



**SESSION**  
**THREE**

**TEACHER EDITION**

**GLOBAL CHURCH TRAINING CURRICULUM**

*Billion Soul Network® | Global Church Learning Center®*

*Global Church Training Curriculum*

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# INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

came what is called the Global Church Learning Center ([www.gclc.tv](http://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

# TEACHING STRATEGIES

- ❖ **Preview:** Always preview the course as a whole with the students. This means reading through the explanations of the course features and giving a simple outline of the course.
- ❖ **Activator:** Use activator questions to activate students' prior knowledge. Asking a question at the *beginning* of teaching elicits the natural wonder that leads to good concentration. Due to the uniqueness of your environment, altering the activator questions might be necessary.
- ❖ **Interaction:** There are many opportunities for students to do listening, writing, and speaking tasks, as well as small and large group discussion. Minimal teacher direction has been given, to allow for the variety of settings in which these courses will occur. Whenever time allows, and whenever appropriate, encourage discussion, either between partners or in the whole group.  
  
**Important:** Always give a time limit for discussion or a limited number of responses you will take from the group.
- ❖ **Questions:** Ask questions as the Holy Spirit leads, during the course. Be clear about the response you are looking for. Do you want students to write it in their personal notes? Do you want a certain number of individuals to respond? Do you want a showing of hands? Is it a rhetorical question that requires no immediate response?
- ❖ **Fill in the Blanks (Knowledge for Insight):** Some of the "Knowledge for Insight" boxes have blanks for students to fill in. *Always* have students guess before you tell them the answer.
- ❖ **Share Your Stories:** Your own narratives and examples will bring value to the experience. Whenever appropriate, and time allows, share from your heart as the Holy Spirit leads.
- ❖ **Effects:** Use this for written responses, oral responses, or both. Sometimes students are explicitly asked to write something down. However, it is ultimately up to your discretion, depending on the environment and time available.

- ❖ **Review:** Always summarize what has been taught. For increased interaction: build an oral summary as a group by asking students what important points were discussed.
- ❖ **Time:** Skipping some of the longer narratives may be necessary to finish the course on time. In most cases, they should be considered optional. It should be understood that their purpose is to enhance a main idea with a personal story or example. Read them ahead of time, to determine which ones you will read during the course.

### Explanations:

- ❖ **Objectives (The Purpose):** The learning objectives are not specified, but left open, to be determined by the teacher in each environment. For example, in a lecture environment, learning objectives would differ drastically from potential learning objectives in a small group environment. “The Purpose” is intended to replace objectives, by communicating what will be *provided for* the student, not *expected of* the student.
- ❖ **Narratives:** (In italics) You may notice these are much more conversational in nature. This is meant to keep the quotes authentic, and as close to the original oral narrative as possible. Narratives not included in the student book (included only in the teaching notes) are optional.

### Expansion Activities:

- ❖ **Problem Solving:** Relay a challenging scenario (related to the topic) from your ministry experience. Ask students to get into groups, or partners, and decide how they would respond. Then, share how you responded. Note: there will generally not be only one right answer, but this will serve to promote useful thought for future experiences.
- ❖ **Feedback Groups:** Ask students to get into groups and discuss: what was most valuable about the course, what they found most practical, and what points they will be teaching to others. Have the group report on one—three in each category. (This is one way to get quick feedback, and to help students remember what they learned.)
- ❖ **Developing homework, practical assignments, or reflection assignments:** Teachers with experience are encouraged to use their own ideas, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, to develop subsequent teaching and learning experiences out of this content.

# CONTENTS

1. Becoming a Kingdom-Minded Leader <i>by Eddy Leo</i> .....	9
2. Unreached People Groups <i>by Alex Abraham</i> .....	25
3. The Strategic Church <i>by Frank Damazio</i> .....	66
4. How to Plant a Church in a Global City <i>by David Sobrepeña</i> .....	86
5. Doing Church in Multiple Locations <i>by Greg Surratt</i> .....	110
6. Prayer and Fasting <i>by David Mohan</i> .....	127
7. Everyone in Ministry <i>by John Ed Mathison</i> .....	154
8. Synergizing Apostolic Movements <i>by Glenn Burris</i> .....	180



# 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 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*

# 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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training - related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known" (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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.

**The 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.

## Part One: What Is the Kingdom of God?

*Video Sessions 1-3*

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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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:
  - The Kingdom of God is very close.
  - The Kingdom of God already exists and is ready to be entered.
  - 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.

“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.” (Other translations use the word, “among” instead of “within.”)

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:

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline “all that Jesus began” and “kingdom of God.”**

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

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:1-8)

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline “you shall receive power” and “you shall be witnesses to Me.”**

- When Jesus was about to ascend to Heaven and to sit at the right hand of the Father, He taught his disciples for forty days on only *one* topic: the Kingdom of God.

**TEACHER: Ask students if they had ever realized before that Jesus taught the disciples about that one topic for the entirety of His days before His ascension. Ask them why they think Jesus chose to focus His teaching on the Kingdom of God. Refer back to the quote at the beginning of this section and Eddy Leo’s answer below.**

*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*

- The disciples were confused, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” They wondered how they could be part of a kingdom when the King was going to leave them. But, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait for the descending power of the Holy Spirit.
  - The disciples would be baptized into the body of Christ and became the body of the King Himself.
  - The Kingdom—with Jesus as the head and them as the body—would expand and be even greater in measure through them.
- What is the main theme of the book of Acts? “...all that Jesus began....” (Acts 1:1)
  - The book of Acts is about the King Jesus walking with His body, *which is the Kingdom*.
  - Up until this time, Jesus had only one single, personal body. Now, the King has a united body of multiple believers, who can do greater works.

*What does this teach us? The Kingdom of God is the rule of the corporate body of Christ on earth.*

- What does this mean for the church today?
  - To see the Kingdom manifested, we must build the body of Christ.
  - When we build the body of Christ, the King can rule through the body.
  - We cannot separate the church from the Kingdom. The church is the only instrument to manifest the Kingdom of God.

*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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion, if time allows.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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).

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. (Colossians 1:27-29)

- Paul was given the revelation of the mystery of the Kingdom—Christ in us personally, and among us as a community.

“Christ *in* you, the hope of glory.” (NKJV)

“Christ within and *among* you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.” (AMP)

- 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.”
  - Preach
  - Warning every man
  - Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

**TEACHER: Before going on to the next Key, ask students how many times they see the word “every man” in Colossians 1:28.**

### 🔑 **Key Two: One-on-One Discipleship Is Essential**

- Paul developed a lifestyle and practice of one-on-one discipleship:
  - Paul repeated the phrase “every man” three times 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.”

Note: Paul did not say “all men,” but rather “every man.”
  - In 1 Thessalonians 2:11, Paul writes, “as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children.”
  - In Acts 20:31, Paul said, “Therefore be always alert and on your guard, being mindful that for three years I never stopped night or day seriously to admonish and advise and exhort you one by one with tears.” (AMP)

**TEACHER: Students fill “90” in the blank as you read below.**

**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)*

**TEACHER: Mention that this does not mean that large groups are not useful. They can be settings of impartation and commissioning. This survey only refers to the kind of life change that happens through discipleship.**

- Paul was able to build powerful churches in short time periods through one-on-one discipleship:
  - Paul spent three years at Ephesus and eighteen months at Corinth. Typically, he stayed only three to six months. The churches were left without elders, money, or a Bible. But they grew and multiplied because Paul made disciples at each one.

*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

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion, if time allows.**

**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*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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.

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Colossians 1:28)

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6,7)

- There are two extremes to avoid:

Because we are Jesus' disciple, we don't need any man to disciple us.

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**

- The **W**ord of Jesus: Obey His teaching.
- The **W**orks of Jesus: Be an apprentice by learning and doing what the Teacher does.

What is Jesus doing? He is building His Church (See Matthew 16:18) He is bringing in the stones (evangelism), forming the stones (teaching), placing the stones together (pastoral ministry), establishing a blueprint (apostolic ministry), and implementing quality control (prophetic ministry).

- The **W**orld Mission of Jesus: fulfilling the Great Commission, multiplying disciples.

**TEACHER: Students fill “eight” in the blank as you read below.**

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

**TEACHER: Encourage students to consider setting a goal of discipling twelve people in their lifetime like Jesus did.**

### **Key Three: The Role of the Disciple**

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”  
(Colossians 2:6, NKJV)

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.” (Colossians 2:6, NLT)

- 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

Note: “Mathétés,” the Greek word for “disciple,” can mean either: 1) a follower, or 2) a learner or an apprentice.

**TEACHER: Students fill “rabbi” in the blank as you read below.**

**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**

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (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:
  - **Make known** – Make Jesus Christ clearly known to the disciple.

Present Jesus not just as a good teacher or only as a Savior. Present Him as the Son of God, incarnate now in our lives, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (See Galatians 2:20)

**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.

Remember: Many other religions do not have a grasp of Jesus as the Son of God. The Buddhists believe Jesus was a good man. The Hindus believe Jesus is a good teacher. The Muslims believe Jesus is a good prophet.

- **Admonishing** – Warning every man. Advise and remind that Jesus is the priority and center of life.

- **Know How** – Teach or instruct how to practice faith, how to walk with Jesus.
- **Escort** – Present or lead people to become Christlike. Show them by example.

*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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion, if time allows.**

**Effect:**

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

*Notes:*

## *Supplementary Sessions*

**TEACHER: Tell students that the next section is developed from separate but related teachings by the original instructor.**

## **Part Four: Guidance for a Kingdom-Minded Leader**

*Video Sessions 10-15*

**TEACHER: This next section is based on an interview in which Eddy Leo shares from his experience of becoming a Kingdom-minded leader. Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.
  - Network to build God’s Kingdom, not a denomination.
  - As you work with other pastors, they will see you as safe and become more open to partnering with you.
- Follow Paul’s example of promoting unity.

“If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:17, NIV)
- Follow Barnabas’ example of encouraging and helping.
  - Barnabas means “son of the encourager,” which really means “son of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit always points people to Jesus and brings Jesus to them. So, if we have this quality, like Barnabas, we will become a help to other pastors and churches.

## 🔑 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

Be transformed in your heart so you can have a heart like the Father’s heart.
  - Mathew 6 – Godliness: for the right reasons.

Don’t practice righteousness to be seen. (Matthew 6:8) When you do that, you will not get any reward from God. You need to confess and expose all of your pride, bring it to the light, and put it on the cross.

Seek first the Kingdom of God. Let God rule in your life, with His righteousness, and other things will be added. (6:33)



🔑 **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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion, if time allows.**

**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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known" (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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.

**The 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.

## 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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

**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?”

**The 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.

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)

- The apostle Paul had a similar passion.

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” (Acts 20:24, NLT)

- 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:

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.” (Revelation 7:9)

**TEACHER: Students fill “1900” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.

*Consider Joshua:*

- When God called Moses, He assigned to him the task of possessing the Promise Land for the people of Israel, yet he could only see the land from a distance.
- Joshua received the baton from Moses with wonderful promises. By the time we come to Joshua 12, we read that only thirty-one kings and kingdoms have been conquered.
- In Joshua 13 the aging Joshua was reminded by God of his task and given a list of the land that *remained*.

“...And the Lord said to him: ‘You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed...’” (Verse 1)

*Many times we are satisfied by our past achievements and feel proud of what [our] ministry or [our] church, or [our] 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

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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**

**TEACHER: Ask activator question, and, if appropriate, ask for 3-5 answers to be shared**

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

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

**Key One:** Great Commission Verses

**TEACHER: If time allows, have students look up each verse and ask them to identify key words in each passage. Encourage them to commit to memorizing these 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 words: go, make disciples, all, every, preach, nations, world, Jerusalem, the ends of the earth, tribe, language, city, and village.

### 🔑 **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

The Result: When the task of the Great Commission is completed, believers from every people group in every language group, in every city and in every village, will be effectively evangelized and disciples made.

