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# *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* ©

# *STAGE 1*

v2.2 (2017)

*“LEARN & LIVE THE GREAT COMMISSION”*



**STRATEGIC IMPACT**

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# SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS ©

## STAGE 1

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# INTRODUCTION

The compelling vision of Strategic Impact is to train leaders who will multiply at every level: Disciples, Church Planters, Churches, Leaders, and Church Planting Movements. As churches filled with multiplying disciples are multiplied, the Gospel will be preached to everyone on earth and the values and principles of Christ's kingdom will be demonstrated in communities and societies.

Training multiplying leaders and disciples does not happen through events. For you to become a Godly and multiplying leader is a lifelong process. It involves faith, study, prayer and obedience to the Lord. It requires personal discipline and dependence on the Holy Spirit. This happens best in community - in a relationship of encouragement and accountability with a few others.

The book of Acts in the New Testament shows the exciting expansion of God's Kingdom in the first century. It reveals the acts of the Holy Spirit through God's people in Christ's church as they faithfully obeyed His commission to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*). As these believers took the message to the world, we see a developing church structure. First, we see the Jerusalem church (*Acts 1-7*), then the Antioch church (*Acts 11-13*) and finally the Gentile churches that Paul planted (*Acts 14-20*).

One of the most exciting churches we find is the Ephesian church. While Paul was in Ephesus, *Acts 19:9-10* reveals that he *"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."* Through the "School of Tyrannus," Paul made multiplying disciples who went and planted multiplying churches all over the Roman province of Asia with the result that every person living in that region heard the Gospel! How exciting!

One of those multiplying disciples was Epaphras. Apparently he became a Christian and was discipled by Paul in Ephesus during this time. He then traveled to the city of Colossae, which is in the province of Asia (perhaps this was his home town). He shared the gospel of Jesus Christ and started the church there - and in the neighboring towns of Hierapolis and Laodecia (*see Colossians 1:6-7; 2:1; 4:12-13*). We know from these verses that Paul had never been to these cities (*Colossians 2:1*), yet churches were planted there as a result of his ministry in Ephesus.

Scripture also indicates that some of those who were won and discipled and sent out by Paul during this time in Ephesus traveled to Rome and helped start churches there. (*see Romans 16:5 which mentions Epenetus, who was the first convert that Paul had in Asia!*)

The Great Commission given by Jesus and the model of the “School of Tyrannus” in Ephesus form the basis of the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* which is in your hands and the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING LEADERS* which will come later in the process. If you have this material, you most likely just completed a *LEADERSHIP THRUST*. We pray that God used this intensive training to encourage you in your personal growth as well as learn valuable leadership skills. You also heard an overview of the *10 STEPS TO REACHING YOUR NATION*. We also believe that you saw God use you, along with others, to experience personal evangelism and discipleship of the new believers to help launch a new cell church in the community.

Your growth and development in these matters is not complete! We must all devote ourselves to continue to excel in these areas. Attending the *LEADERSHIP THRUST* was only the beginning. It is important to continue the process of growth as a multiplying leader. The following exercises are designed to reinforce what you have learned in the *LEADERSHIP THRUST* and to expand on these topics. These Exercises are devoted to each of the following two major areas:

1. Personal Growth
2. Church Planting

Each Exercise is designed to be completed in one week. Ideally, the 14 Exercises of *STAGE 1* of the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* (along with their Actions) will be completed within 4 months, however, it is more important to faithfully complete each Exercise and its Actions than it is to rush through the material.

To successfully bridge from *STAGE 1* to *STAGE 2* and continue with your training, you must fulfill the following 4 requirements:

1. **Meet each week** with your fellow disciples in your “*LIFE TRANSFORMATION GROUP*” to discuss the 10 accountability questions.
2. **Complete the “Actions”** on your own during the week following each “*LIFE TRANSFORMATION GROUP*” meeting.
3. **Share the Gospel** weekly people who do not know Christ.
4. **Start a New Cell Church** with 2 to 10 people *or more* with your team.

God bless you as you continue to follow and serve Him in fulfilling His Great Commission!

*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.*

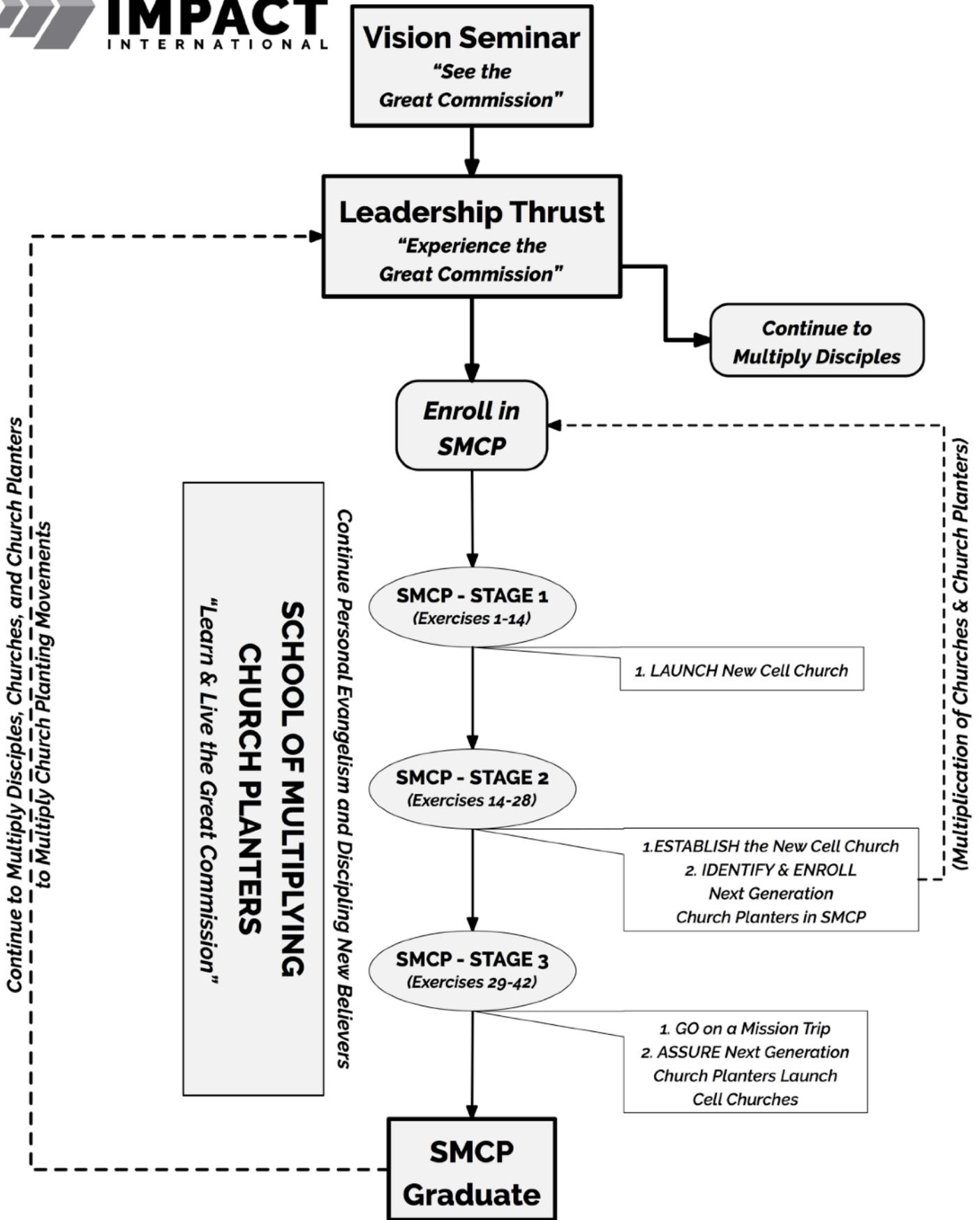
*(Acts 2:42,46; 12:12; 16:40; Romans 16:15; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15)*

**STEP 9: MULTIPLY THE DISCIPLES**

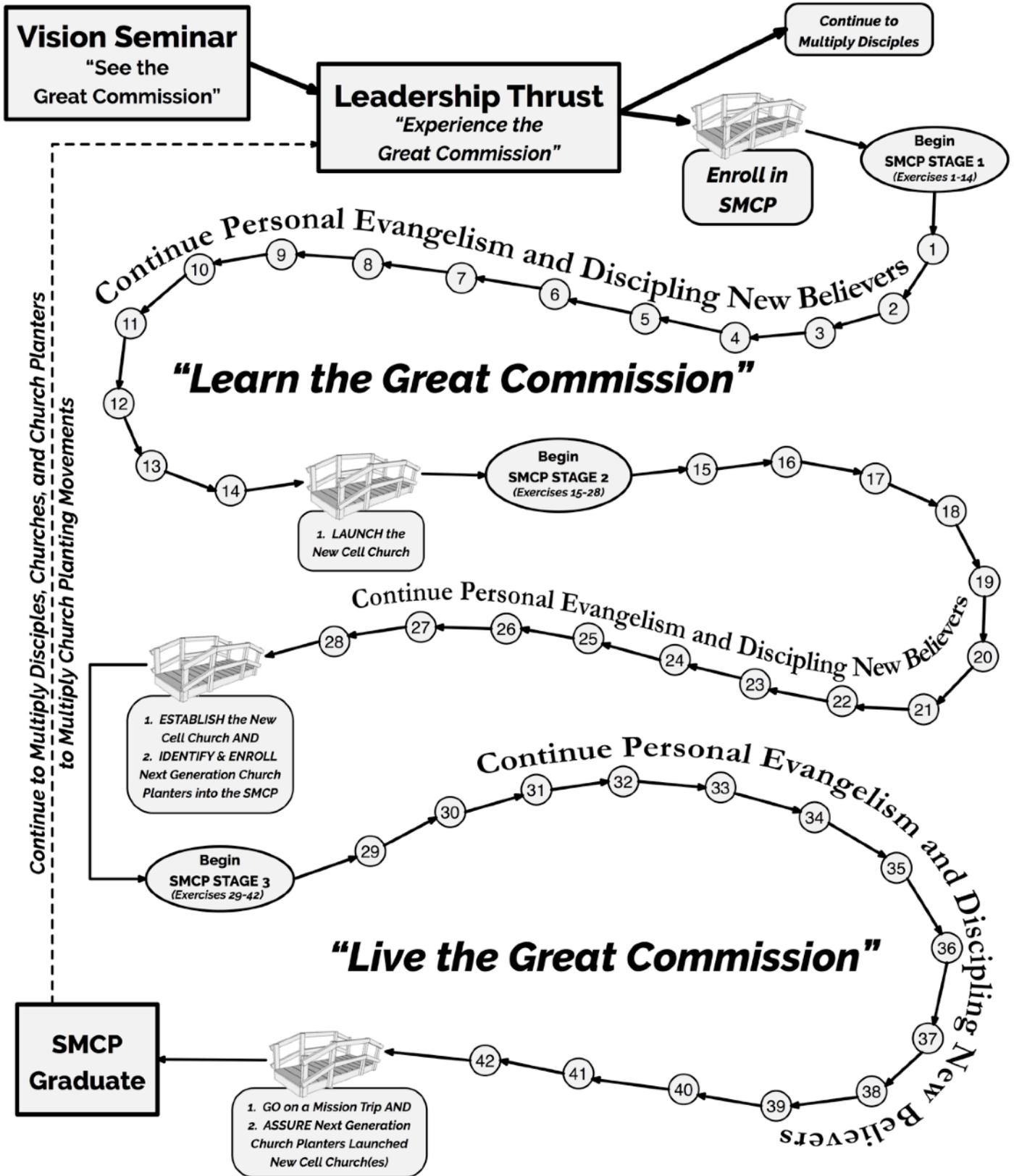
*MULTIPLY the disciples in the new church by repeating the first 8 steps.  
(1 Thessalonians 1:7-8)*

**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.

1. Have you grown in your love and devotion to Christ this week? How?
2. 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.*)
3. Did you listen to, obey and depend on the Holy Spirit this week to be and do what God wants? In what ways?
4. Have you read, viewed or been involved in inappropriate sexual material, thoughts or actions; or given into any other addictive behavior this week?
5. Have you lacked integrity in your financial dealings this week or coveted something that does not belong to you?
6. Have you walked in love in your important relationships in your family, friends, neighbors and church this week?
7. 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?
8. 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?
9. 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*)
10. Have you been completely honest with me?



# *STAGE 1*

## *“Learn the Great Commission” Exercises 1-14*

Welcome to the journey of learning how to be a multiplying church planter. In this stage, you and your team will grow in your spiritual life as you work together to share Christ and start a new cell church. Once you and your team have **completed the exercises** and **launched the new cell church**, you will then be ready to cross the **bridge** into **Stage 2** of the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS*.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 1 - "A PASSION FOR 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.***

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What do you think God wants from you more than anything else?*

Many people think that God wants from us many things - *obedience, service, worship, money, time, talents*. All of these things have a place in our relationship to God, but Jesus made it very clear what God wants from us more than anything else.

The greatest priority God has for any of us is stated in the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22:37-39, *"And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and will all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'"*

God wants from you more than anything that you **love Him with all your being**. He wants a first-love fellowship with you. God longs for a close, love relationship with you more than your service or ritual for Him. This is the amazing thing - the powerful, eternal, Almighty Creator longs for a love relationship with YOU!

