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# *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* ©

## *STAGE 2*

v2.2 (2017)

*“LEARN & LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION”*



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# SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS ©

## STAGE 2

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# INTRODUCTION

In this SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS our desire is for you to “*learn and live the Great Commission.*”

You have completed the first stage of your journey in this process. At this point you have grown in your relationships with your team and you have worked together by the power of the Holy Spirit to evangelize and disciple new believers. As a result you have also started a new cell church! Congratulations! This is a great accomplishment!

Welcome to Stage 2 of your journey! This next stage is **very important**. Now you will grow and develop the believers in the new church, while you *continue* to evangelize and disciple new people who will become part of your cell.

But, remember, your ultimate goal is **MULTIPLICATION** - to the *fourth* generation! (2 Timothy 2:2) In this phase you will learn and practice skills to help you develop and grow maturing and multiplying disciples. You will also pray and ask God to raise up new potential leaders and church planters that you can begin to equip to lead. One of our slogans is, “***It is not so important what you do as much as what others do through you.***” John states in like this in his third letter: “*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*” (3 John, verse 4).

In this stage you will do the following:

1. Continue to meet each week with your team in your Life Transformation Group to discuss the accountability questions.
2. Continue as a team each week to read through and discuss Exercises 14 - 28.
3. Do the Actions on your own after each Exercise.
4. Continue to share the Gospel weekly.
5. Continue to disciple new believers weekly.
6. Together lead your new cell church.
7. Pray and ask God to raise up new leaders for you to train to start new churches.

God bless you and your team as you continue to grow together and lead your new cell church to maturity. May He give you wisdom, faith and endurance to continue the work of making multiplying disciples to launch a church planting movement.

*The Strategic Impact Leadership Team*

**IDENTITY:**

We are a movement of like-minded leaders, passionately committed to Jesus Christ and to each other for the fulfillment of His Great Commission.

**VISION:**

**We exist to offer every person the only hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ.**

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20*

**MISSION:**

**We prayerfully identify and train Leaders to multiply Disciples who ignite Church Planting Movements everywhere.**

*"...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." - 2 Timothy 2:2*

**STRATEGY:**

**We establish Leadership Teams in Strategic Cities of the world to multiply Church Planting Movements among every people group.**

*"(Paul) took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord." - Acts 19:9-10*

**PROCESS:**

**VISION SEMINAR (VS)**  
"SEE THE GREAT COMMISSION."  
A one-day introduction to Strategic Impact.

**LEADERSHIP THRUST (LT)**  
"EXPERIENCE THE GREAT COMMISSION."  
A three-day intensive experience in personal growth, leadership, and church planting.

**SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS (SMCP)**  
"LEARN AND LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION."  
A one-year team experience growing in Christ and multiplying church planters and churches.

**SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING LEADERS (SML)**  
"LEAD AND LAUNCH THE GREAT COMMISSION."  
A one-year team experience multiplying leaders and church planting movements.

**FAN-THE-FLAME SUMMIT (FTFS)**  
"MULTIPLY THE GREAT COMMISSION."  
An annual three-day gathering for Staff, Leaders, and Multipliers to equip, encourage, and strategize in each major region of the world.



## **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)*



## **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 cell church.
- B. *INVESTIGATE* needs, strongholds, and activities in the area that would affect the new cell 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**

*GATHER the new believers together for:*

- A. *Welcome & Fellowship,*
- B. *Worship & Prayer,*
- C. *Study of the Word,*
- D. *Work & Witness.*

*(Acts 2:42,46; 12:12; 16:40; Romans 16:15; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15)*



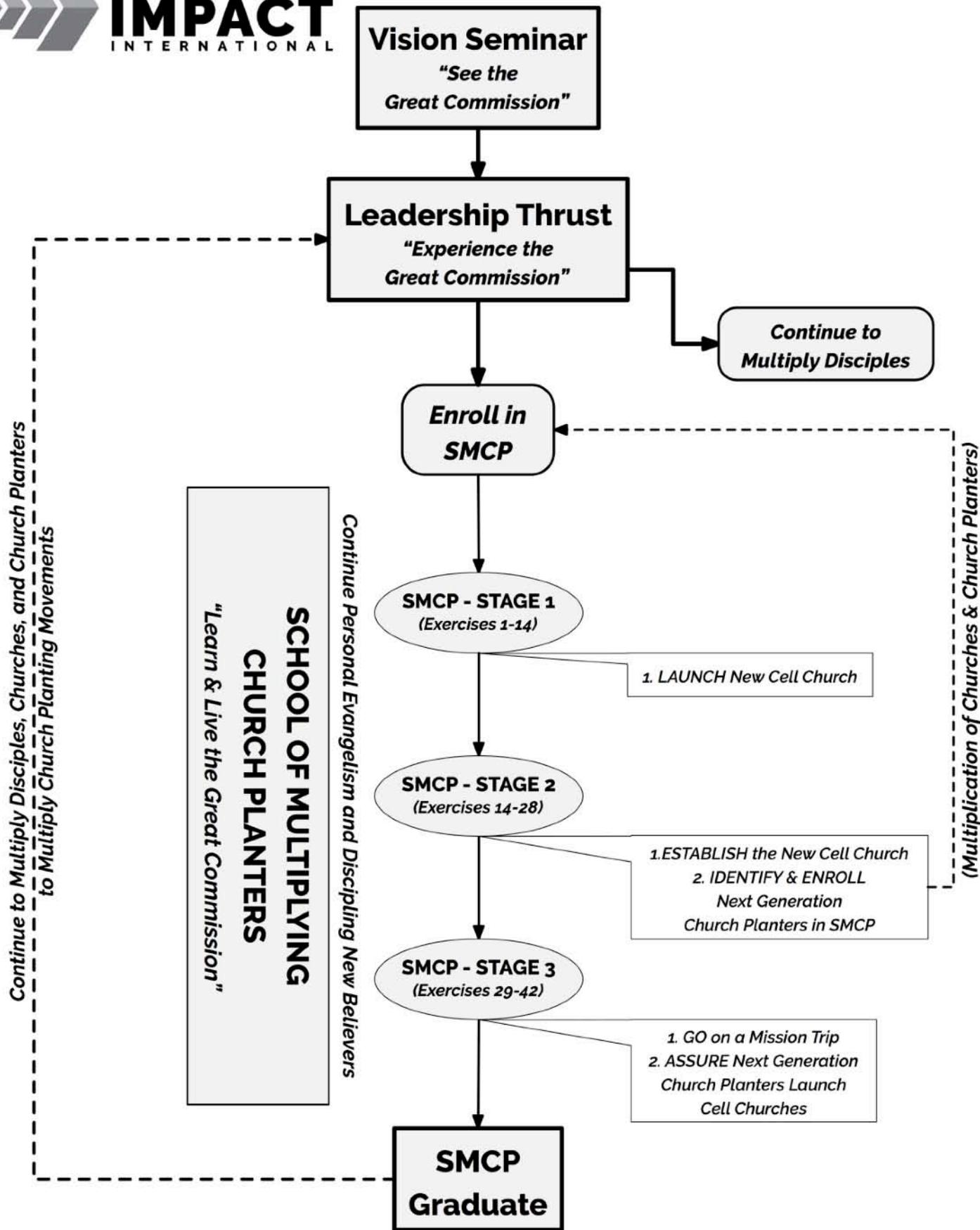
## **STEP 9: MULTIPLY THE DISCIPLES**

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

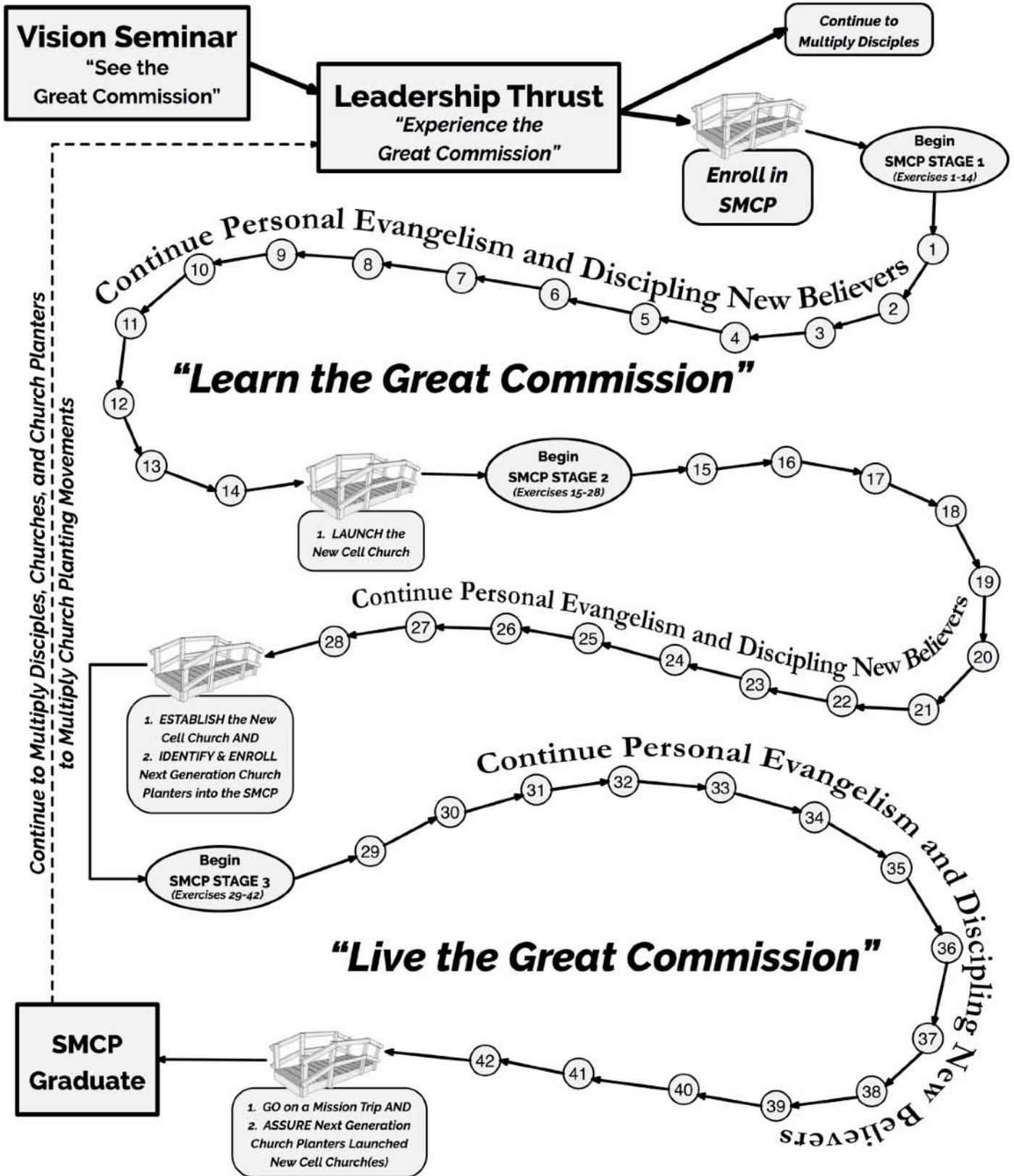


## **STEP 10: LOCK ARMS TO LAUNCH A MOVEMENT**

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



**SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING  
CHURCH PLANTERS**





**STRATEGIC IMPACT**  
**LIFE TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS\***

THESE QUESTIONS ARE MEANT TO HELP IN GROWTH IN CHARACTER AND CONFESSION OF SIN. THEY ARE TO BE ASKED AND ANSWERED WITH HONESTY, GRACE AND CONFIDENTIALITY FROM A FOUNDATION OF LOVE. NOTHING SPOKEN IN THIS GROUP SHOULD BE SHARED OUTSIDE THIS GROUP.

8. Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
9. Did you finish your Scripture reading this week? What did God say to you? (*Agree about what Scripture to read for next week; do not choose a new passage until everyone completes the previous reading.*)
10. Did you listen to, obey and depend on the Holy Spirit this week to be and do what God wants? In what ways?
11. Have you read, viewed or been involved in inappropriate sexual material, thoughts or actions; or given into any other addictive behavior this week?
12. Have you lacked integrity in your financial dealings this week or coveted something that does not belong to you?
13. Have you walked in love in your important relationships in your family, friends, neighbors and church this week?
14. Have you continued to remain angry and unforgiving with someone or damaged another with your words, either to their face or by gossip and complaining to others this week?
15. Have you been a good witness this week to the greatness of Jesus Christ both in your words and your actions? Who is someone who did not know Christ that you talked to about Him?
16. Did you finish your Actions for the week? What was the best thing you learned? What was your greatest challenge you faced in doing them? Why? (*Do not proceed to the next lesson unless everyone did the actions steps*)
17. Have you been completely honest with me?



