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**STRATEGIC
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INTERNATIONAL

LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD®

JOURNEY STAGE 2

V2.2.2 (2022)

REST STOPS, TRAVEL GUIDE, MINISTRY TOOLS



STRATEGIC IMPACT

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LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD® STAGE 2 - PLANT AND DEVELOP CHURCHES

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For Your Use - Feel free to reproduce these Tools for use in evangelism and discipleship

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SI LIFELONG JOURNEY MAP TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD

STAGE	Who	Destination	Training/Tools	Duration
1 Your <i>LIFELONG JOURNEY</i> to make mature and MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES	ALL Christians	You continuously make disciples who multiply to the 4 th Generation.	-SI Training Events -SI JOURNEY STAGE 1 -SI Ministry Tools	-1 to 3 Day Training Events-4 to 6 month JOURNEY STAGE 1 training
2 Your <i>LIFELONG JOURNEY</i> to plant and grow MULTIPLYING CHURCHES	MANY Christians	You continuously plant and grow churches that multiply to the 4 th Generation.	<u>Entry Points</u> -Complete JOURNEY STAGE 1 -LEADER INTENSIVE (LI) <u>Ministry Tools</u> -JOURNEY STAGE 2 -MINISTRY MAP -SI EVANGELISM and DISCIPLESHIP TOOLS -TRAVEL GUIDES -Church Planting and Growth Tools	-3 day LEADER INTENSIVE -4 to 6 month JOURNEY STAGE 2 training -A lifetime of making multiplying disciples and planting multiplying churches
3 Your <i>LIFELONG JOURNEY</i> to train MULTIPLYING church planting LEADERS	SOME Church Planter Trainers	You continuously identify and train leaders/church planters who multiply to the 4 th Generation.	-SI Training Events -SI JOURNEY STAGE 3 -SI Ministry Tools	-1 to 3 Day Training Events-4 to 6 month JOURNEY STAGE 3 training
4 Your <i>LIFELONG JOURNEY</i> to Serve on a MULTIPLYING TEAM to Multiply to the next place or people	A FEW Leaders on a local STRATEGIC IMPACT TEAM	You continuously serve on a team that multiplies to the next place (sector, village, city).	--SI Training Events -SI JOURNEY STAGE 4 -SI Ministry Tools -Annual FAN-THE-FLAME LEADERSHIP SUMMIT	-1 to 3 Day Training Events -4 to 6 month JOURNEY STAGE 4 training
5 Your <i>LIFELONG JOURNEY</i> to Launch and Lead a MULTIPLYING MOVEMENT.	A SELECT FEW Regional STRATEGIC IMPACT High Capacity Movement Makers	You continuously launch multiplying church movements in new countries and regions.	--SI Training Events -SI JOURNEY STAGE 5 -SI Ministry Tools -Annual FAN-THE-FLAME LEADERSHIP SUMMIT	-1 to 3 Day Training Events-4 to 6 month JOURNEY STAGE 5 training

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION IS CONTINUOUSLY MULTIPLY TO THE 4TH GENERATION AT EVERY LEVEL.



STEP 1:

CHANGE YOUR THINKING

*CHANGE your THINKING from the goal of "building my church" to "reaching my lost community → country → world."
(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 20:24)*



STEP 2:

PRAY

*PRAY for laborers for the Harvest! (Luke 10:2; Acts 13:1-3)
PRAY for Holy Spirit to guide and empower every part of your life as you fulfill His Great Commission! (Ephesians 3:14-19; John 15:5)*



STEP 3:

CAST THE VISION

*Cast God's VISION to His people for saturating your area with the Gospel.
(Acts 1:8; 13:1-3)*



STEP 4:

GATHER AND EQUIP A TEAM

*Identify, select, GATHER AND EQUIP a team of at least two multiplying church planters each year.
(Acts 14:21-28; 19:9-10; Colossians 1:7; 2 Timothy 2:2)*



STEP 5:

SELECT A SITE

*PRAYERFULLY SELECT A SITE or a group of people God is leading you to reach with the Gospel. (Acts 16:6-40)
A. DISCERN where the Holy Spirit is leading you to start a new church.
B. INVESTIGATE needs, strongholds, and activities in the area that would affect the new church.*



STEP 6:

EVANGELIZE

EVANGELIZE the people in the area. (Acts 5:42; 14:21,25; 20:20)



STEP 7:

DISCIPLE THE NEW BELIEVERS

DISCIPLE the new believers where they are. (Acts 14:22; 20:20)



STEP 8:

GATHER THE NEW BELIEVERS INTO A NEW CHURCH

*GATHER the new believers together for the four basic ministry PRIORITIES of the church:
A. Worship (Acts 2:42-43; 1 Corinthians 14:26-35; 16:1-2; Colossians 3:16),
B. Growth (Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2),
C. Fellowship (Acts 2:44-46; 8:35-38; Ephesians 4:11-16),
D. Evangelism (Acts 2:47; 5:42; 8:4; 19:10; Philippians 2:15-16).*



STEP 9:

MULTIPLY THE DISCIPLES

*MULTIPLY the disciples in the new church by repeating the first 8 steps.
(1 Thessalonians 1:7-8)*



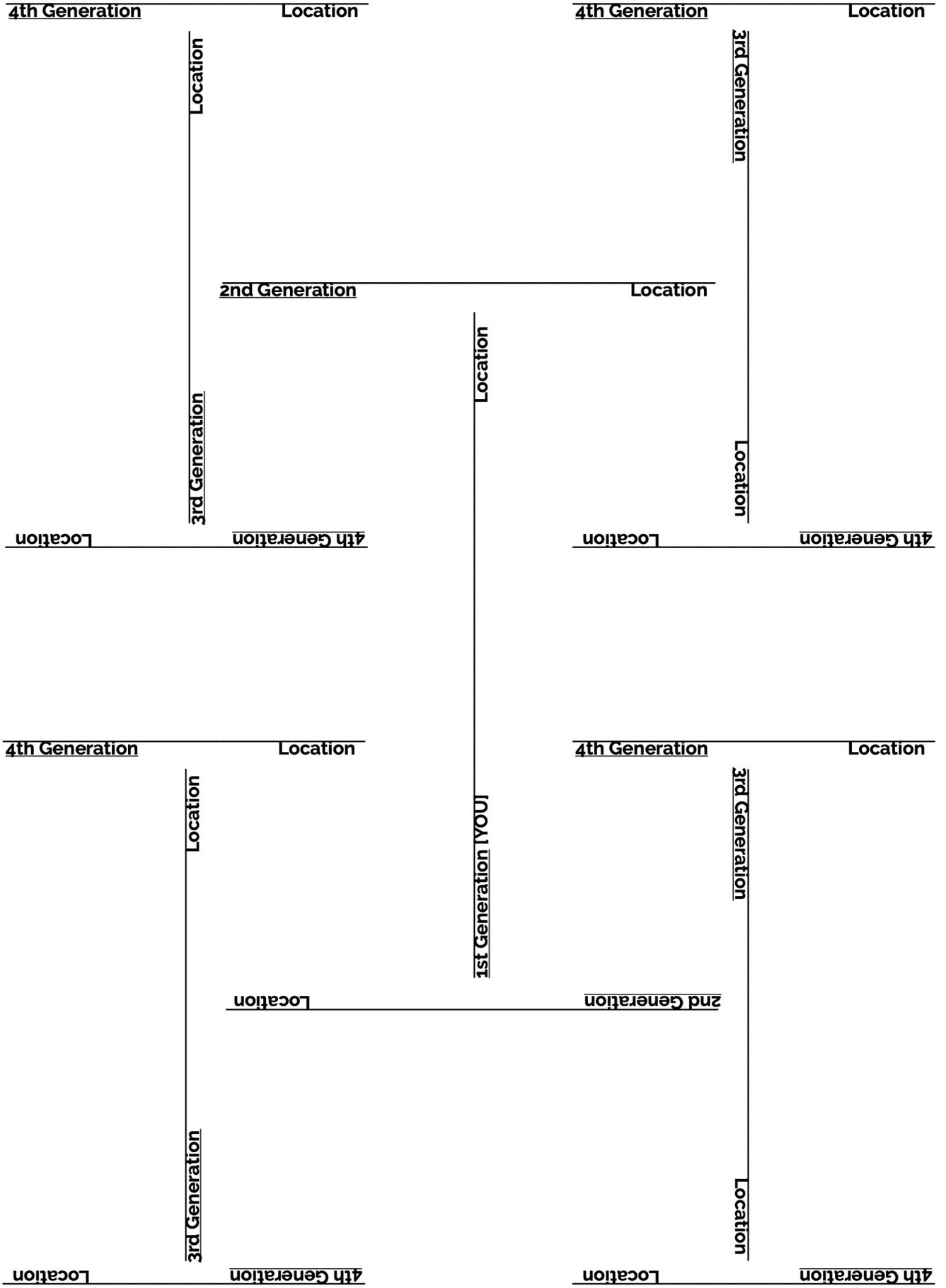
STEP 10:

LOCK ARMS TO LAUNCH A MOVEMENT

LOCK ARMS with other Leaders to launch a movement of multiplying disciples to fulfill the Great Commission.

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MINISTRY MAP



STRATEGIC IMPACT
SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS

These questions are intended to help you grow in your devotion to Christ, personal relationships, Godly character, and faithfulness to your commitments. You will grow together through confession of sin to God and to one another in a spirit of mutual discipleship (1 John 1:9; James 5:16; Ephesians 4:25; Galatians 6:1). They are to be asked and answered with honesty, grace, and complete confidentiality in a spirit of genuine love. This is **NOT** a time of condemnation (Romans 8:1), but of encouragement toward love of God and neighbor, good deeds, and righteousness.

“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL; AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW.”
(GALATIANS 5:22-23)*

This week...

1. Have you **submitted to the Holy Spirit** and maintained a **passionate love for Jesus**?
2. Have you walked in **love, peace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness** in your relationships with **family, friends, fellow believers, neighbors, and enemies**?
3. Have you **grown** in your **love and devotion to Christ**? How?
4. Did you **exercise self-control and honor Christ** in your **financial dealings**?
5. Did you **exercise self-control** over **sexual thoughts and actions, and any addictive behavior**?
6. **Who** have you **added** to your *MINISTRY MAP* this month?

A word about commitment and your JOURNEY TEAM...

