

# **Making Disciples Who Multiply**

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES & MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

conversation guide

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**new environments to experience God & community**



## Introduction

Following His baptism and temptations in the wilderness, the first thing Jesus did was make disciples! He returned to the Jordan, where He met some of John the Baptist's disciples – to call them to be disciples. And, He immediately equipped them to multiply – the first day!

Jesus started His ministry making disciples, spent His time on earth making disciples, and before He ascended commissioned His disciples to make other disciples. '*Go and make disciples of all nations*', He commanded. (Matt 28:19)<sup>1</sup> **This is our commission.** On the evening of His resurrection, He said: 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you'. (John 20:21)

Unfortunately, once the Christian faith institutionalized the focus became making and baptizing more *members* rather than disciples. And with the professionalization of a clergy in the church, ministry became the pastor's job. That is what members pay him (it is usually a man!) to do! So members say: 'Pastor, we will pay and pray for you to do ministry!'

And there is another problem! Today, when leaders are encouraging '*every member involvement*', the only model members have is a professional one. Some recall how a pastor studied with them before baptism, and it was a complicated series of studies – that they could not share with friends! Or they went to seminars or even a public evangelistic series, and they are sure they could not replicate such forms of evangelism! They are encouraged to bring friends to meetings, in fact some evangelists say: 'All you need to do is bring your friends to the meetings and we will do the rest!' – but this is not the participation Jesus modeled. These are the examples members have seen!

**This conversation guide walks through the method of Jesus**, exploring His life and teachings as a model. It is based on the idea that Jesus' method is the best. We will look at ways you can share God's Word with friends, **and you don't need to be an expert or professional.**

You will be able to start immediately. We will introduce **Discovery Bible Reading** – a very simple frame that you will practice in this guide. **You don't need to know the answers to difficult questions** – and your contacts and friends can follow this from day one, as they become disciples.

**The Gospels are our text**, because there we see Jesus making disciples and teaching them how to make other disciples. Jesus was not planting churches. In fact, He only used the word *church* on two occasions (Matt 16:13-20; 18:15-20) – and that was later in His ministry. You see, the word church means *gathering* – and a new church is a gathering of new disciples. The book of Acts is our guidebook to planting new churches, based on Jesus' methods and instruction!

Using the **harvest model of disciple making** we will come to *gathering* and *multiplication* later in our conversation. We start with: making disciples who multiply.

**Disciples are protégés**, learners or apprentices to Jesus who multiply disciples by following his methods – cultivating his movement, preparing people for his coming! It is our privilege to participate with the Spirit in multiplying disciples for our Saviour and planting new churches!

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<sup>1</sup> Bible references are from the *New International Version*, Holman Bible Publishers, 1986.

## Contents

Introduction	2
Our Conversations – Teams	4
Great Commission	5
Jesus' Method	6
Jesus' invitations – movement	6
Jesus' invitations – disciple making	7
What could disciples do?	7
Harvest Model	8
Jesus' disciple making	10
1. <b>PREPARE</b>	11
Teams	11
Places	12
Prayer	13
Connect	14
2. <b>SOW</b>	15
Three steps in evangelism	15
<b>Discovery Bible Reading</b>	17
3. <b>CULTIVATE</b>	18
4. <b>HARVEST</b>	23
Six steps to planting multiplying churches	23
What is Church? – Why does it exist?	24
Gathering new people & Planting teams	25
Why Plant New Churches?	26
Values & Attitudes	27
Who will lead?	27
Where will we gather? – and, Sustainability!	28
What do we need to start & what will we do?	29
Functional Structures	30
Evaluation Plan	31
5. <b>MULTIPLY</b>	32
Our Multiplication Plan	36
<b>Church Planting Project Plan</b>	37
Appendix A: Gospel Presentation	40
Appendix B: Theological Foundations for Church Planting	41
Acknowledgments	42

## **Our Conversations**

Because Jesus always worked with teams, equipping His disciples to do the same, we equip in teams. We form teams of 2-3 to discuss this guide. We can work through this guide in a day, spread it over a week, or do a section each day over 5-6 weeks.

### **TEAMS**

Who will record the decisions in your team?

### **TEAM VALUES**

Discuss these values for a a disciple making team –

1. **Do everything to please God**
2. **Encourage each other in team work**
3. **Spend time in prayer & worship**
4. **The New Testament (especially the Gospels and Acts) is our textbook**
5. **We will network with our community**
6. **We will be active missionaries** – not just train or be leaders
7. **We will multiply disciples** –
  - Each team commits to training a new team within a year.
  - Each trainer commits to training another trainer within a year.