# STAGE 1

## *“Live the Great Commission” Exercises 15-28*

Congratulations on successfully launching your new cell church! You are growing the kingdom of God! In **Stage 2** of the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* you and your team will continue to grow in your spiritual life (the exercises do become more challenging), you will continue to establish the new cell church by making and maturing multiplying disciples, and you will seek (and we pray will find) potential church planters within your cell so that you may equip and send them out to launch the next generation of cell churches! Once you and your team have **completed the exercises, continued to establish the new cell church, and identified potential church planters and enrolled them in the SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**, you will then be ready to cross the **bridge** into **Stage 3**. Press on!

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 15 - "IDENTITY IN CHRIST"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

Our own sense of personal identity is extremely important. We often describe ourselves by our citizenship ("I am from Peru"), our vocation ("I am a business man"), our race ("I am an Indian"), our tribe ("I am Zulu"), our geography ("I am a European"), our involvements ("I am a football player"), our economic condition ("I am a rich person," or "I am a poor person"), our family status ("I am a husband/wife/father/mother/son/daughter"), our ministry role ("I am a pastor, elder, bishop, deacon, or church planter"). Sometimes we are proud to describe ourselves in these ways, but sometimes we might be ashamed of how we think of ourselves, or how others might define us. No matter what you think about yourself, or what others think about you, the most important opinion is what God says about you! One of the most crucial things for each of us is to have a correct view of our true identity in Christ.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Why do you think it is most important to view ourselves according to what God says about us and not what we, or even others, think? What difference does this make?*

You can discover what God says is true about you throughout the New Testament. In this exercise we will consider four fundamental marks of our identity in Christ found in 2 Corinthians 5 and Romans 8. As you embrace your identity according to what God says about you, you will grow in your confidence and ability to fulfill everything God intends for you.

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:16-17. **First**, you are a **New Person** in Christ. The moment that you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, something wonderful and real happened. You were born again spiritually (see John 3:3-8). The Bible describes this new birth as the "*washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*," (Titus 3:5). It is not only that your status with God changed, you actually became a new creation! Romans 6:2 says that we actually died with Christ to sin. This means that your Old Self, related to Adam, died, and that your New Self, related to Christ, was born. You are no longer a "sinner," but the Bible describes you as a "saint." It is true that, as new persons in Christ, we all sometimes sin, but being a sinner is no longer our fundamental identity. The Bible says that you are now an adopted son or daughter of God, with all the privileges and honors of belonging to His family (Read John 1:12; Romans 8:15-17).

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What is the danger of only thinking of yourself as "just a sinner, saved by grace." What difference would it make to consistently view yourself as a totally new creature in Christ who has died to sin?*

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 21. **Second**, you are a reconciled and righteous **friend** of God. Verse 18 says that God reconciled us to Himself through Christ. When two people are unreconciled, it means

that they are enemies. Before we knew Christ, we were His enemies because of our sin. God was not our enemy, but we were His enemy! But, because Christ died for us, we are now reconciled, or made a friend to God. How did we move from being God's enemies to being His friends? Jesus became our substitute! God made Him to be our sin, and He made us to be Christ's righteousness! (v. 21). God no longer counts our sins against us, (v. 19). When God looks on you, He looks on you as His beloved friend because you are in Christ!

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: What does it mean to you to be called the friend of God?*

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. **Third**, you are an **ambassador for Christ** who has been given the ministry of reconciliation. Every person who has been reconciled to Christ automatically becomes God's servant to carry the message of reconciliation to others, v. 18. We are ambassadors for Christ (v. 20), telling others how they may also be reconciled to God through Christ. An ambassador is someone who represents a person or tribe or country or kingdom to another. You are citizen of Christ's Kingdom who represents Him and His message to people in this world. You bring His Good News to them that God has provided reconciliation to them through the forgiveness of sin by the death and resurrection of Christ on their behalf. Ambassadors are specially chosen. They are important and highly valued people who fill a crucial role for the one they represent. This is a high calling. You are highly valued in God's kingdom purposes!

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How should your role as an ambassador for Christ affect your priorities and activities?*

**Read** Romans 8:9-11 and Acts 1:8. **Fourth** you are the **dwelling of God** because His Holy Spirit lives in you! Along with other Christians, you are a 'living stone' in God's spiritual house, (1 Peter 2:4-5). Because Christ is in you by His indwelling Spirit, you have everything that you need to live in a way pleasing to God and to accomplish His purposes through you. If you were the only Christian left on earth, you could launch a movement to reach the world with the Good News about Christ - not because of your own skills and abilities, but because of His supernatural power in your life through the Holy Spirit who lives in you. You have all you need to do all He wants in and through your life!

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How would you complete this statement: Because the Holy Spirit dwells in me I can \_\_\_\_\_.*

Your identity in Christ is no illusion - it is reality. What God says about you is true. No matter your background or social status, no matter your education, financial status or role in this world, you are a unique and invaluable person in God's eyes and for His purposes because Christ is in your life. It is so important to view yourself according to your new identity in Christ. As you learn to affirm what God says about you, you will have the confidence to be and do everything He has made you to be.

**KEY CONCEPT:** YOUR TRUE IDENTITY AS A NEW PERSON IN CHRIST IS GOD'S FRIEND AND CHRIST'S AMBASSADOR IN WHOM HIS HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS.

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Every day this week, look yourself in a mirror and say out loud to yourself:

*"I am a new person in Christ."*

*"I am God's reconciled and righteous friend."*

*"I am an ambassador for Christ."*

*"I am God's dwelling place. His Holy Spirit lives in me."*

**Day 2:** Which of these four identities means most to you at this point in your life?

Why? Write out how this specific identity will make a difference to you this week.

**Day 3:** Who is someone you need to be an ambassador for Christ to at this time?

How will you do this?

When will you do it?

*Don't hesitate. Go and represent Christ to them this week!*

**Day 4:** Satan is called the "Accuser of the Brothers" (*Revelation 12:10*). He will cause you to doubt your worth and value to God. Because of your background, social status, or past failures, others might say that you are unimportant and insignificant. In light of this lesson, how will you face these doubts and accusations?

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 16 - "PRACTICAL ISSUES: WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE MEET?"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

**READ:** Acts 2:42-47

From the very start in Acts, the early church had a balance of activities in which the people engaged when they were together. Over the years, denominations have added their own meaningful traditions - but in the most simple form, the people of the church participate in 4 activities when they gather. Make sure that you have a balance of these 4 activities as you gather new believers together for the new cell church.

**ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES IN A CELL CHURCH MEETING**

1. WELCOME and FELLOWSHIP: Make everyone who attends feel *welcome* and *accepted*.
  - A. You and your team should greet everyone warmly as they arrive.
  - B. Help everyone to get to know each other and feel comfortable.
    - ▶ You might use questions that everyone can answer. *Examples, "What is your name? Where did you live between the ages of 7 and 12? How many people did you have in your family?"*

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *What specific practical things can you and your team do to make the new believers feel welcome and accepted? How can you train the others in the cell church to grow in their ability to welcome new people?*

2. WORSHIP and PRAYER: Have a time of *worship* and *praise* to the Lord.
  - A. Focus on Christ and His presence through the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - B. Don't make new believers feel uncomfortable—teach "everyone" new songs!
  - C. Ask for prayer requests from and pray for needs of the people. Pray for the lost to come to faith.
  - D. Have times of simple "Thank You" prayers of gratitude to the Lord!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *How will you help the new believers grow in their ability and desire to worship and pray? How will you model worship and prayer as a team?*

3. **STUDY** the **BIBLE**: Lead the new believers in a time of *study* and *growth* in the *Bible*.
  - A. As much as possible make it a **discussion** and not a lecture. Refer to Exercise 18, "How to teach Scripture," for guidelines in preparing to lead an effective Bible study.
  - B. Help the new believers find the verses in their Bible.
  - C. Focus on helping the new believers apply the truth of the Bible.
  - D. You could use lessons from "SI Discipleship Tool" as your focus.
  - E. Try memorizing a verse together as a group!

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can you increase discussion about the Bible? How can you increase understanding and application of what is taught from the Bible?*

4. **WORK** and **WITNESS**: Put the new believers to *work* immediately!
  - A. Encourage them to begin praying for friends and family that need to know Christ.
  - B. Ask them to help serve in new church - putting out chairs, making refreshments, helping with children, etc.
  - C. Train them how to share their testimony and the Gospel.
  - D. Ask them to list people they will talk to about Jesus and then report each time you meet.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: List all the tasks that must be done for a cell church meeting. Identify the tasks that a new believer could do to help the cell church meeting go well. How will you approach the new believers to invite them to participate with you in the work? How will you train and encourage the new believers to share their testimony and the gospel? How will you model the sharing of testimony and the gospel?*

5. Above all - make sure that you keep **Jesus** at the center of everything you do in the meetings! The **focus** should be on **CHRIST**.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can you assure that Christ will be the focus and the center of all you do in the cell church? How can you assure that these four activities are kept in balance?*

### **OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

Because Strategic Impact works with many denominations, each with its own tradition and convictions - specific practices to follow the principles of Scripture may vary. Therefore, it is important to discuss among your team, with the counsel of leadership from your mother church who is planting this new

cell church - to decide HOW the new cell church will conduct these important practices. Here are some issues for discussion:

1. TEACHING:

- ▶ Who will handle the teaching of the Bible?
- ▶ Will the teaching role rotate between the team leaders?
- ▶ Will there be one person who teaches?
- ▶ What happens when this person is ill or has to miss? Who will stand in for him?

*Scriptures 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 cell church or only at the mother church?
- ▶ Who will administer the Lord's Supper? The teacher? The leaders?
- ▶ How frequently will the congregation 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)?

*Scriptures 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, due to a lack of water or an illness or disability in the new believer, all three methods have been accepted. While immersion has been the most widely used, circumstances have called for flexibility and grace.*]

*Scriptures 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.*)
- ▶ How will the money be kept? (*Bank account? Locked in a safe box? \_\_\_\_\_ ??*)
- ▶ Who will have access to that money when it is time to use it? (*There needs to be at least two people involved.*)
- ▶ How will you practically hold one another accountable so that everyone remains "above reproach" in the church's financial matters?

*Scriptures 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?

*Scriptures to consider: Ephesians 5:15-21; Colossians 3:16-17*

6. CHILDREN:

- ▶ Will the children be in the meeting?
- ▶ If not, who will teach the children on a level where they can understand?
- ▶ Where will the children meet if they are not with the adults?

*Scriptures to consider: Matthew 18:10, 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 11:18-19; Proverbs 22:6*

7. CELL CHURCH MEETING:

- ▶ How long will the cell church meeting last?
- ▶ What is the order of events for the meeting?

*Scriptures to consider: 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40; Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Think through the cell church meeting from preparation to finish. List out any other areas that will require agreement among the team regarding how they will be handled.*

**WARNING:** As you and the team make these decisions and carry out these activities, remember - **CHRIST MUST BE THE FOCUS!** **Jesus** MUST be the center of all that we do in the church. It is easy to become distracted. It is easy to move your focus to the tasks to be done and not the person of Christ. **FIGHT** to keep the **FOCUS** on **JESUS** where it belongs!

**KEY CONCEPT:** *CHURCH MEETINGS HAVE FEW ESSENTIAL ACTIONS, BUT THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR AND DONE WITH FAITHFULNESS - AND ALL SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON CHRIST.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Write out your plans and thoughts regarding how you will practically do the following:

Welcome and Fellowship:

Worship and Prayer:

Study of the Bible:

Work and Witness:

**Day 2:** Write out your thoughts and answers to the questions listed in the exercise for the following topics:

Teaching:

Communion:

Baptism:

Offering / Money:

**Day 3:** Write out your thoughts and answers to the questions listed in the exercise for the following topics:

Worship / Music:

Children:

Cell Church Meeting:

**Day 4:** Meet with your team and share your ideas with each other. WRITE OUT your TEAM's PLAN for all of the areas listed. If you run out of time, make this a PRIORITY for future team meetings.