As you grow and serve together in your *JOURNEY TEAM*, you may have a team member who cannot or will not complete their weekly commitments (“I Will” statements, evangelism, discipleship, and Bible reading). This may be due to other responsibilities in their life or it may be from a lack of commitment to the *JOURNEY* path. If this is the case, we leave the final decision of how to handle this situation to your *JOURNEY TEAM*. Our recommendation is to grant the struggling member 2 or 3 weeks to fulfill their weekly commitments, and if they fail to do fulfill the commitments, you excuse them from your *JOURNEY TEAM* and proceed without them. They are welcome to join another *JOURNEY TEAM* in the future when they are able to fully commit to *JOURNEY* path. The ones who will fulfill the Great Commission will not be the people who are the smartest, richest, or most excited. The ones who will fulfill the Great Commission will be the people who are most devoted, committed, and obedient to Christ.

***NOTE:** All Bible references in this document are from The ESV Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version), copyright 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

JOURNEY TEAM PROCESS

Welcome to your **JOURNEY TEAM**. Your team of 3 to 5 brothers and/or sisters in Christ is on a lifelong journey together to reach your lost world with the only hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Similar to taking a long walking journey together, your team will need to take regular **REST STOPS**. The **JOURNEY REST STOPS** should happen as a weekly meeting of the **JOURNEY TEAM** and will take about an hour and a half. We have found that holding the **REST STOPS** at the same time and location encourages consistency and commitment. Each **REST STOP** will involve **4 LOOKS** and **10 QUESTIONS** which will help you successfully reach your destination together. The **REST STOPS** are a time of group discovery - no one “teaches”, but everyone on the team will learn from each other as you read a passage of the Bible, then discuss and answer the questions.

1. **LOOK BACK** - As with any journey, it is beneficial to see how you have progressed since the last **REST STOP**. Looking Back involves the first three discussion questions which focus on:
 - Your spiritual and character growth in Christ (**QUESTION 1**),
 - Your keeping of the commitments you made from the previous **REST STOP** (**QUESTION 2**),
 - The people that you witnessed to and discipled during the previous week (**QUESTION 3**).

NOTE: These **LOOK BACK** questions are very important. Your **JOURNEY** is about growing in knowledge and obedience to Jesus. If team members do not fulfill their commitments each week, the team should not move forward, but should repeat the same **REST STOP** material at the following **REST STOP** meeting.

2. **LOOK UP** - Your team will look up to God in the Bible to learn how to grow while on your **JOURNEY**. You will discuss **QUESTIONS 4** and **5** each week based on a specific Bible passage: *What do you like or find encouraging about this passage?* and *What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?*
3. **LOOK INSIDE** - Looking inside involves **QUESTIONS 6** and **7**, which are related to the specific truth of the Bible passage. These questions help you think about how you will apply the truth from the Bible you are discussing. Following the the **LOOK INSIDE** questions, your team will read together a one page **TRAVEL GUIDE**. This **TRAVEL GUIDE** will help clarify the **CORE TRUTH** of the Bible passage.
4. **LOOK AHEAD** - **QUESTION 8** will lead you to write what you will specifically **do** to obey the truth of the Bible this week. In **QUESTION 9** you will list **who** you plan to share Jesus with or disciple in the coming week, and discuss how you and your **JOURNEY TEAM** can work together in Evangelism and Discipleship before your next **REST STOP**. **QUESTION 10** asks what portion of the Bible you will read daily over the coming week. We recommend a minimum of 3 chapters per day of Bible reading, though the amount is up to you. Your fulfillment of the commitments made in **QUESTIONS 8, 9, and 10** will be confirmed during the next **REST STOP** meeting.
5. **PRAY** - Finally, as you end your **REST STOP**, pray for one another's needs and continue to pray for one another until your next **REST STOP** meeting.

Each **REST STOP** meeting will follow this same pattern — **4 LOOKS** and **10 QUESTIONS**. As you grow together and obey what the Lord teaches you from the Bible in **STAGE 2** of the **JOURNEY** you will be equipped and involved in planting and growing a new multiplying church on your **LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD**.

Your first **REST STOP** of **STAGE 2** begins on the next page. May the Lord bless you greatly as you begin your **LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD**.

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 16 - Z THINKING

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you submitted to the Holy Spirit and maintained a passionate love for Jesus this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Acts 14:21-23** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Acts 14:21-23** again and discuss...

6. From these verses what specific things did Paul and his team practice to fulfill their Great Commission ministry?
7. Which of the following practices (evangelizing, discipling, planting new churches, training leaders) do you need to emphasize at this point in your ministry?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 16* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Acts 14:21-23** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another's needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week's *REST STOP*.

STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 16 - Z THINKING

Your goal in the *JOURNEY* is not to only win people to Christ and help them grow in their faith; you are to take seriously the command of Jesus to make **multiplying disciples**. Based on 2 Timothy 2:2 the question you must always ask yourselves is, “**Can you name 4th Generation disciples who are a result of your ministry?**”

The simple and powerful strategy to fulfilling the Great Commission is to continuously multiply disciples, leaders, and churches to the 4th Generation. So, do not be satisfied until you can name your 4th Generation of multiplying disciples and church planters. Encourage your disciples to use the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL* to train other followers of Christ. Launch new emerging leaders in the *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*. In this way you will ensure that you will fulfill Christ’s Great Commission command to make disciples who launch church planting movements!

You are encouraged to adopt “**Z THINKING**” which pictures multiplication that has the potential to launch a movement that can reach the whole world with the Gospel. The “**Z**” method carries out *STEPS 6, 7, 8 and 9* in the “*10 STEPS TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*.” (See the *Z THINKING TOOL* on the next page).

In order to insure that **Z Thinking** multiplication takes place:

1. Commit to disciple new believers as you evangelize;
2. Commit to plant new churches as you disciple new believers;
3. Commit to develop new leaders as you plant new churches;
4. Commit to continually multiply evangelism, discipleship, churches, and new leaders to the 4th Generation.

Those in the *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD* consistently evangelize, then disciple new believers using the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL*, then gather them into new churches. Everyone is taught how to share the Gospel among their family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. As faithful leaders in the church emerge, they are invited to enroll in the *JOURNEY* and the whole process is repeated. The result of a continual practice of “**Z THINKING**” is...

- More people hear the Gospel,
- More come to faith in Jesus Christ,
- More new believers are developed into multiplying disciples,
- More churches multiply,
- More faithful leaders are multiplied – who continuously repeat the process!

CORE TRUTH: TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD YOU MUST CONTINUALLY EVANGELIZE IN ORDER TO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES WHO MULTIPLY CHURCHES THAT MULTIPLY LEADERS WHO MULTIPLY MOVEMENTS.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
TOOL FOR REST STOP 16 - Z THINKING - STEPS 6, 7, 8, AND 9

STEP 6: Evangelize

Those engaged in the *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD* consistently **tell others about Jesus**. This results in the evangelization of a new site (neighborhood, group or area).

- Share the Gospel weekly
- Pray for new disciples to be made

STEP 8: Gather the New Believers into a New Church

Meet together weekly for the four basic ministry **priorities** of the church:

1. Worship
2. Growth
3. Fellowship
4. Evangelism

You do not have to wait until the new believers have completed the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL* to start gathering them as the new church!

STEP 7: Disciple New Believers

Disciple the new believers individually or in groups of 2 or 3 using the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL*.

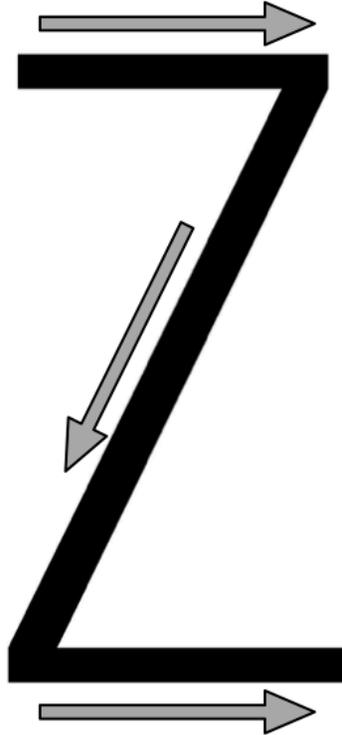
Teach them to share their faith with others through the *SI EVANGELISM TOOL*. Go with them as they share.

Help them to learn to use the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL* with others.

STEP 9: Multiply the Church

Teach everyone in the church how to evangelize and disciple others in their network of family, friends, co-workers, and community using the *SI EVANGELISM TOOL* and *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL*.

Identify and **launch** emerging Leaders into the *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*.



LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you walked in love, peace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness in your relationships with family, friends, fellow believers, neighbors, and enemies this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and "I WILL" commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Matthew 6:5-15** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Matthew 6:5-15** again and discuss...

6. How do you avoid praying like "hypocrites" and "Gentiles"?
7. How can you use this model prayer to guide your own prayers and not just repeat frequently used words in a meaningless way?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 17* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Matthew 6:5-15** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

"I WILL _____"

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another's needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week's *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 17 - PRAYING JESUS' WAY

As a believer, you are given the privilege and command to talk to the Creator of all things, the sovereign Ruler of the universe, the Owner of everything. Prayer is essential to your life as a Christian and your ministry as a multiplying disciple. Jesus gave you instructions about improper and proper ways to pray to God. In Matthew 6:5-8 He instructs in why and how you are to pray. In Matthew 6:9-13 He gives you a model prayer.

PROPER WAYS TO PRAY:

First, Jesus says not to pray as the “hypocrites” do (Matthew 6:5-6). Do not pray to bring attention to yourself or impress others with how well you can say beautiful words. If you do this it shows that you really are NOT very spiritual! Rather you are to pray in private where God hears you in secret. This does not mean you cannot pray publicly, but rather you do not pray to bring attention to yourselves. Your focus must be on God when you pray, not in impressing other people.

Second, you are not to pray with empty words like the “Gentiles” do, memorizing a prayer and mindlessly repeating it. Christians should not pray hollow chants, shouting out words in order to get God’s attention. Verse 8 says you already have God’s attention and He already knows your needs **before** you ask!

Since God already knows your needs, why do you pray? There are several reasons: (1) You are commanded to pray; it is a matter of obedience. (2) It reveals your priorities; what is most important to you. (3) It reveals your complete dependence upon God for all your needs. Most importantly, (4) It deepens your relationship with God. The more time you commune with God in prayer and in reading the Bible, the closer you draw to Him.