God's complaint against His people Israel was never for their ritual or sacrifice, but it was because they *substituted* these things in place of loving devotion to Him. **Read Psalm 40:6-8; 50:7-17**. His anger toward Israel was aroused by their idolatry, substituting devotion to Him with some other thing in His place (*see Ezekiel 6:9*). John also warns us as Christians to keep ourselves from idolatry (*1 John 5:21*).

**Read Revelation 2:1-7**. Jesus commends the church of Ephesus for their hard work, toil, endurance, purity, good doctrine and suffering for His sake. This was a really good church! However, He complains against them that they had lost their first love (*verse 4*)! He tells them to repent and return to their passionate, first-love relationship with Him (and others), or He would come and remove their lamp stand, which was their church (*verse 5. See also Revelation 1:20*). Jesus is saying to them - and us - that He would rather have NO church than a GOOD church without love!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What religious rituals or deeds of service have you found can be a substitute for a heart-felt devotion to God? What is the danger of losing a passionate, first-love relationship with Jesus?*

Our danger is that we also substitute service for God in place of love for God. People are often impressed with positions, titles, wealth and power - even in the church! However, God is impressed with a heart that is fully devoted to Him (*Psalm 40:6-8*).

It is out of a close, growing love relationship with Christ that everything else flows in the Christian life. Every other motivation will eventually wear out. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will keep us going through difficulties and disappointments. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will help us keep loving people. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will help us seeking to share the Gospel with lost people. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will keep us motivated to fulfill the Great Commission. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will help us overcome trials and persecution. Love for Jesus is the only thing that will keep us going strong in our walk and obedience to Christ. Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* (*John 14:15*). Out of love flows obedience!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What helps you to keep a fresh, first-love with Jesus?*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *GOD DOES NOT WANT “PROFESSIONAL” PASTORS AND LEADERS WHO SERVE HIM WITH EMPTY RITUALS AND DUTY, BUT FULLY-DEVOTED FOLLOWERS WHO ARE PASSIONATELY IN LOVE WITH JESUS.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** **Read Revelation 2:1-7** again. How is your love relationship with Jesus today? If you have lost your “first love” for Him, spend time confessing and asking for His forgiveness. (*1 John 1:9*)

**Day 2:** What activities or rituals in your Christian life or service threaten as a substitute for a passionate devotion to Jesus?

How can you guard against them becoming “idols” that replace your relationship with Him?

**Day 3:** Name 3 ways that you can keep your first-love relationship with Jesus fresh and vibrant. State how you will practice these over the next month/year.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
How?

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
How?

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
How?

**Day 4:** Write a personal “love” letter to Jesus. Keep it with you and review it once a week for the next year. Add to it as you grow in your love for Him.

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 2 - "CHANGE YOUR THINKING AND EMBRACE GOD'S VISION"**

***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 can carefully read and study the New Testament and never find the command to do what many pastors and church leaders are doing today. While many, if not most, pastors and leaders have a noble ambition, it is not one the Lord wants us to have. What is this misguided ambition that so many leaders have? It is to build a great church. But, Jesus never called any of us to build a great church for God! He never commanded us to build a great denomination. In fact, you will never even find the command to plant a church! Yet isn't it true that many of us who serve the Lord are seeking to do these very things? We have mistakenly adopted the wrong goals.

We often define a "great" church as one with many people, great programs, a big budget, and a great reputation. Let's be clear: a church with these elements **may** be great in God's eyes, or it may **not**. Similarly, a small church with few programs or no building may not be great, either. The important thing is NOT the size or presence of buildings or programs. What is most important is the church fulfilling God's **primary purpose**.. We often face the pressure to pursue these added things as necessary to be a great church. And we make the ungodly mistake of comparing our churches with other churches according to these "standards." This is something the Lord never intended. *Brothers and Sisters, we must change our thinking about what God has really called us to do.*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *How have you felt the pressure to build a great church for God according to these standards?*

If Jesus never called us to build a great church or even to plant churches, what, then, are we to do? Jesus made it very clear in His last command. We are to "Go and make disciples of all the nations..." Matthew 28:19. This is our Great Commission from Jesus. Our primary goal is *to take* the Gospel to the people in our neighborhoods, villages, cities, nations and world, *to win* as many as possible to faith in Christ, *to disciple and train* these believers and then *to send* them to multiply the Kingdom of God. This is the pattern we see in the book of Acts. The apostles and disciples spread the message of the Gospel all over the world. As a result, churches were started, they grew and they multiplied (*See Acts 6:1, 7; 9:31; 19:10*). But, the primary focus was not on planting churches but on making disciples. As they did, multiplying churches were the result of obeying the Great Commission. This is an important distinction. Our goal is not to build great churches but to **make multiplying disciples**. As we keep this goal in mind, good, healthy, multiplying churches will result!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What changes in your ministry would you make if you concentrated on making multiplying disciples (instead of building a great church)?*

As you read the New Testament you find a **simple** church. It had a simple structure, which was easily multiplied. It was led by growing leaders (*1 Timothy 3, Titus 1*) and engaged in simple practices such as worship, serving one another, mutual discipleship and witnessing to others (*see 1 Corinthians 14, Colossians 3:15-17; 4:2-6*). One church leader says that these simple New Testament churches focused on three crucial elements:

- 1) A devotion to God's Truth,
- 2) loving and serving others in the church and,
- 3) carrying out a witness to the world.<sup>1</sup>

In contrast, many churches today are **complex**. Our structures and practices often distract us from developing believers into multiplying disciples - the main focus and purpose of the church. We must concentrate our efforts on what others are able to reproduce. The question we must constantly ask is, *"Are others able to easily reproduce what I am doing?"*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What things can our team do to make our churches simpler according to the three practices above?*

So, our focus and priority must shift from building great churches to making multiplying disciples. We must be serious about developing disciples who reproduce and not be satisfied with people who just attend church gatherings. At the same time, we must simplify our church structures and activities so that they are easily reproduced and multiplied. The rule for any church activity is this: if it cannot be replicated by another disciple, then don't do it!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What things do you do in your church ministry that would be difficult for any ordinary Christian to reproduce? Why do you think this might hinder the multiplication of disciples?*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *OUR CALL IS NOT TO BUILD A 'GREAT CHURCH' BUT TO MAKE MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES.*

As you think about and review the issues in this lesson, evaluate your current church ministry as you work through the ACTIONS for this week:

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Review the activities of your ministry over the last month and honestly answer this question - Would you say that your goal and efforts as a pastor/leader is primarily:

to build a great church?

to make multiplying disciples?

Why did you give the answer you did?

**Day 2:** What activities or programs are you currently involved in your church that distract you from your priority of making multiplying disciples?

**Day 3:** Which activities or programs in your church is the Lord leading you to eliminate or change in order to develop a simple church structure for fulfilling the Great Commission?

**Day 4:** Read over the tool, "Make Multiplying Disciples." **Who** have you been talking to about Jesus that you need to help grow to a mature and multiplying disciple? **When** will be your first meeting? **Where**?

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

<sup>1</sup>Neil Cole, Organic Church, Chapter 8.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 3 - "DEVOTIONAL TIME"**

***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 we are to keep our passion for Christ, if we are to renew our minds, if we are to grow in our love and obedience to Christ, if we are to keep our focus and motivation, if we are to stay true to our calling and commitments, then we must have a daily time alone with God. This has often been called a "devotional" time or a "quiet" time.

The testimony and practice of great men and women of God in the Bible and throughout history is that they devoted a consistent daily time to be with God for reading and study of His Word and prayer. This spiritual discipline is vital for every growing child of God. Without it, we cannot enjoy the abundant relationship with God that He desires for us. How do we know this? Because we find it in the life and practice of Jesus Christ, the living Son of God! If consistent time alone with God was important for Him - the sinless, powerful Son of God - then how much more so for us - weak, sinful and needy sons and daughters of God!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Do you agree that you cannot grow to be the person God desires or accomplish all that God wants you to do without practicing the discipline of a daily devotional time with God? Why or why not?*

Let's look at the life and practice of Jesus to discover how He practiced this vital discipline in His own life. Read together Mark 1:35-39. This event took place on the morning after what has been called Jesus' "long day" of ministry. The previous day Jesus began teaching in the synagogue early in the morning, then went to Peter's house where he healed Peter's mother-in-law. That evening the whole city came to Peter's house where Jesus healed all of them late into the night (*see verses 21-34*). Yet Jesus made it a priority to get up and spend time with God the next morning.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Read together verse 35 again. What were the things that Jesus modeled that we can make a part of our devotional time with God?*

Notice that Jesus got up early in the morning. He made this time a priority. He got away from people. He went to a particular place.

**Read together** Luke 5:15-16. What were the "demands" that Jesus faced at this time? What was His regular practice? (verse 16).

Again, we see in the life of Jesus that 1) He made it a priority to get away for time alone with God, 2) He would withdraw from people, 3) He went to a particular place and, 4) He spent time praying and listening to God.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Share with others in the group what has been your practice and helped you in your devotional time with God. What has been the biggest difficulty you face in having a regular devotional time?*

In light of the example of Jesus, we have the elements that make up a devotional time alone with God:

1. This time was a priority for Jesus.
2. It was His regular practice.
3. He withdrew from people to be by Himself with God.
4. He went to a particular place for His devotional time.
5. He prayed and communed with His Father.
6. He read, meditated on and memorized the Word of God (see Matthew 4:1-10, where Jesus fasted for 40 days and was tempted by Satan. His defense was to quote the Word of God from Deuteronomy which He had memorized. He most likely read and meditated on these verses during this time).

So, if we follow the example of Jesus for our devotional time we must...

1. Set aside **time** to be with God. Some find that early morning is best, while others prefer a time at night. It is not so important when, but that you make it a daily priority.
2. Get **alone** by yourself away from people or distractions.
3. Find a particular **place** where you can do this.
4. **Pray** and read His **Word**.

Other things that people have found to help them in this: Have a journal to record your thoughts and prayers and what God is teaching you. Sometimes a devotional book can help you during this time. Sing to and worship the Lord. Set aside some special extended times for fasting, prayer and meditation. Remember, this devotional time is not for ministry or preparation for teaching, but to enrich your personal relationship with God.

**KEY CONCEPT: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME WITH GOD IS ESSENTIAL IF WE WANT TO GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Think through how you can make a Devotional time a priority for your life. What things must change for it to become a priority?

**Day 2:** Where and when will you have your daily devotional time? Where and what time can you get alone by yourself to commune with God?

**Day 3:** What will be your Bible reading, study, meditation and memorization plan during your devotional time?

**Day 4:** Write out specifically what you will do during your devotional time. Make this a practice for one week and then reevaluate how you can make it even more meaningful to you.

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 4 - "THE ESSENCE OF THE GOSPEL"**

***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.***

Everything we do at Strategic Impact must result in evangelism - taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost world. This is the great calling of Christ on our lives. He desires that everyone hear the Gospel and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We must work toward this end until the whole world hears about Jesus and how they might know Him.

As part of the *School of Multiplying Church Planters*, you must be continually sharing the Gospel with people in your community. It is highly important that we know what the essence of the Gospel is and how to share it in a clear and simple way so that others might coming to saving faith in Christ. We are often surprised that Christians - *even pastors and leaders* - are confused about this most important issue.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What messages have you heard from different Christians, churches or pastors in answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?"*

It is vitally important that we do not confuse people about the most important issue for any person: how they can have eternal life with God. The essential elements of the Gospel message are found 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. (Read together). We find in these verses the heart of the Gospel message.

1. Jesus Christ died for our sins, verse 3.
2. He was physically buried, verse 4.
3. He was bodily raised from the dead on the third day, verses 5-8
4. Those who put their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will have their sins forgiven and obtain eternal life. (*1 Corinthians 15:1-2, 51-53*)

As we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, we must make clear these ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS of the Gospel and give them an opportunity to respond with faith in Jesus as the only way to have eternal life. We must follow the model of Paul, who asked for prayer that he would have opportunity to share the Gospel and that he could make it **very clear** to those he spoke. (*Read Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4*).