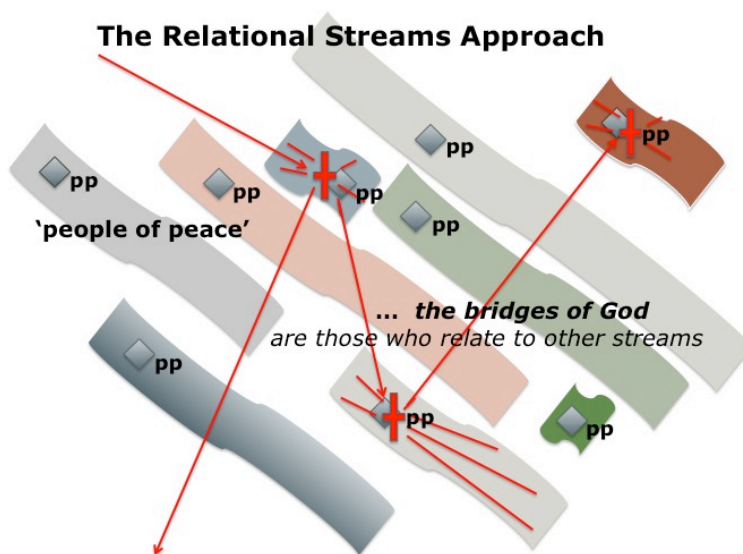
# GREAT COMMISSION: 'make disciples of all nations'

## Matt 28:16-20

Read this using the *Discovery Bible Reading* process –

- One person will read Matthew 28:16-20.
  - Then another will read the same verses.
  - Then one will share the story in their own words – with the others helping.
- Now, discuss –

1. What one thing did Jesus commission disciples to do?
2. The word 'nations' is *ethne*. Who are the *ethne* in which Jesus said to make disciples?



3. **VISION:** what is God's vision for disciple making?

A gathering of new multiplying disciples is a new church plant ...

4. **MISSION:** Why is your church to exist?

# JESUS' METHOD

## Jesus used five invitations in cultivating His movement of disciple making

Discuss His use of these invitations in developing a movement. New disciples used His method immediately. –

As He began His work (John 1:19-51 –)

1. **Come & See** John 1:35-39

2. **Follow Me** John 1:43

About 18-20 months later –

3. **Fish with Me** Matt 4:18-20

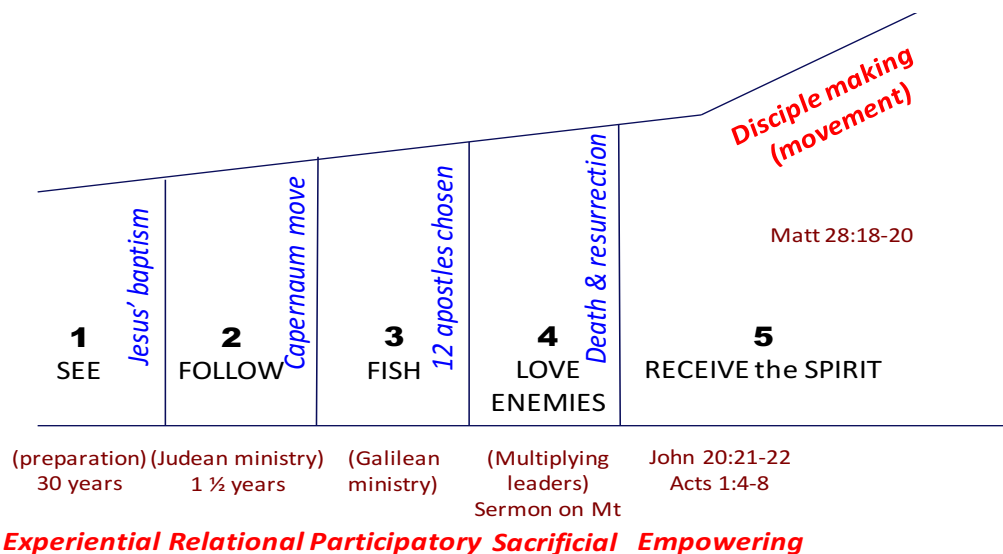
About another 6-9 months later –

4. **Love your enemies (sacrifice with Me)** Matt 5:43-45 (cf. Matt 16:24)

On Sunday evening after His resurrection –

5. John 20:21-22

Using this timeline to identify how Jesus' movement developed with these five invites –



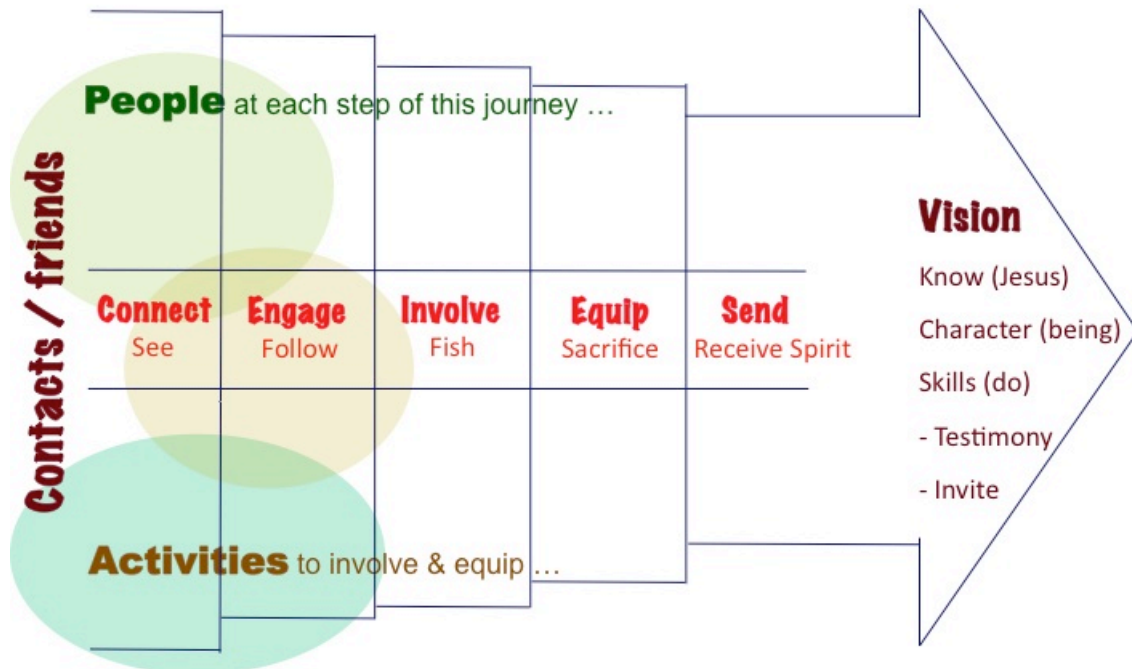
**Jesus used these invitations to make individual disciples who multiplied**

