** Early morning, five o'clock, is our first service. In that service you see a lot of people streaming into the service. The whole road will be blocked and the roads jam-packed with cars.*

*The whole city of people knows that there is a church there. Why? Not because of any human being's effort. **It is because of the move of the Holy Spirit.** This is where God helped me to understand the life of prayer. —David Mohan (Edited Version)*

Part Three: A Spirit of Prayer

You may be going through a lot of problems, difficulties, but there is an answer for you. Would you develop a spirit of prayer in your life? It is a hard thing to pray. It is a very difficult thing to pray because your mind, your soul, your body, your spirit, must join together in prayer and in touching God. That is real prayer. —David Mohan

Activator: Have you found prayer to be difficult at times? Which kinds of circumstances can make prayer more difficult?

Purpose: To describe how to develop a spirit of prayer in your own life.

🔑 **Key One:** Prayer from the Heart of God

- Wait upon God
- The Process: 1) Holy Spirit must touch your spirit; 2) Your spirit must touch your will; 3) Your will must touch your mind. (As the Holy Spirit touches your will, you must agree, “I will pray today.”); 4) Your mind must touch your emotions.
- Remember: The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

🔑 **Key Two:** Knowing What to Pray

- Always ask God to help you.
- Completely depend on God to help you in prayer.
- Holy Spirit will intercede for you.
- With the power of the Holy Spirit, begin to pray.

🔑 **Key Three:** Humility

- Keep all pride and boasting out of your prayer life, especially in regards to prayer, fasting, or giving.
- Pray in secret when the Lord leads and He will reward you openly.
- Always give glory to God alone for what is accomplished.

🔑 **Key Four:** Pray Continually

- Very few people pray for a long time.
- Do not be discouraged or give up.
- May need to begin simply by praying for fifteen minutes with fifteen points of prayer.
- Let prayer eventually become like breathing.
- In all situations, utter a word to God and listen to His answer.

- As you pray continually, the fellowship of God and His presence will be your experience.
- Remember: enjoy this time! You will be blessed.

Effect: Evaluate your experience in prayer by these principles. Which parts of this section has God highlighted for you to embrace?

Notes:

Pray: Lord, let Holy Spirit be with me as I continue in this course.

Part Four: Commitments

Activator: How often do you see prayers answered in your prayer life? Think of a specific time when God answered your prayer in a powerful way. What were the circumstances?

Purpose: To identify some of the essential commitments in your prayer life.

☞ **Key One:** Dependence on God

- Commit to: 1) Give God the glory; 2) Seek fellowship with God; 3) Be filled with the Holy Spirit; 4) Acknowledge your need for His grace.

☞ **Key Two:** Seek Answers

- Commit to: 1) Pray until you receive the answer from God. 2) Write down the answers to your prayers. 3) Be willing to accept God's answer. 4) Remember that all of God's answers are out of love. 5) Join with people who have the spirit of prayer. 6) Never join with people who have the spirit of gossip. 7) Keep your tongue clean and holy; it is your instrument for prayer.

One of my friends, who is a man of prayer, prayed more than 50,000 prayer requests. How do I know? I saw the diary of prayer that he was carrying. He put his prayer request and the date, and backed the prayer request with a Word of God. Then he put what time and what dates the answers have come. He prayed more than 50,000 requests; all the 50,000 prayers requests were answered.

—David Mohan

Effect: *Lord Jesus, we have learned a little bit about prayer. Let us be gripped by the spirit of prayer. Lord, we want to give glory and honor to You. Without You we can do nothing. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. Lord, we pray that You will pour out Your Spirit of Prayer upon us today, that we will become people of prayer. Teach us to pray in secret, that You will reward us openly. Let our lives, our churches, and our ministries be enriched by the power of prayer in our lives. Glorify Your Name. We come against all the distraction and discouragement in our lives. Encourage us, Lord. Glorify Your Name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Part Five: What Is Prayer?

Activator: How would you define prayer? What are some unbiblical ideas you have heard about prayer?

Purpose: To describe and define prayer.

☞ **Key One:** What Prayer Is Not

- Quickly satisfying a requirement
- Something to be done while multitasking or on your way to do something else

If the prime minister of your country calls you to meet with him, what preparations would you make? You would go there ahead of time. You would listen to him while he talks. You would go there with a notepad in your hand, and you would write whatever he says. But many times, we don't go to the Lord in prayer like that. We just go and throw some words out. —David Mohan

Wisdom: Many times we are so busy we don't take time to pray. Only one thing is needful: sitting in the presence of God and listening to what He is saying.

☞ **Key Two:** The Real Definition

- Being in the presence of God; the fullness of joy
- Seeking the heart of God
- Fellowshiping with the Father
- Conversing with God
- Going boldly to the Father
- Asking and receiving
- Communicating about whatever thoughts come to mind

Effect: Has your definition of prayer changed? How will you approach God in your prayer time?

Notes:

Part Six: Is Prayer A Priority?

Video Sessions 6 and 7

Priority must be given to prayer. Many times we don't make it a priority. We do all the things that we do. Finally, when we are tired, then we pray. Many times when we go to the Lord in prayer, we are preparing to go to sleep. —David Mohan

Activator: What kinds of things can prevent prayer from becoming a priority?