So, what must someone understand and do to become a Christian and gain eternal life? These are the simple and clear points of our message:

1. God loves people and wants everyone to be saved from their sins and have eternal life. *(John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4)*
2. Every person has sinned against God. *(Romans 3:23)*
3. Our sin separates us from God and causes spiritual, physical and eternal death. *(Romans 6:23)*
4. Jesus Christ is the only sinless Son of God who paid the penalty for our sin. *(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)*
5. Jesus Christ is the only way to have a new relationship with God - there is no other way. *(John 14:6)* We are not saved by any good works or religious ritual or experiences such as baptism, joining the church, receiving spiritual gifts, etc.
6. People must receive the free grace gift of salvation by faith (trust in) Jesus Christ alone to forgive their sin and give them eternal life. *(John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9)*

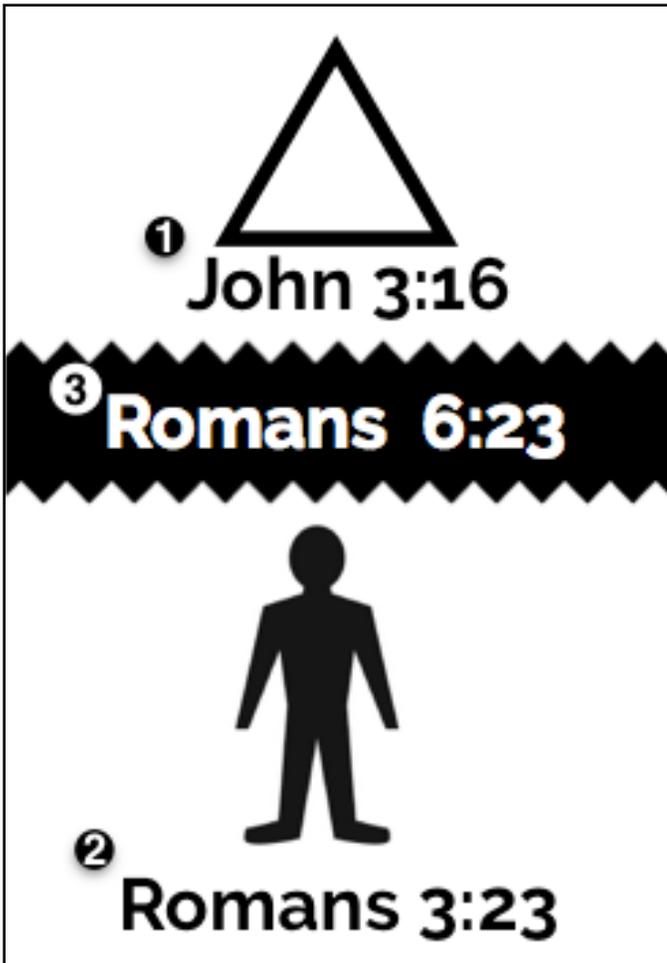
**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *In your culture what do most people think they must do to have a right relationship with God? How does the Gospel differ with this common thinking?*

Strategic Impact has designed an evangelistic tool to help you share this simple Gospel message and give others and opportunity to put their faith in Christ. Together, read over the following instructions on the following pages about how to use this tool.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Who is someone that you need to share the SI evangelistic tool with this week?*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *WE MUST MAKE THE SIMPLE GOSPEL CLEAR TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE AND GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ETERNAL LIFE.*

# HOW TO USE THE STRATEGIC IMPACT EVANGELISTIC TOOL

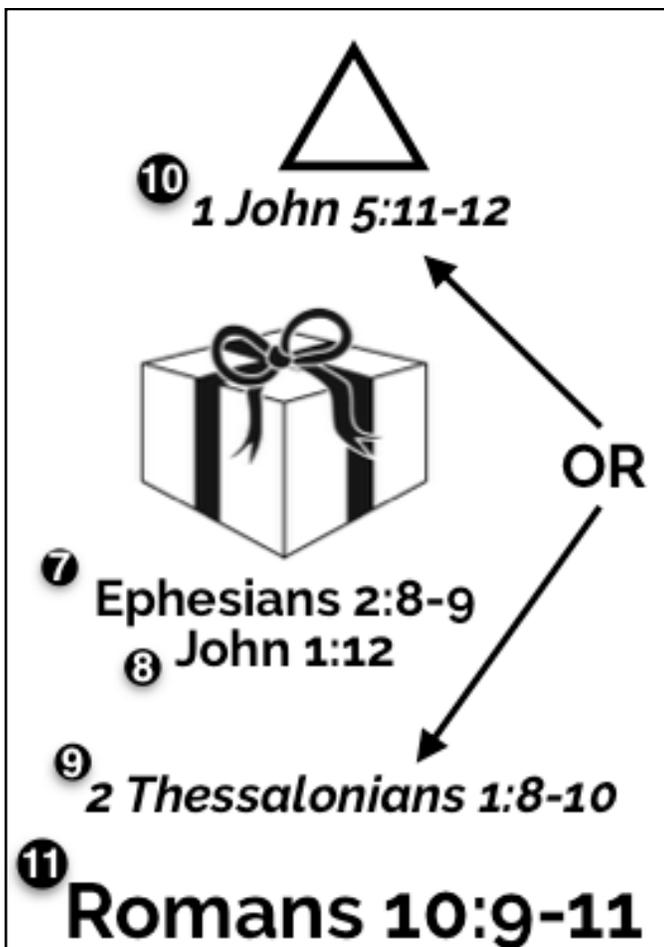
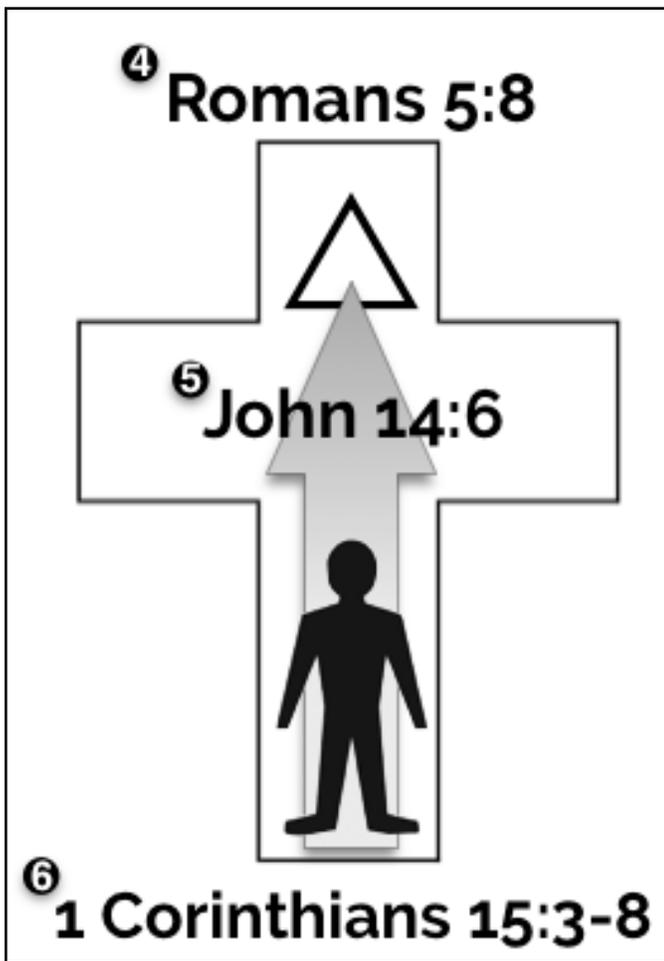


1. Share YOUR TESTIMONY of:
  - What your life was like BEFORE you trusted Jesus,
  - How you came to place faith in Jesus as your Savior
  - How your life was different after trusting in Jesus for salvation.

Show them the front panel of the tool.

*Say: "May I ask you a few question about what you believe and show you from the Bible how you can be sure that you have eternal life?"*

2. Show them the triangle and tell them this figure represents God. Ask, **"Do you believe in God? Do you believe that He loves you?"** Wait for the person's answer. These questions will enable you to have a **conversation** with the person instead of just talking **at** them.
3. It is **important to read the verse from the Bible** along with each figure. Begin with *John 3:16*. (1)
  - Ask if the person has a Bible. If they do, have them get it and help them look up the verses in the Bible.
  - It would be best if the person reads the verses. However, be sensitive if they cannot read. If they hesitate or say something like "I do not have my glasses," then you read it for them.
4. Show them the figure of the person at the bottom of the first panel. Ask, **"Who do you think this represents?"** They might say, "People," or "the devil" or some other person. Tell them that this figure represents everyone in the world - you, me and everyone else. Point out the black gulf, which indicates that people are separated from God. Read *Romans 3:23* (2) and ask, **"The Bible says that we are separated from God because each of us has sinned. Do you believe that you have sinned against God?"**
5. Read *Romans 6:23* (3) in the dark area showing people separated from God. Ask, **"Do you believe that your sins cause death – eternal separation from God?"**



6. Turn to the next panel showing the cross. Read *Romans 5:8* (4) and say, “**God loves us and has provided a way for us to know Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you?**”
7. Read *John 14:6* (5) and ask, “**Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to have eternal life with God?**”
8. Read *1 Corinthians 15:3-8* (6) and ask, “**Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?**”
9. Turn to the third panel and show them the picture of the gift and say, “**God wants you to have eternal life with Him and He offers this as a free gift.**” Then read *Ephesians 2:8-9* (7) say, “**If you believe on the name of Jesus, God offers you to become a child of God**” Then read *John 1:12* (8).
10. “**God says this to those who reject His gift:**” read (*2 Thessalonians 1:8-10*) (9). **But, “If you accept this gift by faith, God promises you will have eternal life with Him.”** (*1 John 5:11-12*) (10).
11. **ASK: “Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ today?”**
12. If they answer “**Yes,**” then read *Romans 10:9-10* (11). You can receive Christ by faith today by **believing** in your heart and **confessing** with your mouth. Prayer does not save you. It is your **faith in Christ** that saves you. The words of a prayer can help you express your faith. Here is a sample prayer: “*Lord Jesus, I need You. I admit that I have sinned against you. Please forgive my sins. I accept Your free gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life today by faith. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

I accept Christ as my Savior today.

I can meet tomorrow to grow in my new faith in Jesus Christ.

Time tomorrow: \_\_\_\_\_

or other Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

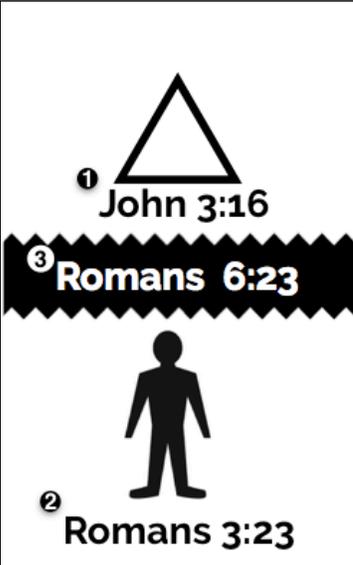
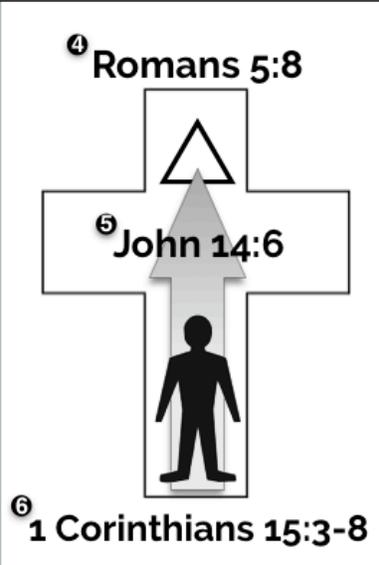
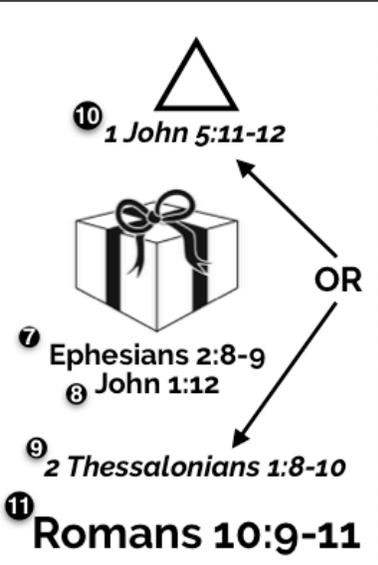
I am interested in meeting with others in my neighborhood to learn more about Jesus Christ.

13. After someone accepts God's free gift of eternal life by faith, ask, "Did you trust in Christ to forgive your sins and give you eternal life?" Then encourage them in their new faith and pray for them.

14. Tear off the last panel of the SI Evangelism Tool. Gather their contact information and check the appropriate boxes.

15. If possible, set a time to meet with them tomorrow to begin Discipling the New Believer using the back of the SI Evangelism Tool.

16. Turn in the contact information to the Leader of the New Cell Church that is being planted.

			<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Date _____ Age _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I accept Christ as my Savior today.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I can meet tomorrow to grow in my new faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Time tomorrow: _____</p> <p>or other Date: _____ Time: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in meeting with others in my neighborhood to learn more about Jesus Christ.</p>
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**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Begin memorizing the verses on the SI Evangelism Tool so that you could share them with anyone at any time.

**Day 2:** Begin praying daily as individuals and as a team that God would give you opportunities to share the Gospel with others.

**Day 3:** Commit to sharing the Gospel with at least one person every week.

**Day 4:** Who is another Christian that you know that you can train to share the Gospel?  
Make a time with them to show them how to use the SI evangelism tool.

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 5 - "LORDSHIP OF 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.***

Jesus once asked his disciples - and each one of us - two important questions. These are the most important questions that each one of us must answer in this life. These questions determine our eternal destiny and our present priorities. The questions are found in Mark 8:27-38. (Please read together).

The **first** question is about who Jesus really is. During a time in his earthly ministry when Jesus was very popular, the crowds had various opinions about Him. They speculated that he was either John the Baptist, or Elijah or one of the other prophets. But Jesus asks his disciples (and you and me) "*But who do you say that I am?*" (v. 29). Your eternal destiny and earthly life depends on how you answer this question. Everyone who knows anything about Him, acknowledges that there is something unique about Jesus. Some people think that he is either a great religious teacher or a great moral example. But, the only acceptable answer to this question is the one that Peter gave: "*You are the Christ of God!*" Peter's confession affirms that Jesus is much more than just a mere man. He is the unique and only Messiah, the eternal Son of God, who became a man and died to forgive our sins. He is the resurrected Lord who will one day return to the earth to judge every person and reign forever. Our eternal destiny depends on who we believe Jesus is.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *When did you come to realize that Jesus is more than a good religious teacher? What answer would most people in your city or region give to the question, "Who do you think Jesus Christ is?"*

The second most important question of life is implied in the teaching that Jesus gave immediately after Peter's confession. Jesus predicts his suffering, rejection, death and resurrection. After He rebukes Peter for refusing this truth, he gives this sober instruction to everyone who listens to him:

*"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:34-38, ESV).*

The **second** most important question we must answer is, “*Who and what am I going to live for in this life?*” We really only have two options: We can live for our own selfish purposes and seek to gain all that this sinful, evil world offers, or we can lose our lives for Christ and his Gospel. Each of us is either pursuing our own selfish interests or the interests of Christ. Each of us can either choose to live for our own self, or for Christ.

