

Equipped Through

**Missions & Church Planting:
A Practical Guide**

Version 1.1

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and
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**Equippers Group International
www.equippersgroup.org**

Equipped Through **Missions and Church Planting: A Practical Guide**

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The “Mission-Church Life Cycle” is adapted and used by permission from Ralph Winter, author of *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, (William Carey Library), 1999.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the leaders and believers of the churches we planted in Camarines Norte in the Philippines. They taught us so much through our 10 years of living with them. We taught them about following the Bible, Jesus and living for Him; but they taught us much about life and the Philippine culture. They captured a large part of our heart. No matter where we go, they are with us.

We want to thank the elders, leaders and friends of the church that sent us to the Philippines in 1980 – Christ Community Church of Wylie, Texas. They stood with us throughout those 10 years praying, supporting, loving and caring for us.

Also, we would like to thank Karl and Marlies Klapprodt, a very special missionary couple. God provided them to mentor us and speak much wisdom and instruction into our lives and ministry in the formative years of pioneering several new churches.

But, most of all, we thank the LORD, Jesus Christ, that He allowed us to go to the nations in His name and that He allowed us to be a part of His master plan for the nations. As it says in 1 Corinthians 3, we are fellow workers with God, but it is GOD who gives the growth.

*What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.
(1 Corinthians 3:5-9)*

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We also thank Ralph Winter for allowing us to use and adapt the Mission-Church Life Cycle as presented in his book, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, (William Carey Library), 1999.

Our thanks also extend to those who have prayed for this writing project. It has taken many, many hours of writing, editing and perfecting to get to the place of publication. Most of all, we thank the Holy Spirit for His guidance on this very important subject.

Introduction

It is important to understand God's relationship with mankind – both as it was in the beginning and as it is today. By understanding this relationship, one realizes that the **purpose of the church is MISSIONS**. Jesus commanded all believers to make disciples. It is the mission of the church to disciple believers who will disciple other believers. This manual teaches the Biblical perspective of Jesus and the early church as they set an example for us to follow today. It also provides practical steps and guidance to establish successful churches with effective leadership.

The MISSION-CHURCH LIFE CYCLE is an adaptation from Ralph Winter's, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. This life cycle model greatly influenced us in all areas of church planting. It is like a family situation where the parents teach their children. The children then teach the younger children. Eventually, these children mature to be adults who have their own children. Thus a new generation begins, the cycle continues.

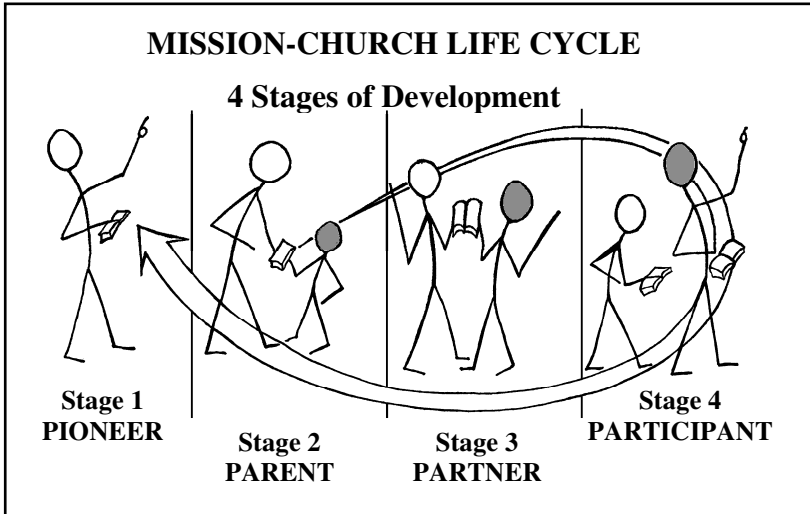
Likewise, a new church develops as it follows these principles. First, there must be a person who shares the gospel and wins people to the Lord, Jesus Christ. These new believers must be discipled and learn about God and His Word. Together, they form a new church. Leaders are identified and established in the church. The church becomes effective and alive as each believer does their part in discipling others and serving in the church and the community. Jesus is looking for disciples, not members!

As you read and study this book, you will learn an effective process to use in planting churches. There are three basic truths to understand before you begin to learn the process.

1. The relationship between God and mankind (Lesson 1)
2. The church – both the universal church and the local church (Lesson 2)
3. The critical importance of discipleship (Lesson 3)

The remainder of this manual teaches the Mission-Church Life Cycle. This life cycle consists of four stages of development: Pioneer, Parent, Partner and Participant. Each stage of development has an associated diagram representing that stage.

The church planter is always represented as the first person in the diagram. The believer/church is shown as the second person. Notice that the believer/church grows in size (responsibility) while the role of the church planter diminishes in size as the life cycle develops.



Adapted and used with permission from *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Ralph Winter, (William Carey Library), 1999.



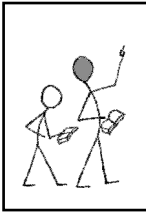
STAGE 1, PIONEER – The Pioneer is sent out from a local church to take the message of Jesus Christ to areas that have not heard about Jesus. The Pioneer gives people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins. (Lessons 4, 5, 6)



STAGE 2, PARENT – The picture shows the Parent (mature believer) teaching a child (new believer). Like a parent gives milk to a child, at this stage the new believer is like a child who must be given the “milk of God’s Word.” Just as children need much training, so does the new believer. Teaching is the primary gift relating to this stage of growth. (Lessons 7, 8)



STAGE 3, PARTNER – The Partner stage requires a change from a parent-child relationship to an adult-adult relationship. The Partner works together as a co-laborer with new leaders and maturing believers to accomplish the purpose of the church. The Partner must be willing to help new leaders “grow up” and sustain their own faith with God and begin to assume leadership in the church. The spiritual gifts used at this stage are mentoring and learning to serve God together. (Lessons 9, 10, 11)



STAGE 4, PARTICIPANT – The picture shows that the role of the new leader has grown while the role of the Participant is less. The Participant, who began work as the Pioneer that started the church, is now close to completing their task. The Participant now acts in the role of a counselor, a guide, an advisor, an encourager and a teacher. The new leadership in the church looks to the Participant for wisdom, instruction and encouragement. The Participant must now let go of their authority and allow the new leaders to lead with authority and the help of the Holy Spirit. (Lessons 12, 13)


A. Overview of the manual’s content

This manual is structured to provide lesson content in an easily understood format. Each lesson contains the following sections:

1. Objectives

The objectives of each lesson are written from the student’s perspective. Objectives answer the question: What will I learn in this lesson?



2. Key Verse

The key verse sets a Scriptural foundation for the lesson. The key verse is indicated by a picture of a key. 

3. Bible quotes

The English version of this manual uses quotations from the New International Version of the Bible. If you have another Bible translation, read it too. You will gain more understanding from reading several translations of the Bible. Bible quotations will look like this.

Therefore go and make disciples of all 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. ... (Matthew 28:19-20)

“Matthew” refers to a book in the Bible, the “28” refers to the chapter in Matthew, and “:19-20” refers to the verses in that chapter. The “...” means that the remainder of verse 20 is not quoted. When explaining a topic, sometimes additional reference verses are given. They are noted as “ Read” or as “ See also.” These verses may be read during or after class.

4. Tables

Tables are used in this manual because they have proven to be an easy way to view and understand long lists of information. Tables are numbered using first the lesson number, then the order of appearance in the lesson.

Table 0.4 Example of a table

	Example
--	---------

5. Diagrams

Diagrams are drawings or illustrations that represent a concept. They are numbered with the lesson number and then the order of appearance in the lesson.

6. Activity Assignments

The last part of the lesson contains three kinds of activities.

- **Class Activity** – This activity is to be led by the teacher and discussed in class. These discussion points and questions will help students learn and understand the lesson content.

- **Personal Activity** – This activity is to be done by the student outside of class. The activity is designed to encourage the student to write their thoughts and ideas for future use. Each student may do these activities by themselves or in a small work group with other students. These activities stimulate the student to implement truths in their personal life.

The Personal Activity also incorporates a Bible reading assignment in each lesson. The student will read most of the New Testament during study of this manual.

- **Discipleship Activity** – This activity is to be used by the mentor in discipleship training. As the mentor and the disciple work through these activities, the disciple will grow and mature in their Christian faith and walk.

B. To the teacher

This manual was designed to be used in different learning environments. Teachers are encouraged to adapt a method of teaching to accommodate the unique needs of the students. Consider the local economic, religious and political situations, learning styles and culture of the students. Teachers are encouraged to make these truths colorful through their insights and life experiences. The power of God is present in both the Word of God itself and the testimony of His saints.