THE MODEL PRAYER:

In Matthew 6:7-13, Jesus provides a model for prayer. He teaches you **HOW** to pray. **First**, you pray relationally to your loving Father who is in heaven. **Second**, you pray within community. Jesus always uses a plural term, “our,” “us,” “we”. **Third**, you pray for things that can only come from God. Jesus almost always prayed for things which could only be answered by His Father!

Jesus teaches **WHAT** to pray for in His six requests. **Three are God-oriented:** (1) That God’s name would be considered holy (verse 9). (2) That God’s kingdom would advance (verse 10). (3) That God’s will would be done here as it is done in heaven (verse 10b). **Three are focused on you:** (1) For daily provision of physical needs (verse 11). (2) For forgiveness as you forgive others (verse 12). (3) For protection and deliverance from evil (verse 13). These six requests give you a guideline for what you should also pray, as well as the priority of what you ask for in your prayers.

CORE TRUTH: YOU MUST CONSISTENTLY, EXPECTANTLY PRAY TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER USING THE GUIDELINES JESUS GAVE.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 18 - THE NATURE AND STRUCTURE OF A CHURCH
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS 4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS 15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Acts 2:42-47** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Acts 2:42-47** again and discuss...

6. What are the essential activities for a church when it meets?
7. Where and when is the best place and time for your new church to gather and what will you plan to do when you meet?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 18* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Acts 2:42-47** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 18 - THE NATURE AND STRUCTURE OF A CHURCH

WHAT IS A CHURCH?

As your team disciples new believers you will gather them together. It does not matter much where you meet, because whenever and wherever you gather you are the church! Never confuse a church with the building in which it meets. In the New Testament there were no church buildings; believers usually gathered in houses or in public areas (Acts 19:9; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15).

WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO?

In the New Testament you find **four basic ministry priorities** of the church:

1. **Worship:** God's people gathered to praise God, pray, give and celebrate the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42-43, 47; 1 Corinthians 14:26-35; 16:1-2; Colossians 3:16).
2. **Growth:** The first believers also gathered for instruction in how to mature in Christ through biblical preaching, teaching, correction, and encouragement to put what they learned into practice (Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2).
3. **Fellowship:** The disciples both gathered together and scattered to their own homes to love, care and serve one another, as well as welcome new believers through baptism (Acts 2:44-46; 8:35-38; Ephesians 4:11-16).
4. **Evangelism:** These Holy Spirit-filled followers of Jesus scattered throughout their area and beyond to share the Gospel with the lost and transform their communities (Acts 2:47; 5:42; 8:4; 19:10; Philippians 2:15-16).

WHAT FORM OR STRUCTURE SHOULD THE CHURCH HAVE?

The New Testament describes churches with various sizes, locations and leadership ranging from **house** churches (Acts 14:23; 18:7; Romans 16:3-5; Philemon 2; 1 Corinthians 16:15) to **networks** of house churches (Colossians 4:15; Romans 16:3-5); to **congregational** churches (Acts 11:21, 28-30; 13:1-2); to **mega-churches** with thousands of people (Acts 2:40-47; 5:42).

From these descriptions, it seems size and location are not most important. Yet no matter what their size or location all New Testament churches shared these common elements:

- Godly, mature **leaders** who equipped believers biblically to grow in their walk with and service for Christ. These leaders had various titles, including overseers, pastors, elders and deacons (Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1; 4:14; 5:17; Titus 1:5).
- All **believers**, gifted by the Holy Spirit, who loved and served the Lord, one another and those in their community; witnessed and won the lost to faith in Jesus; and multiplied new churches as the Lord added to their number.

What is most important is that a church is constantly making mature and multiplying disciples, who develop multiplying leaders, who plant multiplying churches!

CORE TRUTH: A CHURCH IS A GROUP OF CHRIST FOLLOWERS LED BY QUALIFIED SPIRITUAL LEADERS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE WHO GATHER TO REGULARLY WORSHIP GOD, GROW SPIRITUALLY, LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AND GO TO MAKE MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES IN THEIR LOST WORLD.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 19 - HEARING FROM GOD

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Did you exercise self-control and honor Christ in your financial dealings this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **John 14:15-21** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **John 14:15-21** again and discuss...

6. What are some of the obstacles that keep you from hearing from God on a regular basis?
7. What is the role of obedience in determining your ability to hear from God?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 19* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **John 14:15-21** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 19 - HEARING FROM GOD

Every day of your life God wants to give a **fresh revelation** of His heart to you.

*“The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples,
That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word.
He awakens Me morning by morning,
He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.” (Isaiah 50:4)*

God’s nature is **revelatory**. He wants to make Himself known to all people. The universe reveals God’s existence and power to people (Romans 1:20). The Bible reveals God’s love and salvation to those who believe. God is a person, and He **speaks**. He speaks to you primarily through the Bible and by His Spirit, which always aligns with the Bible. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them.”* (John 10.27)

In life communication takes place between two people who love each other. It would be abnormal not to have two-way communication in a healthy relationship. Here is something amazing: Almighty God, who spoke the universe into existence, desires intimate fellowship with you because He loves you. Intimacy requires communication. Communication requires speaking and listening. What kind of relationship would you have with your best friend if you never communicated with him or her? There would be **no relationship** at all!

Here is a beautiful promise from Christ: *“He who has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father; and I will love him and will **reveal myself** to him”* (John 14:21). Your obedience to the commands of Christ found in the Bible:

1. Demonstrates your love for Him: *“He who has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves Me.”*
2. Enables you to experience the love of the Father: *“And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father.”*
3. Results in deeper understanding of Christ's heart to your heart: *“I will love him and will reveal myself to him.”*

Do you want to experience greater intimacy with God? Obey what He has already told you to do in the Bible, and He will reveal Himself to you even more. Be sensitive to His Spirit’s leading, but always test what you “hear,” because what He speaks to you will always align with the truth in the Bible.

Most of the time, Christians ask God **what**: “What do You want me to do?” But the truth is, most of the time, He simply wants to talk to you about **who** He is and who you are as His adopted child:

“... you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” (Romans 8:15b-16)

God is speaking all the time. He wants to reveal Himself to you. There is never a day in which God is not speaking. **Are you listening?** Stop right now to ask God one question: “What do you think of me?” He will speak to you right now, if you will simply listen to him. Pledge to God your obedience: that whatever He tells you to be and do, your response is **“Yes!”**

CORE TRUTH: YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING AND THEN OBEY HIM IMMEDIATELY.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 20 - LOVE: THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS 4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS 15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Did you exercise self-control over sexual thoughts and actions, and any addictive behavior this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[**NOTE:** If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-26; 13:1-13** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-26; 13:1-13** again and discuss...

6. How can different gifts, roles and personalities within your team be a blessing?
7. How can you keep love as the primary motivation for everyone using their spiritual gifts?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 20* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-26; 13:1-13** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 20 - LOVE: THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

The Holy Spirit has sovereignly and graciously gifted every person on your church planting team with one or more spiritual gifts. Additionally, each person on your church planting team has differences in personality, experience, education, passion, natural ability, emotional intelligence, and many more items which, when combined together, make each person unique. It is wise, therefore, to do your best to match each person, considering their spiritual gifts and their unique make up, with the most suitable needs of the church so the new church may be successful, healthy, and reproduce multiplying disciples, leaders, churches, and eventually produce a movement of multiplication at every level!

RELATIONSHIPS and TEAM BUILDING

1 Peter 4:9 tells you to “*show hospitality to one another without grumbling.*” Grumbling, complaining and having disagreements are often a result of people thinking their role and/or gift is the most important and ignoring the value of gifts and roles of the others on the team. Keeping good and healthy relationships with each other must be a top priority.

In truth, God designed your team and intentionally placed each member on it. Consequently, you need each other. God uses the uniqueness of each individual to balance the team as a whole and to keep you from emphasizing one extreme. It may feel restricting at times, but when you walk in unity, grace, and understanding, it is a pleasing aroma to God and He blesses it (Psalm 133).

Realize, though, that **unity** on your team is NOT the same as **uniformity**. Unity recognizes differences in others and chooses to walk with them in love, valuing those differences. Uniformity demands that everyone be exactly the same. God is creative! He does not call you to uniformity, but does command you to walk in unity, which is a sign of maturity in Christ.

Walking in unity requires humility, patience, faith, and forgiveness! Fortunately, all of these are the fruit of the Holy Spirit! Christ says the world discovers whether or not you are His disciple by your love for one another (John 13:34-35)! Your walk in unity — **even with your differences** — reveals Who you follow.

THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Although each of you are very different from one another, you belong to **one body!** You **need** differences in order to fully express the beauty of Jesus Christ to the world! As your church planting team faces difficult times, there will be a danger of division among you, so **you must be on guard!** Remember, God has called you together to reach the lost with the Gospel. He has put you on the same team so that you may show all people that you are His disciples — by love for one another (John 13:35). Therefore, regardless of how powerful or valuable one’s different gifts are, there is “*...a still more excellent way,*” (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

No matter what gifts you have, no matter how you use your gifts, no matter what sacrifice you make, if you do not have love, it means nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). This means you should be patient and kind, not envy or boast or be arrogant or rude (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). **Every** spiritual gift is **temporary**, but **love** is **eternal** (1 Corinthians 13:8-13), so **let all that you do be done in love** (1 Corinthians 16:14).

CORE TRUTH: ALWAYS KEEP LOVE AND UNITY ON YOUR TEAM AS YOU USE YOUR UNIQUE GIFTS AND ABILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEW CHURCH PLANT.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 21 - STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR LIFE

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Who have you added to your *MINISTRY MAP* this month?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Luke 19:10-27** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Luke 19:10-27** again and discuss...

6. As Jesus’ steward (servant) while He is away, what is His primary work He wants you to do?
7. How does the promise of great praise and reward from Jesus motivate you to more faithfully serve Him?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 21* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Luke 19:10-27** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 21 - STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR LIFE

Many people go through life without answering the **big** questions: **Who am I? Why am I here?** God's answer to these questions help shape your thinking and your lifestyle:

God created you, Christ bought you with His blood, and now you belong to Him in order to fulfill His purposes (Psalm 139; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

You are no accident! God created you as a special, unique, and valuable person. He planned for you to live at your particular place and time in history. He knows everything about you — all that you think, do and say. He has a wonderful, fulfilling, and significant purpose for your life.