From first contact Jesus was equipping disciples. Identify the five invitations (above) in His witness to the Samaritan woman at the well and how she immediately followed His example. John 4:1-42

**What did Jesus equip people to be and do?** What was His vision for each person?

- To know Him:
- To be like Him:
- To be able to –
  - o Share their experience with Him:
  - o Invite others to ‘come & see’:

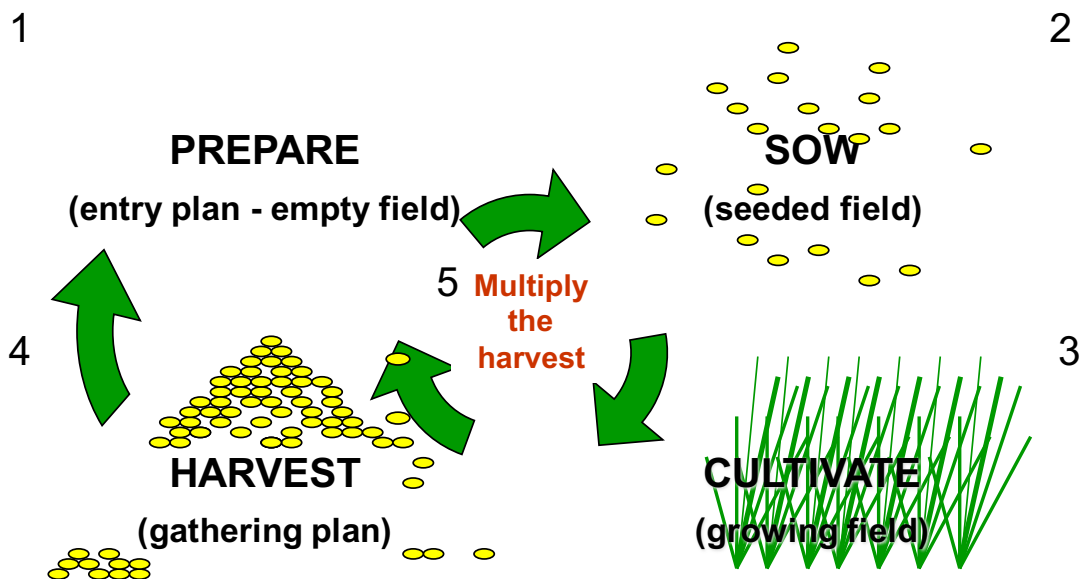
Using this flow-chart, identify where some of your friends are on this journey –



# HARVEST MODEL - Mark 4:26-29, cf. 3-20

Jesus shared *harvest* parables saying they reveal 'the secret of the kingdom of God'. (Mark 4:11, 26) We use the parable of *four types of soils* – with the 'good soil' (prepared, cultivated, and full of manure) producing a 'multiplying' crop (Mark 4:3-20); as well as the *harvest model* (Mark 4:26-29) – sometimes referred to as the *four fields*.<sup>1</sup> It is one field, but the field changes at various stages.

1. Use the **Discovery Bible Reading** process to read **Mark 4:3-20** and **4:26-29** –
  - One person will read this parable.
  - Then another will read the same verses.
  - Then one will share the story in their own words – with the others helping.Now, discuss this agricultural and disciple making model —



<sup>1</sup> Nathan and Kari Shank, *Reproducing Churches Using Simple Tools*, 2007.



2. What are the main activities in the fields – and, what are the key questions? –
  1. **Prepare:** How do we enter the empty field?
  2. **Sow:** What do we sow – and how?
  3. **Cultivate:** How can we cultivate the growth of disciples, ‘all by itself’ (Mark 4:28)?
  4. **Harvest:** Why and how do we gather to form a church?
  5. **Multiply the harvest:** How will each new group multiply – or plant another?
  
3. List some friends or places that could be described as ‘empty fields’:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Farmers in the Middle East harvest to sow into the fields in the next season. They keep the best to plant again – to multiply. They even ‘sow in tears’ – going out ‘weeping’, for their families are hungry; but unless they plant, they will starve. (See Psalm 126:5, 6) This is a foundational idea. How would you understand this for your friends who you are leading to be disciples?