1. Welcome and Fellowship:

2. Worship and Prayer:

3. Study of the Bible:

4. Work and Witness:

5. Teaching:

6. Communion:

7. Baptism:

8. Offering / Money:

9. Worship / Music:

10. Children:

11. Cell Church Meeting:

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 17 - "HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

Our ministry is to make multiplying disciples to the 4th generation (*see 2 Timothy 2:2*). Paul discipled Timothy who was to train faithful people to disciple others. One of the most effective "tools" that Paul used to disciple Timothy was to teach him truth that he had learned from Jesus. (*Read 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 2:2, 15; 3:10, 14*).

In fact, Paul strongly urges Timothy to continue in what he had learned and in the "sacred writings." (*2 Timothy 2:14-15*). Then he states the reason: "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*" (*verses 16-17*).

If we are to grow into mature men and women that God desires, we must **know, understand and apply** the Scriptures to our lives. If we are to make multiplying disciples we must use the Scriptures to help them grow and become mature men and women of God.

Ezra is a good model for us. He "*set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.*" (*Ezra 7:10*).

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What do you think is the difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible?*

In Stage 1, Exercise 7, we discovered 6 ways to saturate our lives with the Word of God - hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, meditating on and applying it. In this exercise we will concentrate on how to study the Bible. This skill will enable us to be life long students of the Word who understand, live and teach it to others.

There are **three basic steps** in studying the Bible:

1. We must **see** what it says. - This is carefully observing what is written.
2. We must **understand** what it means. - This means to interpret it correctly.
3. We must **apply** what it tells. - This means that we must live its truth.

First, we must carefully **OBSERVE** what is written in the text of the Bible. Too often we are careless and don't see clearly what the authors of Scripture wrote. To observe the text means to read it carefully and repeatedly to really see what is there. The following chart will help you to observe a passage of Scripture. Pick a passage of Scripture (a chapter, paragraph or verse) and read it repeatedly. Answer the questions in each box to help you see what is there:

## PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **OBSERVE: What do I see?**

<p><b>What</b> do I learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?</p>	<p><b>Who</b> are the people in these verses? What do I learn about myself or people?</p>
<p>What are the <b>commands</b> and <b>promises</b> in the text?</p>	<p>What are the cause-effect relationships? <b>How</b> do things relate?</p>
<p><b>Where</b> and <b>when</b> does the action take place? Describe the place, setting or time elements.</p>	<p>What <b>important</b> or <b>repeated</b> words or ideas are expressed?</p>
<p><b>Why</b> does the author write this? What problems were the readers facing?</p>	<p>What are these verses about? What is the <b>main topic</b> or idea of this passage?</p>

The next step is to interpret, or understand clearly, the passage of Scripture. This chart can help you do this:

**INTERPRET: Answers I need to understand this passage.**

Questions	Answers
What key words or concepts do I need to define?	
Who are the people in this passage that I need more information about?	
What comparisons or contrasts do I need to understand?	
What do the figures of speech mean?	
<p><b>WHAT IS THE PRIMARY TRUTH OR IDEA OF THIS PASSAGE?</b> Write this in one sentence.</p>	

**NOTE:** *The more time you spend observing the text, the better you will be able to understand and interpret it.*

If possible, it is also helpful to have a couple of basic tools to help you interpret the text:

1. A good Bible dictionary
2. A concordance listing words that are used in different places in the Bible

The final, and most important, step in studying the Bible is to consider carefully how the passage **applies** to your life. This chart can help you put the truth into action according to the purpose God gave it: *“for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness,” 2 Timothy 3:16*

**APPLY: How will this passage change my thinking, attitudes and actions?**

Teaching	Reproof	Correction	Training in Righteousness
<p>Is there an <b>example</b> to follow?            What did I learn? Are there universal principles of how God acts or how I should act?</p>	<p>Is there a <b>sin</b> to confess? What lies do I believe or things I do wrong? Why? What is the root of this kind of thinking?</p>	<p>Is there a <b>command</b> to obey?            What will I do now?            How can I correct my wrong thinking or actions?</p>	<p>Is there a <b>promise</b> to claim?            How can I improve this area in my life? How can I form new habits of thinking and acting?</p>

Now is the time to talk with God about what you learned and what He specifically wants you to do today. Write out what He says and your reactions:

<p><b>“...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”</b></p>
<p> </p>

**KEY CONCEPT:** WE MUST BE LIFELONG STUDENTS THE BIBLE SO THAT WE KNOW WHAT IT SAYS, UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS, OBEY ITS TRUTH AND TEACH OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Carefully and repeatedly read and observe 2 Timothy 2:1-7.  
Use the OBSERVE chart to write out what you see.

**Day 2:** Carefully and repeatedly read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 again.  
Continue to write what you discover on the OBSERVE chart.  
Then use the INTERPRET chart and write out questions (in the left hand column) that you need to answer to clearly understand these verses.

**Day 3:** Spend time answering the questions you wrote down on the INTERPRET chart.  
(Use a Bible dictionary, concordance and commentary if you have these available to help you answer your questions).

**Day 4:** As a result of your study use the APPLY chart to help you live the truth of these verses in your life. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN YOUR STUDY.

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 18 - "HOW TO TEACH THE BIBLE"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

**READ:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God gave us the Bible so that we might be *"thoroughly equipped for every good work."* The Bible is God's truth to transform our thinking, change our attitudes, shape our values and guide our behavior.

Your role as a discipler and cell church leader is to help your disciples and your new church grow to be more like Christ. One of the most important things that you must do 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." (Read 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 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 Scripture, but most of the time you will be responsible to teach a smaller group. This provides a great opportunity to lead 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 **live** God's truth. God did not give us His Word to make us smarter, but to change us to be more like Jesus!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *Do you agree or disagree that "Leading a group to help them discover and apply the Bible's truth is far more effective than telling them what it means." Why?*

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

1. **STUDY** the Bible and **PREPARE** on your own.  
You must be a student of the Bible and understand and apply it to your own life before you can teach it to others.
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 Key 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 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.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Describe someone you know who is an effective Bible teacher.  
Name something that person does that makes them so effective in teaching God's Word.

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

1. Choose a **unit of study** (usually either a paragraph or chapter from the Bible) and read and study it carefully on your own. (See *Exercise 17* for help in learning how to study the Bible).
2. **Summarize** the **Main Truth** or **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.

**KEY CONCEPT:** THE BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE THE BIBLE IS TO HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER AND APPLY GOD'S TRUTH TO THEIR LIVES.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**EXAMPLE BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Choose a **unit of study** and read 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:

- A. something they should **know**, or
- B. something they should **feel**, or
- C. something they should **do**.

*The main truth from this passage is best applied as something they should be able to 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 can 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 us) from doing what He most wants us to do? How would you define a witness? What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?

POINT 3: We will be effective witnesses by the power of the Holy Spirit. - QUESTIONS: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our 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 my own testimony as an example and tell about a time when I shared it with someone else.
  - Have a piece of paper and pen/pencil for 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 Cell 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 SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS*  
**TOOL: BIBLE DISCUSSION GUIDE WORKSHEET**

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

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Use the guideline to prepare to lead a discussion for your next cell meeting:**

**Day 1:** Choose a passage of Scripture and read and study it thoroughly. Summarize the main truth in one sentence.

**Day 2:** Define the goal of your discussion time with your group. Think about and write down explanation points and discussion questions that will help you reach this goal.

**Day 3:** Write out a plan to lead your Bible discussion with your group.

**Day 4:** Lead your group through your plan and then meet with someone afterwards to evaluate if you reached your Bible discussion goal.

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

God designed your life to be a dynamic personal relationship with Jesus Christ by means of His Holy Spirit who lives in you (*Read Romans 8:9-14*). God never intends for you to follow and serve Him by your own efforts. Rather, He has given you the Holy Spirit so that you might know Him personally and experience His power to please Him and accomplish what He desires. Every person who has been born again by the Spirit has the Holy Spirit indwelling their human spirit (*Romans 9:9; Galatians 3:2-3*). He desires to minister **to** you and **through** you as you walk in the Spirit (*Galatians 5:16*) What does this mean specifically?

**First**, He desires to **comfort and encourage you** (*John 14:15-21*). The Lord promised that He would send us the Holy Spirit as Comforter (Counselor). We can experience His comforting presence in our hearts and minds. However, verse 21 says that we must **obey His commands** in order to experience this intimacy with the Lord (*see John 15:14-15*). As we fully obey, we will experience greater intimacy, comfort and encouragement from the Lord.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How have you experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit in the last week? What command do you sense the Lord asking you to obey today?*

**Second**, the Holy Spirit promises to **guide you into all truth** (*John 16:12-15*). The primary application of these words of Jesus was for His original apostles to write the God-breathed Word of God which we now have in the New Testament. This is called *inspiration*. The secondary application for every one of us believers is that the Holy Spirit will teach you through the words of Scripture (*Ephesians 1:17-18*). This is called *illumination*. The Holy Spirit has a voice and the language He speaks is "Bible." So we must **read the Bible with openness to the voice of the Spirit**. When you read the Bible, pray, "Lord, speak to me."

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What truth from Scripture is the Holy Spirit impressing on you at this time?*

**Third**, the Holy Spirit desires to **reproduce the life of Christ in you** (*Read 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-17*). When the Holy Spirit re-created you into a new person, He came to dwell in you (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). However, the new birth does not mean we are mature in Christ. The work of Christ **for** us is perfect and complete. But, the work of Christ **in** us is not complete. The Holy Spirit desires to transform us increasingly into the image of Christ. This is described by the fruit of the Spirit (*Read Galatians 5:22-23*). He produces this fruit as we walk in the Spirit (*Read Galatians 5:16*). We walk in

the Spirit by **daily choosing to say “Yes” to Him** and “no” to the desires of the Flesh (your sinful nature). You will continue to experience conflicting desires of the Flesh and the Spirit until you meet the Lord in heaven. As we consistently **choose to follow the desires of the Spirit**, the character of Jesus will increasingly develop in our lives.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What sinful desire do you need to say “No” to at this time? Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need to cooperate most with the Holy Spirit in your life at this time?*

**Fourth**, the Holy Spirit desires to **lead you** to do certain things and say certain words (*Read Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:21; Philippians 2:12-13*). He prompts us to will and act according to God’s good purposes. His voice speaks to your heart and mind. But, we must be careful. Satanic and demonic voices can also influence your thoughts. So, make sure the prompting you follow agrees with Scripture. The Spirit will never lead you to do anything that is contrary to the Bible. We need to be sensitive to His prompting moment by moment! Stop and listen.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Do you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to do or say anything at the present time? What is it?*

**Fifth**, the Holy Spirit desires to **win and disciple others through you** (*Read John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 4:10-11*). He wants to use you to tell others how they can know Jesus and to help those who know Jesus to grow to be more like Him. This great mission requires you to cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We cannot do this supernatural work on our own, but as we tell others about Jesus, He will bear witness with us and draw others to faith in Christ. We cannot successfully witness if He does not work in and through us! So, **cooperate** with the Holy Spirit and **initiate** conversations with others about Christ, expecting Him to do His convincing work as you do.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Who is someone the Holy Spirit is prompting you to tell the Gospel about Christ and when will you initiate this conversation?*

After Jesus left this earth He promised that He would send His Holy Spirit to dwell in each of us (*John 16:7*). He comforts, teaches, transforms, leads and uses us to win others to Christ! You will have a joyful and fruitful Christian life as you fully cooperate with the Holy Spirit and walk with Him moment by moment of every day.

**KEY CONCEPT: GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO MINISTER TO US AND THROUGH US.**

**ACTIONS this week:**

**For each of the next five days review one of the five ministries of the Spirit to you described in this lesson.**

**Day 1:** Memorize Galatians 5:16.

Say it repeatedly every day this week to help you memorize it.

*Sunday*    *Monday*    *Tuesday*    *Wednesday*    *Thursday*    *Friday*    *Saturday*

**Day 2:** Which of the five ministries of the Holy Spirit is most meaningful to you today? Why? Write out how you can better relate to the Holy Spirit in this area.

**Day 3:** Read John 15:26-27 and Acts 1:8. Define what the responsibility of the Holy Spirit is, and what your responsibility is whenever you witness to others.