1. Preparing to teach the lessons

The teacher should prepare the lesson before class begins. A good teacher prepares a lesson as one making a soup: One starts with the liquid, adds ingredients, lets it simmer, tastes it and then adds spices. Lessons that have been prepared well in advance allow the Holy Spirit time to add “spice” to the lesson. The main ingredients in lesson preparation are study and prayer.

a. Study the lesson

1. Complete each lesson as if you were the student. Read through the lesson, looking up all the verses. Complete all activity assignments before preparing to teach your class.
2. Consider the special needs of your students. Anticipate possible problems or questions that may come up.

3. It is important that you have adequate time to teach the content of the lesson. Some difficult lessons could be divided into two class sessions.
4. Prioritize the truths in each lesson in the event that you run out of time. Ask yourself: If a student leaves the class with only three truths, what should they be? Prepare your lesson to assure that important areas are covered first.
5. Consider how you will use the Activity Assignments in class. Leave enough time for them. Feel free to add discussion questions that would be helpful to your students. When thinking about the activity assignments, review the “Personal Activity” and “Discipleship Activity” assignments from the previous week’s lesson.
6. Determine how you will organize the lesson. The presentation of the lesson’s content should be a blend of the following:
 - Review of previous lesson or lessons
 - Lecture that explains the key points of the lesson
 - Class discussion
7. Consider examples that are culturally relevant to your students. We hope that teachers will provide examples and illustrations that are meaningful to their students. Attempt to make these lessons more colorful through your insights and life experiences.

b. Pray

1. Pray specifically for those who will attend your class. Pray that the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit will teach them what they need to know.
2. Ask Jesus what He wants you to learn from the material.
3. Ask Jesus to give you the wisdom to know what parts of the lesson should be emphasized in class.
4. Ask Jesus to give you examples of how these truths are relevant to you and those in your community.

2. Who should teach this manual?

A teacher is one of the instruments God uses to instruct His people. The following teacher qualifications are to be used as guidelines. Ultimately, the Holy Spirit is the true teacher of His people. The teacher is one who:

- is a believer in Jesus as Savior.
- continually studies the Scriptures. Jesus calls His followers “disciples,” which literally means “learners.”
- is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- teaches in such a way to encourage students to be followers of Jesus and not followers of the teacher.
- presents the Scriptures accurately, never distorting them for personal reasons.
- depends on the Holy Spirit, the true teacher, to give insight and knowledge to the students.
- avoids pride in their own skills or accomplishments.
- attempts to teach in a way that encourages students to teach others. Paul told Timothy:

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

Lesson

1

MISSION: God's Relationship With Man

Objectives

- Learn about God's kingdom
- Recognize that God has a plan and a mission
- Learn about God's selected people
- See the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant

Key Verses

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21)

God's love for mankind is unconditional and limitless. Yet, we live in a troubled world. Many questions arise about the world in which we live.

- Who is God?
- Where is God?
- Why are things the way they are?
- What about good versus evil?
- What is the Heavenly Kingdom?
- Why can mankind not live in peace?
- What about eternity?
- What is the most central problem throughout all the ages?

God gave the Bible to be a believer's handbook about life. Every problem in heaven and on earth had a beginning which is described in Genesis, the first book in the Bible. Genesis tells about God's creation of the universe and mankind. It also tells about God's relationship with mankind in the beginning. God said that His creation was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

So, what went wrong? Very simply, the answer is that acts of rebellion in the heavens changed God's created order. Satan rebelled against God. Then he persuaded Adam and Eve, the first people, to rebel against God's instructions. As a result, they went outside of God's will.

It is important to understand God's relationship with mankind – both as it was in the beginning and as it is today. A believer's current relationship with God is provided through the reconciliation of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded all believers to make disciples. This is the mission of the church – to make disciples who will disciple other believers. This cycle is like a family situation where the parents have children, then teach them. The children teach younger children. Eventually, they grow to be adults who have their own children. Grandparents offer love, guidance and wisdom. The cycle continues. This cycle also applies to the church.

For more extensive study on mankind's relationship with God in the beginning, read ***Equipped through Genesis: The Book of Beginnings*** in EGI's Getting Equipped™ Series.

Kingdom of God

A. The history of creation

God is present everywhere. God is the Creator of the universe including the heavens, earth and mankind. The book of Psalms says

God has authority over all things (Psalm 103:19) and that God is the eternal King forever (Psalm 10:16).

God ordered His creation in the beginning. He knew that Satan would rebel; He knew that mankind would sin; and He planned from the beginning to provide a Messiah to restore this broken relationship with mankind. This lesson will focus on God's relationship with His creation of mankind.

B. The breakdown

God's kingdom includes the universe, the heavens where God and the angels reside and the earth where mankind resides. 📖 See Genesis 1:1-25, Nehemiah 9:6 and Hebrews 12:22-24.

1. The heavenly kingdom

The heavenly kingdom consisted of the created angels and heavenly beings. God created Lucifer, the chief angel, and **gave** him power and authority to lead the angels of heaven. God gave him free will to choose to follow God. However, Lucifer became prideful and rebelled against God. Lucifer chose to rebel against God's will. He persuaded approximately one-third of the angels of heaven to rebel and formed his own kingdom. Because of this act of rebellion against God Almighty, Lucifer (also called Satan) and his angels were cast out of the heavenly kingdom. 📖 Read about Lucifer's rebellion and resulting punishment in these Scriptures:

Diagram 1.1 Fall of Satan



Ezekiel 28:11-17 refers to Satan as the "king of Tyre" and Isaiah 14:12-14 refers to Satan as the "morning star."

Diagram 1.1 illustrates the fall of Satan from God's heavenly kingdom to a kingdom of darkness. God **allowed** Satan to rule over the darkness. Satan's rule grew out of rebellion against God. This sinful rebellion against God's will incurred His wrath, anger and judgment. The end result of this judgment is eternal

separation from God in a place of suffering and torment – hell. This was the first great tragedy (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).

First tragedy: Sinful rebellion against the will of God results in eternal separation from God.

📖 For Scriptures contrasting God's kingdom verses the kingdom of darkness, see John 3:19-21, Acts 26:18, Ephesians 6:10-12 and Colossians 1:13-14.

2. The earthly kingdom where mankind dwells

One of God's greatest works was when He created man and woman (Genesis 1:26-2:25). The Bible says they were created in God's image. Unlike God's creation of the animals, He gave human beings the freedom to choose to serve Him. They were not created to be driven by nature like animals. Rather, God gave man and woman the ability to reproduce and rule over the earth. He also gave them the ability to fellowship with Him!

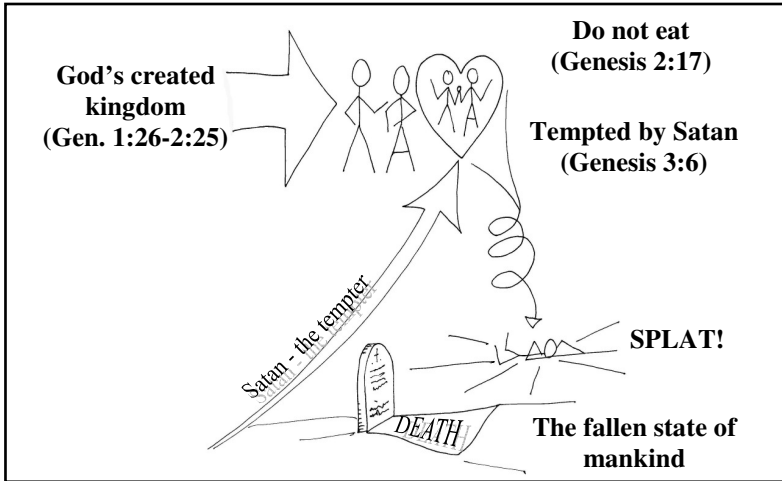
Second tragedy: The fall of mankind from their former intimate relationship with God to separation from His presence.

In the beginning, there was only one place forbidden to man and woman – the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). The serpent (Satan) tempted the woman to

go against God's command. Adam and Eve chose, as had Lucifer (Satan), to go outside of God's perfect will. Therefore, they incurred the consequences: punishment, separation from a close, personal relationship with God and death. Satan's temptation of Adam and Eve caused the second great tragedy: fall of mankind from their former close, personal relationship with God to separation from His presence.

Diagram 1.2 illustrates the temptation of Adam and Eve by Satan and their fall from their original created position to a fallen, sinful condition.

Diagram 1.2 Temptation and fall of mankind



C. God's two-fold plan

God had a plan from the beginning of creation. His plan began in the Garden of Eden when man and woman were first created. It has been unfolding throughout the ages (Genesis 3:14-19). Part of this plan was completed when God, in the form of Jesus, came to live on earth as a man. He came to pay the price for the sin of mankind. God's plan will continue until Jesus' second coming. At that time, God's plan will be complete.