The way you answer this second important question has great consequences. While it is natural to think that the best thing we could do in life is to live for our own interests and to gain as much as we can, Jesus says that ultimately the result of that choice is to forfeit our soul. We might indeed gain much for ourselves in this temporal life, but we will lose what is most important - our real, spiritual selves. We are much more than just physical, temporal beings. We are first and most of all, eternal, spiritual souls made for our Creator and His purposes.

So, the best answer to the question, “*Who and what are you going to live for?*” is to live for Jesus Christ and His Gospel. When we courageously follow Him and live for His Gospel, then we gain our souls - our true spiritual selves. And, we will also gain praise and reward from the Lord when He returns to the earth (see v. 38).

This means that when we do what does not seem natural. When we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, then we find true spiritual life and satisfaction now, and we have the promise of great reward when Jesus returns. A great missionary, Jim Elliot, who lost his life seeking to take the Gospel to a tribe of Indians in the jungles of Ecuador said this, “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep for that which he cannot lose.*”

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Why do you think it is so difficult to deny yourself for Christ and His Gospel? Explain practically what it would look like for you to take up your cross and follow Jesus.*

The most important questions of life are:

1. Who is Jesus Christ?
2. Who/what am I going to live for?

The only correct answers to these questions are:

1. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and
2. He is the only Lord and master of my life!

**KEY CONCEPT:** *JESUS CHRIST IS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD AND DENYING MY SELF-INTERESTS TO FOLLOW HIM AS LORD RESULTS IN THE BEST LIFE POSSIBLE.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Memorize and review Mark 8:34-35 every day this week.  
Check the box as you complete each day.

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

**Day 2:** Ask at least one person (who is not in your family or church) this week the question:  
“Who do you say Jesus Christ is?” How did they respond?

**Day 3:** Write out how you would explain to someone that Jesus Christ is more than just a good religious and moral teacher:

**Day 4:** Describe what it means for you to deny yourself and take up your cross daily to follow Jesus:

**Day 5:** Read Mark 8:34-38 carefully. How would you encourage those who choose to follow Him as Lord of their lives and seek to share His Gospel?

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 6 - "PRAYING TOGETHER"**

***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, Colossians 4:2-4, Romans 12:12, 1 John 5:14-15, and Luke 10:2-3

Once you have begun to change your thinking from building your own kingdom (church buildings/ programs/budgets, etc.) to building God's kingdom, you will also begin to see the enormity of the task before us. The task we are called to is the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). But making multiplying disciples is actually a work of the Spirit (John 6:65, 3:27). And the command of the Great Commission involves the whole world. There is no way we, as individuals, could personally visit every people group on earth.

God has commanded us to do a work that is beyond our human capabilities. But don't forget the promises and declarations God makes! Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." He also said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." and "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." If God gives us a command, we trust that He will also give us all we need in order to obey what He has commanded - if we will only ask Him by faith! In 1 John 5:14-15, Scripture tells us, "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him." I ask you: Is fulfilling the Great Commission something in the will of God? YES! YES!! YES!!! Does Jesus have the power to fulfill the Great Commission? YES! YES!! YES!!! How will He fulfill it? By His power and His work being carried out in and through YOU!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** Why do we often depend on our own abilities, gifts and skills to do the work God has called us to do?

Prayer, then, is our most powerful tool. Prayer reveals our humble dependency upon God's infinite strength. Prayer reveals our dependency upon His glory and power to accomplish His purposes. Through prayer, we express our gratitude for Christ's finished work on the cross, His constant provision and work in our lives, and we find His direction in how to glorify Him by making multiplying disciples and discipling the new believers to maturity in Christ.

Every aspect of our ministry and lives must be soaked in prayer. We are devoted to prayer, but that does not mean that prayer is all we do. We dare not carry out a single step of a plan without bringing that plan before the Lord. Once we have entrusted the plans to the God, we then move forward with confidence that He will direct our actions.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What activities are you are involved in right now that you feel you need to give more time to prayer?*

One of the most important prayers we can pray together is the prayer for “harvest workers”. In Luke 10:2-3, Jesus tells His disciples, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”* He tells his followers to ask for more workers, but also that He is sending them out RIGHT NOW! We ask for workers, but do not wait for them to come before we enter the harvest. In fact, for the Great Commission to be fulfilled, the workers FOR the harvest will come FROM the harvest! - Think about that for a minute. - Most of the workers who will participate in fulfilling the Great Commission have yet to trust Christ for salvation! So, when we ask the Lord for workers, we are asking for multiplying disciples to be made! TOGETHER, as a team, WE MUST ASK! We must get direction from the Father! We must be working in His power, not ours. WE MUST BE DEVOTED TO PRAYER TOGETHER! Each staff member in the Strategic Impact family has set an alarm for 10:02 AM every day to remind us to pray for laborers for the harvest (*10:02 AM refers to Luke 10:2*).

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Stop right now and have everyone set their watch or cell phone alarm to 10:02 AM. Pray at this moment for laborers for the harvest!*

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He has promised to be present with us to the end. We have been charged by Him to fulfill the Great Commission. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest! Truly, with God all things are possible. (*Matt 19:26*)

**KEY CONCEPT:** *PRAYER MUST PERMEATE OUR MINISTRY OF MAKING MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** This week, pray daily for the Lord to provide laborers for the harvest at 10:02 AM. Check the box as you complete each day.

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

**Day 2:** Schedule a weekly time for your team to gather and pray TOGETHER for God's kingdom to be advanced - "harvest workers", the Great Commission to be fulfilled, opportunities to share the Gospel, pray for the lost by name, pray for the coming work of evangelism of the church.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Day of the Week: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 3:** Schedule a time for a several Prayer Walks to be carried out by your team - Walk the neighborhoods where you plan to plan the new cell church and pray for the Lord to open hearts there and pray for the needs of that community.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 4:** What other ways might you lead your people toward being a people of prayer?

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 7 - "A PERSON OF THE WORD"**

***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.***

The foundation for successful Christian life and ministry is knowing and obeying the Bible. God gave us His Word so *"the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV). We cannot grow in our faith and minister to others unless we saturate our minds, hearts, and lifestyle with the truth of the Bible. So, how can we be thoroughly equipped from the Bible? The Bible describes six ways we can saturate our thinking and lifestyle with its truth.

**First**, we must **listen** to the Scriptures. The whole assembly of Israel listened to the Scriptures as it was read (Joshua 8:34-35). Paul told Timothy to publicly read the Scriptures (1 Timothy 4:13). We all need to hear Scripture. Regularly listen to others read it. Take turns in your family reading the Bible. Listen to Scripture by audio recordings or on the internet. We must hear the Word of God!

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What are ways that you find helpful in listening to the Scriptures?*

**Second**, we must **read** the Bible. Each of Israel's kings were told to write their own personal copy of the Scriptures so that he might "read it all the days of his life," (Deuteronomy 17:18-19). The church is commanded to read the New Testament letters (Colossians 4:16). We must continually and repeatedly read the whole Bible. We encourage you to regularly read at least 25 to 30 chapters of the Bible every week.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What benefit would result if you and others in your church read 25 to 30 chapters of the Bible each week (3 to 5 chapters per day?) Is this too much to ask?*

**Third**, we must **study** the Bible. Ezra *"devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord,"* (Ezra 7:10). The man or woman of God must carefully observe, interpret and apply the Scripture to understand what it teaches, so that we may learn to live a righteous life (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We must have a regular time devoted to diligently study the Scriptures.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What is the difference in reading the Bible and studying the Bible?*

**Fourth**, we must **memorize** Scripture. A young man keeps his way pure by hiding God's word in his heart, (Psalm 119:11). Jesus stood against Satan's greatest temptations by quoting Scripture He had memorized (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). We also encourage you to memorize at least one verse per week. A proven method to do this is to read the verse out loud seven times per day for seven days.

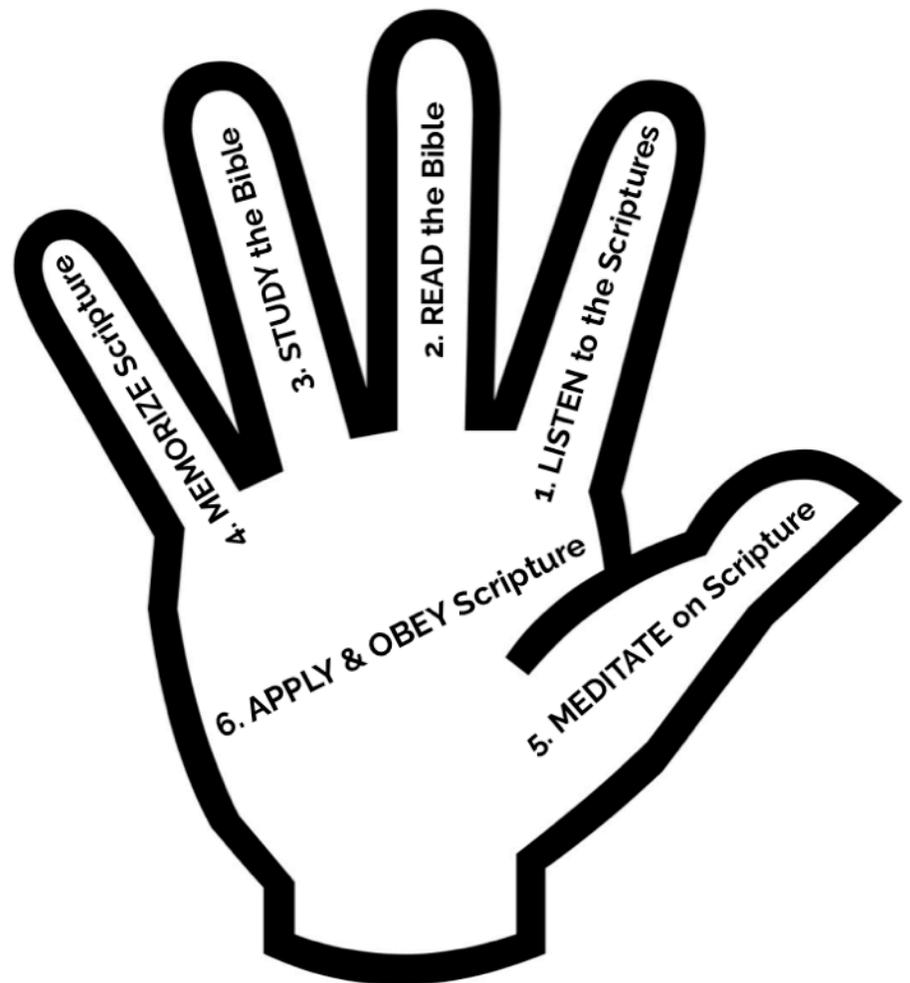
**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Commit to memorize Joshua 1:8 this week. Read it aloud together seven times right now!

**Fifth**, we must **meditate** on Scripture. The Lord told Joshua to meditate on the Word day and night (*Joshua 1:8*). Psalm 1 says that a fruitful and abundant life results as we meditate on Scripture. To meditate means to think carefully about the meaning of the Scripture and how it applies to our life. Meditation and memorization go together.

**Sixth**, we must **apply and obey** the Bible. God gave us His Word to change our lives. Each of the above methods is meant for us to learn to carefully live the truth of Scripture (*Read again each verse to see this*). If we do not apply the truth of the Bible, James says we deceive ourselves (*James 1:22-25*).

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What specific Scripture is God impressing on you to obey at this time?

A good illustration to help you remember these six ways of approaching the Bible is your hand. Each finger represents the first five ways to handle the Word, while the palm represents the sixth - to apply and obey the Bible. If we practice each of these six methods, we will have a firm 'grasp' on the Bible!



**KEY CONCEPT:** THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY IS KNOWING AND OBEYING THE SCRIPTURES. WE CAN GROW IN THIS OBEDIENCE THROUGH LISTENING TO, READING, STUDYING, MEMORIZING, MEDITATING ON, AND APPLYING THE SCRIPTURES.

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Commit to use your hand each day to remind you and memorize these six methods of handling the Bible. Check the box as you complete each day.

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

**Day 2:** Of these six ways to use the Scripture, which one do you most need to improve?

How will you do it?

**Day 3:** Identify and put into practice one specific way you can practice each of these six methods of understanding the Bible.