**Day 4:** Write out what each of these commands means specifically for your own life:

Ephesians 4:30:

Ephesians 5:18:

Galatians 5:16, 21:

1 Thessalonians 5:17:

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

**READ:** *1 Peter 4:8-11; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:3-12*

Within your church planting team - and within the church planting teams you will equip - people will have different gifts and personalities. Additionally, there are some specific needs that must be met in order for a cell church to be successful, to be healthy, and to reproduce multiplying disciples, multiplying leaders, multiplying churches, and eventually produce a movement!

### **RELATIONSHIPS and TEAM BUILDING**

1 Peter 4:9 tells us to "show hospitality to one another without grumbling." This lets us know that we are tempted to grumble, to complain, to have disagreements within the body of Christ - especially within a close team of people. We must be on guard to keep our relationships with Christ and our relationships with each other as priority. When people with different gifts come together, each person will often think their gift is the most important and ignore the importance of the other gifts on the team.

The fact is, God has designed this team for His sovereign purposes. He has intentionally placed each member within the team. We need each other - even when we don't feel like it. The tension created between differing gifts is actually a "balancing" that God uses to keep us from running too far in any one direction. Look for the ways your team members balance each other's gifts and personalities. Look for the ways others on the team balance your gifts and personalities. This is a gift from God! It may feel restricting at times, but when a team walks in unity, grace, and understanding, there is a pleasing aroma to God and His blessing is there. (*Psalm 133*)

Unity is NOT the same as uniformity. **Unity** sees the differences within people and chooses to walk together in love - even valuing those differences. **Uniformity** demands that everyone be exactly the same in order to walk together. God is creative! He never calls us to uniformity - but He commands us to walk in unity and tells us that unity is a sign of maturity in Christ. (*Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-14; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 3:12-14; John 17:22-23; Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:1-4; Galatians 3:26-28*)

Walking in unity is HARD! It is very difficult! It will require humility, patience, faith, and forgiveness! Fortunately, all of these are fruits of the Holy Spirit! Additionally, this is the way Christ gave the world for judging whether or not we are His disciples - our love for one another! (*John 13:34-35*) Our ability to walk in unity - EVEN WITH OUR DIFFERENCES - reveals Who we follow.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can different gifts within a team be a blessing? Discuss how your team walks in unity. Pray for God to empower you to do what is needed to walk in unity and love.*

### **CHURCH PLANT NEEDS and the PRACTICAL ROLES TO MEET THEM**

God, in His grace has given us the required gifts to plant the new cell church. And there are some clear needs that must be met in order for the cell church to be established and to grow and reproduce.

Your team must come together and match each member's gifts and personality with the needs of the cell church. In some cases, a team member will take on more than one role. In other cases, there may be a few people who share a role. But, EVERYONE on the church planting team should serve in one of these practical roles. [*NOTE: There are also the spiritual roles of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers given in Ephesians 4. We will address those in a later exercise.*]

#### **Practical Roles and Descriptions:**

1. **Lead Pastor** - Oversees the direction of the team and coordinates the work of the other team members. Communicates and leads toward God's vision.
2. **Teacher** - Primary teacher of God's Word when the cell church gathers.
3. **Prayer** - Models and coordinates intercession for the church plant, its members, and the surrounding community.
4. **Evangelism/Discipleship** - Models and coordinates evangelism and discipleship efforts. Keeps "multiplication" at the forefront. Helps everyone in the cell church to make and mature multiplying disciples.
5. **Worship/Music** - Leads and coordinates worship through song and other means. Works with the congregation to grow them in their heart for Christ.
6. **Administration** - Oversees and coordinates the details of the operations of the church including finances, schedule, events, and any other efforts put forth by the church.
7. **Children Ministries** - Oversees the children and those who work with them to assure they are taught God's word in a way they can understand so they may grow in their faith.

Over time, as more people are added to the church and disciplined to maturity, team members should equip the new believers to take on service roles according to their gifts and personalities. This should result in your team "letting go" of many of the responsibilities and delegating them to others so they may serve in areas which best match with their own gifting and personality. Remember, your ultimate goal is multiplication! As you equip and train others to serve, you prepare people to multiply other disciples, churches and movements! However, in the beginning, everyone will probably serve in several roles - both in leading and in supporting/helping. This means that you will probably be called to grow in an area where you are weak so that you may cover that role until the Lord raises up someone to take over for you.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How do each of you see yourselves fitting into the roles above? How do you see each other fitting in? Are there any additional roles that have not been listed here? Pray that the Lord will guide you to the right position in which to serve in the cell church. Pray that the Lord will raise up workers for His harvest from His harvest!*

## **THE MORE EXCELLENT WAY**

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-31. Although we are each very different from one another, we are of ONE BODY! We NEED those differences if we are going to fully express the beauty of Jesus Christ to the world! As your church planting team walks together through difficult and stressful times, there will be a danger of division coming among you, so you MUST BE ON GUARD! Remember, God has placed this team together to reach the lost with the Gospel... He has put you on the same team so that you may show the world that you are His disciples - by your love for one another.

Therefore, even with the strong and varied gifts that are present within the team - and within the cell church - there is something of even greater importance: "...a still more excellent way."

This way is found in 1 Corinthians 13. It is the way of love.

Verses 1-3 tell us that no matter what gift we have, no matter how we use our gifts, no matter what sacrifice we make, if we do not have love, it is for nothing.

Verses 4-7 describes the characteristics of this love - how it should look when you walk with your team. You should be so filled with the love of Jesus that you could replace the word "love" with your name and the statements should be true. "[your name] is patient and kind. [your name] does not envy or boast. [your name] is not arrogant or rude..." When the threat of division and conflict within the team arises, check and see if you are walking in love.

Verses 8-13 shares that everything else is temporary, but love is eternal. There will come a time when we will not need "hope" anymore - our hopes will all be realized as we are with Christ. There will come a time when we will not need "faith" anymore - our faith will be fulfilled as we see Christ face to face. But "LOVE" will always be present for eternity.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How will your team recognize when division is threatening your unity?  
How can you gently remind one another to keep love central in your team?*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP LOVE AND UNITY CENTRAL IN THE CHURCH PLANT TEAM AS WE USE OUR UNIQUE GIFTS AND ABILITIES TO FULFILL THE NEEDS OF THE NEW CHURCH PLANT.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

- Day 1:** List the people on your church planting team (including yourself). Write down each person's strengths and weaknesses. Write down how each person's gift is a blessing to the church? Write down how their gift is a blessing to you, personally.  
Pray and praise God for the varied gifts on the team.

- Day 2:** Discuss with your team any areas of potential friction or tension within the team AND how members of the team balance one another to bring God glory.

Pray for God to create and maintain unity among the team.

Ask God to forgive you where you have not walked in unity.

**Day 3:** Prayerfully assign each person on your team (including yourself) to a role (or roles, if there are more roles than people). Write why you placed them in that role.

Lead Pastor -

Teacher -

Prayer -

Evangelism/Discipleship -

Worship/Music -

Administration -

Children Ministries -

\_\_\_\_\_ -  
(other)

When you next gather together with the team, talk through WHY each team member is assigned each individual to certain roles.

Did your assignments match with the rest of the team?

Where and why were they different?

As a team, come to a conclusion as to who will take the lead in each role.

**Day 4:** THINK through what role you will fulfill on the team. What are the duties and challenges within your role? What will you need help with? PRAY for the Lord to grant you wisdom and perseverance as you use your gifts to fill this need within the church.

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 21 - "CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

These are great days to be alive as a Christian. God is moving in wonderful ways in the world. You have seen Him at work in your life and in the area that you live. People have come to faith in Christ and you have been involved in starting a new cell church. It is no accident that you live at this time and in the place where you are. God wants to do a great work through you in your city and region. He wants to use you to fulfill His kingdom purposes in these days of great opportunity. He wants to use you to reach the world with His Gospel.

How do you respond when you hear that? Many times we are excited about the thought that God wants to do great things through our lives, but then we hesitate or have doubts. We sometimes are reluctant about getting involved in God's big purposes for our lives. Why? We might not make ourselves available to the Lord because of simple disobedience. Or, there might be sin in our lives that keeps us from fulfilling His purposes. Sometimes we may not feel equipped or trained to do what He wants us to do.

But often, when we hear that God wants to use us to evangelize, disciple others, start new churches, train and multiply leaders or lead a movement, we think, "I cannot do that!" Lack of confidence often keeps us from believing, and then doing, what God calls us to do! Perhaps you think that you are not talented, educated, important, trained or experienced enough to be used by God in significant ways. You might say to yourself, "I am not a great leader. I do not have sufficient skills or personality or gifts or abilities to influence others."

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *Share with the group how you have experienced self-doubt or lack of confidence when you been faced with something God has called you to do.*

Lack of confidence can hinder us from becoming the person God wants us to be and accomplishing the great works He wants us to fulfill. So, how do we overcome this lack of confidence? It is important to understand a couple of important realities:

**First, we must understand that confidence to be and do what God wants DOES NOT DEPEND on your own skills, abilities or resources.**

There is a reason that we all lack confidence. It is because, in and of ourselves, we really are not much! This is verified by an accurate picture of us painted by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31:

*"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak*

*in the world to shame the strong. God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'*" ESV

Many (if not most) Christians in the world are not rich, powerful, brilliant or influential by nature! Most of us are just common, simple, ordinary people. Some of us have great personal limitations.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Share with others in the group how your background or personal limitations might cause you to lack confidence in your ability to do something significant.*

So, if our confidence does not depend on ourselves, how can we be confident to do what the Lord calls us to do?

**You can be confident in Christ who indwells your life to accomplish everything God created you to be and do!**

Romans 3:23 says *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Because of our sin each one of us fails to live up to the standard of being and doing what God wants. The "glory" described in this verse most likely does not refer to the glory of God, but rather our "glory" or the ideal person that God created us to be. We fall short of the glory that God intends for each of us. The result of our sin is that our mind is degraded, our emotions are damaged, our will is corrupted and our body is dying because of sin. The Bible calls these results the wages of sin – death (*see Romans 6:23*).

However, when you became a believer in Christ you were born again spiritually (*John 3:3-5*) and you became a new person in Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). At that moment the Spirit of Christ came to dwell in your life. Now, because He indwells us, we have a new hope – the restored glory that God intends for us. Paul describes this in Colossians 1:27, *"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"* Because Jesus is in you, you have the hope of becoming everything God created you to be! He will renew your degraded mind, He will heal your damaged emotions, He will conform your corrupted will to His will, and one day, when He returns, your body will be changed to a glorious body like His!

The culmination of our restored glory is described in Colossians 3:3-4, *"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* At that point, we will finally and fully be all that God designed for us to be!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Describe some ways that you have seen the Lord restore the glory of what He intends you to be and do?*

So, even though in and of yourself you may not have great skills, abilities, resources and gifts, and though you are unable to do anything of eternal, spiritual value apart from Christ, the great news is that, because Jesus dwells in you, He can do in and through you all that He desires!

**In summary, because Christ is in you....**

1. You can **become** the person God has created you to be! Read 2 Peter 1:3-8.

You have all the resources you need to continually grow into the person God desires for you to be because you partake of His divine nature! He has granted to you “all things that pertain to life and godliness!”, v. 3. No matter your background, education, resources, abilities and skills – you can demonstrate and grow each of these qualities mentioned in these verses!

2. You can **do** everything through Christ who gives you strength, Read Philippians 4:13.

Though in and of yourself you can do nothing of lasting spiritual value, Paul states that through Christ we can do everything God requires. It is not our ability, wisdom or skills that will enable us, but it is the indwelling Spirit of Jesus Christ who will enable us! God wants to use ordinary people like you and me to accomplish the extraordinary so that He gets the glory!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** How does it make you feel to realize that Christ in you will enable you to become the person He desires and to accomplish all that He wants you to do?*

In light of this, what is our response? It is to be **available** and **obedient** to the Lord. Offer yourself to Him and respond to His leading in your life. When He prompts you to do something, step out in faith that He will accomplish in and through you whatever He desires!

Our confidence does not come from ourselves and our abilities, but in our identity in Christ. Our confidence rests in His power to change and to use us to be and do what He wants!