God not only created you, but Christ bought you with His blood. He loves you so much that He sacrificed His life so that you are free from slavery to sin and sin's condemnation. Now you are His special son/daughter, a new person in Christ, re-created to live for and serve Him.

God will hold you accountable for using your unique gifts, resources and opportunities to fulfill His purpose (Luke 19:10-27).

The Parable of the Minas teaches you some very important things about Jesus and yourself:

- The primary mission of Jesus is to seek and to save lost people (verse 10). He accomplishes this mission through your proclamation of His Gospel.
- In the parable the nobleman in verse 12 represents Jesus, who is now physically absent but will someday return physically to establish His kingdom on the earth.
- The servants of the nobleman represent you (verse 13). You are to carry on the mission of Jesus in His absence. The privilege and responsibility for God's work in this world is in your hands while He is physically away in heaven.
- Like the servants who each received a mina (a value of four months' wages), each one of you has been given different spiritual gifts, skills, resources and opportunities to use for Christ's Great Commission while He is absent.
- After Jesus returns each of you will stand before Him at His Judgment Seat to receive the reward you deserve. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says about all who know and follow Christ: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."* This judgment is not about heaven or hell, but how you managed God's resources to serve Jesus and His purposes. The marvelous thing is that Jesus will honor and reward His faithful servants far more than each one deserves!

You must see yourself as Jesus' invaluable son/daughter/friend/servant to whom He has entrusted His Great Commission until He returns. You all have unique and important responsibilities in your families, work and church. But, your primary purpose is to make multiplying disciples, plant multiplying churches, and develop multiplying leaders until He returns.

CORE TRUTH: YOU ARE JESUS' SERVANT TO WHOM HE HAS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FULFILL HIS GREAT COMMISSION UNTIL HE RETURNS TO REWARD YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE FOR HIM!

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

<i>STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD</i>		
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 22 - LEADERSHIP GIFTS AND PURPOSE		
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS	4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS	15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you submitted to the Holy Spirit and maintained a passionate love for Jesus this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Ephesians 4:11-16** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Ephesians 4:11-16** again and discuss...

6. What is the danger of having just one “pastor” in the church who is responsible for making most of the decisions and doing most of the ministry activities?
7. Think carefully and define how you practically carry out your gifts and role in the church. Specifically, how will you use your gifts and role to equip others to do the work of ministry?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 22* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Ephesians 4:11-16** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 22 - LEADERSHIP GIFTS AND PURPOSE

In all living things, you can see two types of growth: (1) **Maturity** — growth to become a fully developed expression of an organism. (2) **Multiplication** — growth through the reproduction of like kind. God desires His church to grow both ways. Ephesians 4:11-16 states that the church (as individuals and as a whole) grows to maturity in Christ when everyone in the “whole body” builds each other in the Body of Christ. One indicator of this maturity is when everyone is involved in the work of the ministry.

As a leader in God’s work, your role is that of a steward. A steward is a servant whom his master trusts to fulfill his will using his master’s resources. God has called you as a steward to serve God’s church, God’s people and God’s vision. As a steward, you are to humbly lead as His representative and work on His behalf. Regardless of your specific gifts or your specific leadership role, God has declared a common purpose for all His gifted leaders. This common leadership purpose prepares and strengthens the church to fulfill God’s vision of reaching the lost world with the Gospel.

As a leader in God’s work, you will most likely fall in one of the five areas listed in Ephesians 4:11. Godly Christian leaders have different opinions about the exact definition and role of each of these gifts, but here is a broad description of each:

1. **Apostle** — one who is sent to other places to plant new churches and movements, and who leads the church in this effort. This a missions ministry.
2. **Prophet** — one who speaks to the church to give vision, direction, and correction.
3. **Evangelist** — one who clearly and effectively shares the Gospel and trains others to do the same.
4. **Shepherd** — one who cares for the spiritual and emotional needs and maturity of others in the church.
5. **Teacher** — one who is able to clearly explain the truth of the Bible and how it applies to life.

All these gifts and roles are needed to help the church become what God intends, but the **primary purpose** of all five of these gifted leaders is to “*equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*” (verse 12). Gifted leaders are **not** meant to do **ALL** the work of ministry in the church alone. Their job is to **equip everyone else** in the church to join them in the work of ministry! When gifted leaders fully equip all believers to do the work of the ministry, then the entire church grows to maturity in Christ and grows through multiplication, as well.

God intends every believer in the church to be a minister who does the work of ministry (1 Peter 2:9). He gives gifted leaders to equip church members to be effective ministers. Only in this way will the Body of Christ grow to maturity. Only in this way will the church fulfill her mission of making mature, multiplying disciples who lead others to faith in Christ and then multiply new churches.

The Bible also describes two other groups of leaders. “Elders” or “overseers” give spiritual direction to the church (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-10; 1 Peter 5:1-5), and “deacons” (1 Timothy 8:1-13) serve to meet practical and physical needs in the church and community. The focus of these verses is not the function or gifts of these leaders, but the godly character required for being in leadership. God wants his church to be governed by leaders who demonstrate the character of Jesus in their daily lives!

CORE TRUTH: CHRIST GIVES GODLY AND GIFTED LEADERS TO HIS CHURCH TO EQUIP THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH TO DO THE WORK OF MINISTRY SO THAT THE CHURCH GROWS IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND ACCOMPLISHES THE GREAT COMMISSION.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 23 - ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTIONS
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS 4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS 15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you walked in love, peace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness in your relationships with family, friends, fellow believers, neighbors, and enemies this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[**NOTE:** If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Revelation 5:9-10** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Revelation 5:9-10** again and discuss...

6. What did the Apostle John see, when Jesus gave him a glimpse of the future?
7. How might this vision of the future have encouraged John about the mission he and the other apostles had been given years before (see Matthew 28:18-20)?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 23* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Revelation 5:9-10** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another's needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week's *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 23 - ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTIONS

Sent to spy the Promised Land, only two who returned expressed faith in God's promise (Numbers 13-14). Consequently, only these two Hebrews were allowed to help take possession of the promised land. Yet, despite their faith, it would be another 45 years before they did so.

What sustained Caleb as he wandered the wilderness watching his generation die off one by one? A vision of the mountain that God promised would be his (Joshua 14:6-15).

Do you have a vision from God that motivates and sustains your ministry through the valleys of life? Do you have a vision of the fulfillment of the Great Commission like John saw? If your church is to be focused and fruitful, you need a vision.

A vision answers the question **Where? Where** is the church you lead headed? If you fulfill Christ's purpose, **where** will it take you? Christ's vision is the mountaintop God is leading you to climb and possess.

"Where" is one of six essential questions every leader in every church must answer to experience fruitfulness. When Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission, He told them **where** they were to focus: *"all the nations."* **"Where"** gives direction to your ministry; otherwise, you will wander aimlessly. **Where** do you sense God specifically leading the church you shepherd to fulfill the Great Commission?

The second question is **What? What** has God called you to do in order to reach the destination He has revealed to you? **"What"** is your mission. Jesus clearly says **what** your mission is: *"make disciples."* But your life, ministry, and the church you lead have a particular role in doing this collective task. **What** specific steps is God calling you and the church you shepherd to do to fulfill His Great Commission?

The third question is **Why? "Why"** defines the values and motivations that compel you to keep doing your **what** until you reach your **where**. Jesus gave two answers to the **why** question in Matthew 28:18-20. First, because He has *"all authority"*; and second, because if you obey Him in making disciples, He *"will be with you."* Authority and Presence. Define your **why** — the values that motivate you to obey Him.

The fourth question is **How? "How"** defines the plan or strategy to accomplish your mission. **How** will you do what God has called you to do? Jesus gave you a three-fold strategy to make disciples, according to Matthew 28:18-20 — *"going," "baptizing,"* and *"teaching to obey."* **How** will you lead the church to carry out your mission consistent with your values?

The fifth question is **When? "When"** measures your progress toward reaching your where — your mountaintop. **When** defines the short-, mid-, and long-term goals you must achieve to reach your God-given vision. Jesus said to keep making disciples *"until the end of the age."* Are you measuring your progress? **When** will you reach the mountaintop God has given you?

The final question is **Who? "Who"** defines your identity. It is **who** you are now, **who** you are reaching, and **who** you will become, if you are obedient. Jesus told the original disciples to make disciples of all the nations. Those they personally disciplined, disciplined others, who in turn disciplined others, all the way to you. So, **Who** are you and **who** will you become in Christ?

CORE TRUTH: ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTIONS SUSTAINS YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH CHALLENGES AND LEADS TO FRUITFULNESS.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 24 - FORGIVENESS

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Colossians 3:12-15** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Colossians 3:12-15** again and discuss...

6. Why is it so important to God for you to forgive others as the Lord has forgiven you?
7. Prayerfully think through all of your personal relationships. As each person’s face comes to mind, if there is any sense of bitterness, anger, or resentment which indicates any un-forgiveness, bring that person before the Lord now and forgive them as you have been forgiven.

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 24* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Colossians 3:12-15** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 24 - FORGIVENESS

In life, everyone will be hurt by someone else. These hurts may be minor, such as a slight insult or they may be significant, such as personal or physical harm which has long lasting effects in your life. No doubt you can name someone who has hurt you, either slightly or significantly. The natural reaction when you are sinned against is anger and resentment — which can lead to a state of unforgiveness. It is common to hear someone say, “I could never forgive them for what they did to me!”, but your willingness to forgive others is a very serious issue to the Lord! How serious? Review some teachings from the Bible.

First, read together the Disciples’ Prayer in **Matthew 6:9-15**. Jesus warns that if you do not forgive others their trespasses against you, then “*neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*” (verse 15)! He states plainly that forgiveness from your Father is connected to your forgiving others. Jesus is addressing disciples who already have a relationship with God, as He says that God is “*your heavenly Father*” in verse 14. In this prayer for believers Jesus is not addressing **salvation** forgiveness but **fellowship** forgiveness. Jesus warns that if you want to enjoy fellowship with your Father, you must forgive those who sin against you. You cannot expect God to forgive you and restore your fellowship with Him if you are not willing to forgive and restore fellowship with others (verse 12).

Second, read together **Ephesians 4:25-27**. When you have been harmed by another, anger is a natural human emotion. These verses warn you to keep anger from turning into sin. Anger becomes sin when you “*let the sun go down on your anger*.” When you do not **resolve** anger, but continue to hold it against another in unforgiveness, it is a sin. The consequence of unforgiving anger is awful: “*...and give no opportunity to the devil*” (verse 27). Unforgiving anger gives Satan a foothold in your life! Unforgiveness invites Satan to influence you! Demonic strongholds in a believer’s life can often be attributed to a refusal to forgive others. It is important for you to deal with your anger in a godly way and **forgive quickly**.