### 🔑 **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**

*How do we take the Gospel to the whole world?*

- 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.
  - Harvest Field Research – provides all the information on the unfinished task, such as maps, profiles, population data, locations, sociocultural backgrounds, etc.
  - Harvest Force Research – provides information on people who are engaged in the task of the Great Commission, the number of churches, etc.
- **E**quip – training the harvest force. Principle to follow:

*Every believer, a disciple; every disciple, a disciple maker. Every disciple maker, a potential church planter. Every church planter is a trainer, and every church is a training center. —Alex Abraham*

**TEACHER: Ask students to consider: How can we accomplish this task unless we send workers? How can we send them unless we train them? Use this example: During the harvest time, *all the members of the family* need to be in the field involved in the harvest.**

- **M**obilize – The fourth element is mobilizing. We must focus our resources on the unfinished task.

“...knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” (Romans 13:11)

**TEACHER: Students fill “12,000,000” in the blank as you read below.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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**

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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 of 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.
  - 1974: Dr. Ralph Winter, U.S. Center for World Mission, introduced the concept of *people groups* in missions at the first Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, organized by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.
  - Over the next fifteen years: Significant research was undertaken to determine how many people groups are out there in the world and who had been reached. Initial research found that there are approximately 22,000 people groups, of which 12,000 have more than 10,000 population. Of the 12,000 people groups, approximately 1,749 people groups have less than 2 percent evangelical Christians. They were declared as “unreached” people groups.
  - 1989: Dr. Luis Bush, the International Director of the AD 2000 and Beyond Movement, presented a historic paper in the Second Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization held in Manila. He introduced the concept of the 10/40 Window.

The 10/40 Window: A geographical window between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator where 95 percent of the unreached people groups of the world are located. Consists of four major blocks: the Muslim block, the Hindu block, the Buddhist block, and the Communist Block, who live in fifty-six countries.

- 1990s: Several of the unreached people groups were adopted and reached by the Gospel. Praying for the 10/40 Window became a powerful movement.
- 1993: Approximately 20,000,000 Christian leaders from all across the world joined to pray for the 10/40 Window. In 1995 and 1997, a much larger number of Christians joined the 10/40 Prayer Initiative, which is still being continued. (See Psalm 2:8)

(The AD 2000 movement adopted the slogan, “A church for every people, and the Gospel for every person by the year 2000.”)

- 2000: The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association organized a historic global conference, marking the beginning of the “Finishing the Task Movement.” A commitment was made by the global Christian community to reach all the remaining people groups of the world with a well-defined strategy.
- Since then there has also been much more clarity in the definitions of various categories of people groups.

- **Key Three: Types of People Groups**

- Reached People Group (RPG): At least 2 percent of the population is evangelical Christians.

- Able to reach the remaining people from that community from the resources available internally.
- Statistic: currently 6,000 groups

- Unreached People Group (UPG): less than 2 percent evangelical Christians.

- Do not have the resources within the existing Christian body to reach the rest of their own people.
- No indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.
- Statistic: currently 6,000 Unreached People Groups

- Unreached and Unengaged People Group (UUPG): One which has no active church planting underway.
  - What does it mean to be engaged? According to the IMB Global resource group, a people group is engaged “when a church planting strategy consistent with evangelical faith and practice is under implementation.”

**TEACHER: Point out that a people group is *not engaged* when it has been adopted, or is the object of focused prayer, or is part of an advocacy strategy.**

- Elements of Engagement:
  - Apostolic effort in residence to preach the Gospel, make disciples, and plant churches.
  - Commitment to work in the local language and culture.
  - Commitment to long-term discipleship and ministry.
  - Sowing in a manner consistent with the goal of seeing a church planting movement emerge.
- Definition: Less than 2 percent evangelical Christians and no known individuals or entities specifically targeting them with an intentional, reproducible, church planting strategy.
- Statistics: Currently there are 3,000 Unreached and Unengaged People Groups. 639 have a population of over 100,000.

**TEACHER: Take a moment and summarize with students. Check for understanding of the groups and their numbers.**

Example (using the P.L.U.G. lens):

**The Nation of India:**

There are over 1,200,000,000 people, with 4,635 people groups, 462 languages, 5,000 towns, and 600,000 villages.

Of the 639 major unreached and unengaged people groups with over 100,000, 310 are in India.

Of the thirty-five states of India, thirteen of them are in the northern part of India, with less than 1 percent Christians. Of the 602 districts in India,

171 of them have less than 0.1 percent Christian, as of the 2001 census. A majority of those districts are in the northern part of India.

Still, 1,300 towns in India have less than 0.1 percent Christians. There are 110 languages with no access to even a single word of the Scripture, and there are 200,000 villages still waiting to hear the name of Jesus for the first time.

*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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**Review:**

The three types of people groups are: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

**Effect:**

Write down anything new you learned about:

- People Groups
- The Shift in Focus
- 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*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

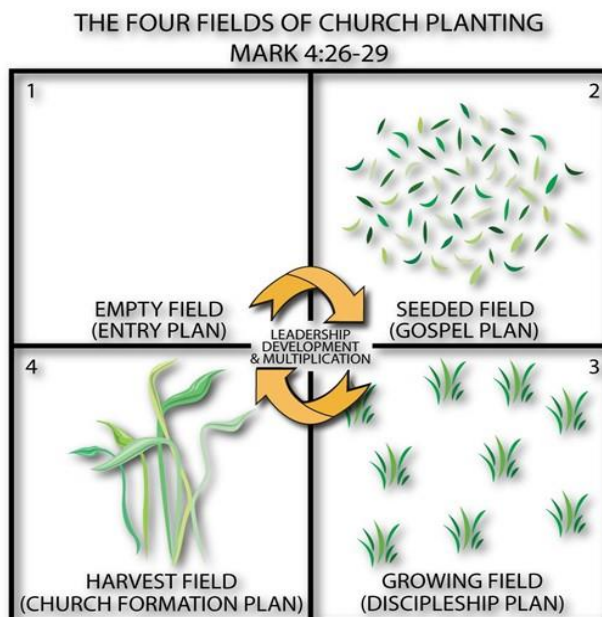
**Activators:** In your context, are most church plants successful? What do you think is involved in a successful church planting strategy?

**The 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

**TEACHER:** Read the passage below and if time allows, discuss the ways you can compare church planting and farming (in small groups, if possible).

This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seeds sprout and grow, though he does not know how. All by itself, the soil produces grain. First the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it for the harvest has come. (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.



**TEACHER:** Challenge students to recall the “7 Es for Church Planting” from memory. Tell students that the next parts of the course will allow for expansion and go into more depth with each of the 7 Es.

**TEACHER:** Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.

**Effect:**

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

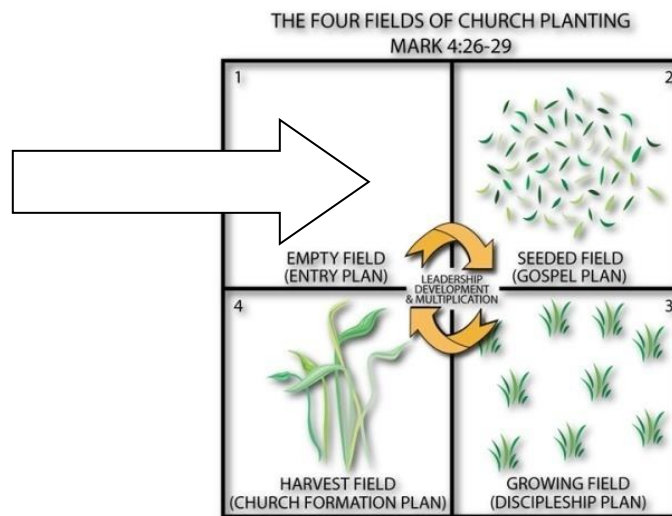
*Notes:*

## 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?

**The 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



**TEACHER:** Ask the students, “In the context of the local church, how can you choose an empty field? How do you get the church to get excited to choose some empty fields in your own community?”

- 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.

- Write down five names from each of the following categories:

The 'F.R.A.N.' Principle

- Friends
- Relatives
- Associates
- Neighbors

**TEACHER: Ask students how we can prepare people's hearts for the Gospel.**

- Preparing hearts for the Gospel: Select five people from the list and pray for them for five minutes a day, for five days a week, for five weeks. What can we pray for them?

The 'OPEN PRAYER'

- Open the hearts
- Open the homes
- Open the doors
- Open Heaven and bless them
- Open eyes and ears

**TEACHER: Students fill "open" in the blank as you read below.**

**Knowledge for Insight:** According to Luke 10, "men (or women) of peace" are those that are \_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel in their lives.

- Identify which people are "men or women of peace." Look for an opportunity to meet them. Share that you have been praying for them. Pray for them. Consider using the following method:

'B.L.E.S.S.'

- Body
- Labor
- Emotions
- Social Needs
- Spiritual Needs

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

**TEACHER: Ask students, “Based on this, what takes priority in choosing an empty field?” Answer: We need to be planting churches where there are none.**

- *The Romans 15:20 principle* for choosing an empty field:

“My ambition has been to preach the Gospel where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.” (NLT)

- Know the Soil

Illustration: When a farmer chooses an empty field, he will first study the soil, the climate, and the variable resources such as water, etc.

- What is the population?
- What is their religious background? What are their faiths and beliefs?
- What is their economic status?
- What is their educational background?
- Who are the prominent leaders in the community?
- What is their worldview?
- What are their spiritual strongholds?
- Are there any known believers among the community?

- Set Goals

- Think about what needs to be done to complete the task of the Great Commission in your chosen field.
- Write down a clear, time-bound, specific goal for the ministry for your chosen field.

**TEACHER: Students fill “1,000” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.

Example: A district with one hundred villages with a population of 100,000 people. What would be a reasonable goal for reaching the finish line?

Answer: A target planting of at least one hundred churches and training of one hundred leaders in the community.

*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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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:*

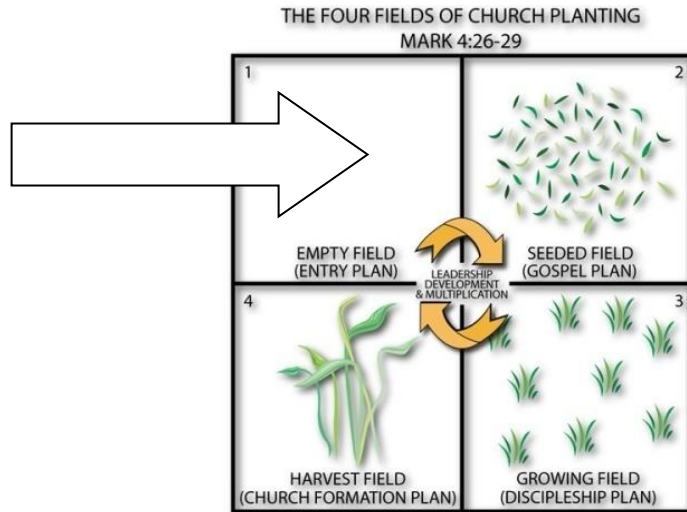
## **Part Five: Entry Strategy**

*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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.

Common entry strategies: social work, mercy ministries (humanitarian work, humanitarian need, or feeding programs, or providing wealth, medical work, and health-awareness programs), disaster relief, education and training (computer, catering, etc.)

- 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

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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**

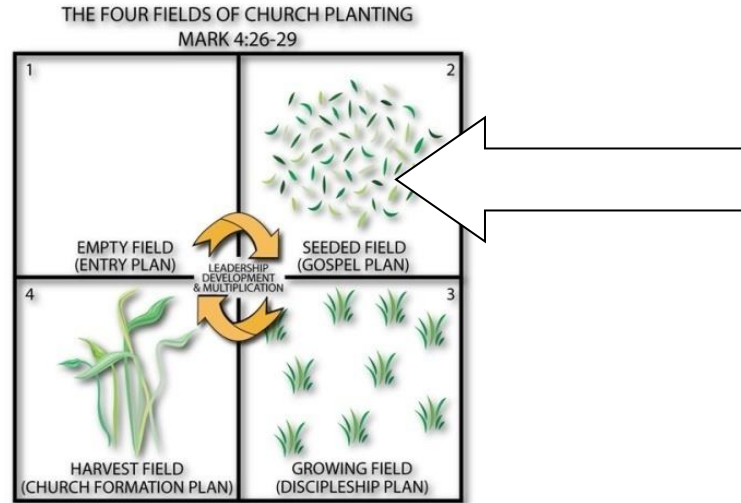
*We have chosen an empty field; we have prepared the ground. The next step is sowing the seeds...deciding on the most appropriate evangelism strategy for your chosen field. Now a wise farmer will choose the best seed for sowing. What kind of seeds are we sowing? —Alex Abraham*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The Purpose:** To highlight important considerations in utilizing evangelism strategies.