This plan involves both judgment and redemption. (See Table 1.1.) From the beginning, God had already provided a way for people to be saved from judgment through Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price for sin and offered redemption to mankind. Through Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection to life, God provided a way for His people to be with Him eternally. All people will be judged, but those who believe in Jesus will be given eternal life with God in heaven. Non-believers will face eternal judgment.

The blood of Jesus provides redemption, justification, atonement and reconciliation. These words are the foundation of the gospel and are truly "good news" to each believer. Each one of these words carries with it the solution to the awful results of sin. These words may be hard to understand since we do not normally use them. We

will explore the meaning of redemption, justification, reconciliation and atonement. Table 1.1 summarizes mankind’s sin problem and how the blood of Jesus provided the answer through redemption, justification and reconciliation (atonement).

Table 1.1 The sin problem and God’s solution	
The problem	God’s solution
Because of sin, mankind became a slave to Satan and sin.	Redemption means to redeem (buy back) captured goods or prisoners. As a result of the fall of mankind through Adam’s sin, people became prisoners of sin and Satan. The blood of Jesus is the price to buy back sinful man. (📖 See 1 Peter 1:18-19, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 1:7, 13-14, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:12, Titus 2:11-14.)
Man is sinful, declared guilty and sentenced to death. Mankind has no way to get right on his own.	Justification is the act of announcing a law breaker legally “not guilty.” The sins one commits makes them law breakers. Those without Jesus will stand before the Judge, guilty of breaking the law and sentenced to eternal death. When one accepts and believes that Christ died for their sins, His death and blood satisfies the required punishment of the guilty sinner. Believers are cleared of all charges against them. God has declared the believing and repentant sinner “NOT GUILTY.” (📖 See Romans 3:28, 5:1-11, Galatians 2:16-17 and Titus 3:4-7.)
Man is separated and hostile to God. They can no longer communicate with Him.	Reconciliation is the act of changing from being an enemy to being a friend. Through the blood of Jesus, people can go from being God’s enemy to becoming His friend. (📖 See 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and Galatians 4:4-7.) Atonement means to cancel out, clean or reconcile. This word gets most of its meaning from the Old Testament book of Leviticus. In the New Testament, it is often translated as “reconciliation.” Through Jesus’ death on the cross and shedding of His blood, He became THE sacrifice for sin by which God shows mercy to sinners. (📖 See Hebrews 2:17-18, 9:15.)

1. Separation and judgment

As the offspring of Adam and Eve began to populate the world, many had little or no desire to follow God or obey Him. God became very disappointed in His creation of mankind. They had become evil, violent and wicked (Genesis 6:5). 📖 Read about God's disappointment, Noah and the great Flood in Genesis 3-9.

a. Judgment in the form of a worldwide Flood

God's disappointment and anger at the sin of mankind gave Him the desire to destroy them and judge their wicked ways. Yet in His mercy, God searched for one righteous man who would become the seed of a new beginning. That person was Noah who "found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:5-8). God instructed Noah to build an ark (a large boat) in which He would save Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives along with all the birds and the animals on the earth. God sent a great Flood that covered the entire earth. The floodwaters lasted for about a year.

The great Flood during Noah's time was a judgment. After the Flood, the command was given to Noah and his sons to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 9:1). Remember, these eight people were now the only people on earth. As they began to replenish the earth, mankind again rebelled against God.

b. Judgment at the tower of Babel

As population increased after the Flood, people did not go out to "replenish the earth" as God commanded. Instead, they began to build a great tower which would reach the heavens. They wanted to be great. God dealt with their rebellious disobedience by confusing their language (Genesis 11:5-9).

Therefore, as a result of these two major acts of rebellion – and the continued acts of rebellion since that time – we live in a world that demonstrates a daily conflict (a war) between good and evil at every level of society in all nations. 📖 Read about the "tower of Babel" in Genesis 11 and spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-20.

2. God’s redemption plan

God’s plan of redemption began with the fall and judgment of mankind. This plan required the shedding of blood as an offering for sin (Leviticus 6:24-30). Later, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, became the sacrifice whose blood was offered for all of the sins of a person – with one condition. **That**

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— (John 1:12)

condition is that the person must willingly surrender their whole being and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior, the living sacrifice for their sin. Only God could show such great love to mankind by offering His only Son to pay for their sinful rebellion. The book of John especially tells how much God loves mankind and how He restores the relationship so they can be the children of God (John 3:16-18, 3:36, Galatians 4:4-7).

God did not abandon mankind in a hopeless state. He provided a plan of restoration to His original relationship with them. After Jesus’ resurrection from death, He went to be with the Father in Heaven. The Holy Spirit was then sent to dwell in each believer. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that people can resist evil and overcome its influences and power.

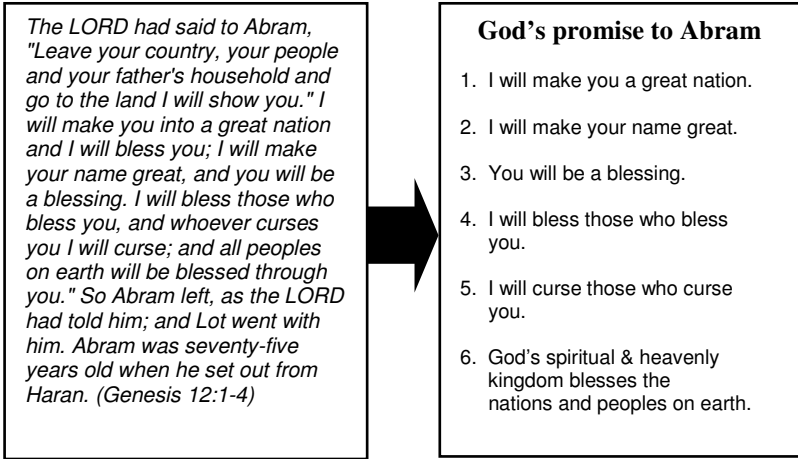
D. God’s mission


God’s mission is clear: Restore the original close, personal relationship between God and mankind. How could He do this? He restored this relationship by shedding the blood of His Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice. It is only through the blood of Jesus, that mankind can find forgiveness of their sins. God desires His people to love, follow and obey Him. He wants them to be a people who will tell others about Him so they too can become a part of God’s family.

E. God selected a people for His purposes

God called Abram to be the father of His chosen people. Yet, Abram and his wife Sarai were barren, they were not able to have children. God did a miracle and allowed them to have a son, Isaac. God made a covenant with Abram. He changed Abram’s name to Abraham which means the “father of many” before the birth of his son. Diagram 1.3 shows God’s promise to Abraham, the man who would become the father of the nation of Israel.

Diagram 1.3 God's promise to Abram



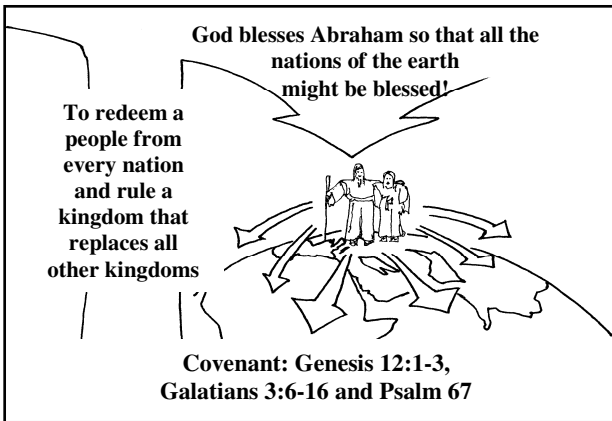
 Read about Israel, God's chosen people, in Genesis 12-25.

F. Genealogy of Israel

Abraham's descendents became the nation of Israel. The Old Testament tells about God's relationship with them. **God desired them to be a special people who would bridge mankind back to Him.** Diagram 1.4 illustrates this concept. They were to be His vessel to bless the nations of the world. At the same time, they would be an earthly kingdom where God would abide. They were His people, He was their God. There was a covenant between God and Israel. Although they liked God's blessings and being God's chosen people, they did not always want to be His vessel to all nations.