## **JESUS' DISCIPLE MAKING – Luke 10:1-24**

*'CHRIST'S method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me".'*  
(MH143)

After a short time, Jesus had many disciples. (John 3:22; 4:1-1-2) When He called the twelve to be *apostles* He had a 'crowd of disciples'. (Luke 6:12-19) Luke 10 tells of Him calling and training many more. This was five or six months before His crucifixion. We will look carefully at how He trained these disciples to make new disciples. Using the ***Discovery Bible Reading*** approach, explore this training in Luke 10:1-24 –

What do you learn?

**We are now ready to apply Jesus' training of disciples to the Harvest Model.**

# PREPARE

**the field/people where you will make disciples!**

[1] **TEAMS:** going 'two by two'

Jesus worked in teams. He sent them 'two by two', 'ahead of him'. (Luke 10:1)

1. Where did Jesus find the first members of his team of disciples?

Compare John 1:35-51 with Matt 4:12-22

2. Where will we find disciples as team? Compare Matt 9:35-38 and Luke 10:2

3. Who could you invite to join you?

4. Know each other in your team.

**Spiritual Gifts**

**Heart passion**

**Abilities**

**Personality**

**Experiences**

[2] **PLACES:** where you will work

Name the empty field (the people and places) where you will work?

How would you describe those you will work with?

a. **How** would you describe their families, communities or relational streams?

b. **Who** are some of the key people in their relational streams?

c. **What** do you see God doing in their lives?

What things that will you do to prepare them?

[3] **PRAYER:** Luke 10:1-4, 16-24

Also read and discuss John 14:12-23 –

Some ways of praying –

- 1) 10.02 Prayer
  
- 2) Conversational prayer
  
- 3) Prayer walking
  
- 4) Listening prayer
  
- 5) Scripture prayer
  
- 6) Prayer Team
  
- 7) 777 prayer: 7 am, 7 pm, 7 days a week!

[4] **CONNECT:** Luke 10:5-9, 16

1. How did Jesus connect?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How will you connect with your community?

What are the qualities of the 'person of peace'? (Luke 10:5-7)

- Hospitable
- Receptive
- Reputation
- Influence

Look for these qualities in –

- The Samaritan woman: John 4:1-42
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10
  
  
  
  
  
  
- The demon possessed man: Mark 5:1-20

Why concentrate on this person? Can you identify a 'person of peace'?

# SOW

## their story, our story & God's story!

What **three steps** for evangelism did Jesus follow and teach? Luke 10:8, 9

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### 1. EAT THEIR FOOD = LISTEN TO THEIR STORY

While you eat, what do you need to do?

### 2. HEAL THEM (meet their needs) = SHARE YOUR STORY

How can you heal or meet people's needs?

**Sharing your story** is like to **bridge** to God's story. Jesus told the delivered demoniac: *'Return home and tell how much God has done for you. So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him'*. (Luke 8:3) Write down a few points under each heading –

Your life before you met Jesus (or your early years) –

In one word (for example: fearful, searching, angry, lost, etc.)

How you met Jesus –

In one sentence –

How your life has changed –

In one word (for example: peace, secure, care, etc.)

## ACTIVITY

1. With another, practice telling your story in three minutes.
  
2. A good place to begin sharing your story and God's story is with the people you know – your circle of relationships including family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. List the people you know who are not yet followers of Jesus.
  
3. Identify five people you can pray for every day and begin sharing your story with each one. Carry a list of their names in your wallet or purse.
  
4. Who will you share your story with this week?



### 3. TELL GOD'S STORY = GOSPEL PRESENTATION<sup>1</sup>

Listening to their story and sharing your story provides opportunity to share God's story! Paul's summary of the gospel is in **I Corinthians 15:1-8**.

We encourage our contact or friends to form a group to read a Gospel. Meet with friends at work for lunch, share with your family, or share with a group of people in your community. We call this a **Discovery Bible Reading** group. Many know almost nothing about Jesus – or have very distorted views of who He is! And of course, many Christians (and maybe you!) have not read a Gospel from beginning to end.

- If a Christian – we will discover much about Jesus by reading a Gospel through!
- If no knowledge of Jesus – you will be surprised by what Jesus was really like!

To start, we suggest the Gospel of Mark. It is short and straight forward.

## Discovery Bible Reading

**Begin** with the Gospel of Mark.

Meet with family or friends.

Start reading at the beginning – with the first story of Mark. (chapter 1:1-13)

**Pray** a short prayer – or read a prayer from a bookmark:

*Dear God, please guide us as we read. Thank you. Amen.*

**One reads the story** –

Another reads the same story.

Then, one tells the story in their own words.

**Then discussion: using these five questions** for observation and application –

1. What is new?
2. What surprised?
3. What do we not understand?
4. What will we obey (apply)?
5. What will we share with others this week – and with whom?

At the end, **pray** a short prayer:

*Dear God, thank you. Help us to obey you. Amen.*

Then **plan to meet again** to read the next story.

**Continue** to the end of the Gospel of Mark – then choose another Bible book.

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<sup>1</sup> For other Gospel presentations see **Appendix A**.