Since Christ, the hope of glory, dwells in you, the issue is no longer, *if* you can, but *will* you? As a believer, you can no longer say, “*I cannot do what God wants.*” You could instead say, “*I will not do what God wants!*” Do not resist His leading in your life! Step out of your circle of comfort and watch God work. If He calls you to it, then He will do it through you! As 1 Thessalonians 5:24 states, “*He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*”

**KEY CONCEPT:** *BECAUSE CHRIST, THE HOPE OF GLORY, INDWELLS YOU, YOU CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL ENABLE YOU TO BECOME AND ACCOMPLISH ALL HE DESIRES FOR YOU, AS YOU MAKE YOURSELF COMPLETELY AVAILABLE TO HIM.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Think about and describe below what natural limitations have caused you to lack confidence that you can become or do what God wants you to do.

**Day 2:** Review the progression of Romans 3:23 (falling short of God's glory), Colossians 1:27 (Christ in you, the hope of glory) and Colossians 3:3-4 (you will appear with him in glory).

How does Christ in you restoring you to the glorious person He intends for you to be give you hope and confidence in your Christian life and ministry?

**Day 3:** Review the qualities listed in 2 Peter 1:3-8. What one or two qualities in these verses are lacking or need to be developed in your life? Write a specific plan of how you will trust the Lord to grow in these qualities.

**Day 4:** Is there something that you sense God is wanting you to do that you have felt uncomfortable or lack confidence and so have hesitated in doing?

Read and memorize Philippians 4:13. In light of this verse, will you step out in obedience and trust God to accomplish through you what He desires?

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

EXERCISE 22 - "MAINTAIN YOUR THINKING: CONTINUALLY CAST GOD'S VISION FOR HIS LOST WORLD"

**As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.**

If there is ONE PRAYER that I have made more than any other over my lifetime, I would have to say it is: **"Lord, would You help me to feel in my heart, something of the burden that You feel in Your heart, for Your lost world?"**

3 Parables that Jesus teaches in Luke 15 give us a glimpse into the very heart of God:

- The Parable of the LOST Sheep
- The Parable of the LOST Coin
- The Parable of the LOST Son

Do you remember the stories?

- The shepherd leaves the 99 sheep, so that he can go out & search for the one LOST sheep.
- The woman searches her house diligently, until she finds the one LOST coin.
- The grieving father waits patiently, until his LOST son, the Prodigal, returns home.

3 stories - but only 1 point: **"The heart of God in heaven BEATS for the salvation of His lost world."** And if our hearts beat with God's heart, I believe that we also will feel compelled to reach our generation with the saving message of Christ.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How much of your life is governed by this PASSION: to reach the world for Christ?*

**"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."** - 2 Peter 3:9

**"God desires all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth."** - 1 Timothy 2:4

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How do these two Scriptures demonstrate God's heart toward the lost? Any personal application?*

**MAINTAIN YOUR THINKING:**

Over the course of your lifetime, you will face many distractions. Some of them will come from EXTERNAL sources, but most of them will originate from WITHIN.

One of the most difficult tasks of any leader is that of MAINTAINING your FOCUS: “*keeping the main thing the main thing*”

Your responsibility as a leader is to KEEP God’s Vision “*white hot*” in your own heart, and then to CAST and RE-CAST and RE-RE-CAST that Vision over and over to your people in *fresh* and *vibrant* ways.

As you may know, water boils at 100° Celsius. Your job is to keep your heart at 99°C, so that the “*breath of the Holy Spirit*” (John 20:22) can bring your heart to a boiling temperature.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What are some practical steps we can take to keep our own hearts at 99°C?*

It has been said that Vision needs to be RE-CAST every 28 days, because we *lose focus*. Both for yourself and for the people you lead, you need to block out time every month just to “*re-kindle the fire*” and then IMPART that fire “AFRESH” to the people you serve.

Please stop and consider this important thought:

*You’re never going to get any BIGGER,  
You’re never going to go any GREATER  
You’re never going to think any HIGHER,  
than fulfilling the Great Commission in our lifetime.*

We have all the resources we need to literally fulfill the Great Commission! With God’s help, we CAN give all 7+ Billion people alive on earth today an opportunity to say “yes” to Jesus!!

When you and I get to heaven, and look back on our earthly life, there will have been NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT than the people you and I reached for Christ!

Your “*job description*” is that of an ARTIST: and using your words, you must “*paint a picture of future reality*” that is so CLEAR and so GRIPPING, that it COMPELS your people to join with you in reaching the world for Christ!!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How can we “paint a picture of future reality” for the people God has called us to lead?*

Surely with the super-natural resources of the resurrected Christ residing within us, we CAN literally put the gospel into the hands of every person on the face of the earth in our lifetime!

We invite you, if your heart *beats* with our hearts, to join with us in this noble task of world evangelization!!

**KEY CONCEPT:** *WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR THINKING/VISION BY KEEPING GOD’S PASSION FOR REACHING THE LOST WORLD “WHITE HOT” IN OUR OWN HEARTS AND REPEATEDLY CASTING THIS VISION TO THOSE WE LEAD.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Why did God put you on earth at **this time** in history?  
[NOT 100 years in the past, & NOT 100 years in the future]

**Day 2:** What is God's Vision for your life?

**Day 3:** How can God use YOU to give all 7+ Billion people a clear presentation of the gospel?

**Day 4:** What can you do THIS WEEK to CAST this VISION to the people you lead?

**Day 5:** How can you keep this Vision "*white-hot*" in your own heart?

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 23 - "WALKING IN FREEDOM"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

Just like a slave who has been freed from slavery, but continues to live in bondage, many born-again believers do not realize the Freedom that they already have in Christ.

Tragically, it is possible to taste a measure of Freedom, only to relapse into a lifestyle of Spiritual Bondage, literally returning to the very sin FROM WHICH YOU WERE SAVED!

Every one of us knows people who professed to become a Christ-follower, but then, in a short period of time, they choose to go back into their sin.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Why do you think some people, after placing their faith in Christ, choose to go back into a lifestyle of sin?*

In this exercise, we're going to discover how to MAINTAIN the freedom we already have in Christ.

*"But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is FREEDOM. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*

- 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

**DEFINITION:** True Freedom is not just deliverance "FROM" the power of sin; even more so, it is deliverance "TO" be all that God created you to be.

True Freedom is NOT: "avoiding" sin. - True Freedom IS: "pursuing" Christ.

Freedom is **NOT**:

- Deliverance from Demons
- Not Looking at pornography
- Not Expressing Destructive Anger
- Not Abusing Alcohol [these are merely OBSTACLES]

Freedom **IS**:

- Continual freedom is perpetually living in the PRESENCE of the Lord.
- Continual freedom is walking in daily REVELATION.
- Continual freedom begins with an ACCURATE CONCEPT of who God really is.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How can you and I continue to walk in, and even increase, the Freedom that is already ours in Christ?*

Let us take a look at **3 specific principles from the Bible:**

**1. BY TURNING to the Lord**

***“But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”*** - 2 Corinthians 3:16

There is a sense in which we turn FROM ourselves, and turn TO the Lord.

We turn FROM our own resources and our own abilities, and turn TO the unlimited resources of Christ Himself.

What is in your heart: *your true thoughts and feelings?*

The #1 most common sin within the Body of Christ is UNFORGIVENESS. Someone wrongs us, and rather than “let go” of that offense, [*the word FORGIVE means to “let go” of an offense*] it “springs up” just like the “root of bitterness” in Hebrews 12:15, and continues to grow in our heart, until it **CHOKES THE LIFE OUT OF** God’s Presence in our hearts.

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;  
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,  
And lead me in the everlasting way.”* - Psalm 139:23-24

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Ask the Lord to search your heart, and immediately **ACKNOWLEDGE** any unconfessed sin that He reveals to you.*

**2. BY YIELDING ourselves continually to the Lord Jesus**

You will experience perpetual spiritual freedom to the degree that you continually “YIELD” yourself to:

- the authority of the Word of God,
- the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and
- the empowering control of the Holy Spirit.

The essence of maintaining spiritual freedom is **SUBMITTING** *your* WILL to *His* WILL.

Jesus said: ***“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”*** - Luke 9:23

There has to be a “death” BEFORE there can be a “resurrection” You will never experience the “resurrection” LIFE of Christ, until you first “die” to self, and **SURRENDER** your life completely to His.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Why is it so difficult to submit ourselves completely to the Lord’s will?*

Will you surrender your life, and every area of it, AFRESH to the Lordship of Christ, to the authority of His Word, and to the empowering control of His Spirit RIGHT NOW?

3. **BY *perpetually living in the PRESENCE of the Lord.***

Somehow, we have believed the lie that it isn't possible to permanently " *dwell in the Lord's Presence*" and yet, that's exactly what God is inviting each of us to experience:

*"He who **dwells** in the shelter of the Most High  
Will **abide** in the shadow of the Almighty."* - Psalm 91:1

*"I am the vine, you are the branches;  
he who **abides** in Me and **I in him**, he bears much fruit,  
for apart from Me you can do nothing."* - John 15:5

STAYING in *intimate relationship* with Jesus Christ ought to be the "**normal**" Christian Life.

Every day of your life, He invites you to FEAST from His "*Banquet Table*" and to be SATED with His Presence.

It is almost inconceivable, but many times we choose to fill up on "*potato chips (crisps)*" [spiritual JUNK FOOD], rather than accept God's invitation to FEAST upon the riches of His Presence.

The British author, C.S. Lewis, captures this so powerfully:

*"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when "infinite joy" is offered us,*

*Like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."* - C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

God is inviting you to drink from the very "*Fountainhead of Joy*" every day of your life, and to be FILLED with His Presence, His overwhelming Love, and His unlimited Joy.

*"Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, "From his innermost being **will flow rivers of living water.**"' But **this He spoke of the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive." - John 7:37-39a*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What things do we try to satisfy the longing of our souls with apart from the presence of God?*

Will you today, open your heart, and RECEIVE: the unconditional offer of God's Presence? Will you today, open your heart, and RECEIVE: "*rivers of living water*"? INVITE the Holy Spirit to FILL your life COMPLETELY.

**KEY CONCEPT: WE STAY IN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST BY YIELDING OURSELVES CONTINUALLY TO HIM.**

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1: TURN TO THE LORD:**

***“But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”*** - 2 Corinthians 3:16

Ask the Lord to search your heart, and immediately **ACKNOWLEDGE** any unconfessed sin that He reveals to you.

**Day 2:** Is there ***any area*** of UNFORGIVENESS, or RESENTMENT, or BITTERNESS that you have in your heart toward ANY INDIVIDUAL?

You need to:

- “Let go” of that offense
- Ask God to forgive your unforgiveness
- Make restitution, if appropriate, with the other person.

**Day 3:** You will experience perpetual spiritual freedom to the degree that you continually “YIELD” yourself to:

- the authority of the Word of God,
- the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and
- the empowering control of the Holy Spirit.

Be honest with yourself, and ask yourself:

***“Am I 100% SURRENDERED to God in these 3 areas?”***

**Day 4:** RENOUNCE any habitual sin, or Spiritual Bondage that keeps you enslaved to satan. You **ARE FREE** from the “*ruling authority*” of sin over your life.

**APPROPRIATE** that freedom **BY FAITH:**

***“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to [THE RULING AUTHORITY OF] sin, but alive to [THE RULING AUTHORITY OF] God in Christ Jesus.”*** - Romans 6:11

**Day 5:** **CHOOSE** to live in the Lord’s Presence **24 hours per day, 7 days per week.**

Open your heart, and **RECEIVE:** the unconditional offer of God’s Presence!

Open your heart, and **RECEIVE:** “*rivers of living water*”!

**INVITE** the Holy Spirit to **FILL** your life **COMPLETELY!**

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 24 - "EVANGELISM: DEALING WITH OBJECTIONS AND QUESTIONS"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

**READ:** *1 Peter 3:8-17; Matthew 16:13-18; 1 John 5:9-13*

When you are sharing the Gospel Jesus Christ with the lost, sometimes there will be people who have questions and objections. When this occurs, it is important to remember a few things:

- A. Our words should be confirmed by our lives.
- B. Our defense and explanation should be given in gentleness and respect.
- C. The central question is "*Who is Jesus Christ?*".
- D. And, In the end, only God's opinion and word matter.