*Method #1:*

*Method #2:*

*Method #3:*

*Method #4:*

*Method #5:*

*Method #6:*

**Day 4:** Memorize Joshua 1:8.

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 8 - "MAKING A MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE"**

***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.***

Christ's Great Commission for us until He returns is very clear: "Go and make disciples of all the nations." *Matthew 28:19*. Disciple making is the essential command we must obey if we are to fulfill Christ's commission. It is not enough to just evangelize. Christ's fundamental command is to make disciples who will multiply and make other disciples. As we make disciples, churches will result. We may think that we can plant new cell churches and that obedient disciples of Christ will result. This is not always the reality. Many churches have inactive and sometimes disobedient Christians who do nothing but attend church meetings. Rather we must concentrate on making multiplying disciples, and then churches will happen.

This raises a very significant question that we need to answer if we are to obey Christ's command. "What does a fully developed multiplying disciple look like?" The New Testament reveals four general levels of growth in a person's discipleship development.

The **first stage** is simply bringing someone to faith in Jesus. A disciple is first a **believer** in Christ (*Read 1 John 5:11; 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8*). We begin by telling others the Gospel and helping them place their faith in Christ. Sadly, however, this is often where we stop. We often invite people to faith in Christ and then invite them to church but do little else with them. We ask them to become members of the church, but we do not help them grow in their new faith. As a result, many who profess faith in Jesus do not continue to grow. New believers need individual attention and help to grow! They are like new infants in Christ! (*1 Corinthians 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:2*). They need spiritual milk and special attention.

The key role for the discipler at this stage is ASSOCIATING with them. This is what Jesus did with those who first placed their faith in Him. He simply spent time with them. (See *John 1:35-42*). We, too, need to go where new believers are and simply spend time with them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What is the danger of simply leading someone to faith in Christ without helping them to learn to grow in their faith? Share with the group how you were encouraged by someone when you were a new believer.*

In the **second stage** of discipleship we help a believer to become a **follower** of Christ (*Read Mark 1:17; John 1:43; Colossians 2:6-7*). A follower of Christ knows and understands basic truths of their new faith in Christ, things like assurance of their salvation, how to read and understand the Bible, how to relate to the Holy Spirit, the importance of baptism and the church, how to confess sin, how to pray. It is important to provide them with a *basic Bible study*, such as the ones found on the back of the SI Evangelism Tool and the Discipleship Tool (*See Exercise 9*). It is equally important to spend time with them showing them how to do the things we are teaching them. This should be done on formal occasions when you meet together for Bible study but it should also be when you just spend informal time together. They need to see you living out the Christian life.

The key role for the discipler at this stage is DEMONSTRATING to them how to follow Christ, (*Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:10-11*). Jesus' first disciples learned from Him by watching Him. They learned to pray, to witness to others, to care for the sick and the poor, to handle the Word of God. We, too, must instruct and demonstrate to followers how to live the Christian life and serve Christ.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Why is it important to show others how to live the Christian life and not just tell them? What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the Christian life to your disciples?*

As believers learn to follow Jesus, they then move to the **third stage** of discipleship. A follower of Christ should learn to be a **worker** for Christ, (Read Ephesians 4:12). God meant for His followers to serve in His kingdom. Jesus said to His disciples, "Follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men," *Mark 1:17*. A follower of Jesus is by definition a fisher for men. Ephesians 4:12 says every saint is to be equipped to do the work of ministry. Every believer must learn to love and serve other believers in the church. All followers of Christ should be equipped to share the Gospel and help new Christians to begin their new life in Christ. We must teach them and show them how. Teach the disciple how to use the SI Evangelism and Discipling Tools. Invite them to go with you as you do the work of ministry.

The key role you play with workers at this stage is DELEGATION. Jesus gave ministry tasks and opportunities to His disciples while He observed them and trained them, (See Matthew 10; Luke 10).

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Why is it important to have every follower involved in serving others and sharing their faith? What is the danger if they do not?*

The **fourth stage** of discipleship is to help a worker become a **reproducer** for Christ, (*Matthew 9:36-37; 28:18-20; John 15:5, 16*). The ministry of multiplication is our ultimate goal. Not until those you disciple are discipling others has New Testament discipleship taken place (*Read 2 Timothy 2:2*). This is what Jesus did for His disciples. Before He returned to heaven He charged His disciples to go and make other disciples (*Matthew 28:18-20*). Our goal is to produce mature and responsible reproducers. You will need to continue to encourage and help them, but now they are fully responsible for the reproduction of other disciples. We must not be satisfied until the people we win to faith in Christ are now winning and discipling others in their own neighborhood, discipling others and helping to start new cell churches. Only then can we say we are successful (*see Acts 6:1, 7*).

Your key role you play with reproducers is MULTIPLICATION. That is why it is so important for you not to just participate in the *School of Multiplying Church Planters*, but also to train others using this material.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Who are the ones that you are now leading through the first stage of the School of Multiplying Church Planters, or who are potential people you can train to multiply through the SMCP? Can you name those you have disciplined who are now discipling others?*

In the process of discipleship we pray and work to see **believers** become **followers** who become **workers** who become **multipliers** (*Colossians 1:28-29*). Please consider, however, that all these stages

happen *simultaneously*. We should not think that they take place in order one after the other. A believer needs to follow and serve and multiply all at the same time. As new believers grow in their faith, don't hesitate to get them started serving and multiplying! Many times new believers are the most effective in bringing others to faith in Christ! As this process is repeated, a rapid movement will take place that will permeate a whole city, nation and region. Churches will result and the Great Commission will be fulfilled.

**KEY CONCEPT:** *THE PROCESS OF MAKING DISCIPLES DOES NOT END AT EVANGELISM. IT CONTINUES THROUGH THE STAGES OF BELIEVER, FOLLOWER, WORKER, AND REPRODUCER.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Review the 4 stage process of developing reproducing disciples. Which stage have you been neglecting in your ministry?

**Day 2:** Write out your strategy and plan of how you will implement this process in your disciple making ministry.

Become thoroughly familiar and able to use the SI Discipleship Tool (See Exercise 9)

**Day 3:** Write the names of those you are discipling at this present time. At which stage is each person? What do you need to do to help them move to the next stage?

NAME	STAGE	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN
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**Day 4:** Read and study 2 Timothy 2:2. How many generations of disciples are mentioned in this verse? Can you name people in your discipling ministry that are in the 3rd generation? Don't be satisfied until you can!

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 9 - "HEARING FROM GOD"**

***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 you live to be 100, there will never be a day of your life when God is not wanting to give you a FRESH REVELATION of His heart to yours.

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

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *God is speaking every day of your life. Are you listening to Him? How?*

God's NATURE is *revelatory*. He wants to make a SELF-DISCLOSURE of Himself to each of His children. The created UNIVERSE is a revelation of God to man. (see Romans 1:20) The Bible is God's SELF-REVELATION to us. God is a PERSON, and as such, He *speaks*.

Jesus referred to His own Self-Revelation to us:

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them." - John 10:27*

The "normal" Christian life is a "normal" relationship in which COMMUNICATION takes place between two people who love each other. In fact, it would be "abnormal" NOT to have two-way communication in a healthy relationship.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What are some of the OBSTACLES that keep you from Hearing from God on a regular basis?*

Here is a reminder to us of a beautiful promise from Christ Himself:

*"He who has My commandments, and keeps them, He it is who loves Me.  
And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father;  
and I will love him and will REVEAL MYSELF to him." - John 14:21*

Our OBEDIENCE to the commands of Christ:

1. Demonstrates our love for Christ: *"He who has My commandments, and keeps them, He it is who loves Me."*
2. Enables us to experience the love of the Father: *"And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father."*

3. Results in deeper Self -Disclosure from Christ's heart to our hearts: *"I will love him and will REVEAL MYSELF to him."*

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What is the role of OBEDIENCE in determining our ability to hear from God?*

Do you want God to speak to you more?

OBEDY what He has *already told you to do*, and He will reveal Himself *even more*.

This part is truly difficult to comprehend: Almighty God, who SPOKE the worlds into existence, HUNGERS *to be known*. He desires INTIMATE relationship with you. Intimacy requires communication. Communication requires speaking.

Think about this: What kind of relationship would you have with your best friend if you never *communicated* with him? - There would be **no relationship** at all!

Most of the time, we ask God WHAT: *"WHAT do You want me to do?"*

But the truth is, most of the time, He wants to talk to us about WHO:

*"You are the apple of My eye." (Psalm 17:8)*

*"You are My beloved son, in whom I am well-pleased." (Matthew 3:17)*

*"Because you are precious in My sight, you are HONORED, and I LOVE you." (Isaiah 43:4)*

**God is speaking all the time.**

**He wants to reveal Himself to you.**

**There is never a day in which God is not speaking.**

**Are you listening?**

Take the time that right now to ask God one question: *"What do you think of me?"*

I promise he will speak to you right now, if you will simply LISTEN to him.

Pledge to God your OBEDIENCE: that whatever He speaks to you, your response is **"Yes!"**

**KEY CONCEPT:** *WE MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO US AND RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO HIM.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Hearing from God is easy - He is eager to communicate with us, but we make it needlessly difficult. What are some of the OBSTACLES that keep you from Hearing from God on a regular basis? How will you eliminate these obstacles?

**Day 2:** Take the time **right now** to quiet your heart and LISTEN to the Lord. What do you sense the Lord saying to you?

**Day 3:** Block a 2-3 minute time each morning, to simply LISTEN to the Lord, as a part of your Devotional Time. What is God communicating?

**Day 4:** Create a Prayer Journal for 2 purposes:

1. Record the words and phrases God speaks to you.
2. Write down the names of each member of your family:

Ask the Lord HOW he wants you to pray for each of them *individually*.  
Listen. Pray whatever the Lord speaks to you.

Allow the Holy Spirit to “*induce*” His prayers in you.  
This is truly “*Spirit-induced*” 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 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 10 - "HOW TO PRACTICALLY DISCIPLE OTHERS"**

***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.***

As a team read through the following Discipleship Tool together. Make sure that you are thoroughly familiar with its content and understand how to use it.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**TOOL: MAKE MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES**

Our calling as Christ followers is to make multiplying disciples which results in multiplying churches.

When you faithfully share the Gospel with people, some will respond and trust in Christ as their Savior. It is vitally important to establish these new believers in their new faith in Christ and then help them grow into maturing and multiplying disciples.

In order to do this it is important visit the people where they are - in their homes, places where they work or go about their daily lives. Begin to disciple these new believers individually or in small groups of 3 to 5 people.

If possible, make your first follow up visit with a new believer within 48 hours of when they trust in Christ. Don't let too much time go by before you visit them to establish them in their new faith. New believers need to start understanding God in His World. If possible, start by providing them with at least a Gospel of John. Use the guidelines and 4 topics for 4 visits from the Gospel of John found on the back of the SI Evangelism Tool. After the first visit, schedule to meet them again within one week, and then at least each week after until you finish the first four visits.

### **Essential follow up and discipleship tools**

How will you help new believers become multiplying disciples? There are many fine Bible studies and discipleship curriculums available. But, discipling others is much more than just a Bible study! The following are the essential tools necessary:

1. **The Bible.** Use the Word of God to disciple new believers. This is the most important "curriculum" you can use! (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)
2. **Prayer.** Pray faithfully for and with your new disciples. (*Ephesians 1:15-23*)
3. **The Holy Spirit.** Depend on and encourage the new believers to learn to rely on the Holy Spirit to transform them into the likeness of Christ. (*2 Corinthians 3:17-18*)
4. **You!** Your involvement and influence with the new believer is vital. Discipleship is a life-on-life process. Spend time with the new Christians. Take an interest in their lives apart from just your Bible study. Have them go with you to make other visits or to evangelize. Spend time with them informally. Eat together. Let them "see" you follow Jesus in your daily life. (*2 Timothy 3:10-11*)

After the initial four visits, present the believer with a “graduation” gift of a New Testament, if they have been faithful to meet with you and carry out their commitments. Then ask them to continue to meet with you for 20 more visits to help them grow into multiplying disciples.

As you spend time with these new Christians,

- help them to learn the Bible and how to follow Jesus. (*Grow*)
- Show them how to tell others about Jesus. (*Witness*)
- Encourage them to start using these same tools to disciple their friends and family. (*Disciple others*)

Your goal is not just to make a **growing** disciple of Jesus, it is to make a **multiplying** disciple. This is the heart of the Great Commission and the call of God on your life. It is the most significant thing you can do to serve Christ.

Below are major topics/issues from the Word of God for you to use to help your disciple to understand and apply to their lives. Of course, there are many other important issues for a Christian, but these are foundational for a life pleasing to God. Please meet at least every week and use the Word of God to learn these issues.

What specifically will you do when you meet together?

## **Follow this basic 5 Step Process as you meet together**

1. **RELATE:** Ask how they are doing and find out what has been happening in their lives since your last meeting.
2. **ENCOURAGE:** Begin your time mutually answering encouragement/accountability questions:
  - A. *Did you spend time alone with God in His Word and prayer every day since we last met? What did God say to you?*
  - B. *Have you walked in love in your important relationships with others in your family, friends, neighbors and church?*
  - C. *Have you given into an addictive behavior?*
  - D. *Did you complete the commitments that you made from our Bible study last time? How?*
3. **DISCUSS:** Read and discuss the Bible passage assigned to that visit's topic using the following 6 question format:

**Read** the passage aloud (while others listen or read along in their Bibles.)

**DISCUSS** and **INTERACT** over the following questions:

1. *What did you like about this passage?*
2. *What did you not like, or find confusing, about this passage?*

Have someone else **read** the passage aloud **AGAIN**.