# CULTIVATE so the crop grows 'by itself'!

**Discovery Bible Reading** provides a great method of sowing gospel seed – for use in small groups, with friends and contacts. How do we cultivate the growing interest? Here are a range of ideas for cultivating the interest that God is growing. –

## 1. Answering questions:

**QUESTIONS:** If a person asks a question on a difficult subject – for example, death, second coming, resurrection, or Sabbath, suggest: 'Sometime, let us read a story about Jesus and (the subject they ask about)!'

### LEARNING from the order of Revelation 14:6-13

Stage 1: Context (Rev 12-14) – what is the group's background?

Stage 2: Eternal gospel (Rev 14:6) – what themes lead to Jesus?

Stage 3: Practical Christian living (*fear God*) (Rev 14:7) – how to type themes?

Stage 4: Distinctive doctrines (Rev 14:7) – which would you include?

Stage 5: Heavy prophecy (Rev 14:8-12) – such as *dragon, beast, false prophet*?

Stage 6: Mission (Rev 14:13) – equipping needs to be at each stage?

This sequence provides a flow for sharing faith and answering questions. As examples –

- A person is new to your group and asks: 'What happens when a friend dies?' This is a Stage 4 question, but the person is at Stage 1. How could you answer this question in a Stage 1 way?

- Someone at Stage 2 (who has accepted Jesus) asks about the antichrist – which is a Stage 5 question? How could you respond, using a Stage 2 or 3 answer?

Questions from the next stage might suggest it is time to move to that stage of sharing!

## **RELATING to other denominations**

## **2. Introducing ‘Elementary Teachings’ (Hebrews 6:1-2)**

Identify elementary teaching of the Christian faith – the starting point for faith:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Explore other stories from the life of Jesus that illustrate **‘the elementary teachings about Christ’** (and the **commands of Jesus**) – repentance,<sup>1</sup> faith, baptisms, ‘laying on of hands’, resurrection, and judgment.

Here are some that cover these *elementary teachings* in the Gospels –

1. Repent & believe – Luke 19:1-10
2. Pray – Luke 11:1-13
3. Receive the Holy Spirit – John 14:1-23
4. Be baptized (water/Spirit) – Acts 8:26-40
5. Go make disciples – John 4:1-42
6. Love (new life/obey) – Luke 10:25-42
7. Share Lord’s Supper – Luke 22:7-20
8. Give – Mark 12:41-44
- 9.

**BELIEFS:** List your key biblical beliefs – and write a summary of them using language that people who are not Christians will understand.

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<sup>1</sup> The ‘goodness’ or ‘kindness’ of God leads to repentance. (Rom 2:4)

### 3. After reading the Gospel of Mark:

Encourage the group to explore other Bible books, still using *Discovery Bible Reading* and the **5 bookmark questions** –

- Acts – if ready to start forming into a new church.
- John – if wishing to share the great fundamental teachings.
- The Epistles and other Bible books from the Old and New Testaments.

John's Gospel explores all the fundamentals –

The being and nature of God	1:1-18
The Word of God	1:1-2; 5:31-47
Jesus - Creator & Saviour	1:3, 4, 10
Sanctuary ministry	1:29; 2:12-25; 6:1-15; 7:1-43; 19:28-42
Baptism	1:29-34; 3:5, 22-36
Human nature & Salvation	3:1-21
Forgiveness, new life & witness	4:1-38
Sabbath - life through Jesus	5:1-47
Death & resurrection to life	5:21-29; 11:1-44
Two resurrections	5:28-29
Resurrection on the last day	6:25-71
Holy Spirit - Counselor & Presence	7:25-43; 14-16
Commandments & grace	8:1-11
Real disciples - the 'church'	8:31-47
Sabbath - sign that Jesus is God	8:48-10:42
The glory of God & judgment	12:20-50
Foot-washing & Lord's Supper	13:1-38
Second coming of Jesus	14:1-3
The presence of Jesus - 'Christ in Us'	14:12-23
Prayer	17:1-26
Salvation story	18:1-20:9
Resurrection body	20:10-31
Great commission	20:21-23; 21:1-25
Restitution - restoration	21:15-23

#### **4. Introduce seminars & evangelistic meetings:**

**Invite your pastor** to visit your group/s to help them grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word. Invite them to conduct 5-6 seminars, workshops and evangelistic meetings – once or twice each week. You could plan two series, separated by some weeks continuing with *Discovery Bible Reading*, on –

1. Daniel and Revelation.

2. Bible doctrines.

Always get the group back into reading books of the Bible again!

**What is the role of public evangelism?**

**How do you ensure the crop is growing 'all by itself'??**

# HARVEST **gathering people!**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a movement – a movement of church planting. This is how it started, and this is how it will complete its work. God has called us to plant new and multiplying communities of faith in un-entered places. This is the work of ministry –

*Our ministers are not to spend their time laboring for those who have already accepted the truth. With Christ's love burning in their hearts, they are to go forth to win sinners to the Saviour. Beside all waters they are to sow the seeds of truth. Place after place is to be visited; **church after church is to be raised up**. Those who take their stand for the truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally important fields. (E.G. White, 7 T 19, 20)*

This *harvest* section is designed to equip your team to plant 'church after church' – churches that multiply. This is what the apostle Paul did. He planted multiple churches, and they were churches that multiplied. His two years and three month's work in Ephesus resulted in churches multiplying across what is Turkey today – and, 'all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the Word of the Lord.' (Acts 19:10)

## **STEPS TO PLANT MULTIPLYING CHURCHES**

Using an overlay of the *harvest model* (Mark 4:26-29) and Jesus' teaching in Luke 10 on how to enter new fields and make disciples – what steps do you identify for planting multiplying churches?