### 🔑 Key One: Sharing the True Gospel

**TEACHER: Ask students, “How do we communicate the Gospel? How do we mobilize more sowers of the Gospel?”**

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

Simple Gospel message:

*The Book of Romans tells us about the problem of sin and the way to approach God, often called “the Romans Road.”*

*God created man in His own image, but man committed sin and was separated from God. God in His mercy and love, sent Jesus into this world two thousand years ago. He lived a sinless life and demonstrated God’s power and love in His ministry and in His life.*

*He died on the cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day, and He was taken up to Heaven. He has given us a promise that He will come back and take us to the place that He is preparing for us. In His name there is forgiveness of sin and salvation.*

Note: Today, there are many Gospels being preached which are not clear, pure, or complete.

**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.

**TEACHER:** Ask students to take a moment to write down strategies right now or orally give examples such as: tract distribution, Jesus films, mass evangelism crusades, healing ministries, mass radio and TV programs, Internet evangelism, evangelism through Bible stories.

- 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.
  - Is it simple and reproducible?
  - Is it in the heart language of the audience?
  - Is it culturally appropriate and relevant?
  - Can everyone in your team or church do it?
  - Is the message, or the “Kerygma” clear?
  - How much will it cost?

### 🔑 **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.

**TEACHER:** Remind students that people must remember to prepare to be a sower before sowing. The F.R.A.N. strategy mentioned early is a great way to prepare.

- There are three essential components of one-to-one evangelism: *Listen to their story. Share your story. Share Jesus’ story.*
  - *Listening* to their story will help you to understand their felt need, their beliefs, their worldviews, and the challenges that they are facing. This will open a door for you to share your story and the Gospel, the story of Jesus.

- Encourage every believer to write down their own personal story, share it with one another, and practice it before they go out. Each of us as born-again believers has a story to tell.

- Our stories should have three essential elements in them:

What was my life before I believed in Jesus Christ?

How did I hear the Gospel and become a believer?

And what happened after I came to believe in Jesus Christ?

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

*—Alex Abraham*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.
  - Remember: A new believer is like a newborn baby in Christ. He has to be fed often with simple, digestible milk, until he is able to tolerate more solid foods.
  - Choose an appropriate new believer manual to train the new believers, as early as possible, to make them mature believers. If needed: design your own discipleship manual.

**TEACHER: Ask students what kind of things they would put in a new believer manual.**

Example: In the North Indian pioneer field, leaders use the “Seven Commandments of Jesus,” based on the teachings of Jesus, as their Milk Strategy.

- Teach new believers to learn the Word of God themselves without a great dependence on outside help. In other words, teach them to fish rather than giving them fish.

**TEACHER: Students fill “literate” and “nonliterate” as you read below. (Nonliterate people live in societies where there are no readers. They differ from illiterate people, who are living in mostly literate societies but do not know how to read.)**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Example: When reading a Scripture passage or listening to a Bible story, have new believers ask the following questions: What do I like? What do I not like? What does it teach about God? What does it teach about man? Is there a commandment for me to obey? Is there a sin to avoid? What else do I learn from this Bible story or passage?

- Develop a *Meat Strategy*: a longer-term discipleship model uses the same principles as the Milk Strategy.
  - Provide a continuous, deeper discipleship program, taking believers into higher levels of Christian maturity and eventually to leadership levels.
  - Choose from what is available or design a discipleship manual.

**TEACHER: Ask students what kind of things they would put in longer-term discipleship manual.**

*The goal is not just bringing believers into the Kingdom of God but to help them to grow as disciples. —Alex Abraham*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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.*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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?

**TEACHER: If time, encourage small or large group discussion on each question. Tell students that there are five questions that we need to consider before we go any further in developing a church-planting strategy.**

**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.”
  - How can we make disciples? By going, preaching, baptizing, and teaching obedience. How can we do this unless in the context of a church?
  - The church is a “factory” that produces disciples. Jesus said, “I will build My church.”

**TEACHER: Students fill “regularly” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.
  - C. Peter Wagner says, “Planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under Heaven.”
  - Tim Keller of Redeemer Church says,  

New congregations empower new people and new peoples much more quickly and readily than can older churches. Thus they always have and always will reach them with greater facility than long-established bodies. This means that church planting is not only for frontier regions or pagan countries. Christian countries will have to maintain vigorous, extensive church planting simply to stay Christian!
- 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:

Plant churches where there are no churches.

Plant churches in a specific community where there are no effective churches.

Plant churches where the existing churches do not fulfill the mission of the church.

- Find out if there is any place in your chosen country, district, state, where there are no churches. (These places take priority.)

“My ambition has always been to preach the good news where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.” (Romans 15:20, NLT)

- Find out if there is a particular community, people group, or language group that is not being effectively reached.

**TEACHER: Ask students for examples of the above categories. If needed, offer these examples: businessmen, IT professionals, medical professionals, lawyers, taxi drivers, sex workers, or particular religious groups.**

- Find out what kind of churches already exist in your target area. Are they witnessing? Disciple making? Reproducing? If not, there is still a role for new churches in that location.

*As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both. I have but one candle of life to burn. I would rather burn it in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light. —J. L. Ewen*

## 🔑 Key Three: Who Can Plant Churches?

**TEACHER: Ask students what they think qualifies a person to be a church planter. Also ask, “Who planted the Antioch church? Was it Paul? Was it Peter or Barnabas?**

**Answer: (Look at Acts 11:19-21, below). None of them. It was planted by scattered believers from Jerusalem who started communities of believers wherever they went.**

- Every obedient disciple of Jesus has the potential of becoming a self-multiplying church planter.

**TEACHER: Ask students if they would agree that many believers today waste their talents, gifts, and energies with very little output for the Kingdom of God because they do not get encouragement.**

- In the New Testament church, every member was a lively Christian with the “DNA” for self-multiplication.

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.  
(Acts 11:19-21)

**TEACHER: Use narrative below (not in student book).**

***(The early churches were like “starfish.” If a starfish is cut into five pieces, it will become five starfish. Some churches today are like an “octopus.” If a leg is cut off, it will become an octopus without a leg for the rest of its life, and the cut-off leg remains a dead and decaying leg.)***

- Any true believer can plant a house church and share Christ with friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.
- 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
  - They must have the “DNA” of multiplication.
  - Consider: How long will it take to reproduce and plant a “daughter church” from the church plant?

Illustration: Consider the elephant and the rabbit.



The elephant attains sexual maturity at the age of eighteen years and is fertile only once a year. It takes twenty-two months of gestation before a baby elephant is born. If a male and female elephant couple is lucky, they will produce one baby elephant by the age of twenty.

Rabbits reproduce at the young age of four months, with an average of seven babies per pregnancy. With just one month of gestation, rabbits are always fertile. Can you imagine how many rabbits there will be at the end of three years? 476,000,000 rabbits.

What kind of church would you like to plant? An elephant church? Or a rabbit church?

- The number of people in the church plant can be small if the members are reproducing disciples.

*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.
  - What happens inside the church is more important than the location.
  - In the New Testament, churches assembled in private homes, temples, various synagogues, and even in schools. No one kind of meeting place was superior to another.
- Plant participative churches.

“What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word, or a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.” (1 Corinthians 14:26)

Example: The Chinese House Church model “POUCH” (acronym by David Garrison)

**P**articipative Bible study and worship

**O**bedience to God’s Word

**U**npaid and multiple leaders

**C**ell groups of believers

**H**omes (meeting in homes)

- Plant house churches.
  - They are the New Testament model in the pioneer context.
  - They are simple, reproducible, and are much more relational than a large church.
  - They are more appropriate in hostile situations.

*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.
  - The strategy should lead to a church that is simple, effective, strong, and disciple making.
  - The strategy will be unique to your particular area and the people you will be reaching. *(This course is designed to help you design a strategy.)*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Challenge students to recall from memory one point from each question. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

#### **Effect:**

Write down one point that was most significant to you from each of the five questions:

- Why should we plant churches?
- Where should we plant churches?
- Who can plant churches?
- What kind of churches should we plant?
- 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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

**TEACHER: Tell students that a few different perspectives on leadership will be explored. They are meant to support the design of an effective church-planting strategy.**

### 🔑 **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:

They preached the Gospel in that city, and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the disciples, and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God,” they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in every church, and with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord in whom they had put their trust. (NIV)

Summary: The apostle Paul evangelized strategic cities, made disciples, encouraged and strengthened the disciples, established churches, and appointed elders in every church. In other words, he trained and mentored his leaders wherever he established churches. We call this the “*church-based theological education model.*”

**TEACHER: Point out that the apostle Paul did not establish Bible colleges or seminaries to train his second- and third-generation leaders.**

**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.

**TEACHER: Explain the process in the diagram:**

**Non-believer to a believer**

**Believer to a disciple**

**Disciple to a disciple maker**

**Disciple-maker to a type-one leader**

**Type-one leader to type-two leader**

**Type-two leader to type-three leader**

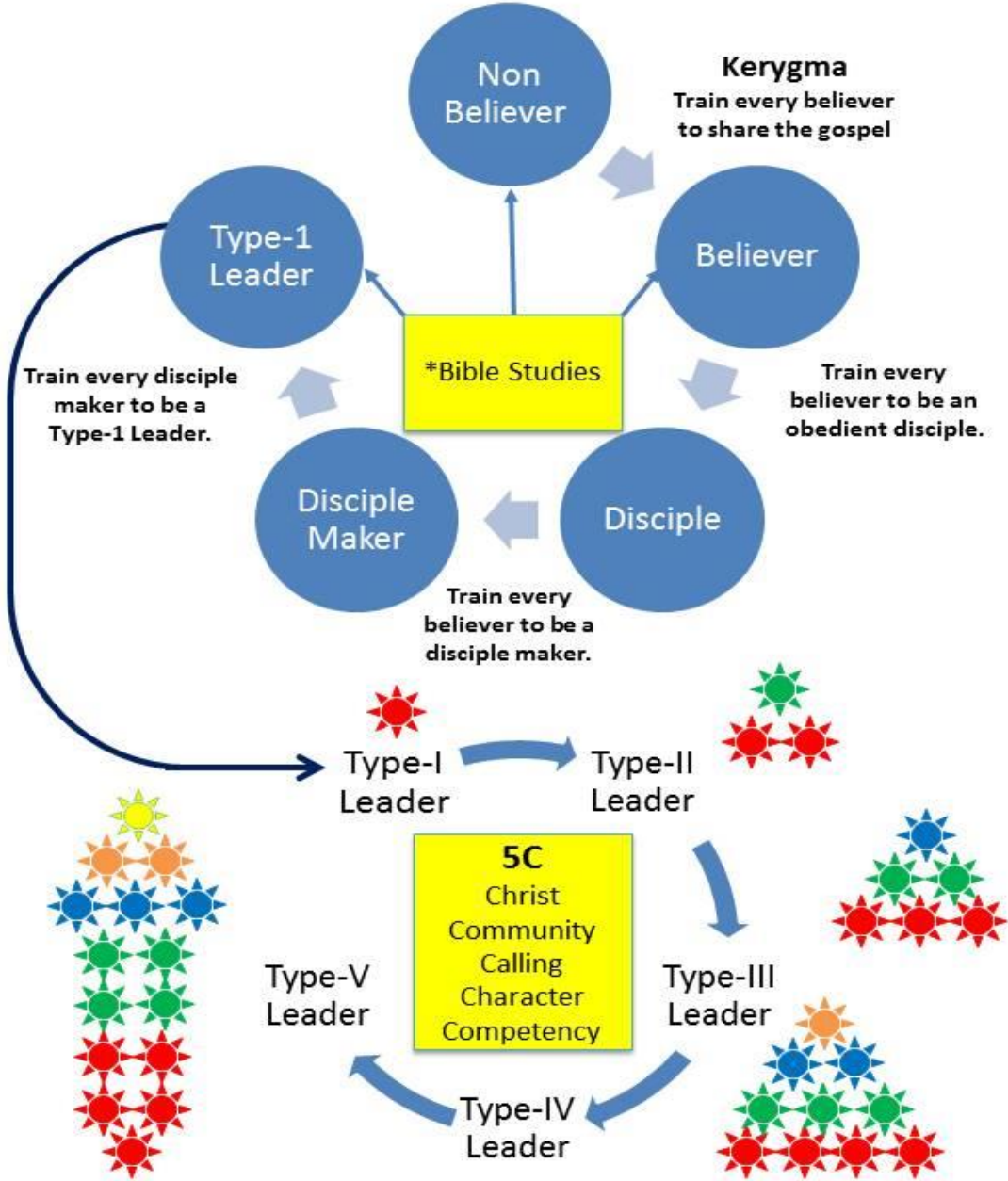
**Type-three leader to type-four leader**