Forgiveness is **an expression of love which chooses to no longer count others’ sins against you, chooses not to dwell on the offense in your thoughts, and chooses not to keep a record of the sin**. It is to **let go** of the offense, to choose to deal with the person as if they had not hurt or harmed you. It refuses to take revenge or demand repayment. It declines to continually bring up the offense, but **releases** the person from it. Forgiveness does not deny the hurt done to you, but releases the person from your anger or resentment.

This is what God did for you. He released you from the penalty that your sins deserved. Because Jesus took your sins upon Himself, God no longer deals with you on the basis of your sin, but rather on the basis of His mercy and grace! You are to forgive others the way that Christ has forgiven you (read Ephesians 4:32). When you forgive others you no longer relate to them on the basis of their offense against you, but on the basis of the mercy and grace you receive from God.

Finally, your forgiveness is not dependent on the other’s repentance or remorse. Someone who has sinned against you may not acknowledge what they have done and may never seek your forgiveness. However, it is imperative that you forgive them anyway! Forgiveness is not just to release them, but frees you from the bondage of anger and resentment against them and allows you to enjoy unhindered fellowship with God.

CORE TRUTH: YOUR FORGIVENESS OF OTHERS REFLECTS GOD’S FORGIVENESS OF YOU AND FREES YOU TO HAVE UNHINDERED FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 25 - EVANGELISM: DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Did you exercise self-control and honor Christ in your financial dealings this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **1 Peter 3:8-17** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **1 Peter 3:8-17** again and discuss...

6. Why are some people against Christ and against you, as you live for Jesus and tell them about Him?
7. What should be your attitude and response when you are ridiculed or persecuted for Christ?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 25* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **1 Peter 3:8-17** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 25 - EVANGELISM: DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS

When you share the Gospel with the lost, some people will have questions and objections. When this happens, it is important to remember a few things:

YOUR LIFESTYLE SHOULD CONFIRM YOUR WORDS

As a follower of Jesus your life should reinforce that your words are true! This does not mean perfection, but it does mean that you are growing in righteousness. When God convicts you of sin, you humbly repent and turn to Jesus. You ask others for forgiveness and you forgive others. God credited Jesus' righteousness to you (2 Corinthians 5:21), but you are still to live a holy life. Your battle with sinful desires should drive you to pray and be humbly grateful for all that Christ has done. It is better to suffer for doing right than for committing sin (1 Peter 3:17). But if you do sin, confess it to God, turn from your sin, and walk with God.

YOUR ANSWER AND EXPLANATION SHOULD BE WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT

When someone has questions or objections, you might be tempted to lose patience and begin to argue. Instead, share the truth of the Bible with gentleness and respect (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Tell how the Lord saved you **and** how He is presently active in your life. It is important to grow in your understanding of God through the study of the Bible, but you do not have to know the answer to every question. Trust the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what He would have you share (Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 12:11-12). Your boldness should be matched with kindness. Using a medical analogy, the person you are sharing with is not the "disease"; they are the "patient." They are sick with the disease of sin and its consequences. You desire what God desires — for them to come to repentance and a knowledge of the truth (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4).

THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS, "WHO IS JESUS?"

People may have many different objections. Many will try to distract you from the **central question**: "*Who do you say that I (Jesus) am?*" (Matthew 16:13-18). Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. He is one person with two natures, fully God and fully man, in a real human body. He is the only satisfactory sacrifice for sin, the only mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). He is not simply a good man, or just a prophet or religious leader. He is the great I AM.

GOD'S OPINION IS THE ONE THAT MATTERS

Everyone has an opinion about God and salvation. But, in the end, only God's thoughts about salvation matter. God's testimony regarding eternal life is the final authority: "*He who has the Son, has the life. He who does not have the Son, does not have the life*" (1 John 5:9-12). Jesus is the only way to God (John 14:6). The way to have the Son is to confess your sins and call upon Him alone for salvation (Romans 10:9-10). Salvation comes by grace through faith. It cannot be earned through works (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9). Just as you are **saved** by grace through faith, you are also **kept** by grace through faith (Galatians 3:2-14). Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

PRAY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Remember, you cannot save anyone — only the Holy Spirit can call someone to faith (John 6:44, 63-65). And yet, you are God's ambassador called to share the message of reconciliation in Christ with the lost (2 Corinthians 5:20). Therefore, **pray** for people to turn to God while you actively **share** the Gospel with passion and gentleness motivated by love — God's love (John 3:16)!

CORE TRUTH: YOU MUST LIVE IN CONSISTENCY WITH THE GOSPEL AND PRAYERFULLY SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE LOST — WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 26 - WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE CHURCH MEETS?

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Did you exercise self-control over sexual thoughts and actions, and any addictive behavior this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Acts 2:42-47** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Acts 2:42-47** again and discuss...

6. How did the believers in the new church relate toward each other?
7. What important activities helped these believers grow in their relationship to God?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 26* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Acts 2:42-47** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 26 - WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE CHURCH MEETS?

The early church in the book of Acts reveals a balance of activities that believers engaged in when they met. Acts 2:42-47 describes their life together in its most simple form. Believers participated in four meaningful spiritual activities. Two of those activities dealt with their relationship to God and two dealt with their relationship to others.

The first relational activity to God was a response of **worship**. They also devoted themselves to prayer (Acts 2:42) and when they met together in the temple and in their homes they praised God (2:47). They broke bread together (verses 42, 46). This was not only sharing a meal together but worshiping the Lord by remembering Him in the Lord's Supper.

The second relational activity to God was **growth** in their relationship to God. This growth resulted because they were devoted to learning and obeying the Bible. Acts 2:42 says that *"they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching."* This teaching came from the original apostles who were chosen by Jesus. Today you have the apostles' teaching in the pages of the New Testament as well as the Old Testament which the apostles also taught. They met together to learn more about God and their relationship to Him through Jesus and His indwelling Holy Spirit. One of the major activities that the church should engage in is listening to, discussing, learning, and applying the Bible.

The third relational activity was to each other. They devoted themselves to **"the fellowship"** (verse 42) which included meeting the needs of one another (verses 44, 45), eating together (verse 46) and sharing life together in the Lord by praying, serving, worshiping, and witnessing.

The fourth relational activity was to **evangelism** of outsiders. Acts 2:47 says that *"the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."* As the believers scattered to share the Gospel with outsiders, God used their witness to bring many to faith in Jesus and the church grew in number. As people came to faith, they were baptized, another important function that the church engages in.

Above all, every activity centered on Jesus and He worked supernaturally among them and through them. As a result, they were filled with awe and praise as they saw Him work in their church (Acts 2:43).

Make sure that your church consistently practices these four activities as you gather new believers together into the new church. If you do, God will do a great work in and through you!

CORE TRUTH: CHURCH MEETINGS SHOULD INCLUDE A FEW WELL PREPARED ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES ALL FOCUSED ON JESUS CHRIST.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

TOOL FOR REST STOP 26 - CHURCH ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As your Church begins to meet there are several important things you must consider. For example, you must decide what the essential activities you must consistently practice (as well as other non-essential activities). Further, there are also other important decisions your team will need to make about ministries your church will be involved in.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES**1. The four PRIORITIES of the Church.** (Review *TRAVEL GUIDE 18* for details)**1. Worship**

- **Who?** Everyone should be actively be involved in this, but portions, like singing, should be guided by a designated individual.
- **What?** Focus on Christ and His presence through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- **How?** Teach everyone new worship songs (this will help new believers feel to not be uncomfortable). Ask for prayer requests from the church and have them pray for each other's needs. Pray for the lost to come to faith. Have times of prayer to express praise and gratitude to the Lord for what He has done.
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Acts 2:42-43; 1 Corinthians 14:26-35; 16:1-2; Colossians 3:16

2. Growth

- **Who?** Decide who is teaching before each gathering of the church. This may be the same person for several weeks together or could rotate through a few more mature believers.
- **What?** Teach the Bible and lead others in learning the Bible, growing in understanding, and responding in obedience.
- **How?** As much as possible make Bible teaching a discussion and not a lecture. *REST STOP 28, "How to Prepare and Teach the Bible,"* will assist you by providing guidelines in preparing to lead an effective Bible study. Help the new believers find the verses in their Bible. Focus on helping the believers apply the truth of the Bible. You could use lessons from the *SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL* as a guide.
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Acts 2:42; Colossians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2

3. Fellowship

- **Who?** Everyone should be actively be involved in this.
- **What?** Do what you can to make everyone who attends feel welcome and accepted. Help them to feel comfortable and connected with the others in the church.
- **How?** Introduce them to the others in the church. Become familiar with their name. Ask them questions about themselves (but be careful to not pry too deeply at first) and share the same about yourself.
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Acts 2:44-46; 8:35-38; Ephesians 4:11-16

4. **Evangelism**

- **Who?** Everyone should be actively be involved in this.
- **What?** Obedient actions in response to the Bible teaching, including the Great Commission.
- **How?** Encourage immediate life application of what is learned from Bible teachings. Ask for help in areas of service to each other — when one as a need for help, encourage others to lovingly provide assistance. Train everyone how to share their testimony and the Gospel using the *SI EVANGELISM TOOL*. Ask them to list people they will talk to about Jesus and then report each time you meet. Encourage everyone to list and then consistently pray for the people they know who need Jesus. Follow up with them about their lists — who did they share the Gospel with?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Acts 2:47; 5:42; 8:4; 19:10; Philippians 2:15-16

5. **ABOVE ALL** — make sure that you keep Jesus at the center of everything you do in the meetings!
The **focus** should be on **JESUS CHRIST**.

OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

STRATEGIC IMPACT works with many denominations, each with its own tradition and convictions. Therefore, specific practices may vary in following the principles of the Bible. It is important to discuss among your team, with the counsel of leadership from the church from which you were planted, **HOW** the new church will conduct these important practices. Here are some issues for discussion:

1. **TEACHING:**

- Who will teach the Bible?
- Will there be one person who teaches or will the teaching rotate between the team leaders?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** James 3:1-12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 4:3-4

2. **COMMUNION:**

- How will Communion (the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) be taken?
- Will it be offered at the new church plant or only at the mother church?
- Who will administer the Lord's Supper? The teacher? The leaders?
- How frequently will the church take the Lord's Supper together? Every week? Monthly?
- What will you use for the elements of the Lord's Supper (the bread and wine representing the body and the blood of Christ)?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Luke 19:14-20; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

3. **BAPTISM:**

- What will you require for a new believer to be baptized?
- Who will conduct the baptism?
- How will water baptism be conducted? Immersion (complete submersion)? Affusion (pouring over)? Aspersions (sprinkling)? [**NOTE:** At various times in church history all three methods have been accepted. While immersion has been the most widely used, circumstances have called for flexibility and grace.]
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Colossians 2:6-15; Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 3:25-29; Acts 8:35-38

4. OFFERING / MONEY:

- How will you collect an offering?
- Who will oversee the money given to the church? (There needs to be more than one person.)
- How will the money be used? (It is important to decide this BEFORE there is money in hand.)
- Where will the money be kept? (Bank account? Locked in a safe box? _____ ??)
- Who will have access to the money when it is time to use it? (There needs to be a minimum of two trusted people involved.)
- How will you practically hold one another **accountable** so that everyone remains “above reproach” in the church’s financial matters?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 9; Philippians 4:15-17; James 2:15-16; 1 Timothy 3:3, 6:3-10

5. WORSHIP / MUSIC:

- Who will lead in worship by song?
- How will you teach the songs to the new believers?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Ephesians 5:15-21; Colossians 3:16-17

6. CHILDREN:

- How will the children and youth be disciplined?
- Who will teach the children on a level where they can understand?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Matthew 18:10, 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 11:18-19; Proverbs 22:6

7. CHURCH MEETING:

- How long will the church meeting last?
- What is the order of events for the meeting?
- What time will it start?
- What day of the week will services be held?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40; Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5; Acts 20:7-9

8. SPIRITUAL EVENTS:

- Will the church have a formal or informal membership process?
- Will the church ordain ministers, pastors, elders, and other leadership positions?
- What will be the structure of the church leadership? Will there be a group of elders leading? Deacons serving? What are the qualifications for those positions?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Romans 12:4-5; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:1-15; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 5:17-22; 1 Peter 5:1-4

9. LIFE EVENTS:

- How will weddings, funerals, coming of age rituals, and other life events be handled?
- Are there any cultural practices in these which are in conflict with Biblical practices?
- **Bible Passages to consider:** Acts 5:29

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 27 - DEALING WITH CONFLICT
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS 4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS 15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Who have you added to your *MINISTRY MAP* this month?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Romans 12:14-21** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Romans 12:14-21** again and discuss...

6. How are you to respond when others offend you, and why are you to do this?
7. What sins do you find most difficult to wait for God to avenge?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 27* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Romans 12:14-21** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 27 - DEALING WITH CONFLICT

Conflicts with others are part of everyday life. Before trusting in Christ, you were in conflict with God — you were His enemy! But Christ took your sin upon Himself and restored you to a right relationship with God (1 Peter 3:18). Christ continues to forgive you as you confess current sin in your life. You are both saved by and kept by His grace through faith. What a beautiful way to resolve conflict — for the stronger to take the burden of the weaker (Read Galatians 6:1-5). As a leader, you will face conflict with others in your life and ministry. You will also need to help restore others who have conflict with one another. This is a **normal part of life and leadership**.

ATTITUDE of RESTORATION

Before you seek restoration (2 Corinthians 13:11), you must prepare your heart. **First**, you must be humble (Ephesians 4:2-3; Phil 2:3; 1 Peter 5:5b). **Second**, you must have a greater desire to listen than to be heard (James 1:19-20). **Third**, your goal is unity and restoration, **not** revenge and judgement (James 4:1; 2 Corinthians 13:11). **Last**, you must maintain purity through confession (Matthew 7:1-5). With a right heart, proceed in resolving the conflict.

CONFLICT — WHEN YOU HAVE SINNED AGAINST SOMEONE

Though you are a Christian, you are not perfect. When you sin against others, you must approach them to confess your sin and seek forgiveness. The Bible tells you this is extremely important — so important that you must even leave the house of God to seek restoration with your brother (Matthew 5:21-24)!

CONFLICT — WHEN A FELLOW BELIEVER HAS SINNED AGAINST YOU

Other believers will also sin against you. The way you respond to sins against you is one of the most revealing tests of your faith. Remember how much you have been forgiven (you deserve eternal damnation because of your sins against God) in order to forgive others (Matthew 18:23-35). Matthew 18:15-20 provides a pattern to follow when a fellow believer sins against you: (1) Seek **restoration** — Approach the other person about the sin (verse 15). (2) Seek **truth** and **clarity** — If they do not listen, take one or two others with you to help sort out the disagreement (verse 16). (3) Allow **time** — Give the Holy Spirit time to work and for the brother to respond and repent. (4) Seek **help** — If he refuses restoration after some time, bring it to the church (verse 17a). (5) **Hold out the Gospel** — If he still refuses, treat him as one who needs Christ. Graciously share the love of the Gospel, as you would any unbeliever (verse 17b). (6) **Pray for him** — for restoration, unity, and forgiveness. **How often do you forgive?** Matthew 18:21-22 indicates that you forgive an unlimited number of times — seventy times seven. Consider this question: Would you want Christ to limit the number of times that He would forgive you?

CONFLICT — WHEN SIN IS NOT INVOLVED

Acts 13 and 15 tell the story of a conflict between two godly leaders, Paul and Barnabas. They had a sharp disagreement about how to deal with John Mark who had abandoned them on one of their journeys. They **divided in practice** (by creating two teams) while maintaining **unity in their purpose** (spreading the Gospel). After some time, Paul and John Mark were restored. Paul even requested his presence and wrote that he was “very useful” for the ministry. (2 Timothy 4:9-11)

CORE TRUTH: A GOOD LEADER RECOGNIZES CONFLICT AS A NORMAL PART OF LIFE AND LEADERSHIP, AND SEEKS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS WITH OTHERS IN A BIBLICAL WAY.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 28 - HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH THE BIBLE

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you submitted to the Holy Spirit and maintained a passionate love for Jesus this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **1 Timothy 4:6-16** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **1 Timothy 4:6-16** again and discuss...

6. Why is it important for Christian leaders to accurately teach God’s truth to others?
7. What do you learn from these verses that makes someone an effective teacher of God’s truth?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 28* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **1 Timothy 4:6-16** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 28 - HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH THE BIBLE

God gave you the Bible so that you might be “*thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (2 Timothy 3:17). The Bible is God’s truth to transform your thinking, change your attitudes, shape your values, and guide your behavior.

Your role as a discipler and church leader is to help new disciples in the new church grow to be more like Christ. One of the most important things is to help people understand and apply God’s truth found in the Bible. One very important skill for a leader to develop is being “*able to teach*” (1 Timothy 3:2). A discipler also must be able to “*entrust*” to others what he has learned (2 Timothy 2:2).

The most effective way to teach the Bible is not to **tell** people (preach) what it says, but to help them **discover** and **live** its truth. There might be times when you stand before large groups to teach the Bible, but most of the time you will be responsible to lead a smaller group. This is a great opportunity to guide a discussion to help people discover and apply Bible truth for themselves. In either situation, it is important to remember that the main goal is to empower people to correctly understand then immediately **obey** God’s truth. God did not give you the Bible to make you smarter, but to change you to be more like Jesus.

Leading a group to learn the truth of the Bible is a skill that needs to be developed. It takes time, effort and thorough preparation. There are four basic steps to follow in leading an effective group Bible discussion:

1. **Study** the Bible and **prepare** on your own.
You must study the Bible to understand and apply it to your own life before you can teach it to others. (See *JOURNEY STAGE 1, REST STOP 8*, “The Foundation of the Bible” and *REST STOP 15*, “How to Study the Bible”).
2. **Summarize** and **explain** the Main Truth from the Bible.
You must summarize and be able to explain the main truth or idea from each portion of the Bible.
3. **Illustrate** the **Main Truth** from your own or others’ experience.
It is very helpful to share from your own experience or the stories of others how this truth works in life.
4. Help people **apply** the Main Truth of the Bible to their own lives.
This is the most important element in teaching the Bible! Help others to specifically and practically apply the truth of the Bible to their life.

The following Tool will help you prepare to lead an effective Bible discussion:

CORE TRUTH: THE BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE THE BIBLE IS TO HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER AND APPLY GOD’S TRUTH TO THEIR LIVES.

[Return to previous page to discuss “LOOK AHEAD”]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
TOOL FOR REST STOP 28 - HOW TO PREPARE AND TEACH THE BIBLE

1. Choose a **unit of study** (usually either a paragraph or chapter from the Bible) and study it carefully. (See *JOURNEY STAGE 1, REST STOP 15* for help in learning “How to Study the Bible”).
2. **Summarize** the **Main Truth** or **Main Thought** from the passage in one simple, clear, easy-to-remember statement.
3. Based on the main truth, define your **discussion goal** either as:
 - A. **Knowledge**: Is the main truth something they should know?, or
 - B. **Attitude**: Is the main truth something they should feel or value?, or
 - C. **Skill**: Is the main truth something they should be able to do.

Complete this statement: “By the end of our discussion each person will (**know** or **feel** or **do**) _____.”

4. State 2 or 3 key points that **explain** the truth/goal. Then, form these points as **questions** to ask and/or **activities** you will use to help your group discover and apply the truth within the time you have to lead the discussion.
5. Think of an **illustration** that helps clarify how the main truth works in life and/or gather any **materials** you will need to help people understand the truth.
6. Write a **plan** to lead your group to reach the goal within the time you have for the study.
7. After your study, **evaluate** if you reached your goal.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
EXAMPLE BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Choose a **unit of study** and study it carefully on your own: *Acts 1:1-11*
2. Summarize the **main truth** or **thought** from the passage or chapter in one statement:
The top priority for followers of Jesus waiting His return is to be His witnesses beginning where they live to the whole world.
3. Based on the main truth, define your discussion goal as:
something they should **know**, or something they should **feel**, or something they should **do**.
*The main truth from this passage is best applied as something they should do —
By the end of our discussion each participant will make a list of people they will ask to share their testimony in the next month.*

4. State 2 or 3 key points that explain the truth/goal. Then, re-state these points as **questions** (see below) you will ask and/or **activities** you will use to help your group discover and apply the truth within the time you have to lead the discussion:

OPENING QUESTION: Who would like to tell us about the best thing that happened to them last week? (NOTE: Anyone can answer this question!) Would anyone else like to share their experience?