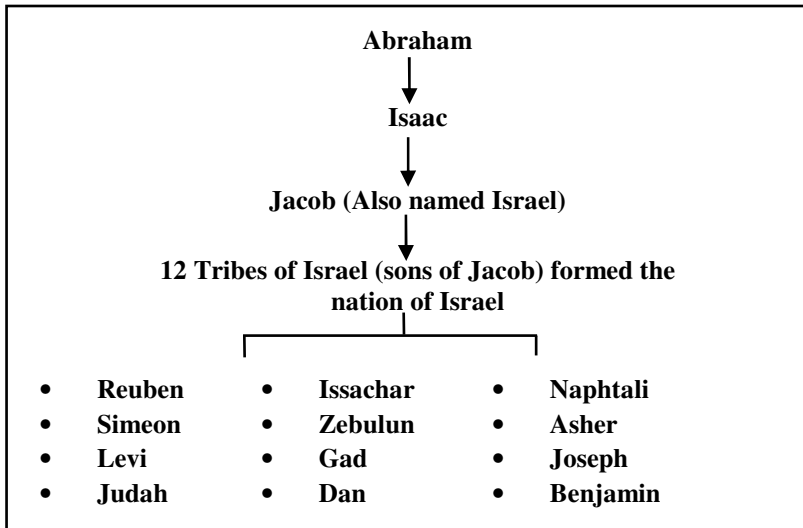
The nation of Israel consisted of twelve tribes who were all descended from Abraham. These were the sons of Jacob (Abraham's grandson), whom God also named Israel (Genesis 32:28). Diagram 1.5 shows the genealogy of the Abraham and, ultimately, the beginning of the nation of Israel.

Diagram 1.4 God blesses nations



Much later, the nation of Israel received the Ten Commandments through Moses as a revelation from God Almighty. These commandments were the basis of their laws. The Old Testament books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy outline the laws and rituals that were to be followed by the tribes of Israel.

Diagram 1.5 Genealogy of Israel (Genesis 35:23-26)



G. Transition: Old to New Covenant


Although Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was a descendent of the nation of Israel from the tribe of Judah, His birth, life and death fulfilled the law of the Old Testament. It also pointed to the new covenant – a new way of living with God. Jesus changed the covenant relationship from one of laws and rituals to a relationship

Jesus changed the covenant relationship from one of laws and rituals to a relationship of faith between a believer and God.

of faith between a believer and God. Jesus' death was the living sacrifice for all time and for all of mankind, not just Israel. Restoration of this relationship took

place when Jesus died on the cross. At that time, the temple curtain (veil) was torn (Matthew 27:50-51). This simply means that the dwelling place of God changed from the temple, which was made with human hands, to the hearts of God's people.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

 Read about the Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.

**There is now a new covenant with God –
a new way to worship God, a new way of living
and a new relationship with Him.**

1. Characteristics of the Old and New Covenants

Table 1.2 shows how some of the characteristics of worship and relationship with God under the Old Covenant changed to a new way of worship and relationship with God in the New Covenant.

Table 1.2 Characteristics of the Old and New Covenants	
Old Covenant	New Covenant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temple worship/altars (Leviticus 9:7) <p>Sacrifices and group worship took place in the temple – a geographical place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24) <p>Believers can worship God wherever they are.</p>

Table 1.2 Characteristics of the Old and New Covenants	
Old Covenant	New Covenant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws (Exodus 40:6-33) <p>Laws were given to the Israelites by God to keep them from sinning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ is fulfillment of laws (John 1:17) <p>Christ fulfilled the law and the prophets as given in the Old Testament.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings, places, grounds (Exodus 40) <p>God's dwelling place was the Temple's Holy of Holies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's laws now reside in hearts, not stones (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Hebrews 10:16-17) <p>Jesus' Holy Spirit now dwells in the hearts of His people.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacrifices (Leviticus 1-7) <p>God required a blood sacrifice to atone for all unintentional sins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ is the only sacrifice needed (Matthew 26:28) <p>Christ's sacrifice on the cross fulfilled the requirement for sacrifice once for all people. God entered into a new covenant with His creation through Jesus' blood.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priests as exclusive group (Leviticus 8, Numbers 3:11-12) <p>The tribe of Levi was the priestly tribe. Only a Levite could be a priest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All believers in Christ are priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9) <p>Today, each believer is a priest.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilt (fear, vengeance) (Leviticus 5:14-6:7, 7:1-10) <p>When people sinned and disobeyed the laws given by God, they felt guilt. They had to make a sacrifice to atone for their guilt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captives to these emotions set free (Luke 4:18-19) <p>When a believer sins, they must repent and ask forgiveness. Through the blood of Jesus, their sins are forgiven and they are blessed with peace and assurance.</p>

Table 1.2 Characteristics of the Old and New Covenants

Old Covenant	New Covenant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) <p>God gave ten commands that instructed His people how to conduct themselves in relationship with God and each other. They were unable to keep these commands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christ gave two commandments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> “Love God” “Love one another” <p>(Matthew 22:37-40)</p> <p>Christ gave two commands which are able to be fulfilled through Him. These two are a fulfillment of the 10 commands given under the Old Covenant.</p>

2. Prophecies fulfilled

God’s master plan for the redemption of mankind is shown throughout the Bible – from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. From the fall of mankind in Genesis 3, God unfolds His master plan of redemption through His Son, Jesus. One of Jesus’ names used in God’s Word is “Immanuel” (Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14). Immanuel means “God with man.” We clearly see the fulfillment of God’s promise to send a redeemer who will restore His people and kingdom. This redemption provides a way for believers to live in a new relationship with God. This redemptive plan is available to all people from all nations.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
(2 Peter 3:9)

Table 1.3 shows some promises (prophecies) in the Old Covenant about the Messiah and their fulfillment by Jesus Christ in the New Covenant.

Table 1.3 Prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled by Jesus

Prophecy	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Would be the “offspring” of a woman	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4 Luke 2:7
Promised offspring of Abraham	Genesis 18:18 Genesis 12:3	Acts 3:25 Matthew 1:1 Luke 3:34

Table 1.3 Prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled by Jesus		
Prophecy	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Heir to the throne of David	Isaiah 9:7 Isaiah 11:1-5 2 Samuel 7:13	Matthew 1:1 Matthew 1:6
Place of birth	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4-7
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18 Luke 1:25-35
Slaughter of infants	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
As a priest, like Melchizedek	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6, 6:20, 7:15-17
His rejection by Jews	Isaiah 53:3 Psalm 2:2	John 1:11, 5:43 Luke 4:29, 23:18
Betrayed by a friend and sold for 30 pieces of silver	Psalms 41:9 Zech. 11:12-13	Mark 14:10, 43-45 Matthew 26:14-16
False witnesses accuse Him	Psalms 27:12 Psalm 35:11	Matthew 26:60-61
Suffered for sins of mankind	Isaiah 53:4-6 Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 8:16-17 Romans 4:25 1 Corinthians 15:3
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16 Zechariah 12:10	John 19:37 John 20:25-27
Mocked and insulted	Psalms 22:6-8	Matthew 27:39-44 Mark 15:29-32
Not a bone broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
To be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
His resurrection	Psalms 16:10	Matthew 28:9 Luke 24:36-48
His ascension	Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:50-51 Acts 1:9



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Read about Cain and Abel in Genesis 4.
 - What were the character qualities of each one?
 - Which one of these men best defines your life?
2. Using Table 1.2, Characteristics of the Old and New Covenants, discuss the characteristics of worship and relationship with God as shown in the Old and New Covenants.
 - Why is the new covenant important to us?
 - Why is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross so important?
 - What kind of relationship do believers today have with God? Have each student list them on a sheet of paper for use in this week's Personal Activity.
3. Review Diagram 1.3, God's promise to Abram. Discuss how the promises God made to Abram are present in the world today.

Personal Activity

1. Read the book of Matthew or Luke. Write what you learn about the kingdom of heaven from reading one of these Gospels.
2. Read Genesis 1-12. List the number of times and ways mankind failed God in this Scripture.
3. Refer to the list you made in the class discussion about the characteristics of your relationship with God in worship from Table 1.2. Consider how your worship relationship with God could improve.

Lesson

2

THE CHURCH: The New Covenant With God

Objectives

- Learn about the church
- Understand all believers have a role in the church
- Learn the importance of mobilizing the church
- Understand the role of leaders and the role of believers
- Learn about the Great Commission

Key Verse

*And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
(Ephesians 1:22-23)*

A. What is the Church?

The word “church” means “ones who are called out” or “separated from” the world. The “church” is the community of believers in Jesus who are joined together into one body by the Holy Spirit. It is like an invisible living body composed of all believers in Jesus Christ from all nations, cultures and generations. The church is not a building; it is the body of believers (Ephesians 2:19-21).

The church is the body of believers – not a building!

This lesson teaches about the whole church (the universal church) and the local church. Reference to the universal church will be designated as the “church,” while reference to the local church will be designated as the “local church.”

The Bible uses several names to refer to the “church.” **Note** that these names are **NOT** references to the actual names of local churches or denominations – although some may use these names.

- The church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:1)
- The church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15)
- The church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23)
- The churches of Christ (Romans 16:16)

1. Relationship of the church to Jesus

The Bible uses illustrations (or word pictures) to describe the church and its relationship with Jesus Christ. Some of these word pictures are shown in the following table.