Purpose: To highlight the need to follow Jesus' model of prayer.

🔑 **Key One:** Common Practices

- Put other activities first
- Pray when it's convenient
- Pray to ease our conscience
- Stay in bed and fall back to sleep

Many times [when] we wake up, we will stay in the same place. We put our head on the pillow and start to pray, just to ease our conscience. But we go to sleep again. This is what many people do and think they are praying. —David Mohan

- Pray at the end of the day
- Pray when you're tired

🔑 **Key Two:** Jesus' Model of Prayer Life (Mark 1:35)

- Got up early
- Went to another place (where He would not be disturbed or fall asleep)
- Spent time alone in prayer
- Prayed with a burden in His heart
- Lived before the face of God and did not fear the opinions of men
- Prayed only for God's will in His life (Matthew 26:39)
- Prayed to escape temptation
- Prayed through the Power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26)
- Prayed for guidance from God (Luke 6:12,13)

Knowledge for Insight: Jesus did not specifically teach us how to preach or how to create sermons: Jesus did teach us how to _____.

Effect: Which part of this section has God highlighted to you? How could your prayer life change to look more like Jesus' prayer life?

Notes:

Part Seven: What Hinders Prayer?

Video Session 8

We say we don't have time for prayer. Do you have time to sleep? Yes. Do you have time to eat? Yes. Do you have time to play? Yes. Do you have time to fight with each other? Yes. But you don't have time to pray. Unfruitful things you do, but you do not pray.
—David Mohan

Activator: What activities do you think tend to keep Christian people from prayer?

Purpose: To identify the hindrances to prayer life.

🔑 **Key One:** Common Hindrances

- Spiritual Warfare: enemy attacks on prayer life

Wisdom: Bind the enemy's attacks whenever you go to the Lord in prayer.

- Postponing prayer
- Irregular prayer time
- Lack of desire for prayer
- Unbelief
- Unfruitful work

You can double your time. Schedule your time every day. Get up in the morning and schedule your days with what you are going to do in every hour. I tell you, you will find enough time for prayer. —David Mohan

Effect: Which hindrances do you need to overcome? Which part of this section has God highlighted to you? How will you respond?

Notes:

Part Eight: Moving Forward in Your Prayer Life

Video Session 9

Activator: Think of someone you know who has an effective prayer life. What prayer habits do you recognize in them?

Purpose: To identify practical steps to a better prayer life.

🔑 Key: Practical Steps

- Resist the enemy in prayer to keep him from hindering your prayers.
- Make time to agree in prayer with your spouse.
- Ask the Lord to give you a personal revival in your in prayer life.
- Make fellowship with God your main task.
- Delegate tasks to others to have more time for prayer.
- Make God your greatest joy.
- Plan a time and place to pray.

Every year, with God's grace, I arrange a time of prayer for ten days. Every month, for three days, I go to a place alone and pray. Every week, one time, I do fasting prayer. —David Mohan

- Go on a retreat.
- Fast and pray.
- Try praying one hour in several fifteen-minute segments (morning, afternoon, evening, and before going to sleep).

Effect: Which of these practical steps are you willing to take in your life?

Notes:

Part Nine: Prayer Plan

Video Session 10

Activator: How do you begin and end your prayer time? Do you tend to pray the same way every day?

Purpose: To identify ways to successfully engage in prayer.

🔑 **Key:** Focus Your Prayer

- Pray for one hour straight through, spending five minutes on each point.
- Eat limited amounts of food before praying in order to avoid becoming lethargic.
- Try a fast to gain focus.
- Develop interaction in your prayers.
- Ask others to intercede for you (for your prayer time).

One of the most important things you must learn is that you must ask other people to pray for you. I have ten prayer chains; I have about six hundred people who pray for me on a daily basis. I tell them, there is only one request I will ask of you, that you will pray for me, that I will pray continuously. —David Mohan

Effect: How could your prayer time become more focused?

Notes:

Father in Heaven, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, revive us once again in our prayer lives. Give us people who will pray for us, and show us who we can intercede for every day. Give us the determination to become completely devoted to a life of prayer. Let us be enriched by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let Your Grace come upon us. Let us enjoy You. Lord, we give glory and honor to You and to You alone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Part Ten: Prayer in the Context of Church Planting

Video Sessions 11-15

Activator: Think about your current context or a context you may be moving into. How have you prayed to plant or grow your church? How do you decide what to pray about?

Purpose: To highlight the role of prayer in church planting.

🔑 **Key One:** Zechariah Foundation (Zechariah 1:16, 18-21)

- God intends to build His place of worship. “I will return to Jerusalem with mercy. There my house will be rebuilt and the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,” declares the Lord Almighty.”
- The enemy intends to scatter God’s people and halt the building of any place to worship God. “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.”

- Craftsmen are called to carry out the activity of God against the enemy and called to build. “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them.”
- God is raising up His church

☞ **Key Two:** Raise Up a Church through Prayer

- Jesus said, “...I will build my church, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18, KJV).