### **OUR WORDS AND OUR LIVES**

We speak the good news of Christ! And, if we declare that we belong to Jesus, the manner in which we live our lives should reinforce and prove that our words are true! This does not mean perfection, but it does mean that we are growing in righteousness and grace. If we are living in a way that is in opposition to the commands of God's word, we should humbly repent and turn to Jesus. This also means that as we ask forgiveness from God, we should also forgive those who have sinned against us. Again, this is not demanding absolute perfection. Our holiness and righteousness is credited to us by Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) - and yet, we are still to live holy lives, walking in righteousness. The battle that we have with our sinful desires should drive us to pray and drive us to a spirit of humility and gratitude for all that Christ has done for us. So, it is much better to suffer for doing right than for committing sin (*1 Peter 3:17*). But if you do sin, demonstrate the righteousness and grace of God by confessing (agreeing that your act was sin), seek forgiveness, and repent (turn from) your sin.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *How does an humble, repentant life communicate the Gospel? How does a sinful, unrepentant life damage your message of the Gospel?*

### **DEFENSE AND EXPLANATION WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT**

When you share the Gospel with someone who has questions and objections, you might be tempted to lose your patience and allow the discussion to become an argument. Instead, be gentle. (Read *2 Timothy 2:24-26*). Be respectful. Share the truth of the word of God. Share what the Lord has done in your life - both in saving you AND how He is presently active in your life. While it is important to pursue greater understanding of God through the study of His word, you do not have to know every point of theology... you do have to know the Savior. Trust Him and the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the words He would have you share (*Matthew 10:19-20; Luke 12: 11-12*) - BUT, while this may be done with boldness, it must also to be with kindness. In medical terms, the person you are sharing with is not the "disease". They are the "patient". Sin is the disease and they are sick with sin and its consequences. We desire what God desires - for them not to remain dead in their sins, but for all to come to the knowledge of the truth and to come to repentance (*2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4*).

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can you help each other to not see the lost as the “disease” but as the “patient”? How can you prepare your heart to share the hope of the gospel with respect?*

### **THE CENTRAL QUESTION: WHO IS JESUS?**

There are many different arguments and objections that can be raised. Many of them will be an attempt to distract you from the one big question... the question Jesus asked the disciples: “WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I (Jesus) AM?” (*Matthew 16:13-18*). This issue is so important that Paul criticizes the Corinthian church for tolerating people proclaiming a different Jesus and accepting a different gospel that the authentic Jesus with the authentic gospel! (*2 Corinthians 11:3-4*). Jesus is the Son of God - the Promised One - the Messiah. He was one person with two natures, fully God and fully man, unmixed, in a real human body. He was the only One worthy of being the once and for all sacrifice for the sins of mankind. He is the only mediator between God and man (*1 Timothy 2:5*). He is not simply a good man nor just a prophet or religious figure. He is the great I AM.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: If Jesus looked you in the eyes and asked “Who do you say that I AM?”, how would you respond? Why do you think it is so important to keep the discussion centered on Jesus?*

### **GOD’S OPINION IS THE ONE THAT MATTERS**

In our work, we have found that everywhere we go, everyone has an opinion regarding God and salvation. But the truth is, at the end of all things, only one person’s thoughts matter about salvation. That is God, Himself. While men may have a testimony, the testimony of God is greater. The testimony of God regarding eternal life is this: “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*). And the way to have the Son is to confess our sins to Him and call upon Him and Him alone for salvation (*Romans 10:9-10*). This salvation comes by grace through faith. It cannot be earned through works (*Romans 3:28; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16*). Just as we are saved by grace through faith, we are also kept in the Spirit by grace through faith (*Galatians 3:2-14*). In fact, the Scriptures say that without faith, it is impossible to please Him (*Hebrews 11:6*).

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: What are some of the common opinions about God and salvation that people have in your community? How does the truth from God’s word differ from those opinions?*

### **PRAY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE SPIRIT**

We cannot save anyone - only the Holy Spirit can call someone to faith (*John 6:44, 63-65*). And yet, we are called to be God’s ambassadors and to represent Him to plead with the lost on His behalf to be reconciled to God through Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:20*). Therefore, we must PRAY for the souls of men to turn to God and actively SHARE the Gospel with the lost with passion and gentleness - motivated by love! The same love that moved God to send Jesus to rescue us and give us eternal life! (*John 3:16*)

**KEY CONCEPT: WE MUST LIVE IN CONSISTENCY WITH THE GOSPEL AND PRAYERFULLY SHARE THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL WITH THE LOST - WITH PASSION AND WITH RESPECT.**

**ACTIONS this week:**

- Day 1:** Examine your life. Do the words that you speak match with the character displayed in your life?

What areas in your life do you need to bring into agreement with God and repent?

- Day 2:** Make a list of people you know who need to come to faith.

Pray right now for the Holy Spirit to draw them to Jesus. Commit to pray for them daily.

- Day 3:** In your evangelism, have you seen the “patient” as the “disease” and treated the lost in an unkind or disrespectful manner? If so, repent to God now and seek how to share the love of Christ in a loving and respectful way.

- Day 4:** Continue to pray daily for “laborers unto the harvest” (Luke 10:2) and for opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel and make disciples. The Strategic Impact team sets their watch or phone alarm for 10:02 AM every day to remind them to pray for laborers for the harvest. Set your alarm now to join us in these prayers.

- Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 25 - "EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND LEADERSHIP"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

There are several characteristics of healthy leaders:

**1. They lead from a place of spiritual, mental, and emotional health, and they are dedicated to the health of others.**

They understand the essential nature of emotional health, and have acquired a measure of emotional wholeness in their own lives.

One Definition of Emotional Health is *"the freedom to experience the whole range of human emotions, and the ability to express them appropriately."*

The whole area of Emotional Health is largely misunderstood within the church, and as a result, there are many Christian Leaders who are committed to achieving results, but inflict multiple wounds on the people around them.

**Some examples of Unhealthy Personality types are:**

- **"The Crazy-maker"** - who creates constant chaos and confusion, but is willfully blind to see his/her issues, and makes everyone around them feel like it is their fault.
- **"The Controller"** - who absolutely has to have CONTROL over EVERYTHING.
- **"The Egotist"** - who truly believes he/she is the Center of the Universe.
- **"The Aggressor"** - who bullies others, like a steam-roller, to get his/her way.
- **"The Sufferer"** - who sees himself as a "victim" of life's circumstances: "Please feel sorry for me!"
- **"The Roller-Coaster"** - who is UP one minute, and DOWN the next.

These expressions of unhealthy leadership create CHAOS and INSTABILITY within the entire team, and yet, often occur in both churches and organizations.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *As you look at the list of unhealthy personality types, which one do you see as the greatest danger in your own life?*

**2. Healthy Leaders provide a calming presence and "emotionally-separated" leadership.**

This means: #1, that they choose to RESPOND, rather than OVER-REACT EMOTIONALLY and, #2, that they choose to SEPARATE their work from their inner sense of personal well-being.

Some people get their IDENTITY and their feelings of personal WORTH exclusively from their work or ministry. This is a critical mistake. This is the individual who MISUSES his position of leadership, or the ministry, to get EMOTIONAL NEEDS MET.

Healthy Leaders separate WHO they are from WHAT they do. Healthy Leaders serve the best interests of the church or ministry. They get their own emotional needs met OUTSIDE the ministry. They do not use their leadership role for the purpose of getting their own needs met.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can we guard against having our emotional need for self-worth met through our role as a leader?*

### **3. Healthy Leaders embrace the collective wisdom of multiple counselors.**

No one has sufficient WISDOM to consistently make good decisions BY ONESELF. There is a wonderful promise of Proverbs 24.6, “*In a multitude of counselors there is victory.*” Wise Leaders listen to multiple sources of input before making a major decision. They also communicate OPENLY and without HIDDEN AGENDAS. Healthy leaders support and strengthen the processes of deliberative decision-making. Unhealthy leaders undercut these processes by keeping secrets and behind-the-scenes manipulation of decision-making, whether through deals or threats.

Do you want to make consistently GOOD decisions? Build a team of men and women who truly possess Godly wisdom, and then, LISTEN TO THEM before making any major decisions.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Why is it important to have an circle of friends and counselors to whom we can listen?*

### **4. Healthy Leaders are lifelong learners who focus on Personal Growth.**

You cannot imagine the BENEFITS that LIFETIME Personal Development will pay you later on in life. Just as a farmer can only HARVEST after the GROWING SEASON, in the same way, you will harvest the LIFETIME BENEFITS of wisdom, if you dedicate yourself now to the LIFETIME pursuit of Personal Development.

There is a very subtle DECEPTION that occurs, especially after you have performed a certain task for a long time. The DECEPTION is this: You mistakenly think that because you have done something for a long time, that you no longer need to KEEP LEARNING.

In a study of professional wildfire fighters, Karl Weick, a professor of organizational behavior and psychology at the University of Michigan, found that most casualties occur among  
fi refighters with only a year or two of experience and those who had been fighting fires for more than 15 years. The novices, obviously, had not learned enough, but the death of veterans was more surprising. They tend to die in fires because they think they've seen it all, they think that fire has nothing new to teach them.

The same is true in ministry. It is absolutely LETHAL to ever think that you have “arrived” and therefore, no longer need to KEEP GROWING and KEEP DEVELOPING yourself.

**KEY CONCEPT:** HEALTHY LEADERS PROVIDE STABILITY BECAUSE THEY FEEL AND EXPRESS EMOTIONS APPROPRIATELY AND DO NOT RELY ON THEIR MINISTRY TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF PERSONAL WORTH. THEY SURROUND THEMSELVES WITH GODLY COUNSELORS AND COMMIT TO BE LIFELONG LEARNERS.

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Emotional Health is: “the freedom to experience the whole range of human emotions, and the ability to express them appropriately.” How would you evaluate your own Emotional Health?

What could you do to improve it?

**Day 2:** How well do you separate WHO YOU ARE from WHAT YOU DO?

**Day 3:** Who are your “inner circle” of advisors?

Who should you add to that group?

**Day 4:** What areas of PERSONAL GROWTH most need attention? (*circle them*)

PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, SPIRITUAL, MARITAL, PARENTAL, FAMILY, FINANCIAL, RECREATIONAL, EMOTIONAL, VOCATIONAL, MORAL

What are you going to do about it?

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 26 - "WHY AND HOW TO MAKE MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

It is vitally important that we disciple new believers so that they become mature and multiplying disciples of Jesus. Too often we ask those who come to faith in Jesus to start attending church meetings or Bible studies and give money to the church, but little else. We must remember that Jesus commanded us to "go and make disciples," (*Matthew 28:18*), not "go and get decisions!" The best way to begin to disciple new believers is to regularly visit them in their homes or places of work. In groups of 2 or 3 use the Strategic Impact Discipleship Tool to establish these new believers in their faith and help them to win and disciple others.

What is our ultimate goal for discipling new believers? We want them to become maturing and multiplying disciples. How can we fulfill Christ's Great Commission to give every person the opportunity to hear about and trust in Christ as their Savior? The answer is not complicated. It is as simple as obeying the command of Jesus to make disciples who multiply disciples who multiply disciples who multiply disciples...

We learn this from the example of the church in Acts, where the Gospel spread rapidly throughout the world (*Read together Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 6:1, 7; 9:31; 19:9-10*). At first believers were added to the church. Then as they grew in their new faith in Christ, these disciples started multiplying. As disciples multiplied, then churches multiplied. As churches and disciples multiplied, then whole regions were reached with the Gospel! All of this was the result of multiplying disciples who started multiplying churches! This is our goal as well!

Think of the power of multiplication. Suppose you are a new, young, pastor and you have two choices for your ministry: The first choice is for the next 30 years to add 1000 new members each year to your church, so that at the end of 30 years it would have 30,000 members! That would be exciting and very impressive!

Or, your other choice is to begin a church, and in the first year to only train and disciple one other person, so that at the end of the first year there are now 2 multiplying disciples - you and the one you trained. Then, for each of the next 30 years, each new disciple trains and multiplies one new disciple each year.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Which of these two paths would you choose?*

**Look at the results if you chose to make a multiplying disciple  
who would make multiplying disciples each year of the next 30 years!**

<b>Year 1</b>	<b>2</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>4</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>8</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>16</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>32</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>64</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>128</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>256</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>512</b> multiplying disciples
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>1,024</b> multiplying disciples....
<b>:</b>	<b>:</b>
<b>Year 30</b>	<b>1,073,741,824</b> multiplying disciples!