Table 2.1 Illustration of the church in relation to Jesus	
A flock	Good Shepherd – Jesus is the gate by which His sheep (flock of believers) enter into salvation. He is the Good Shepherd who watches over the sheep and is known by the sheep. They follow Him. He gave His life for all of His sheep – both Jews and Gentiles. 📖 See John 10:1-18.
Branches	True Vine – The Father is the gardener who trims branches so they bear much fruit. It is through Jesus (the vine) that believers bear fruit. They will bear much fruit if they remain in Him. 📖 See John 15:1-8.
A bride	Bridegroom – Jesus loves the church just as a husband is to love his wife. Jesus gave of Himself to make her clean, holy, without blemish and blameless – as a radiant bride. 📖 See Ephesians 5:25-30, Revelation 19:7.

Table 2.1 Illustration of the church in relation to Jesus	
A building	Chief Cornerstone – Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the building (the church) made up of those who believe in Him. Believers (living stones) are being built into the spiritual house (church) of Jesus. 📖 See Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4-8.
A living body	Head of the body – Jesus is the head of the church (the body of Christ). He has given roles of ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to believers to enable them to perform works of service toward God and mankind. These works of service unite the believer with Jesus and His church in a mature and whole relationship. As a member of the church, each believer is responsible to do his part to build it up. 📖 See 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16, Colossians 1:18, 2:19.

2. Becoming part of the church

Each believer becomes a member of the church from the moment of belief and commitment of their life to Jesus. The Bible refers to members of the church by many names. Some of these names are shown in the following list.

- Saints (2 Corinthians 13:13, Philippians 1:1, 4:21-22)
- Brothers (sisters) (Romans 10:1, James 1:2, 2 Peter 1:10)
- Christians (Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16)
- Believers (1 Timothy 4:12)
- Disciples (Matthew 10:42)
- Chosen people (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 17:14)
- Royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9)
- Holy nation (1 Peter 2:9)
- Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Workmen (Matthew 9:37-38, 2 Timothy 2:15)

B. The church

1. The church (universal)

God's people – whether they looked forward to the cross and trusted in the Messiah or looked back to the cross and trusted Jesus Christ as Savior – are all part of the universal church. 📖 Read

about the uniting of the Old Testament people of God and the saved after Jesus' death and resurrection in Ephesians 2:11-22.

Jesus introduced the concept of the church in His teachings.

📖 Read Matthew 16:18 and 18:15-20. The book of Acts records the birth and growth of the church in both Jewish and Gentile cultures. "Gentiles" as used in this book refers to people groups and cultures other than the Jewish nation. Paul was sent to establish the church among the Gentiles while Peter established the church among the Jews.

2. The local church

The local church is a group of believers that meet together regularly in a community with local leadership.

a. Missions: Purpose of the church

The purpose of the local church is to accomplish God's mission by distributing the truth of God's Word to all people in the world – to believers and non-believers. "Mission" refers to fulfilling God's Word to mankind so that His message of salvation goes out to all people in all nations. This is accomplished when believers make themselves available to be used in God's plan to minister to the spiritual condition of all people. 📖 Read Ephesians 3:10, Acts 20:20-21, 1 Timothy 3:14-15 and 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

The purpose and mission of the church is extensive: It covers all relationships which include ministry to God, ministry to other believers and ministry to people in the world.

**"Missions" is not just a committee.
"Missions" is not just a program.
"MISSIONS" IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH.**

b. Mobilization of the church

The local church operates like an actual human body. Each member does their part – just as each part of the human body does its part – to make the whole complete. The church is to be

Each local church is to be:

- **Self-governing**
- **Self-reproducing**
- **Self-financing**

self-governing, self-reproducing and self-financing. 📖 Read Ephesians 4 and 1 Corinthians 12.

Diagram 2.1

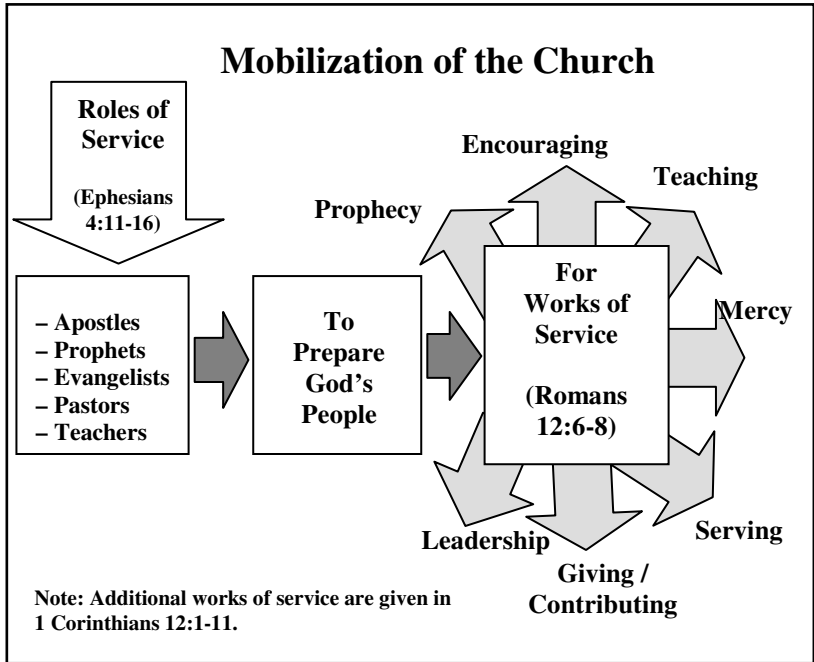


Diagram 2.1 shows that there are five roles of service for leadership in the church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. These leaders are responsible to prepare God's people so they can do works of service for God (Romans 12:6-8). Effective preparation produces the following results.

- God's people are prepared (equipped) to do works of service for one another and others.
- Believers reach unity in their faith and knowledge of God and His son, Jesus Christ.
- The church (body of Christ) is built up.
- Believers mature in their faith and Christian walk.


c. Reasons why local churches fail to grow

To find keys and solutions for growth, one must first identify the obstacles to growth. Some of these obstacles are listed for your

consideration and meditation. Use this list as a caution in your work of leadership in the church.

- Lack of prayer
- Immaturity
- Poor leadership
- Lack of delegation
- No for ministry
- Do not vision
- Not equipped understand the purpose of the church
- Faith without works
- Disunity
- Lack of obedience to Jesus Christ and His Word
- Procrastination
- Poor personal testimony of leadership
- Inappropriate giving and tithing
- Busy building individual personal kingdoms with no time to build God's Kingdom



 Read James 4:1-10 to see how the Holy Spirit helps leaders in the church.

C. Leadership in the local church

1. Role of a leader

Ephesians 4:11-16 explains that the role of leaders in the local church is to prepare and equip God's people to do works of service. "Works of service" include ministry to believers and others in the community. Review Diagram 2.1. Believers in the church are "mobilized" when they serve God in the way they are uniquely called to do. When each believer performs works of service, the church grows and matures. The church is guided by its leaders to fulfill the purposes and will of God.

For a church to function properly, it is critical that both believers and leadership understand their respective roles. All must work together. Leadership in a church requires teamwork! One person, or a few people, cannot do everything. Each believer has a role to perform for the church to be successful.

Leaders and believers in the local church must work together. Leadership in a church requires teamwork!

RESULTS CAN BE BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE.


Leadership qualifications are discussed in more detail in Lesson 11.

a. Leadership style example: Moses

Moses is an example of a leader chosen by God who initially failed to provide effective leadership for God’s people. By trying to do everything himself, Moses quickly became frustrated, tired and ineffective. He was faced with the following problems:

- The responsibility for the people of God was too great.
- His leadership style was not getting the job done.
- The people were discouraged and complained.
- The leaders of the tribes were complaining.
- God was angry.
- Moses was wearing out himself and the people.

God used Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, to bring a solution to this leadership crisis. Moses obeyed his advice. Moses chose qualified men from each tribe to judge minor disputes while he continued to judge major disputes. The leaders helped him bear the responsibility of the load. The result was that the peoples’ needs were met.

 Read Exodus 18:13-26. Moses’ leadership style will be discussed in more detail in Lesson 11.

b. Danger signs

Some danger signs (or problems) are seen in local churches which result from a lack of effective leadership or rebellious and disobedient attitudes of believers. However, leadership is responsible to correct these problems. God wants to equip believers in a church to do every good thing according to His will (Hebrews 13:20-21). Some problems relating to ineffective leadership or ineffective attitude of believers are listed in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Danger signs of ineffective leadership	
Believers’ attitude	Cause of problem
Believers do not like where they are or how they got there.	Leaders may have failed to effectively share and communicate their vision with the church.
	Believers may not have been faithful to attend meetings, listen and seek God regarding their role in the church.