POINT 1: Jesus wants His people to be convinced that He is alive and will return one day!
— **QUESTIONS:** Why do you think Jesus wanted to convince His followers that He was alive from the dead and will return one day? Why is it important to you that Jesus is alive?

POINT 2: Jesus' priority for His people is to be His witnesses to all the world before He returns.
— **QUESTIONS:** What does Jesus most want His followers to be and do while they are waiting for Him to return? What things keep Jesus' followers (and you) from doing what He most wants you to do? How would you define a witness? What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?

POINT 3: You will be effective witnesses by the power of the Holy Spirit.
— **QUESTIONS:** What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your witness? How does this practically work out? How have you seen the Holy Spirit empower your witness?

APPLICATION: — **QUESTIONS:** How are you doing in fulfilling what Jesus most wants you to do while you wait for Him to return? Who are the people in your "Jerusalem" you would like to ask to share your testimony? Write down your testimony and seek to share it with them in the next month.

5. Think of an **illustration** that helps clarify how the main truth works in life and/or gather any **materials** you will need for this illustration:

- Share your own testimony as an example and tell about a time when you shared it with someone else.
- Have people in the group to write down their testimony and a list of people to share it with.

6. Write a **plan** to lead your group to reach the goal within the time you have for the study.

- * 7:00 to 7:15 PM — Welcome people to the church and have a time of singing.
- * 7:15 — Open with a prayer and ask the first question.
- * 7:20 — Have the group read Acts 1:1-11 together and discuss questions.
- * 7:40 — Tell the group about an experience of sharing my own testimony with someone.
- * 7:45 — Explain the basic points of sharing a personal testimony:
 - a. What my life was like before I met Jesus.
 - b. How I met Jesus.
 - c. The difference Jesus has made in my life since then.
- * 7:50 — Ask each person to name 5 people they would like to share their testimony with in the next month and write them down.
Ask them to write out and memorize their testimony.
- * 7:55 — Spend some time praying for the Holy Spirit to empower everyone in the group to share their testimony.
- * 8:00 — Dismiss

7. After your study, **evaluate** if you reached your goal.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE WORKSHEET

Bible Passage:	
Discussion Goal:	<p>A truth to know?</p> <p>A value to feel?</p> <p>An action to do?</p>
2 or 3 main points/questions to help people discover the main truth:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory Question (something everyone can answer): 2. Point/Question: 3. Point/Question: 4. Application Point/Question:
Illustration or materials to help communicate the Main Truth.	
Plan to reach the goal within the time limit.	
Evaluation: Did I reach the goal? How can I prepare better next time?	

STAGE 2 - REST STOP 29 - BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS

3-5 TEAM MEMBERS

4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS

15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you walked in love, peace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness in your relationships with family, friends, fellow believers, neighbors, and enemies this week?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Ephesians 4:29** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Ephesians 4:29** again and discuss...

6. What are some specific things you can do to bring out the best in others?
7. Who do you know that really needs somebody to believe in them?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 29* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Ephesians 4:29** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another’s needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week’s *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 29 - BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN OTHERS

In sports, the team that wins the championship is seldom the one with the most individual talent. Almost always it is the team that has learned how to play **as a team**, by bringing out **the best** in each team member. All effective leaders have learned how to bring out **the best** in those they lead.

Let's consider some of the ways you can bring out the best in others:

Affirm the personal worth of others:

People, without exception, are longing for affirmation. Scripture affirms that every person has value because they bear God's image. *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"* (Genesis 1:27).

- You bring out the best in others when you affirm that every person you encounter and lead has God-given worth because they are made in His image.
- It is important to consider specific ways you can affirm the worth of the people you lead.

Develop an attitude of optimism:

Just like a disease, **optimism** is infectious. God promises, *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13).

- As you share your optimism in Christ it creates a **culture of motivation, morale, and momentum** and sustains the team to accomplish its **mission** through both good and difficult times.
- It is important for you to consider specific ways to impart an "attitude of optimism" to your team.

Motivate and inspire others:

Great leaders move you. They ignite your passion and inspire the best in you. This is what Paul did when he encouraged believers, *"What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you"* (Philippians 4:9).

- You, as the leader, set the "emotional temperature" for your team.
- It is important to consider how you can motivate your teams' passion and motivation.

Believe the best in others:

1 Corinthians 13:7 says: *"Love...believes all things."*

People often define others based upon the "**worst**" thing about them. God defines a leader based upon the **intent** of his **heart** (See 1 Samuel 16:7). Your job is to believe the best and bring out the best in the people you lead.

- Your people will **live up to**, or **down to** the level of your expectation.
- It is important to consider practical ways to look for and point out the best in others.

CORE TRUTH: AFFIRMING THE BEST IN OTHERS IS AN ESSENTIAL PRACTICE OF EFFECTIVE LEADERS.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - REST STOP 30 - SELECT A SITE FOR A NEW CHURCH
3-5 TEAM MEMBERS 4 LOOKS - 10 QUESTIONS 15 REST STOPS

LOOK BACK (Review *SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTIONS* on page 6)

1. Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
2. Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and “I WILL” commitment(s) this week?
3. Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?

[NOTE: If someone did not complete their commitments, do **NOT** go forward! Everyone must complete their commitments before moving to the next *REST STOP*. If this occurs often, refer to page 6 for help.]

LOOK UP

Read **Acts 16:6-15** aloud and discuss together the following questions.

4. What do you like or find encouraging in this passage?
5. What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

LOOK INSIDE

Read **Acts 16:6-15** again and discuss...

6. How does God guide his people in selecting a place to plant a new church?
7. Where do you sense the Lord leading you to plant a new church?

[Read together *TRAVEL GUIDE 30* on the next page.]

LOOK AHEAD

Read **Acts 16:6-15** again and discuss...

8. In light of these verses, what **will you do** as an act of obedience this week? Be specific.

“I WILL _____”

9. Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple this week? (Tools on Pages 47-50)

Name(s): _____

How can you work together as a *JOURNEY TEAM* in evangelism and discipleship this week?

10. What portion of the Bible will you read daily this week? (3 chapters per day is suggested)

PRAY

As you dismiss, pray for one another's needs and continue to bring these needs to the Lord in prayer until next week's *REST STOP*.

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
STAGE 2 - TRAVEL GUIDE 30 - SELECT A SITE FOR A NEW CHURCH

The vision of Jesus for His church is to: (1) grow new believers into mature and multiplying disciples, and (2) continually expand to new places that have yet to hear the Gospel (Acts 1:8; 8:1; 11:19-21; Romans 15:20). God wants His church to be on mission by both being faithful where you are **and** going to new areas and new people groups with the Gospel.

God will lead your team to fulfill the Great Commission to plant new churches in new places. The first step in determining where God wants you to go next is to **pray** and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. It could be a **geographic location** like a neighborhood near your present location. It could be a nearby village or town, or even another state or country. Or, your expansion might not be geographic, but **cultural**. It might be a people group that the Lord wants you to reach — a different tribe or race. It might be a specific group such as university students, an ethnic group, immigrants or refugees.

You discover in Acts 16:6-11 how the Lord led Paul as he took the Gospel to a new place. The Holy Spirit kept Paul and his team from entering Asia and Bythia. Then Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia calling for help and they realized that this was where the Lord wanted them to go. In Philippi they evangelized and planted a church, which became the first church on the European continent and also one of the most powerful and supportive churches in Paul's ministry.

You learn some important principles from this story to guide you:

First, be committed to reaching new people. Paul and his team were active in taking the Gospel to new areas and groups of people. Too many churches are not intentional in expanding to new areas. God will lead you **as you go!**

Second, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. It is not known exactly how the Holy Spirit kept Paul's team from going into Asia and Bythia, but they were sensitive to His leading. You also must **pray** and **trust** in the Lord as you investigate where He wants you to go.

Third, go where there is a **need**. Who are the people around you that lack a consistent Gospel witness?

Fourth, investigate the unique **circumstances** and **practical needs** of the people in the area (Acts 16:13-22). Are people already gathering in a location for spiritual purposes? Is there a "man or woman of peace," like Lydia, who could help the new work? Is there a home or other place where you could begin a meeting? Are there spiritual strongholds or challenges that you will face and need to address?

Finally, set a date to start the work! Go and expect God to use you as you evangelize and disciple people in the new area where God has led you!

CORE TRUTH: PRAYERFULLY TRUST IN THE LORD TO LEAD YOU TO SELECT A SITE FOR A NEW CHURCH.

[Return to previous page to discuss "LOOK AHEAD"]

STRATEGIC IMPACT - LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD
**TOOL FOR REST STOP 30 - A GUIDE FOR SELECTING A SITE
AND PLANTING A NEW CHURCH**

1. Plant a new church **where there are no (or few) other churches**. Even though there are no churches from your particular denomination or group in the area, there may be many other Christian churches there doing the work of God. Go where people have no access (or very limited access) to the Gospel!
2. Consider planting a new church **where people from your present team or church already live, work, or have relationships**. Perhaps someone is traveling a long distance to your church and there needs to be a new church near them. Perhaps someone is part of a network of people that needs a church.
3. Find “**Persons of Peace**” where you want to plant a new church (Luke 10:5-7). A Person of Peace is someone who is friendly and receptive to you and the Gospel and also has influence with others in the community. (Examples are the Samaritan Woman in John 4, Cornelius in Acts 10, and Lydia in Acts 16:11-15).
4. Conduct a **prayer walk** in the area. Members of your team can walk through the neighborhood or town and observe things that are going on. Stop and pray for what you observe. Pray for the people you see. Cover the area and the people with prayer.
5. **Do not think you must have a building** to have a vibrant church. Look for homes or other places where the new church can begin to meet. Make it a place that people are familiar with and can easily find.
 - A. You might want to consider planting several churches in homes or other locations in the area.
 - B. Later, you may want to bring these home churches together for a larger gather of God’s people, but this is not necessary.
 - C. Remember, the church is **not a building**. The church is the body of Christ. **Believers are the church!**
 - 1) God does not dwell in places made by hands (Acts 7:48-50), He dwells in the hearts of His saints (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 4:4-7; 2 Timothy 1:14). Therefore, you do not need to own or even rent a building in order to have a church.
 - 2) The early church met in many places. They met in the temple (Acts 3:1; 5:20-21, 42). They met in synagogues (Acts 14:1; 18:4; 19-21). They met in public areas (Acts 18:27-28; 20:20). They met in teaching halls (Acts 19:9-10). They met in houses (Acts 5:42; 20:20; Romans 16:3-5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:1-3). This was the normal practice of the church for the first 300 years of its existence! During this time the Gospel exploded across the world!
 - 3) The only “building programs” the early church had were:
 - a. Building up the Kingdom with new believers and
 - b. Building up the new believers into maturity.
 - 4) The point is: It does not matter **where** you meet. It only matters that you are meeting. Select a place so everyone knows where to gather. It could be any number of places as described above.
 - 5) Let no one look down on you because you do not own or rent property. If you are making mature and multiplying disciples then you are **successful in God’s eyes** — whether you have a building or not! Focus on having a building often hinders the proper focus of making mature and multiplying disciples and planting multiplying churches.