In our nation, Hindu militants said, “We don’t want any Christians in India. All Christians must go to the West.” We were under the oppression of the demon for nine long years. But one day, all of the leadership of our nation got together. And we started to pray for India, nonstop prayer for seventy-two hours to change the government. I tell you, the opinion polls said, the exit polls said, the Hindu militants are going to rule again. But God changed everything. God destroyed the works of the demons. —David Mohan

- Essential for the Pastor: 1) Be a praying leader; 2) Pray to seek the mind of Christ; 3) Lead your team into prayer to destroy the enemy’s plans; 4) Build your church with people who pray.

☞ **Key Three:** God’s Heart for Church Plants

- Dedicate yourself to having a pure heart.
- Unite your heart with God’s heart.
- Let God put His will in your heart.
- Let His Holy Spirit put the burden in your heart for prayer.
- Give yourself to prayer.
- Pray God’s will; His will accomplishes mighty things.

☞ **Key Four:** The Daniel Model (Ezra 1:2,3)

- God answered Daniel’s prayers, and moved the heart of the heathen king to build the temple (Daniel 1:17, 18).
- What does this mean for today? We can expect God to move on hearts to build His church as a result of prayer.

🔑 **Key Five: Spirit-led Church Planters**

- Every church planter must: 1) Be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish their task; 2) Pray for a great move of the Holy Spirit; 3) Pray for all who attend to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

🔑 **Key Six: Spirit-led Decisions**

- Wait on the Holy Spirit to know where, when, and how to plant churches.
- Trust that the Holy Spirit knows best how to grow the church.

I started my church after a crusade. I had 125 addresses in my hand. I walked up and down the street to find a small house. God showed me a house He was going to give me. He gave me the seven people with whom I started that small church, in that small house, with a middle wall. I used to stand between the middle wall and preach for seven people. Today, 30,000 people are coming to the church. It is possible when you listen to the words of the Holy Spirit. When you are led by the Holy Spirit, it is possible to plant churches. God will raise up His Church.

—David Mohan

🔑 **Key Seven: Prayers for Provision**

- Church planters must: 1) Pray for the spirit of giving (generosity) for themselves and for those who will attend. 2) Pray and trust that God will supply all our needs.

I learned this lesson in my life in a hard way. I was depending upon somebody else, but God spoke to me. "My son, I will supply all your needs." In the beginning of my ministry I did not have money in my hands for my lunch. I went to a room and I prayed, "Lord, I am serving You. I need to have some money." I prayed for three hours. After three hours God spoke to me that He had sent a money order to me. After three hours, a postman came and placed a money order in my hand.

—David Mohan

Wisdom: If God is in the vision, there is no reason to worry about money.

🔑 **Key Eight: Repentance**

- Church planters must cultivate repentance in their lives.
- Let the church be born out of prayer and repentance.
- Preach the Gospel and expect the Holy Spirit to bring conviction.
- Pray for the spirit of repentance to draw people to the church.

- Expect the spirit of repentance to bring revival.
- Suggestion: Have an altar call every Sunday service to call people to pray.

One day I prayed, "Lord, at the Christmas service and the New Year's service, a lot of people come for a blessing. But I pray that the spirit of repentance must be there." One man came to our church. He came and sat in the church; the spirit of repentance came upon him. He could not get up from that chair. He gave his life and totally committed his life because the conviction of the Holy Spirit was there. One man came to our church just to borrow money, but the spirit of repentance was there. He repented there; he started to give his tithe. —David Mohan

Effect: In this section, we learned that a church planter needs to seek the heart of God, be filled with the Holy Spirit, operate in the spirit of giving, and practice repentance. Which areas would you like God to help you with today?

Notes:

A Prayer from David Mohan:

Lord, Thank You that are with us today. Thank You for Holy Spirit that is moving upon us in a very special way. The anointing is with us.

Thank You for the Body of Christ. Thank You for the pastors and the leadership that You have brought together today.

Father, stir up our hearts today, that we will reach the world. We believe that the whole of Heaven is backing us today; that Your power is coming on us today.

Thank You for the one mind and the one heart that You have given to us.

All demons and satanic work are already bound. On the cross of Calvary, You won the victory. You have already planted churches around the world and they are going to multiply. Thank You, Lord, for this vision to plant churches.

Thank You for the Holy Spirit. Bless us together, every pastor who has come here today.

Lord, we pray that You will give us a proper vision, a proper anointing, and the proper qualities of a church planter. We pray that the spirit of prayer, the spirit of generosity, and the spirit of repentance will come upon us. Glorify Your Name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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: pray

EVERYONE IN MINISTRY

John Ed Mathison

Dr. John Ed Mathison was senior minister of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, for thirty-six years. Under his leadership, Frazer grew from four hundred members to more than 8,800 and had the largest Sunday school attendance for United Methodist churches in America. Today through John Ed Mathison Leadership Ministries he focuses on training pastors and leaders around the world.

Course Summary

This course, developed from a video teaching by John Ed Mathison, examines the biblical definition of “disciple.” In doing this, we will explore the application of the qualities of a disciple in ministry life. We will also consider how pastors can effectively lead people to engage in the various aspects of discipleship.

Part One: Introduction – What Is a Disciple?

Activator: What really makes someone a disciple?

Purpose: To clearly define “disciple” according to the Word of God.