This is a huge difference! Yes, a church with 30,000 members would be impressive, but nothing compared to churches with over a billion multiplying disciples!

Jesus told two parables - the Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Leaven (*Luke 13:18-21*) - about the small beginnings of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom starts small and grows big through multiplying disciples!

So, how do we develop multiplying disciples? We must follow the simple process that Jesus used with His disciples:

**FIRST**, Jesus preached the Gospel and called people to become **believers** in Him. (*Read Mark 1:14-16*). His basic strategy with those who believed in Him was to associate with these people and to share the Good News about Himself with them. We also need to associate with people. Tell them about Jesus and lead them to faith in Him.

**SECOND**, Jesus asked those who believed to become **followers** of Him. (*Read Mark 1:16-17*). It was not enough for people to just believe in Jesus, He continually asked them to follow and learn from Him. Through His lifestyle and teaching He demonstrated what it meant to live as He did. They saw Him heal, show compassion and evangelize. They heard Him teach. We also need to demonstrate to other believers how to know and follow Christ. We need to show them how to read their Bibles, deal with sin, walk in the Holy Spirit, love others in their families, relate to their friends and neighbors and share the Gospel. It is so important that you meet with believers for discipleship lessons. But they also need to **see** you do these things so that they can learn to do them, too! That means you need to take your disciples with you as you witness, disciple and serve. Have them with you as you relate to your family and others around you. The model of your life will demonstrate to others how they can also grow in their relationship and service for Christ.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Describe how someone demonstrated to you what it meant to be a follower of Christ when you were a new Christian.*

**THIRD**, Jesus sent His followers as **workers** to serve in the ministry. (Read Mark 6:7-13). In this stage of developing multiplying disciples Jesus delegated responsibility for the ministry to His followers. He did not go directly with them but sent them. He watched what they did and evaluated their ministry. He gave them encouragement and correction and they learned how to serve Him and the Gospel! We must not be satisfied with people who just follow and learn from us. We must also delegate responsibility to them for the ministry. They must learn that they are a needed and valuable member in God's work in this world. As we send them to do the work, we watch, then give encouragement and correction as we evaluate how they serve. So, train and demonstrate to your disciples what it means to evangelize, disciple, lead Bible studies and do other types of ministry. But, then, send them to do it while you observe and encourage them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Describe the first time that you were "sent" to do ministry for the Lord. Were you totally confident? What was the value of your experience?*

**FINALLY**, Jesus commissioned His servant workers to continue to grow and make **multiplying disciples**. (Read Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-12). After His death, burial and resurrection, Jesus gathered His followers and gave them the responsibility to multiply the work and finish the Great Commission. He sent them into the world with the promise of His Holy Spirit after He ascended into heaven. He released them to finish the work! We must also have the goal of developing disciples that we release and send to make new multiplying disciples and start new multiplying churches in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We must never be satisfied with believers who just "attend" church services or follow us. Our goal is to reproduce ourselves and send multiplying disciples to win others to Christ and make more multiplying disciples and leaders and churches!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Why must we not just expect people to "attend" church services but to become multiplying disciples?*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *OUR GOAL MUST BE TO DEVELOP NEW BELIEVERS INTO MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES WHO PLANT MULTIPLYING CHURCHES!*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Think about the person who disciplined you or most influenced you to grow in your Christian life. What did they do to help move you from a believer to a multiplying disciple?

**Day 2:** What must you do in your ministry to avoid just simply “adding” people to your church or cell, but instead make multiplying disciples?

**Day 3:** Jesus’ ministry included developing believers who became followers who became servant workers who became multiplying disciples. In each stage of their development His major strategy was as follows:

**Believers** - Association: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Next Step:* \_\_\_\_\_ (*name*)

**Followers** - Demonstration: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Next Step:* \_\_\_\_\_ (*name*)

**Servant Workers** - Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Next Step:* \_\_\_\_\_ (*name*)

**Multiplying Disciples** - Commission: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Next Step:* \_\_\_\_\_ (*name*)

Identify at least one person at each stage in your ministry. Write their names beside their stage above. Then write down one step for each of them that you can do with or for them to move them to the next stage.

**Day 4:** Review the School of Multiplying Church Planters Map. By now you should be praying about and challenging to train in the SMCP (G<sup>1</sup>). Your goal in this stage is to help identify and enroll new leaders in the SMCP. What do you need to do to insure that this happens?

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 27 - "SPIRITUAL GIFTS"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

When you trusted Christ as Savior you were given many marvelous blessings. Not only did you receive forgiveness of your sins, eternal life and a new spiritual birth by the Holy Spirit, you were also given at least one (and possibly more) spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit. (See Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

Different churches and traditions have differing views about the number and nature of the spiritual gifts that God gives to His people. (See the listing of spiritual gifts mentioned in Romans 12:6-9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31; Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11). While good and godly believers differ about these matters, the majority agree that all believers receive spiritual gifts. Peter tells us that spiritual gifts fall into two broad categories: speaking gifts and serving gifts (Read 1 Peter 4:10-11). God gives people in His church gifts of **words**. God also gives people in His church gifts of **works**. God may give some people in His church gifts of both words and works!

**List of Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament**

<b>Romans 12:6-9</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 28-31</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:7-12</b>	<b>1 Peter 4:10-11</b>
Prophecy Service Teaching Exhortation Giving Leadership Mercy	Word of wisdom Word of knowledge Faith Gifts of healing Working of miracles Prophecy Distinguishing spirits Tongues Apostles Teaching Interpretation of tongues	Apostles Prophets Evangelists Shepherds Teachers	Speaking Serving

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *As you understand it right now, what spiritual gifts do you think God has given you?*

The most important question to ask is, "Why did God give us spiritual gifts?" Peter answers this question clearly. We are to use our gifts to "serve one another," (verse 10). Paul affirms this when he says that spiritual gifts are given "for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7). He further states that

God gives gifted leaders to his church “to equip the saints for the work of ministry.” (Ephesians 4:11-12). As believers minister to one another using their different spiritual gifts then the body of Christ is blessed and builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:18).

However, while God gave you spiritual gifts to build up others in the church, Peter tells us that the ultimate purpose God gave us spiritual gifts is “in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 4: 11). Your spiritual gifts are not primarily to benefit yourself or bring honor and glory to you, but to benefit others in the church to grow in Christ for God’s ultimate glory and honor. A good test for the exercise of any spiritual gift is whether it helps others love and follow Christ more and if it brings praise and honor to Jesus!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Tell the group about someone who has used their spiritual gift to help you grow in your relationship to Christ.*

How do we discover the spiritual gifts God has given us? Here are some ways to help understand what your gifting is:

**First**, what do you like to do? Where do you find enjoyment in serving others in the church? For example, one woman might be terrified at the thought of speaking before a group, but she finds great fulfillment in listening to others’ difficulties, encouraging and praying for them. It is likely that she does not have the gift of teaching but does have the gift of mercy. Or, another man thoroughly enjoys studying the Bible and telling others what he has learned and how it can benefit their lives. His desires indicate his gift is teaching. Desires and enjoyment can indicate what your gifts are.

**Second**, the positive response of others often reveals your gifts. Are others inspired by your vision and influence? You could have the gift of leadership. Are others blessed by your help and deeds of kindness? You are likely to have the gift of “helps” or service. When others respond by growing in Christ and giving thanks to God for your ministry to them, it points to the spiritual gifting in your life. How will you know others are blessed by your ministry? You must serve! Don’t wait to act. Start ministering in your church and outside your church. Find out how God uses you and where people are most blessed by your ministry.

**Third**, your experience and skills could indicate spiritual gifts you have. While spiritual gifts are a supernatural ability given by the Holy Spirit to minister to others, He often uses our skills and experience to indicate spiritual gifting. If you are a natural and effective public speaker, God might use this skill to supernaturally gift you in preaching, teaching or public evangelism. If you work well with your hands, God might use this skill to supernaturally serve others in the body of Christ. If you are naturally organized, God could use this skill to supernaturally gift you with administration for the benefit of the church.

**Finally**, God’s blessing on your efforts often indicates your spiritual gifts. Does God use your personal witness to lead many to Christ? Your gift is probably evangelism. Do you have a sense of joy in giving your resources to God’s work and are His people and His kingdom multiplied? Your gift is probably giving!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** By this time you have been with your team for many weeks and you know each other fairly well. Have each one in your group tell the others in the group what they think their spiritual gifts are. Use the 4 indicators above to share.*

Your spiritual gifts indicate where you should concentrate your ministry on your team and with others in your church.

There is a caution in concentrating on using your spiritual gifts, however. Do not use your particular gifts as an excuse to not minister to others in a different way. All believers are called to give, though not everyone has the gift of giving. All believers are to show mercy, though this might not be their primary gift.

All of us must give ourselves to personal evangelizing and discipling of others. Don't use your spiritual gifts as an excuse to neglect this most fundamental command Jesus gave to all His people in His church! Rather, use your spiritual gift to evangelize and disciple others. If your gift is mercy, find ways to show compassion to lost people in the name of Jesus as you share your testimony and the Gospel with them. If your gift is giving, seek out ways to give to bless the community and gives you a platform to share your faith. Use what God gives to not only bless the church but to reach the lost! The Great Commission is for every Christian, no matter what their particular spiritual gift(s) might be.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Discuss together creative ways to use your spiritual gift to reach lost people with the Good News of Christ and help them grow in Christ.*

**KEY CONCEPT: USE THE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS GIVEN YOU TO BUILD UP OTHERS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND REACH THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL - ALL TO THE GLORY AND PRAISE OF GOD!**

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Carefully read and study the passages of Scripture that discuss spiritual gifts (*Romans 12:6-9; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40; Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11*).  
Write three new things that you discover that help you better understand spiritual gifts:

**Day 2:** Read again from this Exercise the four suggestions about how to discover your spiritual gifts. Based upon these four ideas, what do you think your spiritual gifts are?

**Day 3:** Meet with a fellow team member or leader from your church and discuss how you can use your gifts to build up others in your church. Define the unique ministry God has called you to serve:

**Day 4:** State at least two practical ways that you will use your spiritual gifts to help evangelize lost people and disciples new believers:

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 28 - "IDENTIFY AND CHALLENGE POTENTIAL CHURCH PLANTERS"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

**READ:** *1 Timothy 3:1-5*

In order for multiplication to continue in all areas - Disciples multiplying Disciples; Churches multiplying Churches - Movements multiplying Movements - we must constantly identify, equip and send out the next generation of multipliers. If we fail to raise up and release the next spiritual generation to continue to advance the kingdom of God by His leading and empowerment, we will never reach our communities with the gospel. Again, the task of world evangelization is too large for any one of us - it will take all of us! At the same time, we can't send out immature and poorly equipped believers. There will always be a tension between preparation of the disciple and timing to send them out.

**HEART:**

The most foundational and essential trait of a potential Church Planter is an humble heart - a heart seeking to obey God in whatever He commands. We should seek believers who are responsive to the desires of God. People who, when it becomes clear that their life is out of line with God's desires, will immediately repent and make efforts to yield to God's clear path. This type of person has faith. They trust God's word and promises more than they trust their own opinions and wisdom.

Proper humility does not mean to think poorly of oneself. It means to raise our value of others. It is not thinking of ourselves as "worthless dirt", but seeing things rightly - "I am made in the image of God! - AND YOU ARE, TOO!" There is a grateful reverence for God as well as a respect and value for others.

The heart of a servant must be observed. (*see 1 Corinthians 4:1-2*)

The heart must also desire the things of God. The servant of God does not crave controversy or friction. They do not seek division. Instead, they seek peace. They seek to display the fruit of the Spirit in their daily lives. They seek the desires of God over the desires of the world or of their flesh. (*see Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 6:3-10*)

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *What are some specific situations where you can best observe someone's heart? List some specific characteristics of heart you desire to see in a potential leader. How are these characteristics specifically displayed?*

## **CHARACTER:**

The disciples who have a right heart of humility, servanthood and submission should validate or prove their heart through their lifestyle. They should have Godly character. To be “characterized” by Godliness does not demand perfection. It means, based on their previous actions, you would not be surprised if they made a choice that is Godly. They will still sin - but when they do, they humbly repent and seek to make restitution, if possible. They also value things above over things below. They are willing to sacrifice material comfort in order to advance the kingdom of God. They do not have a love for riches and possessions, but use all they have as a steward of God’s possessions. (*1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19*)

Their lives reinforce their words. They do not “talk Jesus” on Sunday, and then “walk fleshly” every other day of the week. Their life is consistent!