6. Determine the **best day and time** for the new church to meet. In the New Testament, Sunday, the first day of the week, was a day of work for most people, yet the church often gathered on that day in homes after work for a meal and then worshiped together (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-20; 16:2). Let the circumstances of the people determine when is the best time for your new church to meet. Perhaps work schedules or other responsibilities of the people will determine the best time and day of the week to meet.

7. Your team will need to determine what you will do when you meet (see *REST STOP* and *TRAVEL GUIDE 26*).

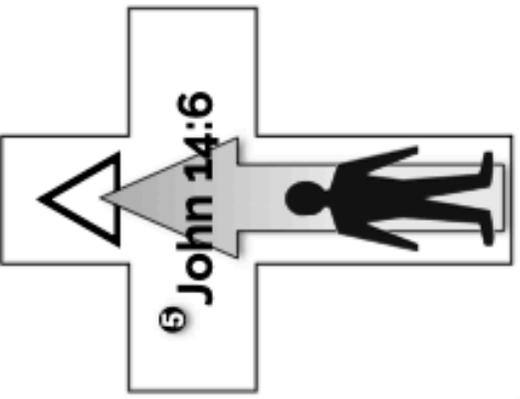
1  John 3:16

3  Romans 6:23



2 Romans 3:23

4 Romans 5:8



6 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

10  1 John 5:11-12



7 Ephesians 2:8-9
8 John 1:12

9 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

11 Romans 10:9-11

10  1 John 5:11-12



7 Ephesians 2:8-9
8 John 1:12

9 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

11 Romans 10:9-11

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Date _____ Age _____

I accept Christ as my Savior today.
 I can meet tomorrow to grow in my new faith in Jesus Christ.
 Time tomorrow: _____
 or other Date: _____ Time: _____
 I am interested in meeting with others in my neighborhood to learn more about Jesus Christ.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Date _____ Age _____

I accept Christ as my Savior today.
 I can meet tomorrow to grow in my new faith in Jesus Christ.
 Time tomorrow: _____
 or other Date: _____ Time: _____
 I am interested in meeting with others in my neighborhood to learn more about Jesus Christ.

Team Name: _____

Church Leader: _____

Time/Day of Church Launch: _____

Person Sharing the Gospel: _____



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BIBLE VERSES:

- John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
- Romans 3:23** - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Romans 6:23** - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Romans 5:8** - "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- John 14:6** - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8** - "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to

- 10.1 John 5:11-12** - "And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."
- 11 Romans 10:9-11** - "because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.'"

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Team Name: _____

Church Leader: _____

Time/Day of Church Launch: _____

Person Sharing the Gospel: _____



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SI DISCIPLESHIP TOOL

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5 STEPS

- RELATE:** Ask how they are doing and find out what has been happening in their lives since your last meeting.
- ENCOURAGE:** Begin your time mutually answering Spiritual Growth Questions (based on Galatians 5:22-23). **This week...**
 - Have you submitted to the Holy Spirit and maintained a passionate love for Jesus?
 - Have you walked in love, peace, patience, kindness, and forgiveness in your relationships with family, friends, fellow believers, neighbors, and enemies?
 - Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
 - Did you exercise self control and honor Christ in your financial dealings?
 - Did you exercise self control over sexual thoughts and actions, and any addictive behavior?
 - Were you faithful to witness to the lost and disciple others? Who?
 - Were you faithful to complete your Bible reading and "I WILL" commitment(s) this week?
- DISCUSS:** Read and discuss the Bible passage assigned to that visit's topic using the following 6 question format provided in the next panel.
- PLAN:** Agree on a portion of the Bible that you will read during the week. (3 chapters per day is suggested).
- PRAY:** Conclude your time by praying together for each other and the commitments made from Questions 5 and 6.

6 QUESTIONS

Read the passage aloud.

Discuss and interact over the following questions:

- What did you like or find encouraging in this passage?
- What confuses you or makes you uncomfortable in this passage?

Have someone else read the passage aloud AGAIN.

Discuss the next two questions:

- What do you learn about people in this passage?
- What do you learn about God in this passage?

Have someone read the passage aloud for the **THIRD TIME**.

Discuss the final two questions:

- Because of what I learned in this passage, this week, **I WILL...**
Make a commitment of obedient action for the coming week. Be specific.
(NOTE: Write down their answers and follow up about this at the beginning of the next visit.)
- Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple using this material? (NOTE: Name someone and tell why and when you will tell him or her. Write down the names of those they want to talk to and follow up at the beginning of the next visit.)

- Visit 1:** Who is Jesus.
John 11:17-27
- Visit 2:** Understand God's Love.
John 3:16-18
- Visit 3:** Being sure of your Salvation.
John 10:27-30
- Visit 4:** Abiding in Jesus.
John 15:1-11

Visit 13: Devotional time:

Read and study the Bible.
Luke 5:15-16

- A. Have the new believer set aside a time daily to read the Bible and pray.

Visit 14: Forgiving others.

Matthew 18:21-35

- A. Ask specifically who they need to forgive.

Visit 15: Submit to the

Lordship of Christ;
Submission to the
sovereign God.

Romans 14:5-12

Visit 16: God's purpose for
your life.

Matthew 28:18-20
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Visit 17: What is the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Visit 18: Marriage and Family.

Ephesians 5:22 - 6:4

Visit 19: Walk in the Holy
Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26

Visit 20: Identity in Christ.

Romans 6

Visit 21: The priority of love.

1 John 4:7-21

Visit 22: The authority of the
Bible.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Visit 23: Stewardship of life.

Luke 19:10-27

Visit 24: Spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Visit 12: Obedience.
John 14:15-21
A. Ask what area of life they sense
the Lord is asking them to obey.

Visit 11: Communion: The
Lords Supper.
Luke 22:14-20
A. Invite the new believer to
celebrate Communion with you
and other believers.

Visit 10: Be baptized.
Acts 8:26-38
Matthew 28:19
Acts 2:40-41
A. Invite the new believer to be
baptized.
B. Have the new believer invite
family and friends (especially
those who may not know Christ)
to witness his/her baptism.

Visit 9: Fellowship with
other believers in a church.
Acts 2:40-47
Hebrews 10:19-25
A. Invite the new believer to come
to the new cell church.
B. Help the new believer to commit
to being a participating member
of the new cell church.

Visit 8: Witness: Telling
others about Jesus.
Acts 1:1-11
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
A. Train them how to use the SI
Evangelism Tool.
B. Go with them to tell someone
about Jesus using the tool.
C. NOTE: If they lead someone to
Christ, help them learn how to
use this Discipleship Tool to start
discipling the new believers.

Visit 7: Your testimony: Tell
others how Jesus changed you.
Acts 26
A. Use this 3-point outline to help
them think through their own
testimony:
1. What my life was like before I
trusted Jesus.
2. How I met Jesus.
3. The difference Jesus has made
in my life since I put my faith in
Him.
B. Have them share their one-minute
testimony with someone before
your next visit.

Visit 6: Confessing your sins.
1 John 1:5 - 2:2
Visit 5: Prayer.
Matthew 6:5-15

GROWTH VISITS

LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD

STAGE 2 Summary

CONGRATULATIONS! You have completed *STAGE 2* of your *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*.

During this stage you have grown in your relationship with Jesus and others on your team. You have worked together to evangelize and disciple new believers and also to plant and lead a new church. At this point each of you should also have identified two to four other people who desire to form a *JOURNEY TEAM*. You will now begin guiding this new team through *STAGE 1* and *STAGE 2* of the *JOURNEY* — if the Lord is calling you to continue on with the next *STAGE* of your *JOURNEY*.

All we have to do to fulfill Christ's Great Commission is to continuously make maturing and multiplying disciples — and church planters — to the 4th Generation.

This is the call of your *LIFELONG JOURNEY*. Your *JOURNEY* should never end until either you go home to heaven to be with the Lord or until He returns. As you continue to make maturing and multiplying disciples AND to plant churches, you will have an exponential eternal impact on their lives - AND on the lives of the spiritual generations whom they multiply! Nothing else you do in this life will be as significant as making multiplying disciples.

At this point in your *JOURNEY* you have another decision to make. You may feel called by the Lord to only continue making multiplying disciples and planting multiplying churches for the rest of your life. If so, we encourage you to be steadfast in doing it! **It is also very important that you and those in your church stay involved with your *JOURNEY TEAM* as they continue to make disciples, plant new churches and develop new church planters.** However, you may sense the Lord also wants you train new multiplying disciplers and church planters. If so, we invite you to begin *STAGE 3* of the *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*. In *STAGE 3* you will continue to meet with your *JOURNEY TEAM* for weekly “*REST STOPS*,” but you will also begin leading at least **two others** through *STAGE 1* and then *STAGE 2* of the *JOURNEY*. Your goal is not only to make multiplying disciples but to train multiplying disciplers and new church planters and leaders.

The names of the leaders that you begin to lead through *JOURNEY STAGES 1* and *2* should be placed on a new *MINISTRY MAPS* (page 5). You will disciple and mentor them so that they also will become multiplying disciplers and church planters. Your goal is for them to start making multiplying disciples who make multiplying disciples and plant new multiplying churches — each to the 4th Generation. Each one of them should also be given a *MINISTRY MAP* to start. When their 4th Generation *MINISTRY MAP* is complete then they will continue to encourage and mentor those disciples...and then start another *MINISTRY MAP*!

However the Lord leads you, may He bless you as you continue your *LIFELONG JOURNEY TO REACH YOUR LOST WORLD*!

The Strategic Impact Team



STRATEGIC IMPACT

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