**Type-four leader to type-five leader**

**Ask students which role on the diagram best describes them.**

*(Dr. Bennett's study of leadership development in India classified the types of leadership, based on their extent of influence. See following diagram.)*

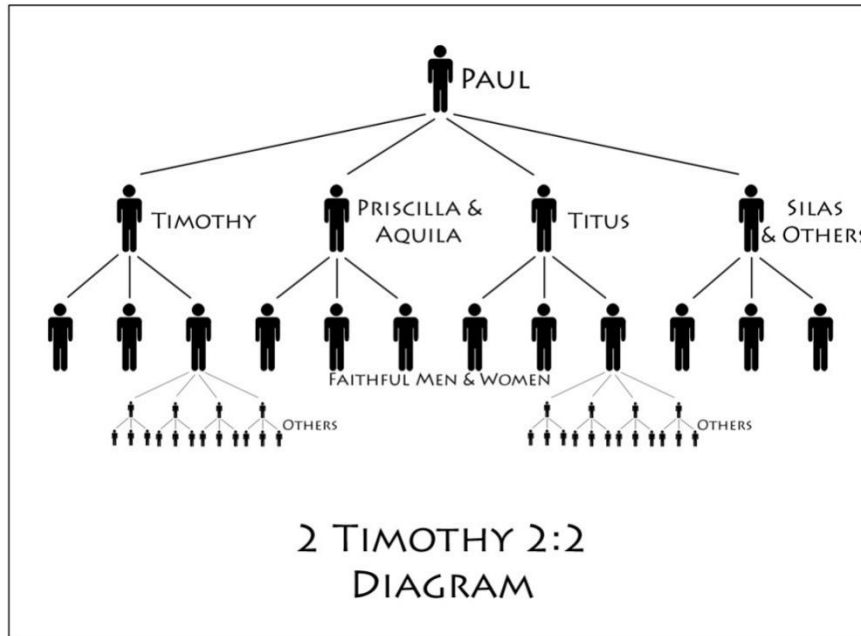
# BELIEVER TO LEADER



### 🔑 Key Three: The Mentorship Model “2-2-2”

- Based on 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul passes the responsibility to his disciples.

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



- 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.

**TEACHER: Ask students which role on the diagram best describes them.**

### 🔑 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.

**TEACHER: Ask students which role best describes them.**

### 🔑 **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:

**Christ-centered, community-impacting leaders, with calling, character, and competence.**

- Decide what a leader needs to know.
  - If we are clear on the goals of leadership development, we need to design a curriculum or a theological encyclopedia for each type or level of leadership.
  - Consider: How do they develop their character? What competencies do they need?

*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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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:

Did we make the right choice regarding our empty field?

Was our entry strategy simple, reproducible, and effective?

What were the strengths and weaknesses of our evangelism strategy?

How successful was our discipleship strategy?

Were the churches that we planted reproducible?

How do we evaluate the quality and the competence of the leaders whom we have trained?



- 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. Solid, indigenous, multiplying church/churches are planted. An adequate number of leaders are trained to carry on the ministry.

- 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.
  - He went to strategic cities, preached the Gospel, made disciples, planted churches, and appointed leaders.
  - He did not stay in any place for a long period, and maintained relationships with the churches that he planted.
  - He continued to revisit them and encouraged them through letters and by sending leaders.

*I challenge you, my friends, to focus on the unfinished task. Choose empty fields for your ministry, both locally and globally. Design your own church-planting strategy based on these principles of 7 Es.*

*Finally, do not forget to evaluate the effectiveness of your ministry. I will be extremely delighted to get feedback from you all and to learn from your experiences as we continue our efforts in completing God's Great Commission in the nation of India and beyond. —Alex Abraham*

**TEACHER: Review the keys with students. Allow time for students to consider the effect questions and quickly take note of their thoughts.**

**Then challenge students to recall the 7 Es from memory and write in the blanks below. (They can use their books to fill in any they don't remember.) Finally, ask students to go back to the section on the "Four-Field Concept," where they wrote down questions they had about the 7 Es. If they have any remaining questions, encourage them to rewrite them in the "In Conclusion" following section and seek out the answers.**

**Effect:**

Which points in the section 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. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known" (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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 thinking before instruction. Often accompanied by a quote from the original instructor or a Bible verse.

**The 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.

## 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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

### 🔑 **Key One: A Leader Is Committed to Christ**

**TEACHER: Tell students that though this seems like an obvious point, as Frank Damazio points out in his video teaching, there are many leaders in churches who are not committed to Christ or don't even know Christ at all.**

- 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.

"As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, 'Follow Me.' so he arose and followed Him." (Mark 2:14)

"They immediately left their nets and followed Him." (Matthew 4:20)

"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." (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.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13,14)

“Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ And He said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.’” (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.
    - Those values would be lived out in behavior, in choices, and the commitment to the values and goals that Jesus has for their lives.
    - People will clearly see disciples as committed believers and begin to follow them.

**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.
- “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” (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.

- A good leader is one who is vulnerable, honest, transparent, and open to the Holy Spirit. (That is where true sincerity is born.)
    - A bad leader is a deceiving person; a person who hides their sin; a person who is a hypocrite.
  - 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:
  - Live a changed life
  - Have a prayer life
  - Read the Word of God
  - Speak with the Holy Spirit
  - Be sincere
  - Be open and honest
  - Be able to deny self and pick up your cross

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.
  - When Jesus said, “I will build my church” in Matthew 16:18, He was referring to the universal church, not a particular location.
  - Every kindred person, every tribe, every language, every culture, every nation, every village, every town, and everyone comes together under the name of Jesus.
- 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.
  - The majority of Scripture in the New Testament refers to the local church.

**TEACHER: Ask students how we can know these verses are about the local church and not the universal church.**

Examples:

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

“...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)

- Anyone who wants to be a leader must be committed to their local church. And it is by the leader’s example that others become committed to the local church.

## 🔑 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.

“but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:15,16)

- Every joint has to be joined together. Every part has to supply something.
  - A leader can impart into the congregation those things that are strong in them.
- 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.

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved. (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.

...and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:9,10)

- The wisdom of God, the purpose of God that’s been hidden through the ages, is now made known by the church.

- The purposes of an individual cannot be fulfilled outside of the purpose of the church.
- The church comes against the principalities and powers in heavenly places.

*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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.
  - The Holy Spirit is the One who starts the church.

- A church is empowered by the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2-4.
- A growing and spread-out church.
  - The power of the Holy Spirit is for the spreading of the Gospel. The power of the Holy Spirit is not to run programs to keep ourselves happy.
  - Equip people to spread the Gospel.
- A praying and interceding church.
  - Prayer should be a central part of every local church. (Acts 1:24, Acts 3:1, Acts 4:23, Acts 4:31, Acts 6:4-7)
- A preaching and teaching church.
  - Preach salvation
 

“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” (Acts 2:40)
- A church that builds a sense of belonging.
  - When people get saved, they are baptized and become part of the church.
 

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.” (Acts 2:41)

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.” (Acts 5:14)
- A church celebrating life and fulfilling the purpose of God.
  - The church celebrates through prayer and worship with the spirit of joy. Because of that, they can fulfill the purpose of God, continuing daily in one accord and breaking bread from house to house.
- A church that is reaching people and impacting the region.
  - Always keep this purpose in front of all the leaders and in front of all the people.

- Just as in the book of Acts, the people should be going from place to place and preaching the Gospel.
- Consider: How are you affecting the region? What does the region look like? What are some of the challenges in the region? What are some of the things you should be praying about?

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

- A leader has a conviction for the local church.
  - An unshakable belief in the purpose of the church and the importance of their role in that church.
- A leader values the local church.
  - Value is seen in the way a leader esteems the church.
  - A leader speaks well of the church, defends the church, and is very involved in the church.
- A leader has a passion.
  - A passion for the local church means having a devotion and a fervency in spirit.
  - A leader has zeal for the house of God and is willing to overcome obstacles to be involved in the church.

“Lord, I have loved the habitation of Your house,  
And the place where Your glory dwells.” (Psalm 26:8)

Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up,  
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. (Psalm 69:9)

“Not lacking in diligence, but being fervent in spirit, and serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:11)

- A leader has vision for the local church.
 

“Where there’s no revelation the people cast off restraint.” (Proverbs 29:18)

- A leader intentionally builds the church.
  - A leader prays for the church for: salvations, blessing, protection, a move of the Holy Spirit, and health.
    - Pray on the basis of Jeremiah 33:3, “Call upon me and I will answer you, and I will show you great and mighty things.”

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

- Pray to see further, to have insight into future ministry.
- Pray Matthew 9:38, “Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers.”
- Pray specific prayers for the leadership team who are building the house.
- Pray with faith; make faith declarations.
- Intentionally speak positive words for the church and about the church.
- Reject negativity, critical attitudes, and disloyal words that seek to tear down the church in any way.

I plead with you, brethren, and by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, and that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

- A leader keeps their spirit clean and free so as to speak God’s word and build an atmosphere of faith and vision fulfillment.

“We’re snared by the words of our mouth and we’re taken by the words of our mouth.” (Proverbs 6:2)

“I urge you, I beg you, brother, note those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine you learned.” (Romans 6:17)

“We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.” (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*

**Wisdom:** If you're going to serve the church, you have to love the church. If you're going to love the church, you have to protect the church.

- A leader attends church strategically.
  - A leader takes responsibility for all the people in and around the church gatherings by praying, listening to people, and reaching out. They come to church and pray, "Lord, who can I reach out and minister to today?"

**TEACHER: Point out that if a person attends church and never prays with anybody, helps anybody, or counsels anybody, they are not prepared to lead.**

- A leader intentionally builds a spirit of community.
  - Connect people to people at every opportunity.

"A new Commandment I give to you that you love one another. As I have loved you, you also love one another. Beloved, do not avenge yourself but rather give place to love." (John 13:34)
- A leader intentionally partners with church builders.
  - Work together with a common commitment to build the church and extend the Kingdom of God.
- A leader intentionally chooses a lifestyle to serve the church.
  - Leaders who are convinced the church is worth giving their life to will make wise decisions to create a lifestyle that makes room for becoming equipped.
  - A godly leader:
    - Finds strength by realizing weakness and chooses a life where weakness can be strengthened.
    - Finds authority by being under authority. (You can't have authority unless you come under authority.)

- Finds direction by laying down his or her own plans.

**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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline "all generations." Point out that vision passes from one generation to the next.**

“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.” (Psalm 33:11)

**TEACHER: Students fill “purpose” in both blanks as you read below.**

**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.

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:26-28)

- Creation was brought into reality only by God’s Word.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)

- Vision turns nothingness and emptiness into fulfillment.
- In the same way God created fullness from emptiness, a leader can see places where barrenness can break forth and become fruitful.