☛ **Key One:** The Biblical Definition

- In John’s gospel, Jesus uses the word “disciple” three times, giving these definitions: 1) A disciple knows and obeys His Word (John 8:31); 2) A disciple loves and serves other people (John 13:34,35); 3) A disciple bears fruit (John 15:8).

☛ **Key Two:** Applying the Definition

- Serving: How do we lead people into serving and loving others?

Knowledge for Insight: In the average church in America, about _____ of the people do 80 percent of the work.

- Knowing and Obeying the Word: What does it mean to be in the Word? How do we help people to stay in the Word? How do we help people to apply the Word?
- Bearing Fruit: What is involved in bearing fruit? How do we help people to bear fruit?

Effect: Do you know and obey His Word? Love and serve others? Bear fruit of character and bringing others to Christ? Which areas would you like to focus on more in your personal faith and in your church?

Notes:

Part Two: Serving

Video Sessions 2-3

We believe that every member is a minister. Every member is a disciple and a disciple maker, which means that we serve. —John Ed Mathison

Activator: In your context, what percentage of the church body is actively involved in serving? How do you encourage people to volunteer in ministry?

Purpose: To explore ways to encourage people to serve in ministry.

Terms: Burnout: The condition of a person who is tired of serving and lacks any enthusiasm for their position.

☛ **Key One:** The Problem with Recruiting

- Requires the leadership to figure out people's gifts and callings.
- Dependent on persuading people.
- Sometimes guilt or intimidation is used to convince others to serve.
- Causes burnout: People are often persuaded to serve where they do not have passion and eventually quit.
Most people are not comfortable saying "no" (even when they know God has not called them to serve in a particular area).

☛ **Key Two:** The Philosophy of Volunteering

- Allows for "niche picking" (the one who serves chooses the "niche," or position they believe is best for them).
- Emphasizes volunteering in a position a person is enthusiastic about.
- Depends on the answer to the question, "Where is God leading you to volunteer to serve?"
- Increases authentic connections in the body of Christ.

Knowledge for Insight: If someone is not involved in a small group and a function of ministry within _____, 50 percent of them will become inactive.

☛ **Key Three:** Make Serving Easy

- Important: Members should not volunteer for leadership; leaders should be chosen.
- Pastors should provide a "vehicle" to making volunteering easy (a specific structure that allows members to discover their gifts and make a commitment to serve).
- Let ministries grow out of member's hearts.

In our (local) prison there was an AIDS ward. Nobody wanted to go on the AIDS ward. One of our church members said, "We need to be involved there." We put it on the [commitment] card. Other people have volunteered, but we're probably the only religious group that goes into the AIDS ward at the women's prison in Montgomery. —John Ed Mathison

- Important: Make sure ministries are congruent with the church's mission to "Go and make disciples."

Effect: What points in this section are useful for you in your context?

Notes:

Part Three: Being in the Word (Knowing and Obeying)

Video Session 4

Activator: Do you think most Christians in your context are in the Word? Do they know how to be in the Word effectively?

Purpose: To examine what it means to be in the Word.

☞ **Key One:** Isaiah's Model (Isaiah 6:1-8)

- A believer needs to see God.
- A believer needs to see himself.
- A believer needs to respond to God in prayer.

☞ **Key Two:** Necessity of the Word

- Remember: Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, then you're my disciples indeed." (John 8:31)
- Disciples need the Word like they need food (Matthew 4:3,4).

Discipleship isn't based on a mountaintop experience here and there.... We take up our cross daily. We're in the Word daily. And we grow by doing that.
—John Ed Mathison

☞ **Key Three:** Interacting with the Word (Ezra 7:10)

- Begin with a simple method. Choose any book of the Bible. 1) Read and mark what God says to you (may not be the main idea of passage). 2) Reflect on the most meaningful portion to you. 3) Respond to God in prayer. 4) Record what God told you in a journal.
- The resulting life application is *most* important.

Effect: What parts of this section would be useful in your context? Would you utilize the “read, reflect, respond, and record,” method in your ministry context? How would you adapt it?

Notes:

Part Four: Bearing Fruit – Character

Video Sessions 5 and 6

One thing that is dangerous in any church or religious group is that we sometimes try to convert people to activities rather than to a changed life. —John Ed Mathison

Activator: Have you seen people mistake good works for a changed life? What are some of the results of a changed life?

Purpose: To identify the fruit of the Spirit and the means of cultivation.

☞ **Key One:** Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22, 23a; Colossians 3:12)

Wisdom: A disciple is one who is becoming like Jesus Christ—a changed life. It’s out of that changed life that we begin to see fruit emerge.

☞ **Key Two:** Cultivate Fruit of the Spirit through Discipline

- Be in the Word every day.
- Develop an intimate relationship with God through the Word.
- Pray continuously and confess sins regularly.
- Suggestion: Increase church involvement in prayer.

Knowledge for Insight: As we are being transformed, our character begins to cause us to yearn for certain disciplines that help us _____.

- Study Scriptures: Gain an in-depth understanding (more than reading and meditating).
- Memorize Scripture.

Wisdom: Disciplines are not goals. Disciplines help us reach the goals.

Effect: Which of the fruits of the Spirit is God working on with you right now? Which disciplines are you successful with? Which do you find challenging? Which part of this section would be useful for you to teach in your context?