**Discuss** the next two questions:

3. *What do you learn about people from this passage?*
4. *What do you learn about God from this passage?*

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

**Discuss** the final two questions:

5. *In light of this passage, how will your life be different this week? Be specific. (Note: Write down their answers and follow up about this at the beginning of the next visit.)*
  6. *Who will you tell about Jesus this week and/or who will you disciple using this material? (NOTE: Name someone and tell why and when you will tell him or her. Write down the names of those they want to talk to and follow up at the beginning of the next visit.)*
4. **PLAN:** Agree on a portion of Scripture that you will read during the week. (3 chapters per day is suggested).
  5. **PRAY:** Conclude your time by praying together for each other and the commitments made from Questions 5 and 6.

## The Discipleship Bible Passages and Topics

**Foundational** - on the back of the SI Evangelism Tool with 6 Questions & Central Passages from the Gospel of John

1. Who is Jesus? John 11:17-27
2. Understand God's Love, John 3:16-18
3. Be Sure of Your Salvation, John 10:27-30
4. Abide in Jesus, John 15:1-11

**Growth** - Meet together at least weekly to discuss these passages and topics:

5. Prayer, Matthew 6:5-15
6. Confess your sins, 1 John 1:5-2:2

7. Your Testimony: Tell Others How Jesus Changed You, Acts 26
  - a. Use the 3 point outline to help them think through their own testimony:
    - i. What my life was like before I trusted Jesus.
    - ii. How I met Jesus.
    - iii. The difference Jesus has made in my life since I put my faith in Him.
  - b. Have them share their 1 minute testimony with someone before your next visit.
8. Witness: Tell Others About Jesus, Acts 1:1-11 (2 Corinthians 5:16-21).
  - a. Train them how to use the SI Evangelism Tool
  - b. Go with them to tell someone about Jesus using the Tool.
  - c. Note: If they lead someone to Christ help them learn how to use this guide to start discipling the new believers!
9. Fellowship with Other Believers in a Church, Acts 2:40-47 (Hebrews 10:19-25).
  - a. Invite your disciple to come to the new cell church.
  - b. Help your disciple to commit to being a participating member of a new cell church.
10. Be Baptized, Acts 8:26-38 (see also Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:40-41)
  - a. Invite the new believer to be baptized
  - b. Have the new believer invite family and friends (especially those who may not know Christ) to witness his/her baptism.
11. Communion: The Lord's Supper, Luke 22:14-20
  - a. Invite the new believer to celebrate Communion with you and other believers
12. Obedience, John 14:15-21
  - a. Ask what area of life they sense the Lord is asking them to obey
13. Devotional Time, Read and Study the Bible, Psalm 1 (Luke 5:15-16)
  - a. Have the new believer set aside a time daily to read the Bible and pray
14. Forgive Others, Matthew 18:21-35
  - a. Ask specifically who they need to forgive
15. Submit to the Lordship of Christ; Submission to the Sovereign God, Romans 14:5-12.
16. God's Purpose for Your Life, Matthew 28:18-20 (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
17. What is the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
18. Marriage and Family, Ephesians 5:22-6:4.
19. Walk in the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:16-26
20. Identity in Christ, Romans 6

21. The priority of Love, 1 John 4:7-21
22. The Authority of the Word of God, 2 Timothy 3:14-17
23. Stewardship of Life, Luke 19:10-27
24. Spiritual Warfare, Ephesians 6:10-18.

## **Multiply Your Disciples**

During the process of “discipling” the new believers to maturity and multiplication, help them to

- become part of a new cell church
- start witnessing to others
- start discipling other new believers they win to Christ and bring them into the new cell church.

When you finish the 24 topics, you will find “faithful” men and women who have a hunger for God, who are growing in their new faith, and who are winning other people and discipling others. As you discover these “faithful” disciples, challenge those with the greatest potential to enroll in the *SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS* and take them through the same process: Learn and Live the Great Commission!

After reading through this tool together, use the 6 Question Bible Discussion to discuss John 15:1-7 together.

**KEY CONCEPT: REMEMBER, YOUR GOAL IS TO MAKE MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES WHO IGNITE CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS!**

**ACTIONS this week:**

- Day 1:** Read through the 6 Question Bible Discussion guide again and make sure you thoroughly understand how to use it.
- Day 2:** Practice using the 6 Question Bible Discussion Guide using one of the passages from the Bible with someone.
- Day 3:** Pray and list those you will ask to join you working through the Foundational and/or Growth Topics together.
- Day 4:** Ask those on your list to start meeting with you to go through the Topics together. Set a time to begin.
- Evangelism:** Share the Gospel this week with at least one person who does not know Christ.

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 11 - "PRAY!"**

***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:** *Matthew 6:5-15*

Prayer is your direct line to God. As a believer, you are given the right, privilege and command to come before the Creator of all things, the sovereign Ruler of the universe, the Owner of all things in creation. Prayer is essential to your life as a Christian and ministry as a multiplying disciple. Since Scripture includes instructions regarding how to pray, there is a proper and improper way to approach God in prayer. Jesus tells us directly how to pray. In Matthew 6:5-8 He provides some pre-prayer instructions, in Matthew 6:9-13 He provides a model prayer, and in Matthew 6:14-15 He provides insight to the sincerity our prayers should have.

**PRE-PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS:**

Matthew 6:5-6 says not pray as the "hypocrites" do. You do not pray in order to bring attention to yourself. You do not pray to impress others with how well you can say beautiful words. Most people have been guilty of doing this at some time, just waiting for the opportunity to pray before a group in order to impress them so others will think how spiritual we are. In reality, with our heart being focused on our own glory, we have revealed we are NOT very spiritual!

Go into a private place to pray. God hears you, even when you are in secret. Does this mean you are to never pray in front of others? How could that be? The model prayer in verses 7-13 was prayed in front of those Jesus was teaching. There are many accounts of public prayers throughout the New Testament. No, it is not sin to pray in public, but it is sin to pray as the hypocrites do - to bring attention to yourself. If you cannot pray in public without falling to that temptation, then retreat to a private location to pray.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *How can we guard against praying to impress others?*

Second, we are not to pray as the "Gentiles" do - praying with empty words. This refers to praying in a heartless and disconnected manner. Often we memorize a prayer and say it out of habit, no longer recalling the original meaning or intent of the words. Sadly the model prayer of Christ has become this type of prayer. The words have become meaningless to several people. Christians should not pray hollow chants over and over, piling up words in order to get God's attention. NO! Verse 8 says we already have God's attention. The Father already knows our needs BEFORE we bring them to Him! God is sovereign, so when we pray, we are not bringing any NEW information to Him.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can we avoid meaningless repetition and ritual praying that Jesus warns about?*

Since God already knows our needs, why do we pray? There are several reasons to pray: 1) We are commanded to - It is a matter of obedience. 2) It reveals our priorities - The fact that we take time to pray and the things we pray about reveal the priorities of our heart, what is most important to us. 3) It reveals our dependency - If we come to God and make requests, we are affirming that we are completely dependent upon Him for all our needs. Most importantly, 4) It deepens our relationship with God - Intimacy is born out of time together. The more time we spend communing with God in prayer and in reading His word, the closer we draw to Him. The better we know Him.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How has praying helped you develop your relationship with God?*

### **THE MODEL PRAYER:**

In Matthew 6:7-13, Jesus gives us the model prayer. We glean many insights regarding **HOW** and **WHAT** Jesus prays. Let's start out with **HOW**. First, He prays relationally. Not to some distant deity who is detached, but to an intimate Creator, the Father! But not just any Father, the Father who is in heaven. Second, He prayed within community. He always uses a plural term, "our," "us," "we". He prays for Himself, but also for His fellow believers at the same time. He is joined with the rest of the children of God in this prayer. Third, He prayed BIG! The items addressed in the prayer are things that only can come from God.

Now for **WHAT**. Jesus makes 6 petitions in His prayer. Three are God-oriented (God's name to be kept holy, God's kingdom to come, God's will to be done on earth) and three are man-oriented (daily provision, forgiveness as we have forgiven, protection and deliverance). Note the God-oriented petitions are the priority.

- The holiness of God's name is first, 9.
- Second is the advancement of God's kingdom - that is, both the maturing of believers into Christ-likeness and the taking of the Gospel to all those who have not heard, 10a
- Third, that God's will would be done in this sinful world just as it is done in heaven, that God would be obeyed and His purposes be carried out here and now, just like it happens in heaven, 10b.

THEN Jesus moves to the secondary priority:

- The needs of daily provision, 11.
- He also prays for forgiveness AS we forgive others, 12. This clarifies the seriousness of walking in unity. Christ shows us to seek unbroken fellowship with God through repentance, but also shows us to seek unbroken fellowship with our brothers in Christ by forgiving them when they sin against us.
- Finally, Jesus prays for protection and deliverance from temptation and evil, both very real and dangerous enemies, 13.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can we use this model prayer to guide our own prayers and not just repeat the words in a meaningless way?*

The last and most important observation we can make is that Jesus actually prays. He does not just talk about it. He does not just give instructions on how to pray. HE PRAYS. HE REALLY DOES IT. It is tempting as pastors and leaders to instruct others in prayer and then not take time to pray, ourselves. We must not be hypocritical. We must not just talk about it. We must pray! If we are to follow Christ, prayer is a necessary portion of our day.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Share with others what has helped you develop a consistent and effective prayer life.*

**KEY CONCEPT:** WE MUST CONSISTENTLY, EXPECTANTLY PRAY TO OUR FATHER USING THE GUIDELINES JESUS GAVE US.

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Examine your usual prayer life.  
How often do you pray?

What are the focal points of your prayers?

Have some of the word or phrases become empty because of their frequent use?

**Day 2:** Make Prayer the focus of this week of ministry by praying morning, mid-day, and evening. How will you do this?

**Day 3:** In your prayers, pray with God-oriented and man-oriented petitions. Pray with your spirit and your mind (1 Corinthians 14:15).

**Day 4:** 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 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 12 - "SELECT A SITE TO START A NEW CELL CHURCH"**

***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.***

The vision of Jesus for His people is 1) to grow new believers into mature and multiplying disciples and 2) to continually expand into new fields that have yet to hear the Gospel (*Acts 1:8; 8:1; 11:19-21; Romans 15:20*). As God leads your team to fulfill the Great Commission, He will give you a team of disciples to help you to take the Gospel into new areas to plant new cell churches. It is important to follow this principle in your ministry: God does not intend for the people to come to the church, as much as He intends for the church to go to the people. He wants His church to be on mission and that means both being faithful where you are as well as being on the move to reach new areas and new people groups with the Gospel.

Selecting the different sites to plan new cell churches all begins in **prayer**. By praying you must determine **where** the Lord is leading you to reach out next. It could be a geographic location. There might be a neighborhood near your present location that He is leading you to reach. It could be a nearby village or town - even another state or country to which He desires you to take the Gospel.

Your expansion might not be geographic, but cultural. It might be a people group that the Lord wants you to reach - a different tribe or race of people. Your outreach efforts might focus on a class of people or a certain kind of group within your city or area such as university students, an ethnic group or foreign nationals who live in your area. Whether your new site is geographical or cultural, you need to be sensitive to **how** and **where** the Lord is leading you.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What neighborhoods or villages near you have yet to hear the Gospel?  
What cultural groups in your region have little or no access to the Gospel?  
Make a list of each of these categories.*

So, the first step in determining where God wants you to go next is to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. This was Paul's experience as he was involved in taking the Gospel to a new site (*read Acts 16:6-11*). Paul and his team were committed to take the Gospel to a new region. They tried to enter the Roman provinces of Asia and Bythinia but in His sovereign plan the Holy Spirit kept them from going to those places. Finally, through a vision Paul saw a man from Macedonia pleading for help and they discerned that this was the place where the Lord wanted them to go next. He and his team sought the Lord's will and He led them to Philippi where they evangelized and started the Philippian church, which became one of the most powerful and supportive churches in Paul's future ministry.

We learn some important principles from this incident to guide us in prayerfully determining where the Lord wants us to expand.

**First**, resolve to expand and reach out to a new area. Paul and his team were serious about taking the Gospel to new areas and to new groups of people. They were active in their efforts. They initiated going and the Lord directed them to the exact place He wanted them to go next. Too many churches are passive - not taking an active role in reaching out and expanding to new areas. You can expect the Lord to lead you to the next place as you take the initiative to reach out.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can we increase our church's intentionality in bringing the Gospel to new areas and new groups of people?*

**Second**, be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Though we do not know exactly how the Holy Spirit kept Paul and his team from going into Asia and Bythinia, we can be sure that these men were sensitive to His leadership and direction. This means that we must be praying and listening to the Lord as we investigate where He wants us to go. You and your team need to spend seasons of prayer asking for His guidance. Have special seasons of prayer to do this.

**Third**, go where there is a need. Where are people calling for your help? Perhaps there is a group of people traveling from a distance to your church and you should start a new cell church in their location. Is there a group of people or area that you have a special burden for?

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: What are the greatest practical and spiritual needs in your region? Where are those needs the greatest?*

**Fourth**, investigate the unique circumstances and needs of the people in the area (*read Acts 16:13-22*). Are people already gathering there for spiritual purposes? Is there a "man or woman of peace," like Lydia, who could be a key person for the new work? Is there a home or place of worship where you could begin a meeting? Are there spiritual strongholds or challenges that you will face and need to address? Do a prayer walk in the area. Begin to build relationships and ask the people what the needs and spiritual openness is among them. (see below).