Table 2.2 Danger signs of ineffective leadership

Believers' attitude	Cause of problem
Believers are apathetic, uncommitted and undecided.	Leaders may have failed to teach God's Word effectively.
	Believers may not be reading God's Word or seeking to follow His direction in their lives.
Believers do not know what to do, how to do it, or why a task should be done.	Leaders failed to communicate and teach effectively.
	Believers may not be listening to the Holy Spirit or their leaders. They may be in rebellion and not obeying the Holy Spirit.
Believers do not like criticism – even constructive criticism.	Leaders may have failed to teach about teamwork and unity within the church.
	Believers may be prideful and not open to God's discipline.
Believers do not accept responsibility for tasks that need to be done.	Leaders may have failed to teach about the local church, its individual parts and the function of each part.
	Believers may not be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit or their leaders.
Believers blame others for all of the problems and difficulties of life.	Leaders may have failed to teach about responsibility and the trials of life.
	Believers may have failed to trust God to handle these difficulties.

When problems come: Do believers flee like rats on a sinking ship? OR do they place their trust and faith in God and the leadership team which God has placed over them?

2. Role of believers

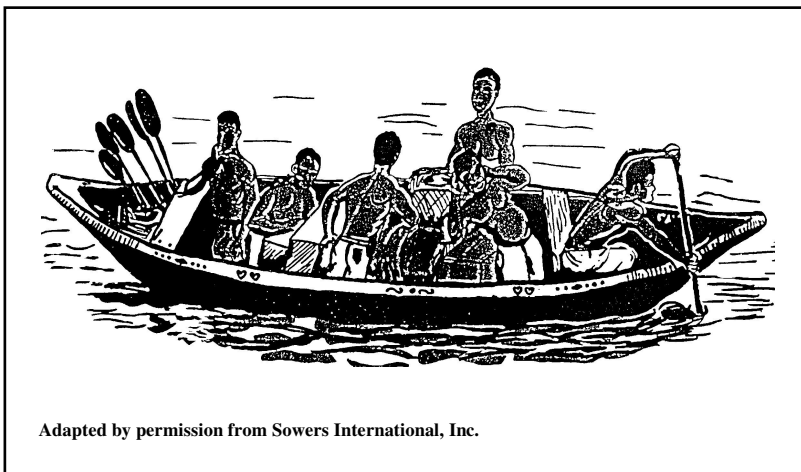
What is the role of believers in the local church?

- Believers are God's instruments who minister to one another and to God.
- Believers are to tell people in their community about Jesus.
- Believers are commissioned to tell all people on earth about God's plan for mankind since the beginning of creation.
- Believers are to be a blessing to all people on earth.

- Believers are to work with local church leadership to accomplish the purposes and will of God.

A local church is successful when operating as a team. Study the following picture. The people in the boat represent a church. Does this picture represent a successful church? Or, does this picture represent an ineffective church? Consider the following questions.

Diagram 2.2

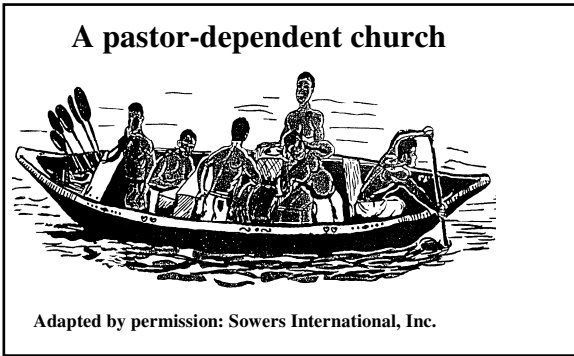


- Who is doing ALL of the work?
- Why are most of the oars not being used?
- Are the people in the church working? Or playing?
- Are the purposes of God being fulfilled in this church?
- Do you think this church is making much progress?

D. Mobilizing the church

The previous Diagram 2.2 shows a common problem in local churches today – lack of effective leadership. Diagrams 2.3-2.7 illustrate that the way to overcome this problem is through prayer, discipleship, evangelism, training and equipping to mobilize the church.

Diagram 2.3

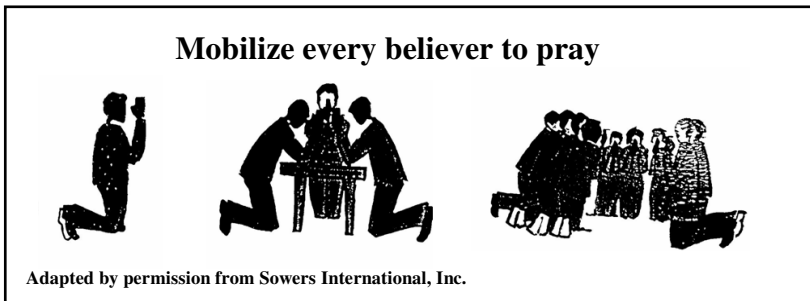


THE PROBLEM:
A pastor dependent church IS NOT an effective model of leadership. It makes little progress because leadership is afraid to, or will

not, delegate responsibility. There is not enough training to teach believers how to do “good works” of service. Did you notice that only one person in the picture is using an oar? That is probably the pastor.

The greatest strength and resource of a church is its people. When God’s people are not trained in ministry, it causes the church to be weak and ineffective. This breakdown of leadership is seen through frustration, laziness, judgment, complaining and criticism. An example was seen during the early days of Moses’ leading when the needs of the people were not met (Exodus 18). Leadership was frustrated, people were complaining and God was angry. When one or a few people do everything in the church and others do nothing, it is not healthy. Prayer is one of the first things required for change.

Diagram 2.4

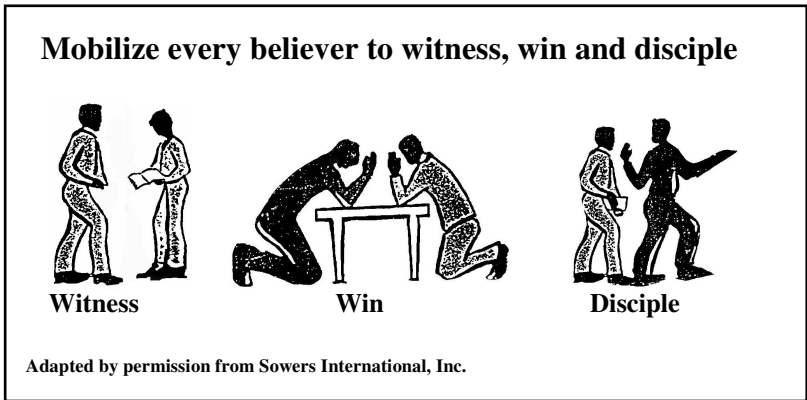


A good leader will mobilize every believer to pray as shown in Diagram 2.4. Prayer changes the heart of the person praying.

1. Individual believers should pray. Prayer helps the individual believer to have a stronger relationship with God. It improves their understanding of who God is and who they are.
2. Believers should pray in small groups.
3. Believers should pray as a collective body.

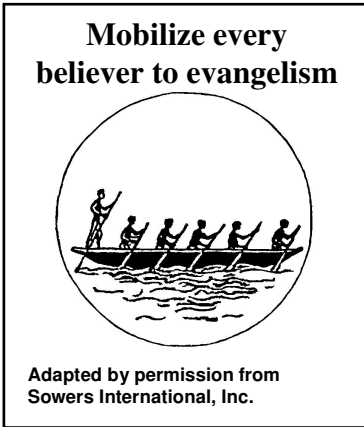
Once believers are mobilized to pray, the Holy Spirit begins to enable supernatural results through His power. God wants His people to have unity in mind and purpose so they can demonstrate His purpose, power and will to people throughout the world.

Diagram 2.5



Mobilize every believer to witness, win and disciple as shown in Diagram 2.5. Church growth begins by equipping and training believers whom God has currently entrusted to you. Once believers are trained to witness, win and disciple others, the church will grow. Through discipleship, believers help maintain and keep the church growing. Discipleship is covered in more detail in Lesson 3.