**TEACHER: Students fill “prophetic” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.

**Wisdom:** One of the most important things you will ever do as a leader is to see and lead with vision.

- 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.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets.” (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.
  - The future doesn't seek to replicate the past. The future seeks to create something new.
- Vision is having a divine encounter with God.

“On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’” (2 Chronicles 1:7)

**TEACHER:** Point out that this phrase is used four times in the Bible with different people. Ask students to consider that God may actually do the same with them.

- Vision is having a bridge from the present to the future.
- Vision is spiritual perspective.

- The leader should have a personal vision and a church vision that lays out a course to follow that makes the vision a reality.

### 🔑 **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).
 

“I will stand my watch, set myself on the rampart, and I will watch to see what He will say to me and what I will answer when I hear it.” (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.

**TEACHER: Check for understanding on the point above. It refers to delegating how much of the vision you release at a time with different people who will be helping make it a reality.**

### 🔑 **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:
  - Capacity is competency, fitness, and suitability for holding and accommodating the maximum amount that can be contained.
  - Capacity is the decision to be enlarged in order to hold on to all that God desires to pour in, limited only by God's largeness in giving and not by our smallness to contain.
  - Capacity is connected to individuals and is affected by their levels of character, faith, and spiritual hunger.

- The level of willingness to change

**TEACHER: Ask students to guess at what "inner world" means. Then explain that Frank Damazio says the inner world is the heart, and the heart is the womb of a vision.**

- The level of their inner world (their heart for carrying a vision)
  - The level of their mental discipline
  - The level of their emotional health
  - The level of their resilience
  - The level of their knowledge
  - The level of their passion
- Help other leaders to own their vision by taking time to help them understand it and praying with them.
    - Owning the vision means:
      - Understanding the vision and values of our church.
      - Personally assimilating the vision into the spirit, soul, and mind.

- Committing one's heart to have faith for the vision and to impart the vision to others.
- Align every leader with the vision
  - Unaligned leaders are leaders who form subcultures or create subdivisions within the vision that has already been given. The subcultures and subdivisions can work against the greater vision.

Example: Youth ministry can be a vision of its own and not flow with the greater vision if it is unaligned.

*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:*

*Life-Changing Leadership*  
*Strategic Church*  
*Strategic Vision*

*\*All authored by Frank Damazio*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known" (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

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

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

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## Part One: Testimony

### Video Sessions 1 and 2

**TEACHER:** Tell students that the first two parts are an edited version of a testimony given on the original teaching video. If time is short, summarize the story for the students or ask them to read it on their own time.

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

**The 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)*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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).
  - Have a strong beginning.
    - Prepare well.
    - Invite key leaders.
    - Passionately introduce the vision.
    - Have other key leaders talk about vision.

- Have a single theme.

Example: The theme for church planting in the Philippines was called “5000 by 2010,” which means planting 5,000 churches by the end of the year 2010. We can do it

- Use simple language.
- Choose powerful pictures.



Example: The Sons of God leaders of the Philippines used images of a rice field in their national church-planting campaign. They hired a professional photographer to photograph farmers harvesting in the fields. The photographer was paid several thousand pesos per hour. The photographs were then used on large billboards and posters in every church in every city, town, and barrio with the message, “Vision 5,000 by 2010.”

- 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.

*Suggested goals:*

- Attendance over 1000. Goal: plant five churches per year.
  - Attendance 500-999. Goal: plant four churches per year.
  - Attendance 350-499. Goal: plant three churches per year.
  - Attendance 200-349. Goal: plant two churches per year.
  - Attendance 100-199. Goal: plant one church per year.
  - Attendance 99 or less. Goal: Partner with another small church from another area and plant one church per year.
- 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
  - Talk with key business people about the vision.
  - Talk with the leaders of the ten largest churches in your denomination/organization about financial support.
  - Partner with missionaries from other countries who will join your team and support your vision.

### 🔑 **Key Seven: Establish Regional Hubs**

Illustration:

The airline industry has “hubs.” For example, Delta’s main hub is in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. United Airline’s hub is in Chicago, Illinois, USA. These hubs are the central place of activity and connection.

- 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.
  - It produces synergy, which always accomplishes more than working as individual churches.
  - It promotes working together rather than competing against each other, and will do much more to advance the Kingdom of God.

### 🔑 **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.

*Leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand. —John C. Maxwell*

- Real heart connections can be made around food and fellowship.
- Jesus fellowshiped with food (the Last Supper, eating with the disciples after His resurrection, and many more examples).

*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
  - Suggestions: Gather key leaders from every region to give reports annually: How many churches planted? Where were they planted?
  - Analyze the progress at the six-month mark: How close are you to your end-of-year goal? Do your leaders need more encouragement?
- Important: Have an accurate understanding of your progress towards the vision.

**TEACHER:** Challenge students to recall the steps from memory. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.

**Review:**

**The Eleven Practical Steps:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**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

*"I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18, KJV).*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The Purpose:** To provide practical steps to effective church planting.

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

**TEACHER:** Tell students that there is a common notion that the best way to plant a church is: wait until it has several hundred members, than split it in half to plant another church. (David Sobrepeña teaches a different method.)

- A mother church can develop to a large size, then send out several cell groups to start a church together
  - Rationale: One larger church of several hundred/thousand people has a greater impact and influence on the society as a whole than two hundred small churches with one hundred members each.

Example: Word of Hope in Manila, Philippines, has over three thousand cell groups. It has both grown tremendously and planted churches throughout the country. When planting a church, Word of Hope sends ten to twelve cell groups of eight members each plus a pastor to the new area.

- 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.

Example: Philippines has church-planting institutes that run up to two to six months. Upon completion, participants are sent out to plant churches.

- 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.
  - Remember: The apostle Paul was bivocational (tentmaker).
  - Don't require the newly planted church to raise thousands of dollars to cover their salary and living costs every month.
  - No seminary school loans to pay off.

*[Bivocational pastors] are some of the most effective pastors out there. Someone told me if you want to get things accomplished, you will look for a busy person. These bivocational pastors, church planters, get things done. —David Sobrepeña*

- 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.
  - Which areas have no churches?
  - Which areas need more churches?
- Make plans based on population. Determine if there are enough people to populate a church plant.
- Set goals
  - How many people do you want to see in church in five years?
  - How will you gather the people?
  - What kind of building or property will you need?

### 🔑 **Key Four: Send a Survey Team**

- Suggestion: Send three or four people.
  - Do a prayer walk
  - Survey the land for potential places to launch events, start a church, hold Bible studies.
  - Gather information about the population, main industries, main employers.
  - Establish key contacts in the city, those who have a similar burden to plant churches.

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

**TEACHER: Share with students that David Sobrepeña has found medical and dental teams to be one of the most effective methods of evangelism for his organization in the Philippines.**

- 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.

**TEACHER: Tell students that David Sobrepeña has found the Bible studies and cell groups to be *the most* effective, especially among Catholics who are not likely to go to an event that is clearly seen as evangelistically related to a church.**

- 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
  - The centerpiece of the church remains the small groups. Groups continue meeting around the community for encouragement, prayer, and the Word of God.
  - Position a lead pastor, assistant pastor if needed, spiritual leadership (elders and deacons), and ministry leaders.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

**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?

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

### 🔑 **Key One:** Have a Masterpiece Sermon on Calvary

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”  
(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

Illustration:

A fisherman goes out to sea. He sees there are many fish to be caught, so he wishes and hopes that his boat will be filled with a large catch. But he never casts the net. What is the result?

- “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:

“While every head is bowed, all eyes closed: I know God is speaking to your heart; you may not have given your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ yet.

Jesus Christ died on the cross in Calvary for your sins and mine. He rose again after three days to give us new life, and if you give your heart to Jesus this morning, you will be born again. You will experience the power of God in your life. How many of you would like to give your heart to Jesus this morning?”

- 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.
  - Which of your staff members is a likely candidate?

- Who has the desire? What are their goals?
- Begin a church plant with several cell groups, including members who can help financially support the new plant.

Examples from Word of Hope church plants:

One church plant took place in a theater in the middle of Manila. Members who lived nearby were encouraged to go and attend. Some of the members were wealthier businesspeople. Because of this, there was a concern about the mother church losing tithes. On their first Sunday they became self-supporting. They were able to pay the rent of the theater and to pay the salary of the lead pastor and the assistant pastor. The mother church never suffered financially, and today the church plant is the fastest growing church in their part of the city.

A church was planted in Novaliches, Philippines. In three years it grew rapidly and is currently the largest church in the area with over six thousand in attendance.

- Make a commitment to the mandate to plant churches through your organization and by supporting others.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

**Activator:** How do people learn to pray effectively?

**The 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.

**Wisdom:** Prayer opens doors for people to do great things for God.

*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.
  - Preach on prayer regularly.
  - Pray for church planters.
  - Pray for satellite churches.
  - Pray for missionaries.

### 🔑 **Key Two:** Pray with Power and Effectiveness

- Pray the prayer of Jabez until breakthrough comes.

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested. (1 Chronicles 4:10)

- Pray specifically.
  - Who do you want to see saved?
  - Where do you want to plant a church?
  - How do you want to grow?

- Pray expecting God to answer.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” (1 John 5:14)

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (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.

*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*

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father in heaven,  
 Thank God for being your Father, and for the relationship you can have with Him through Jesus Christ.

Hallowed be Your name.  
 Your kingdom come.  
 Praise and worship in adoration.

Your will be done  
 On earth as it is in heaven.  
 Pray for God’s will to be done, and for His Kingdom principles and agenda to be established in your life, your family, your church, your city, and your nation.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
 Pray for your provision: your financial needs and the needs of the church.

And forgive us our debts,  
 As we forgive our debtors.  
 Pray for forgiveness for your sins. Pray to forgive and release those who have wronged you. Pray to release the same grace to others that you have received from God.

And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
*Pray that God will clothe you with power and with the armor of Ephesians 6.  
Declare that you are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you.  
(Romans 8:37)*

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.  
*Return to praise and worship. Thank God for the answers to your prayers.*

#### 🔑 **Key Four:** Pray for the Unsaved

- Guide your church members into prayer for the unsaved.
  - Ask God to soften hearts and to give a real love for the unsaved.
  - Ask God to provide opportunities and open doors.

*Sample Prayer: Lord, today open doors that You need me to go in and close the doors that You don't want me to go in. Lead me to the people You want me to meet and away from those You don't want me to meet.*

- Ask God to soften the hearts of the unsaved toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Wisdom:** People's hearts are often softened through pain and suffering, and that is often when they need most to hear about Jesus.

**TEACHER:** Use narrative below, adapted from a story told by David Sobrepeña, or another example from your own life. If using your own example, encourage students to read the narrative below on their own after class. If time, ask students to share testimonies of times when they have seen people's hearts softened in moments of crisis.

*I was on a flight from Singapore to Manila, and about twenty minutes before the plane landed, the captain said, "We need a medical doctor; we have a medical emergency. There is a person in row (number) in the middle of a heart attack." The stewardesses were running there with the oxygen. I could see about five rows in front of me that the man was lying flat on the seat and his head was on his wife's lap.*

*After waiting less than a minute (there was no medical doctor) the captain said, "Any nurses, please go. We have a medical emergency." Then the call was*

*frantic; he said, "Anybody who's been to medical school, please go there to help." Nobody stood up.*

*Then I heard a voice inside say, "You go." I said, "God, I'm none of the above." (Do you know you cannot ignore the Holy Spirit?) So in obedience I rushed towards the couple. The wife was crying. I said, "I'm David Sobrepeña. I'm a minister of the Gospel. Do you want me to pray for your husband?" And she said, "Yes, father; yes, father." She thought I was a priest. So I said, "I'm a pastor. I want to pray for him." And she said again, "Yes, father; yes, father." So I didn't argue.*

*I knelt beside the man, who was motionless at this time, with an oxygen mask over his face. I spoke directly to his ear, "If you can hear me sir, let me tell you that Jesus Christ loves you. He died on the cross to save you from your sin. If you receive Him right now, He will forgive you. He will save you. And if you die, you will go to heaven. So pray the sinner's prayer, and if you can hear, repeat it in your heart." I prayed directly into his ear and led in the sinner's prayer. After I said "Amen," I could see tears flowing from his eyes, which made me believe that he heard the Gospel.*

*Right then and there I followed through with what I promised his wife—to pray for him. I said, "Lord, if it's Your will to heal this man and to raise him up, please do so now in the name of Jesus." After I prayed that prayer, the captain said, "Everybody must be seated." I went back to my seat. Right after I fastened my seat belt, I saw the man sit up, put his seat belt on, and take off the oxygen mask. My heart was palpitating, and I said, "Praise God! Praise God! God has answered my prayer!" —David Sobrepeña (Edited version)*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

*Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known," (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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 thinking before instruction. Often accompanied by a quote from the original instructor or a Bible verse.