**Finally**, set a date and launch the work! Go and expect God to use you as you evangelize and reach out to the new area or group of people! Do not just pray and investigate, but go and see God work!

Here are some practical considerations for you and your team to also think about as you select a site for a new cell church:

1. Plant a new cell church where there are no (or few) other churches. Even though there are no churches from your particular denomination or group in the area you are considering, there may be many other Christian churches in the area. Go where there is a need for the Gospel!
2. Consider starting a new cell church where people from your present team or church already live, work or have relationships. Perhaps someone is traveling a long distance to your "mother" church and there needs to be a new cell church near them. Perhaps someone is part of a network of people that needs a church. Ask who in your church needs a church near them?

3. Seek out the “Persons of Peace” where you are seeking to start a new cell church (*Luke 10:5-7*). A Person of Peace is someone who is friendly and receptive to you and the Gospel and also has influence in the community to connect you with others. (*See examples of the Samaritan Woman in John 4, Cornelius in Acts 10, and Lydia in Acts 16:11-15*).
4. Do a prayer walk in the area. Members of your team and church can walk through the neighborhood or town and observe things that are going on. Stop and pray for what you observe. Pray for the people you see. Cover the area and the people with prayer.
5. Don't think you must have a building to have a vibrant church. Look for homes or locations where the new cell church can begin to meet. Make it a place that people are familiar with and can find. You might want to consider starting several cells in homes or locations in the area before you start bringing them all together (if you even want to do this). Remember, the church is not a building or a physical structure. The church is the body of Christ, comprised of believers... that is, the church is a people! Therefore, it is not a requirement to own or even rent a building in order to have a church. Instead of asking, “what type of building will attract people?” ask, “what will help me most to make disciples?” The early church met wherever they could and whenever they needed to in order to make disciples and equip them toward maturity. They met in the temple (*Acts 3:1; Acts 5:20-21, 42*). They met in the synagogues (*Acts 14:1; 18:4, 19-21*). They met in public areas (*Acts 18:27-28; Acts 20:20*). They met in teaching halls (*Acts 19:9-10*). They met from house to house (*Acts 5:42; Acts 20:20*) and they met in specific homes (*Romans 16:3-5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:1-3*). For most, this was a permanent meeting location or arrangement... in fact, this was the normal existence of the church for the first 300 years of its existence! It was during this time that the Gospel exploded across the world! The only “building programs” the early church had involved 1) Building up the Kingdom with new believers and 2) Building up the new believers into maturity.

The point is this: It really does not matter WHERE you meet... it matters THAT you ARE MEETING. You do need to select a specific location for the gathering of the saints so everyone knows where to come, any identifiable location from a specific tree, to a market place, to a building the church owns, to a park, to a home. The fact is, God does not dwell in houses made by hands. **Read: Acts 7:48-50.** He dwells in the hearts of His saints. (*1 Corinthians 3:16*) He has given His Spirit in our hearts (*2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 4:4-7; 2 Timothy 1:14*).

Again: It really does not matter WHERE you meet... it matters THAT you ARE MEETING.

Let NO ONE look down upon you because you may not own a property or rent some formal structure. If you are making multiplying disciples and bringing them toward maturity, you are being successful in the Kingdom of God! In fact, it has been our experience that a focus on having a building often hinders the proper focus of making and maturing multiplying disciples and planting multiplying churches. If you **are making** (not just have made) multiplying disciples who plant multiplying churches, YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL in GOD'S EYES - whether you have a building or not!

DO NOT LET THE LACK OF A “proper” MEETING PLACE KEEP YOU FROM PLANTING A NEW CELL CHURCH! Meet wherever you need to and whenever you need to in order to make multiplying disciples and mature them into the headship of Christ!

1. Determine the best time for the new cell to meet. In the New Testament world, Sunday, the first day of the week, was a day of work for most people, yet the church met often met on that day. More than likely, the church gathered in homes after work for a meal and then worship together. Let the circumstances of the people determine when is the best time for your new cell church to meet. Perhaps work schedules or other responsibilities of the people will determine the best time and day of the week to meet.
2. You and your team will need to answer the following questions as you start the new cell church:
  - a. *Who will lead worship? Do you need instruments or sound?*
  - b. *Who will teach or lead the Bible discussion?*
  - c. *What will you do with children? Who will be responsible?*
  - d. *Will you take up an offering? Who will be responsible for this? What will you use the offerings for?*
  - e. *What materials or resources do you need? (Bibles, chairs, song books, etc.)*

**KEY CONCEPT:** *PRAYERFULLY SELECT A SITE FOR YOUR NEW CELL CHURCH BY ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING A NEW AREA, ASKING AND LISTENING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND GOING WHERE THERE ARE NEEDS. THEN GO AND SEE GOD WORK!*

**ACTIONS this week:**

- Day 1:** Pray with your team for God to reveal where and to what people you and your team are to go to bring the Gospel to the lost and plant a new cell church.
- Day 2:** List the practical and spiritual needs of that area/people and pray for God to guide you in helping with those needs and open hearts to the Gospel.
- Day 3:** Go to the area or among the people. Pray for insight as you walk. Pray for the lost. Meet some of the people living there and get to know them. Look for Persons of Peace. What were the results?
- Day 4:** Set a date within the next 30 days to begin an evangelistic work in the new area or group of people.  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Actions to be taken:

- 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 John 1:5-10

Fellowship with God and other believers is of highest importance in the life of a Christian. 1 Peter 3:18 tells us that Christ died for us in order to "bring us to God," bringing us into fellowship with Him. John 13:35 tells us that "all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Basically, Jesus gives the world permission to judge whether we are His followers by looking at our fellowship with one another.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *How is this fellowship obtained? How is this fellowship maintained? What are the results of having and remaining in right relationship with God and with our fellow believers?*

Read 1 John 1:5-10 again. Here we see two contrasts given: 1) Walking in the light is contrasted to walking in the darkness, and 2) Confessing we have sinned is contrasted to denying that we have sinned. There are consequences for each.

### **WALKING IN THE LIGHT**

God is holy. God is light. He is not like us. Since He is light, he never has been in the darkness (representing sin), since darkness is the absence of light. So, how can we tell if we are in fellowship with God? By looking how we walk. What are our lives characterized by? What are our normal practices? Verse 6 reveals that our fellowship with God is not revealed by our words, but by what we do. If we walk in darkness, we are not in fellowship with God. But, if we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we not only have fellowship with God, but we have fellowship with each other, and our sins are forgiven!

You may ask, "If we are walking in the light, then what sins would need forgiveness?" That is an excellent question! Walking in the light does not mean perfection. It means progress. It means growing into spiritual maturity. It means being characterized by righteousness. If we walk in the light, our habit is to be righteous. We will, on occasion, step into the darkness and sin, but we do not REMAIN there. We confess our sin and return to walking in the light, which leads us to the second contrast.

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *How does being characterized by righteousness differ from being perfect and without sin? What does 'walking in the light' look like in your own life? How can you tell when you have crossed over to 'walking in darkness' in your own life?*

## **CONFESSING WE HAVE SINNED**

Scripture is clear that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (*Rom. 3:23*) “All” really does mean “ALL”. It means me and it means you. Through the blood of Christ, we confess our sins and are restored to fellowship with God and with one another. The blood of Christ is so powerful that He can forgive ANY sin that is confessed. God, the Light, is so powerful that He can overcome ANY darkness. But, after walking in the light for some time, we can forget our continual need for the blood of Christ. We can become self-righteous and proud, relying on our goodness more than the blood of Christ. We may get to a point where we not only deny that we presently sin, but even deny that we have ever sinned. This is particularly dangerous among pastors and Christian leaders, when we are considered the “man of God” and feel it necessary to defend our reputation. The fact is, pastors and church members are equally dependent upon the blood of Christ for forgiveness. We must all be sensitive to areas of sin in our lives. We also must walk in humility and remember how God redeemed us, and rejoice in His salvation! He HAS forgiven us and will forgive us of any present sin, if we confess it. If we deny sinning, then we are calling God a liar, and His word is not in us. We must regularly and consistently confess (agree with God about) our sin.

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can a pastor or Christian leader best demonstrate humility among his people? Are there any areas of hidden sin you need to confess to God right now?*

## **CONSEQUENCES**

Fellowship with God and one another is a sweet delight. It should be the heart of our lives and our ministry. To damage that fellowship is to harm our own selves. So, we must be careful to maintain fellowship by walking in the light and by confessing any sin when we step into the darkness. If we do not, then we cannot be trusted, for we lie and do not practice the truth! Beyond that, we have no hope to share Christ with those who are lost.

This important practice of confession is why asking and honestly answering the Life Transformation questions each time your team meets is so important. As we stay accountable to God and to each other, we grow in His grace and we experience sweet fellowship with God and one another in Christ.

The testimony of a transformed life demonstrates the Gospel has power! This is best shown by someone who was walking in the darkness, but now is characterized by walking in the light! Never are we to portray to others that we are perfect and without sin. Rather we are to proclaim that we have been freely forgiven by God’s grace and that we are continually growing in our Christian life and faith by His mercy. But, if we deny that we have sinned, or if we attempt to hide our sins without confessing them, we break fellowship with God and one another. We walk in self-righteousness and give glory to ourselves and not to Christ our Redeemer.

When we openly confess our sins to God, here is the promise: God is faithful. He is just. He will forgive, if we will confess. We rest in His work, not ours. It is by remembering the grace of God toward ourselves that we are able to forgive others when they sin against us. Only by receiving forgiveness from God can we forgive and demonstrate love for one another. The world watches to see if we are honest about our own sins and failures. The world watches to see if the blood of Christ is powerful enough to enable a sinner to walk in the light. The world watches to see if we will forgive as we have been forgiven. The world watches to see if we have love for one another under the blood of Christ. The world watches to see if we truly delight in fellowship with God and with one another.

**The world is watching... What are you showing?**

**KEY CONCEPT:** *CONFESSION OF SIN DEMONSTRATES HUMILITY AND LOVE, AND IS KEY IN MAINTAINING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHER BELIEVERS.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Memorize 1 John 1:9. Review this verse every day this week to help you keep it memorized.

**Day 2:** Practice 1 John 1:9. Prayerfully ask God to revealed any unconfessed sin that might be in your life at this time. Write down each sin and agree with God that it is sin. Claim His forgiveness and then destroy the list, rejoicing that He is ‘faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’

**Day 3:** Practice 1 John 1:9. At the end of each day this week, check your heart and life and confess sin that might have occurred that day. Learn to practice confession of sin daily.

**Day 4:** Make things right with someone you have sinned against. Sin often means that we harm another by our actions or words. Jesus tells us that before we seek to worship and serve God, we must make things right with “your brother who has something against you.” (*Matthew 5:23-24*). James tells us that we should confess our sins to one another (*James 5:16*). If you have sinned against another, go to them and seek to make restitution. Ask not only God for forgiveness, but also the one you have wronged. Do what is necessary to restore the relationship, if possible. Romans 12:18 tells us, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Make sure you also stay connected to others answering the Life Transformation Questions.

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**EXERCISE 14 - "WHAT IS CHURCH AND WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO?"**

***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 and your team are involved in the process of planting at least one new cell church. As you start the new church there are several issues and questions to consider:

### **WHAT IS CHURCH?**

Strategic Impact exists to train leaders to make multiplying disciples to ignite church planting movements. As you diligently disciple new believers you will gather them to form a new cell church. This gathering can be in a house, a public place like a park or a sports arena, under a tree, in an office building, or in a church building. It really does not matter where the believers meet. **The place where believers meet does not define what a church is - people are the church!** The first church in Jerusalem met together daily in the Jewish temple and in homes (*Acts 2:46*). The temple and the homes were not the Church. The Church was the gathering of believers together.

Too often we confuse the church of Jesus Christ with the building where the church meets. We talk about "going to church" when we are actually talking about going to a "church building". Some talk about church planting but they are actually thinking about building church buildings. Even pastors and church leaders confuse building a great church with raising money to build a large building, and filling that building with people.

In the New Testament there is no mention of a church building! Look for it. You will not find one. But there are many references to churches located in cities: at Rome, Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi or Colossae. Where did these churches meet? They most often met in **people's houses**. These are described as house churches, (*See Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2*). Houses are a great place for believers to meet. Using houses allows the church to put all of its money and resources into serving people and sharing the gospel. Also, houses are generally already available for use by the church almost everywhere. The Bible clearly teaches that one of the best ways to multiply new churches is to establish churches in people's houses.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *What are some of the advantages of multiplying churches through planting house churches?*

Does this mean we should not have church buildings? No, but healthy and multiplying churches do not depend on buildings! In fact, sometimes churches with a building are not healthy or multiplying. The Great Commission command is to "**make disciples**" of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:18-20*). A multiplying disciple is one who has believed the gospel, is learning the ways of Jesus as taught in the Bible, seeking to follow Jesus in everyday living, and telling others how they may know Jesus and also follow Him. Although a building may be helpful, you can make hundreds and thousands of multiplying disciples of

Jesus Christ without ever having a building. Healthy and multiplying churches are those who concentrate on making multiplying disciples who fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying disciples who plant multiplying churches. These Great Commission Churches can be found anywhere – in homes, in parks, under mango trees, in businesses, and sometimes in church buildings – but they are **not defined by** the buildings and programs they have.