Diagram 2.6

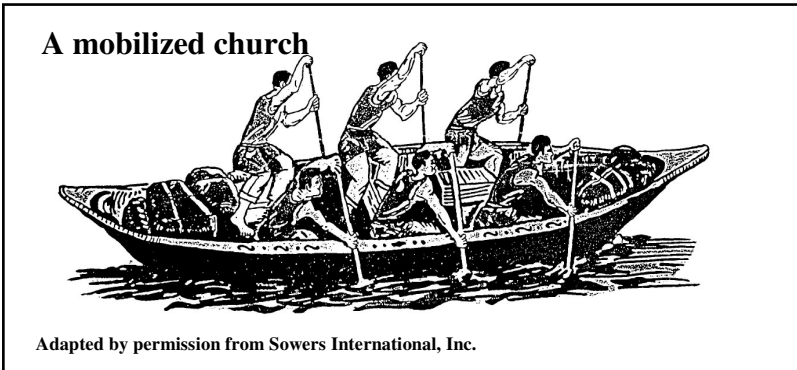


Evangelism is the task of the whole church as shown in Diagram 2.6. Evangelism is the responsibility of every believer, not just the responsibility of an evangelist. “Evangelism” means to have a great enthusiasm and zeal to share about Jesus and His church. Each believer is to talk with others about Jesus. Each believer is told to be God’s witness (Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:8). Jesus continually declared the Good News to everyone wherever He went. So did His disciples.

Therefore believers, His disciples today, are to do the same – proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

When every believer contributes their talents and services to accomplish the vision God has given to the leadership of their church, all parts of the church (leaders and believers) have fulfillment and satisfaction.

Diagram 2.7



A mobilized church is illustrated in Diagram 2.7. Notice that they are all working together – each one is doing their part. Each part can rejoice with what God is doing in their church. Leadership is still setting the direction. They arrive at their destination quickly and with

great rejoicing because everyone under their authority is trained and equipped.

A mobilized church makes rapid progress because everyone has a function and a role within the church.

E. Jesus – builder of His church

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. 📖 See Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, 5:23, Colossians 1:18 and 2:19. He is the foundation, the master planner and the master builder of the church. He is the Alpha (the beginning) and the Omega (the end) (Revelation 1:8, 21:6).

As stated earlier, the universal church is the worldwide body of believers composed of people from all nations who have chosen to follow Christ. It is made up of people who are called out of sin and darkness into the light of God. His way includes everyone. The Bible says that all who receive Jesus become children of God (John 1:12-13).

Each member of the church has a purpose. There are differing responsibilities from one member to another; however, **everyone in the body of Christ is significant and vital to the whole.**

Under the old covenant, only the nation of Israel was God's select people. But under the new covenant with Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, all people can enter His holy church of believers. The church is now God's chosen people. They are a royal priesthood and a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9-10).

The church is Almighty God's plan and purpose. Abraham was the beginning of a great nation that would bless all other nations (Genesis 12:1-4). The purpose of this great nation has not changed. The church is to encourage believers' worship, obedience and service to God, His plans and ways.

There is no wiser leader or greater builder than Jesus, the Creator of heaven and earth. Jesus has given commands, examples of leadership and qualifications for leaders in His holy church. God's people are to be a demonstration of His love to the world. God is very specific that believers follow His plan for His church.

Table 2.3 Jesus – leader and builder of His church	
1. The builder of the church	Matthew 16:18
2. Adds to the church	Acts 2:47
3. Grows the church	1 Corinethian 3:7-8
4. People vs. the building	1 Peter 2:4-12
5. Membership/spiritual birth	1 Peter 1:22-25
6. Living stones/chosen people	1 Peter 2:1-10
7. Order/submission	1 Peter 2:13-15
8. Leadership	1 Peter 5:1-4
9. Guides church into truth	John 16:13
10. Empowers the church	Acts 1:8

Diagram 2.8

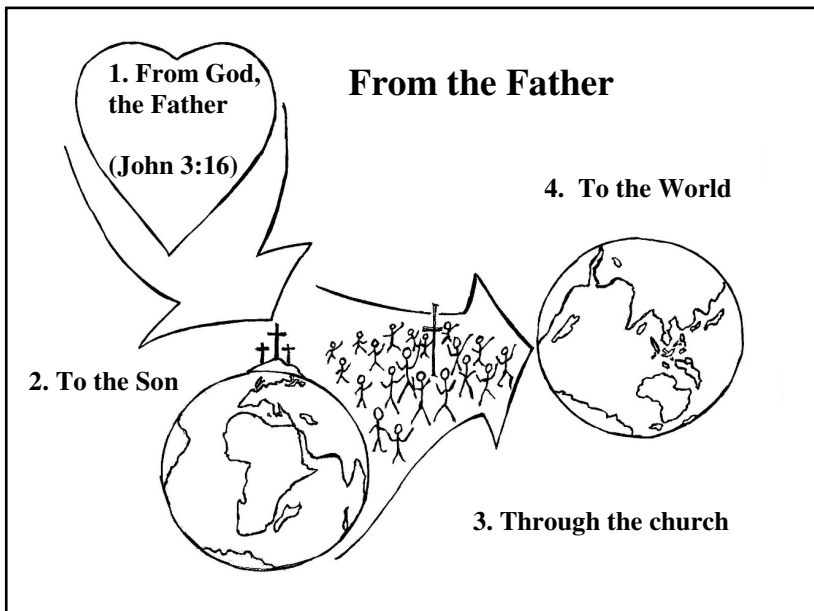


Diagram 2.8, From the Father, illustrates how God’s Word and will are sent from the Father to the Son through the church to the world. This is called “**evangelism.**” The heart represents the love God has for the world that goes first to the Son, Jesus, who died on the cross for all mankind. Then, those who receive Jesus as their Savior, become a people separated from the ways of the world. They are a people for God’s own possession to reach a lost, dying world. Jesus “commissioned” the church – His people – to take the love of God to

the world. The progression of this illustration is explained in the following text.

1. From God, the Father

The heart of God has not changed throughout the ages. God's mission is to restore mankind's relationship to Him and to involve believers in establishing the Kingdom of God. John 3:16 explains that God loves the world so much that He wants all people to believe in Jesus, His Son, and to have eternal life.

2. To the Son (Jesus Christ)


The mission of Jesus Christ is to redeem mankind and form a kingdom of priests (the church) that demonstrates and proclaims His Good News. Luke contains a prophecy that the Holy Spirit gave to Zechariah about the Savior to come. He says that Jesus will give His people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins because of the tender mercy of our God (Luke 1:67-79). Jesus demonstrated His love and obedience to the Father by willingly sacrificing His life on the cross to purchase salvation for those who believe in Him.

3. Through the church (God's people)


The church is God's vehicle to reach out to a world of people who do not know Him. The Bible says that God's people are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who belong to God (1 Peter 2:9-10). The church (believers) is to praise and worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). All believers are priests of God. Each one has a responsibility to God to obey what Jesus said: Go, and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18).

4. To the world

The church's mission is to make disciples and equip them for God's service. They are to reach out to the world telling people about God and His way to salvation. God desires that all people know Him.

 See 2 Peter 3:9.

God is pleased with those who choose to follow Jesus. God wants each person to come to a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior (1 Timothy 2:3-6). Because of their new relationship with Him, each one becomes a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

 See also John 20:21, Acts 1:8 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-18.

F. The Great Commission

The final words someone says to a loved one before their departure are very important. Jesus' last words to His followers are the commands that are called the "Great Commission." It is recorded in Scripture two times: Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18. Remember, when something is repeated in the Bible, it indicates that it is very important.

Diagram 2.9 The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20	Mark 16:15-18
<i>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all 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."</i>	<i>He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."</i>

Jesus gave this "commission" to His believers. A commission is an authorization or command to act in a prescribed manner. It includes authority to act for, in behalf of, or in place of another.

This "commission" to all believers is the basis for church planting. The process of telling others about Jesus and then teaching new believers through a discipleship process results in the formation of new churches.

This manual teaches the Mission-Church Life Cycle, a process of witnessing, winning and discipling new believers to maturity in their faith. Discipleship, the key to church growth, is the focus of Lesson 3.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. What is the church?
2. What is the difference between the local church and the universal church?
3. What is the purpose and mission of the church? Why is the mission of the church important?
4. Read and discuss Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18, the Great Commission.
 - List the commands given by Jesus to the church.
 - What did Jesus command in the Great Commission?
 - What did he promise?
 - Write these down and meditate on them at home.

Personal Activity

1. Read Hebrews.
2. Review Diagrams 2.2 and 2.7. Consider your part in the church. Are you a member of a “pastor-dependent church” (Diagram 2.2) or are you an active part of a “mobilized church” (Diagram 2.7)?
3. Review Table 2.2, Danger signs of ineffective leadership. Prayerfully consider each attitude, the cause of the problem and how to resolve it.

Lesson

3

DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

Objectives

- Learn the importance of the Lordship of Jesus
- Learn about the discipleship process
- Learn the character of a disciple
- See the importance of multiplication versus addition
- Understand that discipleship is essential for the Mission-Church Life Cycle process



Key Verse

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:8)

In the key verse, Jesus called His believers “disciples.” This lesson focuses on what it means to be a disciple and how to make disciples.