1. PREPARE:
2. SOW:
3. CULTIVATE:
4. **HARVEST**: the word **church** means 'to gather'.
5. MULTIPLY:

We are now ready to examine the harvest, gathering or planting new groups or churches – and then we look at multiplying. However, remember, the DNA of multiplication must be built into the plan of multiplying disciples from the start.

## **WHAT IS CHURCH?**

The word church means gathering. It is a gathering of disciples!

In the New Testament *church* was never buildings, institutions or denominations.

- How did the idea of buildings, institutions and denominations start?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Acts 11:19-26:** Who planted the church in Antioch – and how?

## **WHY DO CHURCHES EXIST?**

- **Matt 16:13-20** - Jesus used the word 'church' on 2 occasions. (Matt 18:15-20)  
The church is given *the keys to kingdom*
- **Matt 22:36-40** – The church is to obey *the great commandments*
- **Matt 28:16-20** – The church obeys *the great commission*
- **Acts 2:42-47:** What characterized the Jerusalem church?
- **1 Corinthians 14:26:** What were key elements of worship?
- **Rev 14:6-12** – Adventist churches share *God's special message*

What would your community miss if your church closed tomorrow? –



## GATHERING NEW PEOPLE

You will gather some new people into existing churches, however, new folk often find it difficult to integrate, and established churches can be challenged by new people! List reasons why you would gather **your new disciples** into a new church. –

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## PLANTING TEAMS

Consistent with Jesus' teaching and modeling, planting churches is done in teams – with two to four companions. During this training time –

1. Learn to **pray together conversationally**.
2. Read and re-read **your textbook, the book of Acts**.
3. Work through this *Conversation Guide* on disciple making, and **put into practice** what you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you as a group. Obey God.
4. Don't let the training days go by without **looking for a 'person-of-peace'**. Check out again what Jesus said to do in Luke 10:8-9 – and do it! See what happens!
5. Share your journey with other believers, **encourage them to make disciples and form more church planting teams or groups**. Watch for the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others, fan that spark of interest and multiply your work.

Make a list of those who you could encourage, even while you are training, to form another group – that will multiply into another, and another!

## WHY PLANT CHURCHES?

1. To reach new people.
2. To put disciple making back on our agenda.
3. To equip new leaders.
4. To build a fresh relationship with God – for all as missionaries (Acts 1:8)
5. So established churches can experience new life (Acts 8-10, 14-15)
5. To put us in tune with God's missionary heart – at work outside the church.
6. To take us to where the Spirit is working outside the church (Acts 10-11, 16:9, 17)
7. To hand on faith and church to next generations (Acts 13:1-4)

It is the way the next generation takes ownership of the church.

Church planting is not a program – it is the way the next generation of church is cultivated by the next generation of believers.

Young people find a new relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit as they plant new churches!

8. To compel the church to engage with the culture and the future of church! (Acts 17)
9. To put us in touch with our New Testament and faith heritage – reminding us of our origins as a planting movement. A church movement reaches new people, with newly planted churches extending God's kingdom. Ellen White wrote –

*Upon **ALL** who believe, God has placed a burden of raising up churches. (E.G. White, Medical Ministry 315)*

## **VALUES OR ATTITUDES**

List those you consider essential, distinctive and realistic to how you must relate to each other and the community –

Describe actions that would flow from these values –

## **WHO will lead the new church plant?** Discuss –

- The natural leader:
- The planting team:
- What are the negatives of frequently using Invited and itinerant preachers?
- **Adventist structures – the missing person today:**

**WHERE to gather?** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of –

- The home where the group has been gathering up until now:
- Other homes:
- The outdoors:
- Facilities that can be used without cost (for groups/worship):
- A new church building:

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Discuss these factors –

- Leadership from within:
- Clear purpose (Acts 2:42-45; Rev 14:6-13):
- Equipped disciples able to lead people friends to Jesus & multiply, who can –
  - Share their testimonies:
  - Invite people to follow Jesus:
- Facilities that do not create a debt burden:
- Able to conduct worship without a visiting preacher:
- Simple to start:
- Values – attitudes:
- Have clear beliefs:
- Have functional structures:

**TO START:** each new planting team needs a –

- Prayer support team
- Written Project Plan
- Coach
- Community service project
- New disciples who can share their testimony & invite people to Jesus

**WHAT will we do?** Key elements of churches –

- Make and multiply disciples
- Fellowship – food (keep it simple)
- Worship and teaching – preaching the Word
- Discussions around the Word - *Discovery Bible Reading*
- Participation – conversation
- Service, care, healing (anointing)
- Meeting needs – encouragement
- Communion – Lord's Supper
- Baptisms
- Prayer
- Giving – tithes and offerings
- Multiplying disciples & planting churches