Notes:

Part Five: Bearing Fruit – Spiritual Reproduction

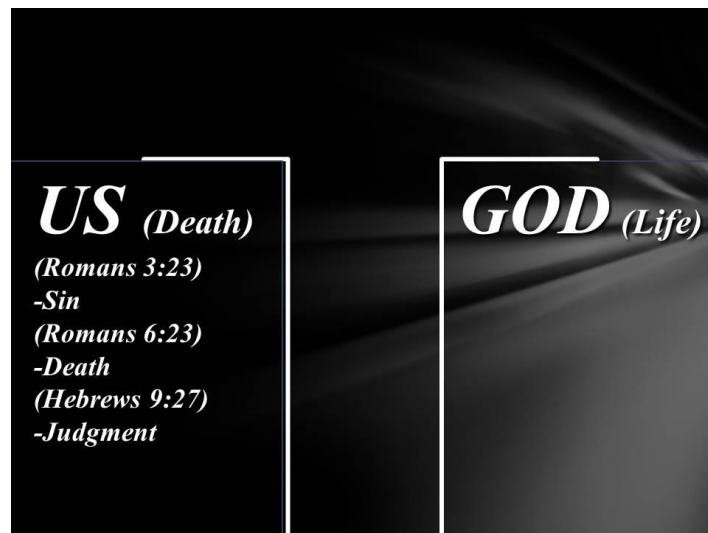
Video Sessions 7-10

Activator: Have you considered bringing people to Christ as part of “bearing fruit” before today? What percentage of your church body is actively sharing Christ?

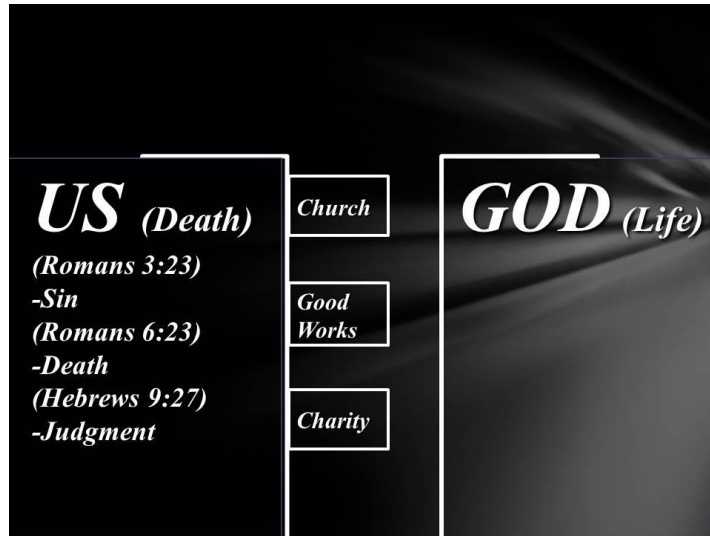
Purpose: To explain how disciples can bear fruit by making more disciples.

➤ **Key One:** Sharing the Gospel (John 4:36)

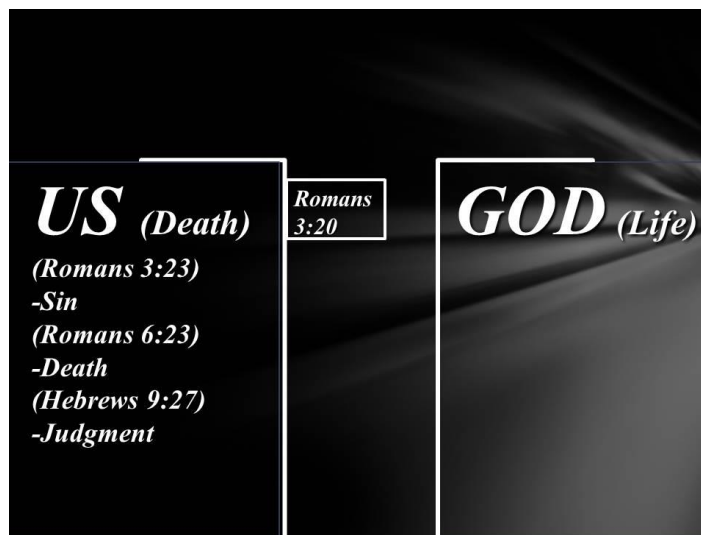
Example: The Bridge Illustration is a simple message and illustration that can be utilized anywhere (restaurants, grocery store, etc).



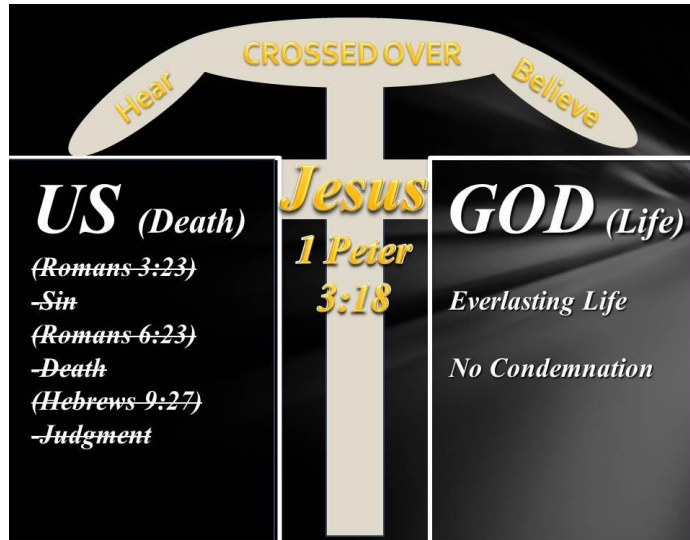
- There is a major difference between us and God (represented by the cliff).
- God is a God of life.
- We have sin in our lives.
- Sin leads to death.
- When we die we are destined to face judgment.