**So, a church is a group of Christians who meet together regularly at a particular time and place.**

However, when the church meets together, they meet for a specific purpose. This leads to the second question:

### **WHAT DOES A CHURCH DO?**

*DISCUSSION QUESTION: Read Acts 2:42-47 and share your observations about what activities the 'first church' did when they gathered.*

People come to church to have their needs met. They often want exciting programs for their children and youth. They want the church to help them financially, to help them get a job, to help them find suitable clothing, to help them find a proper place to live, to help them deal with all types of personal and family problems. While it is important for a church to show love and support for people by helping meet real needs, church leaders must not let these needs in people's lives crowd out the most important things (see Acts 6:1-7).

**In the New Testament you find two basic ministries of the church:**

1. They gathered together to help each other know and love God (Acts 2:42-46; Ephesians 4:11-16). This is called "edification." Many activities "edify" believers: worship, praise, prayer, teaching, baptizing, taking communion, training, encouragement, discipleship, meeting physical needs, dealing with sin and strongholds and many others. These activities occur when the church is gathered.
2. They went out to do tell the lost about Jesus (Acts 2:47; 5:42; 8:1,4; 19:10) This is called "evangelism". As believers lived their daily lives they shared the Gospel with others. Some went to new places and cities to share the Gospel and start new churches. This happens when the church scatters.

So, we can further define a church like this: **A group of Christians who gather to help each know and love God and scatter to to tell the lost about Jesus.**

We must evaluate everything we do in the church by these two main purposes:

1. Does it accomplish edification?
2. Does it accomplish evangelism?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *As you look at your church, are there activities that do not accomplish either edifying believers or evangelizing lost people?*

*(Please see the Attached Tool which you can use as your new cell church begins to meet).*

As you and others make disciples who plant new churches, they will naturally grow and multiply. These leads to a third question about the church:

### **WHAT FORM OR STRUCTURE SHOULD THE CHURCH HAVE?**

The New Testament describes churches with various sizes, types, styles and traditions.

As we have seen, many churches mentioned in the letters of the New Testament refer to a **cell or house church**. For example, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:19, “The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the *church in their house*, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.” In this verse Paul mentions a church which met in a home under the leadership of Aquila and Prisca. (See also Romans 16:3-5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2; 1 Corinthians 16:15).

In some places there appears to be a **network of cells or house churches with one or more regional pastors/leaders**. For example, Romans 16:3-5 mentions one particular house church but also mentions “the churches of the Gentiles.” When Paul writes to the Christians at Colossae, he speaks to several believers but mentions one particular house church (Colossians 4:15). This infers that there was One church in a particular location made up of several house churches.

We also find what could be described as a congregational church with multiple pastors and leaders in Antioch (Acts 11:28-30; 13:1-2). This church was made up of “a *great number* who believed turned to the Lord,” (Acts 11:21). As Barnabas ministered to them, *more were added* to their number (Acts 11:24). With Paul’s help they together they “taught a *great many* people,” (Acts 11:26). Later we see a group of prophets and teachers who led this church (Acts 13:1). We don’t know exactly whether this church consisted of a group of house churches or not, but it does seem that they all met together in large numbers on occasion for worship and teaching. They decided as a congregation to gather money and send help to Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30). The Antioch church was a sizable congregation of believers who met together under multiple leaders.

And then there was the first church that began in Jerusalem, which was started on the day of Pentecost with at least 3,000 new members! **Read:** Acts 2:40-47. The pattern of the Jerusalem church was to meet together in the Jewish temple courts and also in homes to break bread, verse 46. **Read:** Acts 5:42. The Jerusalem church was a **mega-church** made up of thousands of people who met together as a whole as well as small groups.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** *Which of these church patterns best describes the church you are involved in:*

*1) A house church, 2) a network of house churches, 3) a congregational church or 4) a mega church? Which structure do you believe is the best? Why?*

Perhaps your church is part of a denomination or has a unique structure. From the description of the variety of churches in the New Testament it appears there is no one “right” or “wrong” way to structure churches.

However, no matter what particular structure a church has, all of them had these common elements:

- **Godly leaders** who equipped believers to grow in their walk with and service for Christ. These leaders most often are called overseers, elders, bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1; 4:14; 5:17; Titus 1:5). Ephesians 4:11 designates church leaders as apostles, prophets, evangelists and pastor/teachers. Whatever the title your church uses, it is vitally important that there is godly, mature leadership.
- **All believers who serve** each other in the church and others in the community
- **All believers who witness** to the lost and win people to faith in Jesus
- **Multipling disciples** who multiply new churches

No matter what form or structure your church has, it must embrace these important priorities and practices led by godly leaders. Too many times churches focus so much on size, buildings, programs, staff, and budgets that they end up being only a religious institution! What is most important is to design your church structure in such a way that you are making multiplying disciples who start multiplying churches!

***DISCUSSION QUESTION:*** *Within your church form and structure, how are you keeping the priority of making multiplying disciples and multiplying churches?*

***KEY CONCEPT:*** *THE CHURCH IS A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS LED BY GODLY LEADERS WHO MEET TOGETHER TO GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND SCATTER TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL.*

**ACTIONS this week:**

**Day 1:** Determine the place and time when you will gather believers together in your cell church.

Where will you meet? \_\_\_\_\_

What time will you meet and for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

When will you have your first meeting (if you have not already started)?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 2:** List what activities in your cell church that you will do to make sure it accomplishes:

1) edifying believers:

2) reaching lost people with the Gospel:

**Day 3:** Review the four church structures described in this exercise and write what you feel are the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Church Structure	Advantages	Disadvantages
Cell/House Church		
Network of Cells/House Churches		
Congregational Church		
Mega Church		

Which structure will your church adopt? How will you keep the priority of making multiplying disciples who plant multiplying churches?

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

**STRATEGIC IMPACT SCHOOL OF MULTIPLYING CHURCH PLANTERS**  
**STAGE 1 "LEARN THE GREAT COMMISSION"**  
**BRIDGE TO STAGE 2 - "LAUNCH THE NEW CELL CHURCH"**

***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.***

At this time, you have almost completed Stage 1 of the *School of Multiplying Church Planters*. You have completed 14 Exercises - along with their required Actions. You have been meeting and fellowshiping with your team, holding one another accountable in love. You have shared Jesus with the lost every week. You have learned and done much which has matured you in Christ and advanced the Kingdom of God! Good work!

You also have:

- Learned and Embraced God's Vision for **making multiplying disciples**.
- Understood the Essence of the Gospel: **Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone**.
- Engaged in Prayer together for the work of the Lord to bear spiritual fruit.
- Led people to faith using the SI Evangelism Tool.
- Started making Multiplying Disciples by discipling new believers toward maturity in Christ using the SI Discipleship Tool.
- Prayerfully Selected a Site for the New Cell Church
- Gained understanding in the purpose and function of the local Church.

Now comes the crucial last step for you and your team: The BRIDGE from Stage 1 into Stage 2 - LAUNCHING the New Cell Church. It is time to bring the training you have received so far to bear the next level of fruit.

If you have not already done so, Go ahead and LAUNCH the New Church with your team. The New Cell Church will probably be mostly made of the new believers that have come to faith through your evangelism work, and will meet at the site you selected in Exercise 12. Remember, the New Cell Church does not have to be a large number. It may be only a handful of believers meeting together at this point. Continue to mature these believers in their faith by using the SI Discipleship Tool. Work your way through the topics and Scriptures provided in Lesson 10.

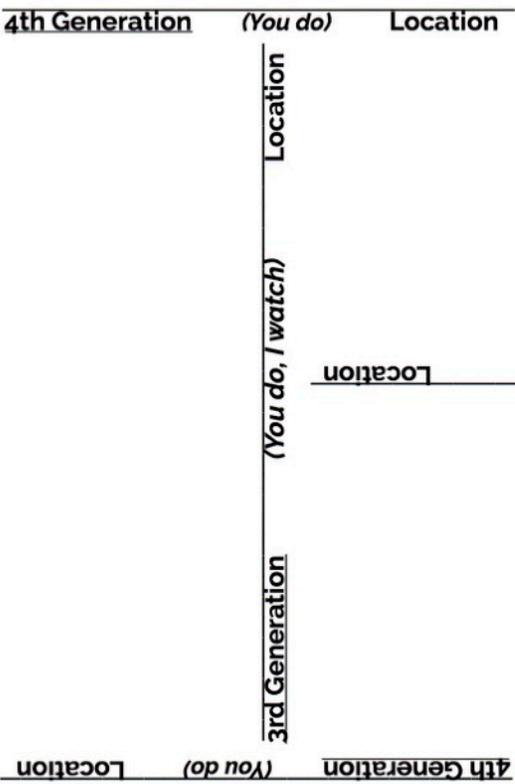
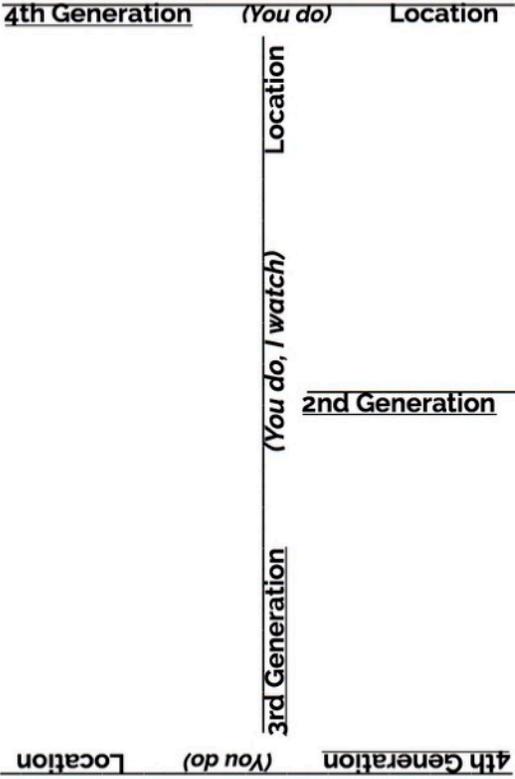
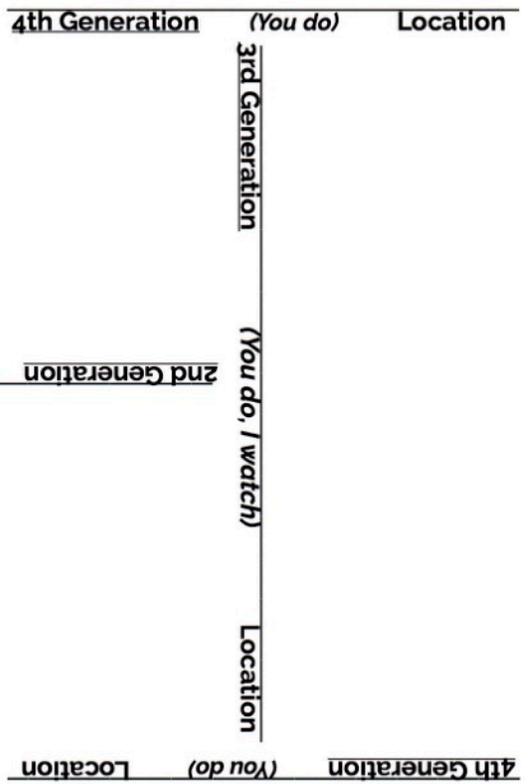
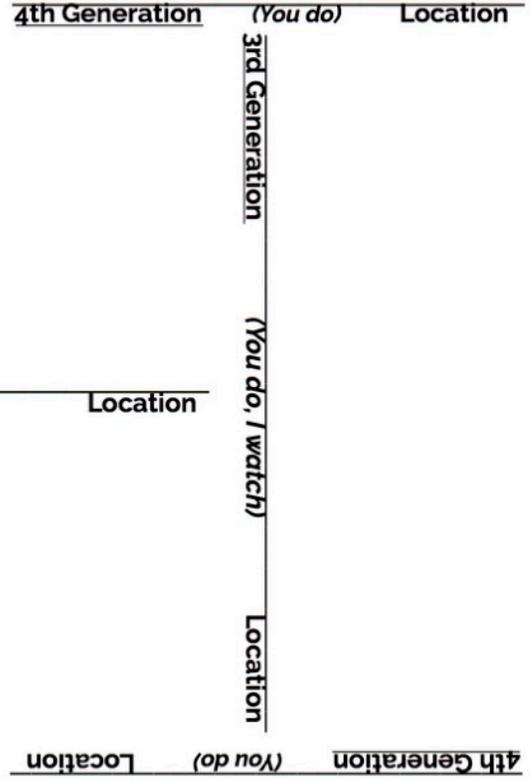
Once you have LAUNCHED the New Cell Church, seek those who are faithful and equip them to be multiply disciples as well. Feel free to use the SI Evangelism Tool to help them share Jesus with their family and friends who do not know Christ.

Once the New Cell Church is Launched, please write the names of the new members of the church in your Ministry Map and check the box beside the names of the people whom you are Personally Discipling.

ONLY when the New Cell Church has Launched, may you continue into Stage 2 of the *School of Multiplying Church Planters*. If you have NOT Launched the New Cell Church with your team, DO NOT continue to Stage 2. Wait. **Continue in Personal Evangelism and Discipleship of the New Believers, but DO NOT continue to Stage 2 until the New Cell Church is LAUNCHED.**



**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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