## **FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES:**

**Personnel:** Who will do the tasks and how?

1. How will decisions be made?
2. How will the church be organized?

**Network:** How will this gathering relate to the Field/Conference?

3. Is this a direct relationship or through a 'parent' church?
4. Is there a district pastor who encourages and coaches?

**Finances:** Why and how will funds be collected and used?

5. How will tithes and offerings be collected?
6. How will accounts and records be kept?

**Legal:** What moral, legal and ethical responsibilities need to be met?

7. What legal issues do we need to be aware of?
  - Working with Children
  - Safe Places
  - Boundaries
  - Insurance

## **EVALUATION PLAN and Feedback times**

1. Discuss this with you Field/Conference planting coordinator or President:
  
2. Some suggestions –
  - What do we need to change?
  - What ministry needs to be closed or be placed in recess?
  - Where do we see the ‘fires’ of the Spirit ‘spotting’ in our community?
  - How do we ‘fan the fires’?
  - What are our strengths/weaknesses?
  - Are we connecting to other *relational streams*?
  - Are we multiplying – how many other churches are we currently planting?
  
3. Review: Five Foundational Scriptures
  1. Disciples multiply in relational streams (Matthew 28:18-20)
  2. Kingdom parables – working the four fields (Mark 4:26-29)
  3. Evangelism, gathering & multiplication (Luke 10:1-24)
  4. Holy Spirit activity (Acts 1:1-2:47)
  5. Church is to be ‘the body of Christ’ (Phil 2:1-11)

# MULTIPLY **disciples & churches multiply!**

Disciples make and multiply disciples, resulting in a multiplication of churches! This is the ideal, but not what is happening!

## MEMBERS, NOT DISCIPLES: A COMMON BLOCKAGE!

List the key activities and people of your church on the following disciple making flow chart.

**ACTIVITIES** or programs of the church. List in one area for which it is designed –

Connect: programs designed to connect with unbelievers.

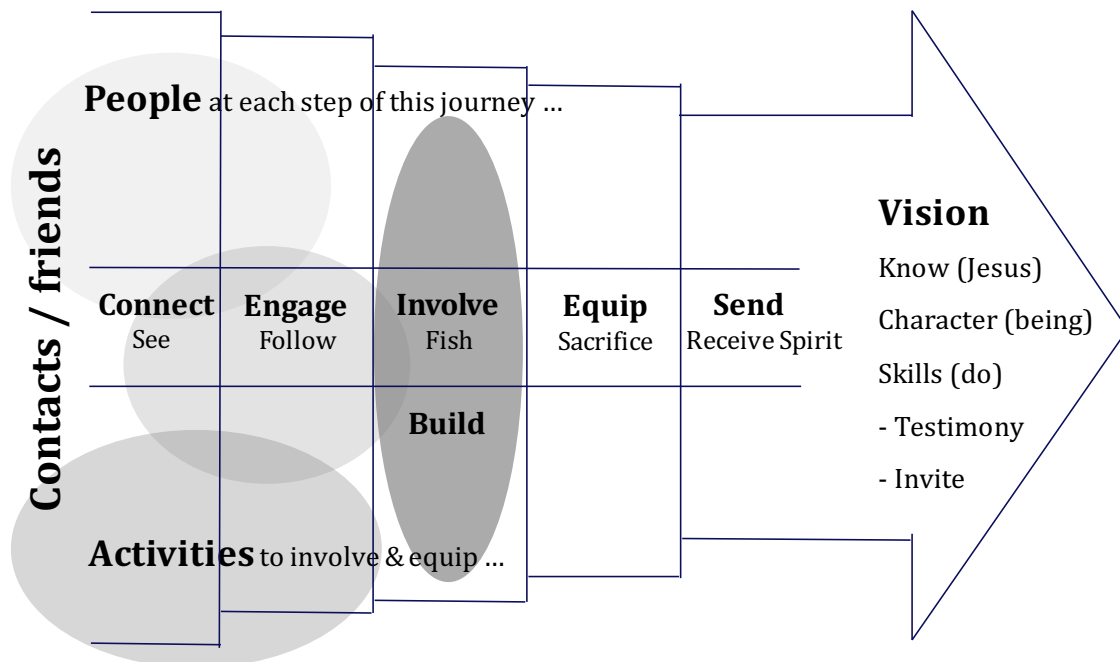
Engage: activities drawing unbelievers to look to and follow Jesus.

Involve: these programs or activities involve new believers in mission.

Equip: programs that equip and skill disciples as leaders for mission.

Send: initiatives that skill disciples to be sent to multiply disciples and leaders.

**PEOPLE:** list on the chart according to where they spend their time and are skilled.





1. What is the purpose of most church programs?

In most churches most activities or programs are designed to 'build' the members. You may be surprised at how few connect or engage unbelievers – and how very few programs really equip and release people as disciples.

2. Where do most church people invest their time and energy?

Again, in most churches most people invest in the 'build' area – caring for the structures and systems of the church. Few are being equipped and released into mission or multiplication.

3. For Jesus' disciples, involvement meant *participation* in mission. But in most churches today, involvement has come to mean: doing jobs running the church. How does this become a major *blockage* for when it comes to mission and multiplication?