- People want to build a bridge to God using their own means.
- All the man-made bridges are short; good works can't cross the bridge.



- No one can ever be made right in God's eyes by doing what He commands (Romans 3:20).
- Good works will not get you to salvation.



- Good News: Jesus has provided a bridge (1 Peter 3:18; John 5:24)
- Ask four questions: 1) Where would you put yourself on that diagram? 2) Why did you place yourself there? 3) Is there any reason you couldn't cross over to the LIFE side now? 4) Why wouldn't you want to be on the other side?
- Pray with the listener to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

🔑 **Key Two:** Sharing the Gospel through Serving

- Look for an opportunity to share the Gospel in every ministry.
- Serve people with the intent to tell them about Jesus. The more people you serve in love, the more listeners you have for the Gospel.

Prison ministry: We have a lot of folks who are volunteering. That's their gifting; that's where God put a burden and a passion in their heart. And a marvelous thing happened—many, many folks have come to know Christ. We've got several members of the church who were former prisoners. One of them, Tommy Waits, was serving a life sentence, and through our prison ministry was converted to the Christian faith. He had an opportunity to get a work release. The church gave him a job. Through that, people began to love him. Then he felt God's call to the ministry. So he had to get a GED (high school diploma) [because] he hadn't even finished high school. The church worked with him. He is now appointed and ordained and serving on our church staff. A man who was serving a life sentence is now on the pastoral staff. All because a ministry team introduced him to Jesus Christ. —John Ed Mathison

🔑 **Key Three:** Disciples Making Disciples

- Endeavor to make generations of disciples (2 Timothy 2:2).

🔑 **Key Four: Small Groups**

- Goal: To see people transformed into Christ-likeness. How? By exposing people over time to the Word of God and to other people.
- People are expected to learn, apply, and eventually teach.
- Suggestion: Provide small-group options with different educational and commitment levels (from entry level to advanced).

Knowledge for Insight: Small groups provide both an environment to grow and an environment for leadership to be developed. In order to have several small groups, you must have several _____.

- Most important: All members challenged to grow in their faith and to hold each other accountable.

Effect: How would you like to be more effective in the area of spiritual reproduction? How could you use “The Bridge” illustration in your context? Which parts of this section would be useful for you to teach in your context?

Notes:

Part Six: Pastor As Model – Personal Life

Video Session 11

One of the difficult things when I’m reading the Bible is to try to read it for personal growth and not to make a good sermon. —John Ed Mathison

Activator: How do you try to model being a “disciple” in your context?

Purpose: To identify ways for a pastor to model being a disciple in his personal life.

🔑 **Key One: Focused Quiet Time**

- Let your quiet time model the focus that you would teach others (1 Timothy 4:12).
- Read for personal growth.

- Focus on letting God speak to you personally, not on creating sermons. (Note: sermons may emerge from quiet time, but that should not be the goal of your personal time with God.)

☛ **Key Two:** Personal Illustrations

- Let others know that you are being formed into the likeness of Christ; let others know that you have struggles.
- Find the balance between honesty and proper boundaries in your personal life.

Wisdom: You don't need to make every sermon a confession. You do need to let others know that you are being transformed.

☛ **Key Three:** Personal Ministry

- Ministry outside the church
- Witness in the community
- Invite people to church regularly

Effect: Which parts of this section is God highlighting to you? How would you like to improve as you model discipleship in your personal life?

Notes:

Part Seven: Pastor as Model – Public Teaching and Preaching

Video Session 12

We're not to try and impress people with how much we know. My dad, who is a minister, said, "Keep it simple. Keep the hay down where the horses can get it."

—John Ed Mathison

Activator: Do you find it easy to keep people engaged with your sermons? What has worked well?

Purpose: To identify ways for a pastor to be effective in preaching and teaching as he models being a disciple.

🔑 **Key One:** Keep it Practical

- Notes and outlines: 1) Are not essential for everyone; 2) Should always encourage natural, clear, and straightforward communication; 3) Should bring focus to the message; 4) Can be shared with the congregation.
- Keep sermon points memorable and reproducible (listeners can easily remember the message and explain it to a friend).

🔑 **Key Two:** Keep It Unpretentious

- Focus on expressing, not impressing.
- Remember that people are there to meet God, not to hear theological knowledge.
- Communicate in a way that is accessible for everyone.

🔑 **Key Three:** Remember the Good News

- Focus on the positive as much as possible (most people are focused on bad news).
- Focus on what God can do and is doing.
- Communicate hope for the hopeless.

🔑 **Key Four:** Tell Stories

- Bring real-life situations into your preaching.
- Use stories to help listeners remember your message.