**The 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.

## Part One: Introduction – Process and Discovery

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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)*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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?**

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

**Terms:** Multi-site Church

*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

**TEACHER: Point out that the multi-site mind-set recognizes that even one multi-site church is not enough to reach everyone; a multi-site church knows it is only a part of the many churches that are needed to expand the Kingdom.**

### 🔑 **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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

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

**TEACHER: Students fill “volunteers” and “connect” in the blanks as you read below.**

**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.

**TEACHER: Point out that many pastors would be inclined to believe it is always better to have everyone in the same place at the same time. However, in this section we’ll explore that idea and see why it is not necessarily the best way.**

- It is easier to recruit volunteers for two services:
  - People are more likely to volunteer when there are more options.
  - Volunteers are able to attend one service and serve in the other one.

Example: Children's ministry volunteers no longer have to miss the teaching.

- Having multiple services allows people to connect with multiple leaders rather than just one pastor.

Note: A pastor can only truly connect with fifty people, maximum. If the church is larger than fifty people, keeping everyone in one service will not increase his/her ability to connect with everyone.

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

**TEACHER:** Point out that Greg Surratt mentions that this principle is true in his region but may not be completely true of another region.

- When moving to more than one service, there are two factors that can affect attendance at each service:
  - What are the prime-time hours when people are most inclined to attend church?  
  
Example: In the United States the prime-time hours for attending church are 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
  - Is the ministry experience the same at each service?  
  
Example: Do you offer children's church at one service and not at another?
- Two Services: The church should be able to balance the number of people equally, keeping in mind these two factors:
  - The services should happen during prime-time hours:  
  
Example: If your church is in the United States, you might plan one service from 9:30-10:45 a.m., and a second one from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
  - 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:
  - Third service: Expect it to be 70 percent full because the service time will be outside of prime-time hours.
  - Fourth service: Expect it to be 50 percent full because the service time will be *far* outside prime-time hours.

**TEACHER: Ask students what the prime-time hours are in their location.**

**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.

**Wisdom:** If your church is full, then there is no more room for people to invite their friends. Always be looking for ways to make room for new people to join your church.

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

**TEACHER: Students fill “perfect” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.
  - A teacher physically present and teaching at each campus.
  - Every teacher is teaching the same verse, topic, series, etc.
- Model 2 – Different message being preached by several teachers.
  - A teacher physically present and teaching at each campus.
  - Each teacher is teaching on a different verse, topic, series, etc.

- Some churches rotate teachers, and each teacher has their own series.

Example: One teacher teaches on finances, one teacher teaches on relationships, and they rotate to different sites, so everyone hears the same message eventually.

- Model 3 – Single teacher
  - Video of a teaching taught by one teacher is shown at every site, either live or prerecorded.
- Model 4 – Teaching team
  - Video of a teaching taught by one teacher is shown at every site, either live or prerecorded.
  - Members of the teaching team take turns teaching on video.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

**TEACHER:** Tell students that the first two questions are meant to help them to see a church member's perspective and to determine why someone who loves their church and loves the teaching would be willing to go to a new 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.
  - Typically, people who live more than twenty minutes away from their church are not actively involved in the life of the church and do not bring friends to church with them.
  - People who are given the opportunity to attend a church site closer to their home will become much more active in church life.

*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.

*Our original campus is in a community that is 91 percent Caucasian. Twelve minutes away, across the bridge, across the river, is an entirely different demographic. It's African-American [and] it's Hispanic...a real mixture in the neighborhood. People will go to that campus oftentimes because they feel comfortable with the demographic that's there. Sometimes people will say, "I'll drive past the original campus to go to that campus because I want my family to be a part of a real multi-cultural experience." What we have discovered is that our campuses, including the original campus, largely reflect the demographics of the community. —Greg Surratt*

- Experience: People will choose to attend the site that has the overall experience they think is best.
  - The entire worship experience should be equal or better in a new site.
  - The ministries offered should be equal in a new site.

*I went to visit my friend, and the venue in which he preaches...was not the nicest, by any means. You could not bring food into the auditorium. The worship team that led us was certainly not great at what they did.*

*Then you went into a venue right next door. They had comfortable chairs, and food and coffee. The band was absolutely incredible. It was just a better experience and the place was full.*

*[So] where my friend was teaching was probably half full, but right next door it was totally full, and they were watching him preach on video.  
—Greg Surratt*

**TEACHER: Tell students that the narrative above is referring to different venues, not campuses (sites), but that it provides a snapshot of how people prefer a better experience, even if it doesn't have a live teacher.**

**Wisdom:** Refer to the first church site as the “original campus,” not the “main campus,” to help people see that all the campuses are equal in value.

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

**TEACHER: Point out that many times pastors don't want to send their best leaders to a new site because they like to have their best leaders close by.**

- Send the best-seasoned leaders to the new site.
  - Good leaders will attract people to follow them to the new site, and seats will become available at the original site.
  - When several good leaders are planted in new sites, it provides more opportunities for less-seasoned leaders to grow.

**TEACHER: Ask students what they think it means to lead from the second chair.**

- 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?”

**TEACHER: Help students to understand the concept by asking, “What is necessary for life?” (Food, shelter, air.) “What is helpful?” (Cell phones, computers, etc.)**

- Determine what is necessary in ministry and what is helpful in ministry.
  - Necessary: Presence and power of Jesus, Spirit-filled worship, anointed teaching, excellence in children’s ministry, community in the church, outreach into the community outside the church, etc.
  - Helpful: High-definition TV screens, live teaching, etc.
- 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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. If some students already have multi-site models, encourage them to take notes of insights they have gained. Consider asking them what has worked well for them. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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?
  - Answer this question for every area of ministry.
  - Consider the flow of the service and how it will be reproduced at every location.

**TEACHER: Provide an example of the worship service experience at your church and what makes it unique.**

- 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.)

Example: A midweek teaching for leaders, worship song choices, etc.

- Discouraged: "Don't even think about it!" These are things that are never to be done at any of the sites.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**Effect:**

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

Initial  
Preferred  
Optional  
Discouraged

*Notes:*

## **Part Six: Conclusion**

Video Session 15

**TEACHER:** This section is developed from some general closing remarks from the teaching video. Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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.

*If you put more hooks in the water, you'll catch more fish. —Greg Surratt*

## 🔑 Key Two: Responsibilities

- Consider the three responsibilities outlined in Galatians 6:9:

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

- “Doing good” – Keep learning to do the good works that God has called you to do.
- “Don’t grow weary” – Develop systems so that what you have learned can be repeated by others.
- “Do not lose heart” – Refuse to quit.

*My responsibilities are learning to do good, making good repeatable, and...just refusing to quit. And if I’ll do that, God says His responsibility is the harvest, the timing of the harvest, and the size of the harvest. He is faithful, even when I am not. And can I say to you...the harvest is coming. Don’t quit. —Greg Surratt*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

### **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.*

## Course Content

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## Part One: Introduction – David Mohan’s Story

**TEACHER:** Tell students that the first two parts are an edited version of a testimony given on the original teaching video. If time is short, summarize the story for the students or ask them to read it on their own time.

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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
  - Holy Spirit must touch your spirit.
  - Your spirit must touch your will.
  - Your will must touch your mind. (As the Holy Spirit touches your will, you must agree, “I will pray today.”)
  - 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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

### **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**

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

**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?

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

🔑 **Key One:** Dependence on God

- Commit to:
  - Give God the glory.
  - Seek fellowship with God.
  - Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - Acknowledge your need for His grace.

🔑 **Key Two:** Seek Answers

- Commit to:
  - Pray until you receive the answer from God.

**TEACHER: Point out that many times we never bother to get the answer from God. Use narrative example below:**

*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*

- Write down the answers to your prayers.
- Be willing to accept God's answer.
- Remember that all of God's answers are out of love.
- Join with people who have the spirit of prayer.
- Never join with people who have the spirit of gossip.
- Keep your tongue clean and holy; it is your instrument for prayer.

**TEACHER:** Say, “We are going to pray now. Would you commit yourself to pray like this continuously?”

**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?**

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The Purpose:** To describe and define prayer.

**TEACHER:** Tell students that before you define prayer, you will briefly discuss what it is not.

🔑 **Key One:** What Prayer Is Not

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

**TEACHER:** Use narrative example below or another appropriate for your context.

*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

**TEACHER: Point out that many times we don't enjoy our prayer time. Tell students that they should expect to enjoy prayer.**

- Seeking the heart of God
- Fellowshiping with the Father
  - Developing a relationship
  - Understanding that we have a connection to the Father through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross

- Conversing with God
  - Talking together and enjoying each other

Example: Sitting at a nice restaurant with your good friend, enjoying your meal slowly

- Going boldly to the Father
- Asking and receiving
  - Asking for the right things
  - Asking in faith
  - Asking with the right motives
- Communicating about whatever thoughts come to mind

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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 we start to pray, just to ease our conscience. But we go to sleep again. This is what many people do and think that they are praying.  
—David Mohan*

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

**TEACHER:** Ask students if they have noticed that tiredness comes during prayer more than other times. Use this narrative (not in student book) below or another example.

*(There is some connection between sleep and prayer. If you talk about others, [gossiping] you won't get sleepy. When you are eating your food, you don't get sleepy. If you're watching interesting TV or sports, you don't get sleepy. But the moment you want to pray, there it comes. You want to sleep. In the prayer, there is always a conflict. —David Mohan)*

### 🔑 **Key Two:** Jesus' Model of Prayer Life

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (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
  - Jesus knew He needed the help of God to live a perfect life.
  - He prayed with tears and with loud cries.
- Lived before the face of God and did not fear the opinions of men
- Prayed only for God's will in His life. “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’” (Matthew 26:39)

**TEACHER:** Point out that many times people do not pray the will of God but rather what they believe should happen.

- Prayed to escape temptation
- Prayed through the Power of the Holy Spirit

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26)

- Prayed for guidance from God

**TEACHER: If time allows, ask students if they recall why Jesus prayed all through the night (without looking at the student books). [Answer: to get guidance from his Father in selecting disciples.]**

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.  
(Luke 6:12,13)

**TEACHER: Students fill “pray” in the blank as you read below.**

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

**Wisdom:** If the Lord Jesus Christ needed prayer, how much more do you and I need prayer?

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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
  - We get overwhelmed with a busy schedule and postpone prayer.
  - Friends call, come over, and we visit with them instead of the prayer we had planned.
  - Postponed prayer becomes prayer that doesn't happen.
- Irregular prayer time
  - No fixed time for prayer
  - Prayer is not consistent day to day.
- Lack of desire for prayer
  - We spend more time with other activities than with God.



- We have desires to do other things.

Example: Some people sit for hours watching TV, even Christian TV, and don't have any time left for prayer.

**TEACHER: Ask students to consider if they spend as much time with God as they spend in other activities.**

- Unbelief
  - Ongoing struggle
  - Disappointments and failures cause us to forget that we can overcome through prayer.
- Unfruitful work
  - Wasted time
  - Working on things that are not really necessary.