There are Biblical requirements for being an elder (or overseer or pastor) provided in 1 Timothy 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-11. These should be upheld as Biblical mandates for leadership. All of these are based upon proven character except for the ability to teach (which is a skill). Since they are all Godly characteristics, all believers should seek to live in this way - but the leaders must actually model it for the people!

As you disciple believers and lead the newly planted cell church, seek out men and women who embody these Godly life traits and persevere in keeping them! (*see also 1 Timothy 6:11-21*)

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-11. Make a written list of the Biblical mandates for leaders. Write down the people in your cell church who display these requirements. Pray for God to use you to develop Godly character in your people.*

## **TEACHING and DOCTRINE**

With the right heart and proven character, the potential church planter should be growing in their ability to teach well AND teach right things. This does not mean they must have eloquence and a large vocabulary, but means they must be able to communicate Biblical truth to others. (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*) They should not make things complex, but seek to make them clear and understandable. (*Colossians 4:3-4*)

Additionally, they must have a good understanding of the foundational truths of Christianity - the basic doctrine of what it is to be a disciple of Christ. (*see Titus 2 and Exercise 17 & 18*) They should learn how to study the word of God and how to discern what is essential from what is not. (*2 Timothy 2:14-19*)

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How can you provide opportunities for potential leaders to improve their teaching skills? List out all of the essential doctrines (foundational truths) of Christianity. Discuss how you will teach these to your people - and how you will involve your potential church planters in that process.*

**TIME:**

Lastly, all these things - heart, character, teaching and doctrine - must be demonstrated over time. Prayerfully assess and discern how each potential church planter is walking. This will mean that you must spend time with them - in the company of their families, as they serve, as they communicate with other believers, as they interact with the lost, in as many situations as possible. These are the leaders for the next generation. They are worth the investment of your efforts and your focus.

How much time? We cannot give you a specific number of weeks or months that faithfulness should be displayed. Too little time has the dangers of releasing an immature leader (*1 Timothy 5:22-25*), On the other hand, to restrict a prepared leader can frustrate them or cause them to be passive. Continue to challenge the potential church planter with more responsibilities as they grow. Walk with them and disciple them through successes and failures. Help them learn how to learn. Help them grow in faith. Be used of God in their lives to bring them into full maturity, and then launch them with your blessing so you may walk together as co-heirs and fellow servants to our high and mighty King!

Without intentionally identifying and investing in the next generation of church planters, there will be no more churches planted because there will be no more leaders available.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Pray for Godly wisdom regarding how much time each of your potential church planters need to display consistency. How will you create time to observe and interact with your potential church planters so you may observe them over time?*

**KEY CONCEPT: WE MUST BE DILIGENT TO SEEK OUT AND EQUIP GOD'S NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH PLANTERS.**

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** List out all the potential church planters in your church right now:

For each potential church planter listed above, rate them on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very immature and 10 being very mature in Christ.

**Day 2:** Review your list of potential leaders and your maturity assessment of them. Write out the strengths (mature areas) and weaknesses (areas of immaturity) for each of your potential church planters.

**Day 3:** Make a plan for how you and your team will work with these potential church planters to bring about maturity in the areas where they are weak. Regularly pray for them to conform to Christ in these areas.

**Day 4:** If there are any potential church planters who are already qualified, begin to work with them toward a vision for planting the next church. If not, identify those with the greatest maturity and begin to work with them toward a vision for planting the next church. Write out your plan below. ***Challenge these potential church planters to enroll in the SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS and start meeting with them to work through Phase 1.***

**Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.



**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 2 "LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**BRIDGE TO STAGE 3 - "ESTABLISH THE NEW CELL CHURCH AND**  
**ENROLL THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE SMCP"**

***As your team begins to meet, pray for one another and ask the Life Transformation Questions on page 11. Then gather as a group and read through the following exercise, discussing the questions together.***

You are coming to the end of your Stage 2 journey in the School of Multiplying Church Planters. You and your team have now completed 28 exercises and their Actions. You continue to share the Gospel, disciple new believers and gather them into your new cell church.

You have grown in your relationship with Christ by concentrating on your identity and confidence in Christ which leads to emotional health. You have also developed skill in studying the Scripture and understanding your spiritual gifts. During this time you also gained greater skills in discipling others and teaching them the Scripture.

You have been meeting with your new cell church and together you are growing into the Body of Christ as you worship, serve one another, study God's Word and reach out to others with the Gospel.

But, remember: your goal is not to just add new believers to your cell and grow a larger church. It is to make multiplying disciples who multiply churches! As you have discipled new believers and led the new cell church during this stage, you probably have noticed that certain ones are growing strong in their faith and showing faithfulness in their service to the Lord. These have the potential of being future leaders for multiplying your cell church.

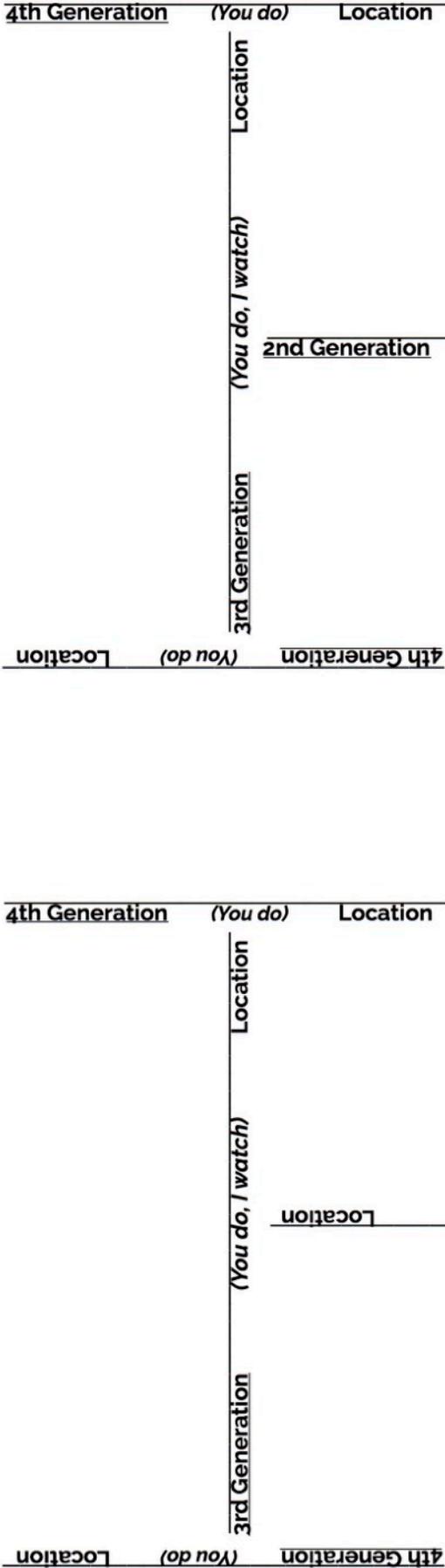
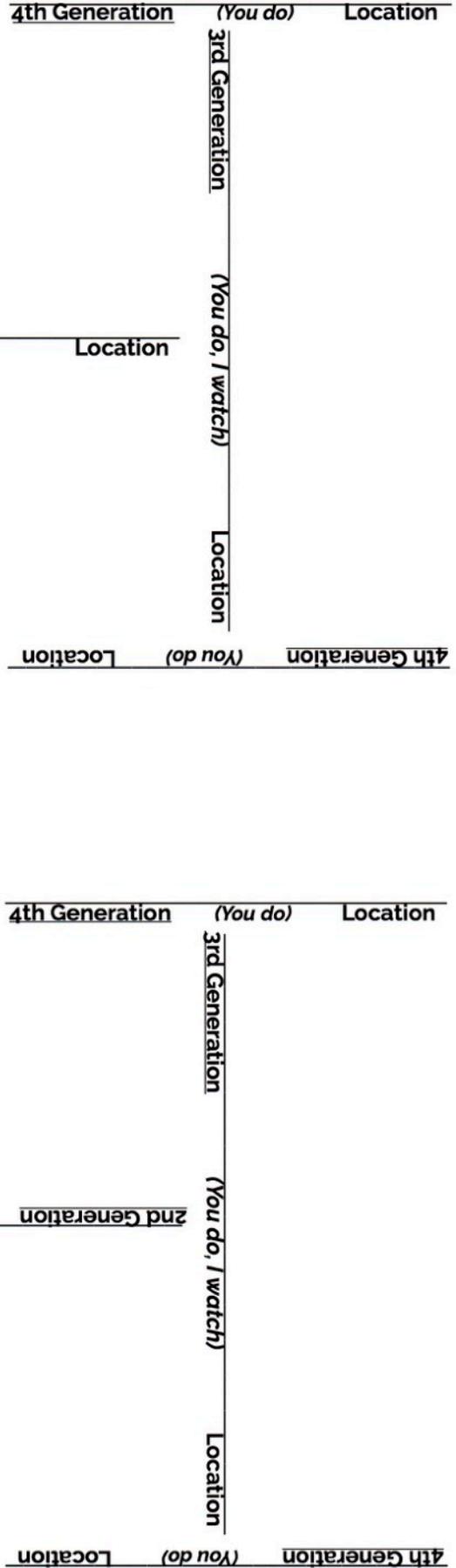
**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Discuss together who you think are the top potential leaders for a future new cell church.*

Pray together as a team. Then talk to the potential new church planters. Share with them the vision of training multiplying leaders to multiply new churches. Invite them to a Basic Leadership Thrust if there is one available soon. Challenge them to begin Stage 1 of the School of Multiplying Church Planters with you, and then meet with them weekly to lead them through the exercises. Keep in mind that your goal is to launch church planters and churches to the 4th generation! When they reach the end of Stage 2 they will repeat this process!

Once you have identified and enrolled this new group in the SMCP, **write their names on your ministry map.** **ONLY** when your new cell church is *established* and *growing*, **ONLY** when you have *identified* and *enrolled* new leaders in the School of Multiplying Church Planters, may you begin **Stage 3** of the School of Multiplying Church Planters. **DO NOT** continue until this has been accomplished. Keep working at it until the Lord gives you new leaders to train in the SMCP. Grow your cell, disciple the believers, encourage, pray and select faithful men and women to train to multiply!

God bless you on your journey!

# MINISTRY MAP



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## **GOD**

*Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24, 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes.

## **JESUS CHRIST**

*Matthew 20:28; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; 1 John 2:2*

Jesus Christ is the eternal second Person of the Trinity who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for (made a payment for) the sins of all by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation and eternal life for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended to heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT and THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

*John 15:26, 16:8-11*

The natural accompaniment of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life of holiness and obedience, attained by believers as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them (gives them new life). At the point of salvation He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength and wisdom, and He uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building up of the body. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scripture. His power and control are applied by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christlike character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father.

## **THE BIBLE**

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21*

The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe that the Scripture in its entirety originated with God, and that it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men. Scripture thus one and at the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Scriptures are infallible and without error in the original manuscripts. They are the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God.

## **SALVATION**

*Romans 3:23; 5:8; Ephesians 2:1, 8-9*

The central purpose of God's revelation in Scripture is to call all people into fellowship with Himself. Originally created to have fellowship with God, man defied God, choosing to go his independent way, and was thus alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall of man took place at the beginning of human history, and all individuals since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God. The salvation of mankind is, then, wholly a work of God's free grace, not the result, in whole or in part of human works or goodness, and must be received by faith on an individual basis. When God has begun a saving work in the heart of any person, He gives assurance in His Word that He will continue performing it until the day of its full consummation.

## **HUMAN DESTINY**

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 9:27*

Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all mankind, there will be a resurrection of the body into the spiritual world, and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. There is an eternal state of punishment for the unsaved and an eternal state of blessing for the saved. Those who have trusted Christ will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in life.

## **THE CHURCH**

*Acts 2:42; Romans 12:1-6*

The result of union with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members of His body, the church. There is one true church universal, comprised of all those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the church. Under the watch care of elders and other supportive leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity, intent upon the ultimate purpose of exalting Christ for the glory of God and the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission.

## **FAITH and PRACTICE**

*1 Corinthians 10:24, 31; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We recognize that it cannot bind the conscience of individuals in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible.



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