If you listen when people tell you what's happening in their lives, if you observe things, the world is just covered with illustrations. I've discovered that a lot of times people won't remember the point but they'll remember the illustration. And with the illustration you can begin to make an application.
—John Ed Mathison

- Stories and illustrations can help to expand or contract a sermon.

Effect: Which of these methods have you tried? Which ideas might you use to improve in your preaching and teaching?

Notes:

Part Eight: Pastor as Model – Being Part of a Team

Video Session 13

Activator: What do you think are the characteristics of a good leadership team?

Purpose: To describe how a pastor can encourage discipleship through his team.

🔑 **Key One:** Selecting Team Members

- Select staff; then train staff to select leaders (Mark 3:14a).

🔑 **Key Two:** Meeting Together

- Meet consistently.
- Pray for each other: church concerns, church members.
- Consider making time to have fun as a team.

🔑 **Key Three:** Equipping Others

- Teach staff to equip others. Staff should equip and teach ministry leaders, not take on all the ministries themselves.

We make it very clear to every staff member. No staff member is hired to do a ministry, but to train and equip lay people to do the ministry. Our whole focus is that we want to train people that can go out and become reproducing disciples.

—John Ed Mathison

🔑 **Key Four:** Being On the Same Mission

- Make sure everyone understands the mission clearly.
- Check regularly to assess whether the whole team is heading towards the same mission.
- Make sure staff projects and tasks are focused on the mission.
- Foster unity to keep discord away.

Effect: How do you interact with staff and leaders? Are all of your staff on the same page? Which ideas in this section might be useful for your context?

Notes:

Part Nine: Summary

Video Session 14

Activator: Which parts of this course were especially helpful to you?

Purpose: To summarize main points and share concluding thoughts.

🔑 **Key One:** Develop This Course for Context

- Remember: These are basic principles and suggestions. Adapt them for your context in a way that works for you.

A Summary:

- A disciple is someone who:

_____ and _____ the Word.
_____ and _____ people.
Bears _____.

- Serving and Volunteering
- Being in the Word
- Bearing Fruit: Character and Spiritual Reproduction
- Pastor as Model: Personal Life, Preaching and Teaching, Being Part of a Team

🔑 **Key Two:** Concluding Points

- Aim for at least 60 percent member involvement (preferably 100 percent).
- Focus on helping people to get into the Word so they can hear God for themselves.
- Focus on helping people to reach character transformation, not just being active in disciplines.
- Focus on moving people from being professional learners to being teachers.
- Strive to see multiple generations of disciples in your ministry.

Wisdom: You can count the number of seeds in an apple but you can't count the number of apples in a seed. Plant seeds wherever you can.

Effect: Write down the key ideas you want to utilize from this course.

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 One: 20 percent

Part Two: six months

Part Four: grow

Part Five: leaders

SYNERGIZING APOSTOLIC MOVEMENTS

Glenn Burris

Dr. Glenn Burris has a passion for planting churches and caring for pastors. As President of the Foursquare Church, he is the denomination's "pastor," giving spiritual and administrative oversight to more than 1,800 churches in the United States and nearly 60,000 churches and meeting places in 140 countries. Over 250,000 people attend a U.S. Foursquare church, and 7.9 million attend around the world.

Course Summary

Developed from a video teaching by Glenn Burris, this course will provide an overview of the unifying convictions of the church and the essential beliefs, characteristics, and practices of being a synergizing force. In doing this, we will discuss perspectives, values, and some practical steps we can take to prepare for what God has in store for our future as the Body of Christ.

Part One: Convictions of Synergy

Video Sessions 1-6

In the third century, when St. Cyprian wrote to a friend named Donatus:

"This seems to be a cheerful world, Donatus, when I view it from this fair garden. But if I climbed some great mountain and looked out, you know very well what I would see, brigands on the high road, pirates on the seas, in the amphitheaters men murdered to please the applauding crowds. Yet, in the midst of it, I have found a quiet and holy people. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are Christians."

Activator: How would you define "conviction?" How is it different from a deeply held opinion?

Purpose: To define "conviction" and to outline the five convictions the Church should have in common.

☞ **Key One:** Definition of a "Conviction"

- Is believed deeply
- Will not be compromised
- Cannot be changed by circumstances
- Is more permanent than slogans
- Jesus' example: "I must be about my Father's business." (see Luke 2:49)
- Will lay down agendas, focus on His agenda

☞ **Key Two:** The Five Unifying Convictions

- We share a common enemy (and it is not one another)

Knowledge for Insight: There are approximately _____ Christian denominations.

- We are all called to the Great Commission.

Knowledge for Insight: _____ happens naturally. Integration requires work.

- We have a compelling story to tell. (See John chapter 11.)
- We are better together.
- Community is more important than institutions (Romans 12:2; Acts 15:28).

What penetrates the darkness, what brings light, what causes people to leave everything to follow Jesus—will never be an institution. It will be a community of people who are Christ followers and so committed. —Glenn Burris

Effect: Has God highlighted any of these convictions for you? How might He be asking you to respond?