*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*

**TEACHER: If time, give examples from your own life of how you approach prayer. Encourage students to overcome the hindrances with commitment to prayer.**

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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.
  - If you have something else that you do for pleasure, replace it with time with God.
  - Expect to find pleasure in prayer, not a sense of being burdened.
- 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*

**TEACHER:** Give examples for your own life or ask students to share examples of how they plan for prayer.

- Go on a retreat.
- Fast and pray
  - Why must we fast and pray? The Bible says in order to cast out some kinds of a demons we need to fast and pray.
  - When you fast and pray, your spirit will become more sensitive to connecting with God.
  - Fasting more than one day: Often the first two days are hardest, and the third day becomes easier.
- Try praying one hour in several fifteen-minute segments (morning, afternoon, evening, and before going to sleep).

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**Effect:**

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

*Notes:*

## **Part Nine: Prayer Plan**

Video Session 10

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.
  - Praise God.
  - Thank God.
  - Wait upon God.
  - Listen to what God says to you.
  - Read the Bible.
  - Meditate on the Word of God.
  - Pray for somebody.
  - Pray for your needs.
  - Sing a beautiful song unto the Lord.
  - Confess to any sin in your life.
  - Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - Praise God.
- 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 that 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 that I will ask of you, that you will pray for me, that I will pray continuously.*

*—David Mohan*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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.*

## *Supplementary Sessions*

**TEACHER: Tell students that the next section is developed from separate but related teachings by the original instructor.**

## **Part Ten: Prayer in the Context of Church Planting**

Video Sessions 11-15

**TEACHER: Tell students that this section will shift the focus to the context of planting and growing churches. (Parts 11-15 are adapted from a sermon by David Mohan about church planting and church growth in which he makes several points about prayer). Ask students to begin to think about the role of prayer in church planting.**

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

**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?

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

**TEACHER:** Tell students that they will first explore some foundational points about church planting.

### 🔑 **Key One:** Zechariah Foundation

Therefore, this is what the Lord says, “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.

Then I looked up and there before me were four horns. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these?” He answered me, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.” Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. I asked, “What are these coming to do?” He answered, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.”  
(Zechariah 1:16, 18-21, NIV)

- 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.”

**TEACHER:** Ask students what this means for today.

- God is raising up His church
  - God raises up people to build His church and continues to move hearts to build His church.
  - The enemy attempts to scatter.
  - The Church needs to “terrify the enemy.”

## 🔑 **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
  - God needs praying church planters and laborers who will defeat the enemy.
  - Church planters must recognize the enemy’s plans to scatter them.
  - Church planters must pray in authority to overcome demonic forces.

*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:
  - Be a praying leader.
  - Pray to seek the mind of Christ.
  - Lead your team into prayer to destroy the enemy’s plans.
  - 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.

**TEACHER: In the next section, you will connect the prayers of Daniel to the resulting rebuilding of the temple in the book of Ezra.**

#### 🔑 **Key Four: The Daniel Model**

This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build a temple for Him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of His people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them." (Ezra 1:2,3)

- God answered Daniel's prayers, and moved the heart of the heathen king to build the temple. Daniel had prayed, "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary." (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:
  - Be filled with the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish their task.
  - Pray for a great move of the Holy Spirit.
  - 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:
  - Pray for the spirit of giving (generosity) for themselves and for those who will attend.
  - 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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**Then close in prayer (this prayer is adapted from David Mohan's sermon).**

**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.

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor’s voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: “Wisdom,” “Understanding,” “Known” (Knowledge for Insight), “Purpose,” and “Effect.” These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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.

**The 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.

## Part One: Introduction – What Is a Disciple?

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

**Activator:** What really makes someone a disciple?

**The 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:
  - A disciple knows and obeys His Word. “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” (John 8:31) (NIV says, “If you hold to my teaching....”)
  - A disciple loves and serves other people. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34,35)
  - A disciple bears fruit. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:8)

Note: “Fruit” is both fruit of the Spirit, and the fruit of spiritual reproduction (bringing people to Christ).

### 🔑 **Key Two:** Applying the Definition

**TEACHER:** Tell students that they will discuss how to help people fulfill all three aspects (serving, knowing and obeying, and bearing fruit) of being a disciple, but will also consider how to apply it in their own lives.

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

**TEACHER:** Point out that Jesus said over and over again, “I didn't come into the world to be served; I came to be a servant.”



**TEACHER:** Students will fill “20 percent” in the blank as you read below). Then ask students if their context has a similar statistic.

**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?

**TEACHER:** Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.

**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*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

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

**TEACHER: Check for understanding of the term below.**

**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

**TEACHER: Explain to students that most churches tend to recruit people to serve.**

- 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.
  - Volunteers connect with each other by choice.
  - Connections lead to better attendance and more opportunities for growth.

**TEACHER: Students will fill “six months” in the blank as you read below.**

**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).

**TEACHER: Tell students that they will get an overview of a “vehicle” or method that was found to be effective (at Frazier United Methodist Church, John Ed Mathison’s church at the time this course was created).**

Example: Commitment Card

- For volunteers only; not used for recruiting.
- Provides a list of areas to serve along with explanations and expectations.
- Volunteers sign up for the ministry area they feel called to/gifted for.
- Includes additional sections for other important commitments: praying for the church, small group attendance, tithes and offerings, and church attendance.
- Members renew their commitment card every year.

*\*Note: John Ed Mathison pastored a church of over 7,000 in Montgomery, Alabama, USA. He found the use of a commitment card to be extremely effective in ministry. Over 90 percent were involved in serving at the time of his pastorate.*

- 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."

**Wisdom:** Don't force a ministry to happen. If no one volunteers, it is likely God didn't call the church to that ministry.

**TEACHER:** If time allows, ask students if they have any effective methods for encouraging people to serve that they would like to share.

**TEACHER:** Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.

**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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

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

## 🔑 Key One: Isaiah's Model

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline "I saw the Lord."**

It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other,

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies!  
The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline "I am a sinful man" and "your sins are forgiven."**

Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline "Here I am. Send me."**

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:1-8, NLT)

- A believer needs to see God.
  - God reveals who He is through His Word.
  - God communicates His truth through His Word.
- A believer needs to see himself.
  - The Word shines light on sin.
  - The Word teaches about forgiveness and new identity.

- A believer needs to respond to God in prayer.
  - The Word helps us to hear God so that we can respond.
  - The Word shows us how to respond.

### 🔑 **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. Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:3,4)

**TEACHER: Point out that if we are as serious about our spiritual food as our physical food, we will be in the Word at least daily.**

*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

**TEACHER: Tell students that the next section will introduce a simple way to interact with the Word to accomplish what we see in Isaiah's model.**

### 🔑 **Key Three:** Interacting with the Word

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline “seek” and “do.”**

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it...”  
(Ezra 7:10)

- Begin with a simple method:
  - Choose any book of the Bible.

**TEACHER: Ask students to underline “Read and mark,” “Reflect,” “Respond,” and “Record.”**

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.

**TEACHER: Give the students the example: “If you were responding to Ezra 7:10 in prayer, you would tell God you want to seek His ways and to do them.”**

4. Record what God told you in a journal.
- The resulting life application is *most* important.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Review with students the definition of a disciple. Ask which two they have covered so far and which one is remaining. Answer: They have covered “knows and obeys the Word” and “loves and serves others.” The next section is about “bearing fruit.”**

*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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

**TEACHER: Tell students that even good activities do not make a disciple.**

**Key One: Fruit of the Spirit**

- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5: 22, 23a)
- “Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12, NLT)

**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.

**TEACHER: Tell students they will transition to talking about how discipline is related to bearing fruit. Use the narrative below (not in student book) or another example appropriate for your context.**

*(If I have a tomato plant in my yard, there’s nothing I can do to make that tomato plant bear tomatoes. But I do need to water it, weed it, and do other work around it or the fruit doesn’t have a chance to grow. )*

**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.
  - Special prayer trainings
  - Prayer rooms
  - Special prayer groups who intercede for: the church members, different ministries, the worship service, those who respond to altar calls, staff members, and leaders.



**TEACHER: Students fill “grow” in the blank as you read below.**

**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.

**TEACHER: Point out that while many people say they “can’t” memorize Scripture, they are able to memorize other information. Encourage students to believe that God will give the ability to those that ask and desire it.**

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

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

**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?

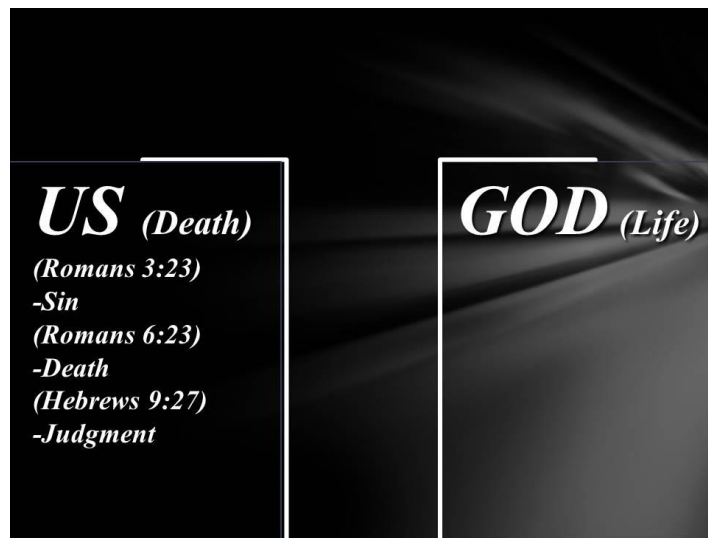
**The Purpose:** To explain how disciples can bear fruit by making more disciples.

## 🔑 Key One: Sharing the Gospel

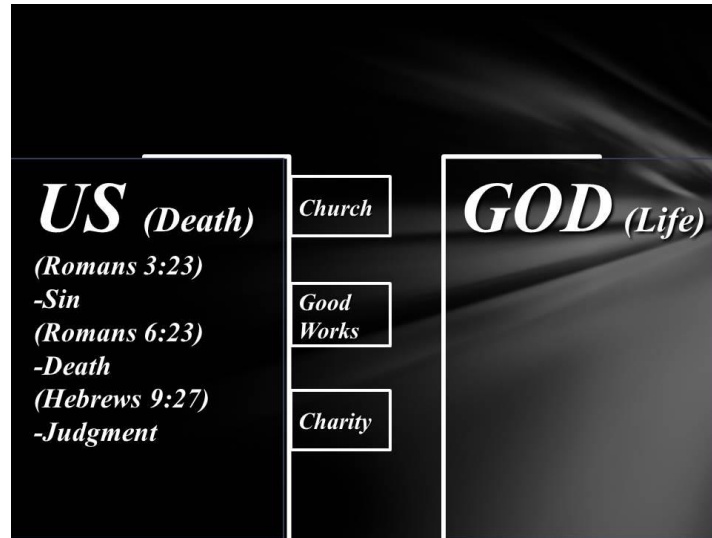
**TEACHER: Ask students to underline “fruit.”**

“The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!” (John 4:36, NLT)

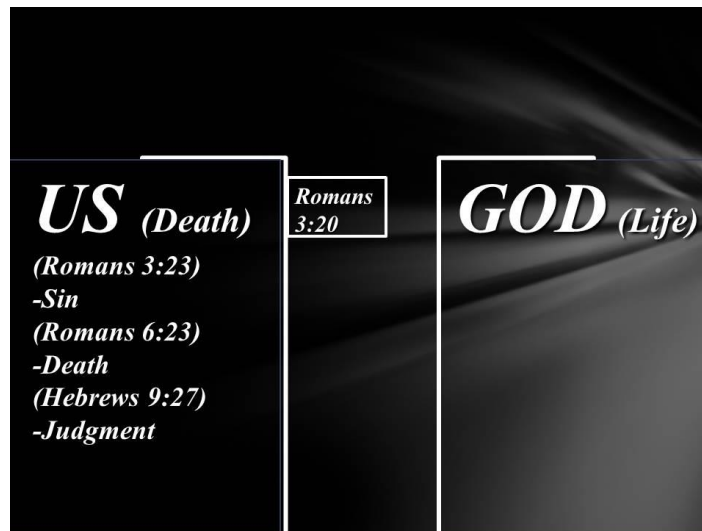
Example: The Bridge Illustration is a simple message and illustration that can be utilized anywhere (restaurants, grocery store, etc).