**JESUS** laid the foundations of a *sustainable* and *multiplying* disciple making movement.

- What did Jesus' hand on to His disciples when He ascended? Acts 1:4-8

His model & teachings:

His Spirit:

**PAUL** pioneered the planting of multiple churches – and movement of disciple making.

- How did Paul multiply leaders and churches?

Read the story of Paul's journeys to identify key movement principles in each –

1. Acts 13:1-14:28

Working *relational streams*:

Find key *persons of peace*:

2. Acts 15:36-18:22

Making disciples in *relational streams* (*oikos*):

Gathering or planting multiple churches in *relational* streams:

Multiplying leaders:

3. Acts 19:1-20

Establishing a *hub of church planting*:

Equipping church planters:

Encouraging and equipping church planters and teams::

**OUR MULTIPLICATION PLAN:** Every healthy church **reproduces & multiplies**.

Who are we equipping to plant another church?

Where will they plant?

Are they multiplying? –

1. Spiritual leaders:
2. Prayer:
3. Fishing ponds:
4. Disciples:

What environments cultivate multiplication 'movements'?

1. Encouragement (fan every interest)
2. 'Grand-parenting' (releasing)
3. Simple church models (reproducible)
4. Cultivate Holy Spirit presence
5. Search for another 'person of peace'

# CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT PLAN

Your name:

Your church:

Your pastor:

Place where you will plant:

Team: (usually 4)

1. Community: Describe the people and place where you will work:

Can you identify a 'person of peace'?

2. Mission: Why do you need to plant this church? Why will it exist?

3. Bible purpose: List 3 or 4 scriptures that support your mission:

i. Matt 28:18-20

ii. Matt 22:37-40

iii. Rev 14:6-12

iv.

4. Vision: What is your vision for your new church plant?

How many churches will your new church plant in the next two years?

Will you plant a second church in your town? Will you plant into the next village - and then a third and fourth?

Name the places –

5. Beliefs: List key beliefs that will define your church plant:

In Christian background places:

- 1 God Father, Son & Holy Spirit
- 2 Scripture
- 3 Jesus is our Saviour
- 4 Holy Spirit draws us to God
- 5 Second coming – Jesus is coming
- 6 Standard to live by (ten commands)
- 7 Sabbath – a gift from God
- 8 We make disciples for Jesus
- 9
- 10

In Muslim places:

- 1 Holy books
- 2 Faithful to God
- 3 Prayer
- 4 Obedient life (no unclean)
- 5 Judgment – Isa is coming
- 6 God forgives and saves

6. Values & Actions: List your values – and actions to cultivate them:

Values

Actions - examples

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

7. Type of church: Describe the church you will plant:

1. Small:
2. All members trained to make disciples:
3. Plans to plant other churches:

8. Discipleship path: List specific things you will do to meet and disciple people:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

9. Reproduction & Multiplication: Describe how your church plant will plant another church and multiply:

10. Feed Back: When & how will you evaluate whether God might be pleased:

Share this project plan with a number of people – including an experienced church planter or church-planting mentor – to get further ideas.

Submit this plan to your Conference/Field President and church planting coordinator –

Name:

Date:

## **APPENDIX A: Gospel Presentations**

Choose a bridge to sharing –

- Family and friends of a new disciple: 'I have made a decision to become a follower of Jesus. I would like to tell you about it.'
- Family and friends of an existing disciple: 'I have never shared with you why I became a follower of Jesus, and the difference he makes in my life. I would like to tell you about it.'
- Someone you meet: 'If you could know God personally, would you be interested?' or, 'I would like to show you from the Bible how you can know God personally.'

**For those with some knowledge of God:** Let God's Word speak –

- Ask your friend to read each verse aloud.
- After they have read a verse ask: 'What does this say to you?'

John 3:16                      'What does this say to you?'

Romans 3:23                  'What does this say to you?'

Romans 5:8                    'What does this say to you?'

Romans 6:23                  'What does this say to you?'

Romans 10:9                  'What does this say to you?'

- If your friends are ready to accept Jesus, ask: would you like to pray?
- When a person accepts Christ –

Ask, who else needs to hear about Jesus? When will you tell them?

Make a time to begin discipleship. Take the person through:

(a) Sharing Your Story and (b) Sharing Jesus' Story.

**Other ways to share a Gospel Presentation –**

God / Us / Jesus / You

The gospel in colour

Using your flag (Vanuatu)

The tea bag gospel



## **APPENDIX B: Theological foundations for church planting!**

1. *God's Triune Being & Activity*: John 17:21. Created 'in his likeness' (Gen 1:26) he seeks to dwell with us, as his 'body' – in the world.
2. *God is the missionary (missio Dei)*: John 3:16. Mission is not primarily a human activity. It flows from God's heart – and is his activity.
3. *God became 'flesh & blood' to save us (incarnation)*: John 1:14. God 'became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood'. God saves us through complete identification with us – and the method for sharing this is: our incarnation/identification in our communities.
4. *God's kingdom vision*: Luke 4:18-19. Church planters are challenged to grow God's kingdom in people's lives – an imperative for established and new churches.
5. *God's temple/body*: Eph 2:19-22 – we are God's household.

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