Notes:

Prayer: Father, we thank You today that we can move forward with great confidence and hope. Thank You that together we are stronger than we are as individuals. Lord, keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. May we be one. And may the world come to know that we are Your disciples because of our love, one for another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Part Two: Synergizing Leaders and Ministries

Video Sessions 7-11

Activators: What characteristics does a “synergizing” leader have? A “synergizing” ministry?

Purpose: To provide an overview of what it means to become a synergizing force for the Kingdom.

🔑 **Key One:** Building Blocks

- The DNA of an organization is important for its future.
- A mission to building bridges, not walls.
- A focus on expanding the Kingdom.

🔑 **Key Two:** Benefits

- Helps to accelerate the expansion of the Kingdom.
- Can better defeat the powers of darkness.
- Heart of God; He commands blessing where there is unity (Psalm 133).

☞ **Key Three:** Essential Perspective

- Three points that every denomination should agree to: 1) We have a common enemy; 2) We have a common Savior; 3) We have a common mission.

☞ **Key Four:** Characteristics of a “Synergizing” Ministry

- Puts the Kingdom before church/denominational interests.
- Engages in joint efforts to combine resources: disaster relief, compassion ministries.

God has to be honored, Jesus glorified, and the world ministered to when we don't care who gets the credit. —Glenn Burris

- Loves neighbors as themselves. (See the parable of the Good Samaritan.)
- Responds to need rather than denominational labels.

I think we are entering a season where an entrepreneurial spirit will be prevalent in the church. God may do being something uniquely different that He would be glorified and the Kingdom of God would be advanced and people would be ministered to. —Glenn Burris

- Combines need with opportunity; looks for connections in the Body of Christ.
- Looks for entry points in reaching unreached people groups together.
- Identifies who has the gifts and skills for a need.
- Believes God will always give next steps.
- Trusts God to provide the strategy.

☞ **Key Five:** Characteristics of a “Synergizing” Leader

- Doesn't focus on defending doctrine.
- Ready to link arms with others to expand the Gospel.
- Intentional in making connections.
- Secure, does not feel threatened by others.
- Values fellowship and relationship.
- Committed to letting God build relationships out of intimacy with Christ.

☞ **Key Six:** Modeling Synergy Together

- Develop an empowering culture.
- Take risks together.

- Trust God for results.
- Financially support other denominations.
- Bear one another's burdens.
- Move to a partnership mentality to share resources and decision-making.

☞ **Key Seven: Pioneering, Parenting, Partnering**

- Pioneering: Doing the tough work; establishing the DNA.
- Parenting: Caring and managing.
- Partnering: Being intentional in promoting interdependency.

☞ **Key Eight: Synergizing in Today's World**

- The Church started in the Middle East, moved to Europe, then North America, and now has become strong in Central and South America, Asia, and Africa.
- Previously difficult areas are now areas where the Church is growing.
- Go through open doors now; they may be temporarily open.
- Put both hands on the plow, don't look back, and move with all the acceleration that we can withstand. (See Luke 9:62.)
- Take the Gospel to as many places as possible.
- Respond to the calling of God for this very present moment.
- Remember, there is a night coming when no man can work. (See John 9:4.)

☞ **Key Nine: Synergizing in the End Times**

I personally believe that God will not come back unless there is a major rush of revival around the world...a last opportunity for as many people in as many places to hear the Gospel and have a chance to respond. I fully expect the greatest revival that has ever hit the face of this earth to hit just before the second return of Jesus Christ.
—Glenn Burris

- Be able to recognize the signs of the times.
- Get hearts ready
- Get hands ready to work
- Look for every open door in governments, communities, and countries open for the first time.

☞ **Key Ten: Equipping Leaders**

- Requires strategies, like-minded people, and an understanding of the media tools available.

- The Global Church Learning Center
 - Focused on discipleship and providing tools for equipping others.
 - Fundamental Purposes: 1) Manage, train, and equip leaders to minister in today's complex world. 2) Leave imprint, a sustainable and multiplying church (not just leaders). 3) Go beyond borders. 4) Reach people groups.

This is something that God has called us to do to span generations, to reach both genders, to not be exclusive to the culture group we're most comfortable with. This is a day where walls are coming down and the Holy Spirit is helping us build bridges. I am grateful for the Global Learning Center because I think it's an outstanding resource and tool that will help us to accomplish that. —Glenn Burris (See Joel 2:28,29.)

🔑 **Key Eleven: Moving into Action**

- Measured intentionality – True values always result in action. (See Luke 19:1-10.)
- If God has put on your heart to cross the comfort zone, then do so right away.
- Be intentional about meeting with people from other denominations/churches—pick up the phone, schedule meetings.
- Discuss with other leaders how God can connect you so that your efforts together can meet needs.

Let God lead you in next steps, which will cause you to be a part of this great synergistic Kingdom advance. You don't want to miss out. It is a part of His plan for this day in this hour for the church. —Glenn Burris

Effect: How could you better model synergy in yourself and your ministry? What steps will you take to begin to connect with other leaders? Write down people groups you feel called to reach. Write down leaders you can reach out to and make a commitment to get in touch with them (pick a day and follow through).

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 One: 28,000, segregation

FIVE MILLION CHURCHES FOR A BILLION SOUL HARVEST

Billion Soul Network® | Global Church Learning Center®

417.861.6645 | www.BILLION.tv