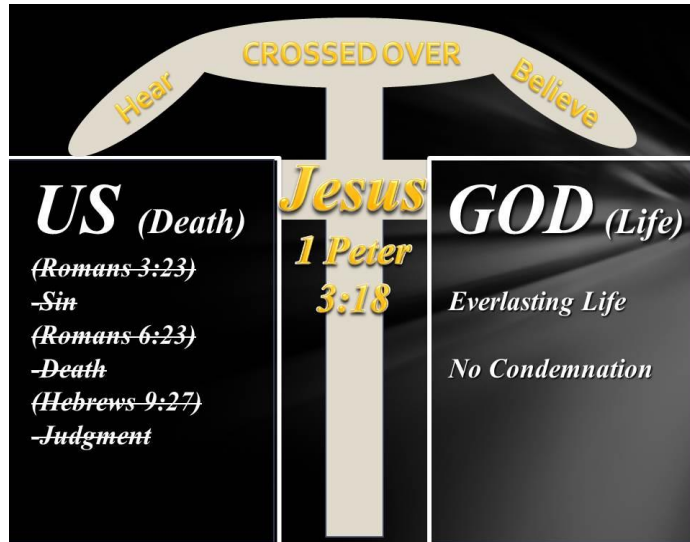
- There is a major difference between us and God (represented by the cliff).
- God is a God of life.
- We have sin in our lives.
- Sin leads to death.
- When we die we are destined to face judgment.



- People want to build a bridge to God using their own means.
  - Church attendance
  - Good Works
  - Charity
- 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).
- “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. (John 5:24, NIV)
- Ask three 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? 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.

Examples: Home building/renovation ministry, disaster relief ministry, prison ministries, serving in everyday situations (helping someone with groceries, etc.)

*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.

(Paul writing to his disciple, Timothy) “You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.” (2 Timothy 2:2, NLT)

**TEACHER: Ask students how many generations they see in this passage—Paul to Timothy, Timothy to “trustworthy people,” “trustworthy people” to “others.”**

- Teach until the people you are teaching are actively making disciples.
- Clearly communicate the expectation for learners to become teachers through participation, growth, and competence.

**TEACHER: Use narrative examples below (not in student book) or other appropriate for your context.**

***(Soldiers join the military to participate, not to watch the general fight the war [participation]. An athlete cannot learn a sport by reading books [participation]. Every professional athlete started out needing to learn the basics of the sport: Little League baseball, etc. [growth to competence]).***

## 🔑 **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).

**TEACHER: Remind students that some people don't know how to find the books of the Bible at all, while others may have entire passages memorized.**

- Some need basic foundational knowledge and to form relationships.
- Some are ready for more commitment: homework, more intense study, and application.
- Some may be ready to teach.

**TEACHER: Point out that the small group model can be self-sustaining. Students fill "leaders" in the blank as you read below.**

**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.

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

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

**Wisdom:** The Bible isn't read to be a textbook to find something to preach about. It's for nourishment.

**TEACHER: Use narrative below (not in student book) or another appropriate for your context to illustrate the difference between quiet time and reading for a sermon.**

*(When you go jogging in the morning for exercise, you're not traveling to a destination. You end up where you started—back at home. You wouldn't use your jogging to get to work. In the same way, you wouldn't use your quiet time as teaching preparation.)*

#### 🔑 **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
  - Regional/national/international ministries
  - Athletic associations
  - Devotional time with local businesses
- Witness in the community
- Invite people to church regularly

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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*

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**



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

**The 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:
  - Are not essential for everyone.
  - Should always encourage natural, clear, and straightforward communication.
  - Should bring focus to the message.
  - Can be shared with the congregation.
    - Encourage attentiveness during the message.
    - Allows member to have a copy of key points and Scriptures.
    - Allows member to study notes during the week.
    - Encourage members to pass the teaching on to others during the week.

**TEACHER:** Point out that some pastors use “fill-in-the-blank” activities on the notes for the congregation. Tell students that these are only suggestions, not essentials.

- 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.

**TEACHER:** If time allows, use narrative below (not in student book) from John Ed Mathison.

***(My dad said, "When you're preaching, a sermon ought to be like a good freight train. You could always leave off a few cars at the end if you had to." And with television and radio and Internet we have to be very time conscious because you've got a specific amount of time.)***

**TEACHER:** Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.

**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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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.
  - Jesus kept His team with Him. “Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him.” (Mark 3:14a)
  - Paul selected people to travel with him: Timothy, Apaphroditus

#### 🔑 **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.

**TEACHER: Use narrative below (not in student book) or another appropriate for your context**

*(In athletics, there can be superstars on a team, but the team doesn't win. Why? Because they don't know how to play with the team as a whole. It's very important for the staff to be a team.)*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

**TEACHER: Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.**

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

**The 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.

**TEACHER: Students will fill “knows and obeys,” “loves and serves,” and “fruit” in the blanks as you read below.**

A Summary:

- A disciple is someone who:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Word.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  3. 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.

*The important thing is that Christ has redeemed me. I want to become like Christ. I want to be a disciple and I want to be a reproducing disciple. And then when I reproduce, other people do. And that's carrying out the Great Commission. —John Ed Mathison*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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.*

## Course Content

This course was developed from a video course from the Global Church Learning Center ([www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com](http://www.globalchurchlearningcenter.com)). The core of the content contained in this course originates from the original videos. As much as possible, the instructor's voice, passion, and flow of thought are maintained. Any differences are intended to be for the benefit of those taking the course in the Global HUB environment, or other training-related setting.

## Course Features

### *Guiding Passage:*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. (Ephesians 1:7-10, NIV)*

This passage refers to the heart of the Global Church Learning Center, and the Global HUBS of Christianity: the work of salvation by His grace, the pursuit of His will and good pleasure, and the resulting unity of all things under Christ Jesus.

In this passage we can identify powerful terminology for the basis of the main features of this course: "Wisdom," "Understanding," "Known" (Knowledge for Insight), "Purpose," and "Effect." These terms are most fitting for the training of global leaders to expand the Kingdom across all denominations, borders, cultures, and languages.

**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.

**The 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.

## 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.”*

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

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

**The 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)

**TEACHER: Use the example of Saul and David: Saul saw David as an enemy. He was threatened by David’s popularity and anointing. Imagine if he had seen David as a partner instead. Now consider Jonathan: he was not threatened at all by David. He found a friend in him.**

- We should not be threatened by other ministries and denominations; we should help them.
- We should not make people groups our enemies (people of other religions).
- We all wrestle against the *same* enemies.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

- We must overcome the enemy’s attempts to build wedges between us.

**TEACHER: Students fill “28,000” in the blank as you read below.**

**Knowledge for Insight:** There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ Christian denominations.

- Unforgiveness impedes our hearts and spirits.
- “He who despises his neighbor sins.” ( Proverbs 14:21a)
- We need to place our relationships above our differences.
- We need to talk about ourselves as one Church—like many streams in one river—with a commitment against the same enemy.

- We have a common cause.

*In the book, Our Last Great Hope, by Ronnie Floyd, Steve Furtick, pastor of Elevation Church, writes, "One of the great discrepancies of our time is between the limitless, God-given resources at the church's disposal and the limited impact they are making on the world. We don't have to be the generation of wasted potential."*

- We are all called to the Great Commission.

**TEACHER: Students fill "Segregation" in the blank as you read below.**

**Knowledge for Insight:** \_\_\_\_\_ happens naturally. Integration requires work.

- We have a compelling story to tell.
  - Jesus has power over all death.

Example: When Lazarus was sick, Mary and Martha wrote to Jesus and said, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." They hoped He would come quickly. But Jesus delayed His return. When He finally arrived, Lazarus was already in the tomb. They could not understand why Jesus did not answer their prayer the way they had wanted. But they soon discovered that Jesus had power over even death, and had an even greater story to tell. (See John chapter 11.)

- If your story is compelling enough, other people will want to tell it.

**TEACHER: To highlight that compelling stories are retold, give an example of a legend/story in your culture that is retold often. Ask students for examples, if time allows.**

- We are better together.
  - None of us have all that we need, but together, all of us have everything that we need.

Example: The 1992 Barcelona Olympics: Derrick Redman, the British sprinter, favored in the 400 meters, tore his hamstring in the semi-finals. His dad, Jim, pushed past security, put his arms around his son, and helped him across the finish line. The standing ovation that day was not

for the man who finished first and alone; it was for the father who helped his son across the finish line.

- We are called to bring together, not to separate.
- Community is more important than institutions.
  - Caution: Do not try to organize everything or conform to the world.
  - We need to be deliberate in leading and living in a culture of transformation.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

- We need to be more committed to people than policies and principles.

Example: The Counsel of Jerusalem wrestled together and debated until they said, “it seems good to us and to the Holy Spirit.” (See 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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**Effect:**

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

*Notes:*

**TEACHER:** Share Glenn Burris' narrative below (not in student book) if appropriate for your context.

*(This is the word I sense from the Lord for this season. "I have not given the Church the spirit of a widow who would assume that the best days of her life are behind her. But I have given you the spirit of a bride because the best days of your life are ahead of you, not behind you.")*

**TEACHER:** Pray the prayer below with the students.

*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

**TEACHER:** Ask activator question(s). If appropriate, allow 3-5 answers to be shared.

**Activators:** What characteristics does a "synergizing" leader have? A "synergizing" ministry?

**The 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.

Example: The founder of the Four Square Church had been involved with many different denominations in the Body of Christ. When the founding church, Angelus Temple, was dedicated in January of 1923, seventy denominational leaders joined in the dedication. The cornerstone of Angelus' Temple says it is committed to the cause of interdenominational worldwide evangelism.

- 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.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
Running down on the beard,  
The beard of Aaron,  
Running down on the edge of his garments.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the Lord commanded the blessing—  
Life forevermore.  
(Psalm 133)

**TEACHER: Point out that any strong marriage would be based on working around differences and finding agreements. Tell students to expect the same for church relationships.**

## 🔑 Key Three: Essential Perspective

- Three points that every denomination should agree to:
  - We have a common enemy: Lucifer has been the enemy of mankind from the beginning when he deceived Adam and Eve and sin entered the world. We have been in spiritual warfare since that time and it will continue.
  - We have a common Savior: Christians cannot deny their Savior: we should rally around His Kingdom together.
  - We have a common mission: Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and every denomination must agree to that same mission—to take people from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom.



## 🔑 **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*

**TEACHER: Use example below (not in student book) or another example appropriate for your context:**

***(The Four Square Church and the Assemblies of God joined in an effort to minister to the city of Los Angeles through the Angelus Temple and the Dream Center. This same joint effort has also resulted in over 220 Dream Centers around the world. (“Dream Centers” are organizations that minister to people through: hunger relief and medical programs, residential rehabilitation programs, shelters for victims of human trafficking, housing for the homeless, and more.)***

- 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.

**TEACHER: Point out that Mary, Lazarus' sister, understood that fellowship and relationship with Christ was more important than doing something.**

### 🔑 **Key Six:** Modeling Synergy Together

Example: In the Early Church, the believers realized they would have to trust one another and work out issues together. They moved from an organizational structure to an elder-based community.

- 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.

**TEACHER: Tell students to be cautious because this stage can turn into too much control and organization. Point out that parents raise their children to become parents, not to stay dependent.**

- 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.

Example: In Sri Lanka, the house church movement is rapidly growing in spite of persecution. Miracles abound; people are hungry for the Word.

- 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.
  - Myanmar – Leadership change that allows the church to enter in unprecedented fashion.
  - Cambodia – May be first nation to become a Christian nation since South Korea (forty years ago).

### 🔑 **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.

Example: Jesus noticed Zacchaeus was curious and invited himself to Zacchaeus' house. (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*

**TEACHER: Review main points. Allow time for students to complete the section below and take note of their thoughts. Encourage discussion.**

**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

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