A. Lordship of Jesus

The Bible says that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. What does it mean to be Lord? “Lord” is a word that indicates honor, dignity, power, authority and majesty. When one allows Jesus to be “Lord” of their life, they allow Him to be in control. He is the boss.

*... God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, **both Lord and Christ.** (Acts 2:36)*

📖 See and Romans 10:8-10, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Revelation 19:16.

Becoming a Christian is a total commitment to the Savior, the Lord, Jesus Christ. Nothing less than unconditional surrender could ever be a fitting response to His sacrifice on the cross. Believers should honor Jesus in this way – not because they must – but because they want to show their love for Him. He showed a sacrificial love for mankind by giving His life for them.

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

The Bible says that all things are placed under Jesus' feet (Ephesians 1:22-23). This means that He has control over all things. Because Jesus is Lord and because all things are under His control, He has earned the right to expect believers to serve Him as Lord. Jesus said believers were to deny themselves and follow him.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

📖 See also John 12:26, 1 Peter 2:16 and 3:15-16.

"Self-denial" is not the same as "denial of self."

"Self-denial" is not the same as "denial of self." To "deny self" means to voluntarily give up the right to be in control of one's life. A disciple is to follow Jesus by imitating His life.

- **Self-denial** is when a person chooses what they will give up but still remains in control. Examples of self-denial might be to give up possessions or certain foods.
- **Denial of self** is when a person surrenders all of their rights to another's authority. Because of this surrender, the person has no remaining rights. They are now in total subjection to another's leading.

The one who surrenders control of their life to Jesus makes Him "Lord." The believer who continuously strives to be Jesus' servant is a true disciple.

The one who surrenders control of their life to Jesus makes Him “Lord.” The believer who continuously strives to be Jesus’ servant is a true disciple.



Joe & Jo Say

The authors, Joe and Jo Hughes, (yes, they both have the same name), have spent over 30 years in ministry. Ten years were spent doing church planting and 20 years were spent focusing on development and multiplication of leadership in the body of Christ. Each time you see the above picture, they will share an experience or practical advice to help you be successful in your ministry.



Our ministry beginning

We started our ministry career as part of a traveling evangelistic tent ministry. After 3-4 years of doing street evangelism during the day and evangelistic tent meetings at night, we came to the realization that evangelism is not enough. We saw many people accept Jesus as Savior in different cities. But, when we would return to that city, we found they were not attending church or following the Lord. We soon realized that unless these new believers came with us as a member of the team or someone in a local church disciplined them, they would not continue with their new Christian life.

Evangelism is the right start – but it is not the end. Evangelism must be combined with discipleship in a local body of believers.

B. Discipleship

1. What is a disciple?

A disciple is one who follows another’s teachings. He (or she) is a pupil who accepts and imitates the teachings of a master teacher. In Jesus’ day, it was common practice for a teacher to have a group of people travel with them as their disciples. Those closest to Jesus were called disciples.

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."
(John 8:31)*

📖 See also John 15:8, Mark 3:14 and Acts 13:47.

Each believer should be a disciple and each one should be discipling someone.

A disciple of Jesus is one who earnestly desires to learn about Him at all cost to self or life. A Christian disciple must be both a learner of Biblical truth and a visible follower of

Jesus Christ who is discipling someone else.

Jesus brings new life to His disciples. They have a new relationship with God through Jesus himself. A disciple's new life demonstrates the following qualities:

- A new value system
- A new birth
- A new spirit and a new heart
- A holy boldness that replaces fear
- A supernatural message and divine authority with which to proclaim it
- An infilling and indwelling of the Holy Spirit which allows the disciple to face and overcome the enemy

Discipleship is not an end. Discipleship is the first, and continuing, act of obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a believer's life for the advancing of the kingdom of God.

Practicing Christ's Lordship is the first step of becoming His disciple. **It is a most vital step to take.** The characteristics of discipleship are a result of allowing Jesus to be Lord – or boss – of your life. You can only know the fullness and power of God and live a joyous Christian life if Jesus is Lord.

2. Characteristics of a disciple

A disciple of Jesus shows the character of Jesus. They learn and obey the message they hear. They do not have just knowledge about God's Word in their head, they also obey its message.



Choosing disciples

When choosing a person to disciple, it is important to look at more than their attendance, ability to read or quote scripture. You must also look for a changed lifestyle and demonstration of Christian ethics.

For example: We were beginning to disciple a new believer. He asked to borrow the flash attachment for our camera for use at a meeting. After the meeting he told us he had to go to Manila that night. (That trip was a 6-8 hour bus ride one way.) The next evening, he came to our house to return the flash attachment. We found out that while he was using it, the flash bulb had quit working and there was no replacement bulb in our town. He felt he should return the flash in working order. So, to him, it was the right thing to travel to Manila to buy a new one. He made that long trip to Manila just for a flash bulb! Many people would have returned it broken or at least asked for money to go to Manila to get a replacement.

This is a testimony of a person who was responsible and demonstrated good Christian ethics. Because of this, we recognized that he was a committed disciple and a potential leader. Later, he became an elder of the churches that were started.

A disciple's character is very important! Knowledge of God's Word alone will never make up for a character shortage in day to day life. The worth of a relationship with God and a life lived by the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be compared to knowledge. Many have knowledge of the Bible. But, if they do not have a personal relationship with God through Christ, that knowledge will profit them nothing for eternity. A disciple is a chosen position and relationship with God and others.

Table 3.1 shows a Biblical profile of the characteristics required of a disciple. This summary is meant to guide you. There may be other qualities required of a disciple in your culture. These qualities should also be considered.

Table 3.1 Some characteristics of a disciple

1	<p>A disciple is a new creation (born again). Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again (John 3:3). Being “born again” means to become a new creature from within. This profound truth is the beginning point of a Christian life. One must be forgiven, cleansed and transformed by Jesus, the living Christ. It is an event and a necessary experience in each believer’s life. It is not just the act of joining a church or religion. Believers are to follow as a disciple of Christ, but they must first have a “born-again” experience.</p>
	<p>📖 See John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.</p>
2	<p>A disciple puts Christ first (makes Him Lord, boss). The Lordship of Jesus Christ in a believer’s life is essential to become a fruitful disciple. This is the time when a disciple must decide if they will follow what Jesus wants them to do, or do what they and others desire them to do. They must choose to make Jesus “boss” of their life.</p>
	<p>📖 See 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Matthew 6:24, 33, Luke 9:23, John 13:13-14 and 21:1-19.</p>
3	<p>A disciple becomes a student for life. A disciple should be learning from the Bible, the Holy Spirit and others. A disciple should eventually become a mentor (disciple maker) too. Before one can mentor another, they must be willing to first be a student and a learner. They must leave behind the attitude that they know everything and be willing to learn from others. They must realize that they do not have the answers for every problem.</p>
	<p>📖 See Proverbs 9:8-10, Matthew 4:19-20, John 14:6 and 6:60-66.</p>
4	<p>A disciple repents of sin, walks in purity and separates themselves from the sin of the world. A disciple knows that many people are watching him (or her) to see if their life measures up to the standards of the Bible, the book by which they proclaim to live and follow. If a disciple continues in sin, people will label them a hypocrite.</p>
	<p>📖 See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:22, 5:5, Colossians 3:5-10, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Titus 2:11-14.</p>

Table 3.1 Some characteristics of a disciple

5	<p>A disciple is submitted to authority. A disciple knows from teachings in the Bible that “all authority” is of God. Therefore, they must honor their church, community and national authorities as they would God, even when they do not agree with them.</p> <p>📖 See Hebrews 13:7, 17, Matthew 10:39-42, 1 Peter 3:8-9 and Romans 13:1-7.</p>
6	<p>A disciple has a regular time of devotions and prayer. Just like Jesus drew away from people for a time of prayer with the Father, a disciple also needs a daily devotional and prayer time to come to know God better.</p> <p>📖 See Psalms 42:1-2, 27:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Mark 1:35, Luke 11:1-4, James 1:5-6 and 5:16.</p>
7	<p>A disciple desires to learn and apply God’s Word. They demonstrate faithfulness to God’s Word. Everything about a disciple’s life needs to be centered on faithfully applying Bible truths to their daily lives. They desire to learn and apply God’s Word through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hearing it preached and taught• Reading it frequently• Studying the Bible• Memorizing Scripture• Meditating on the Scriptures. <p>📖 See 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, John 8:31, Acts 2:42, 17:11 and Colossians 3:16-17.</p>
8	<p>A disciple must count the cost and continue. Jesus said to take up your cross daily – to daily make a commitment to follow Jesus. The Scripture clearly shows that faithful servants were rewarded with more opportunities to serve, not less. God entrusts His work to faithful, obedient disciples.</p> <p>📖 See Luke 14:25-35, 9:23, 62 and John 8:31-32.</p>
9	<p>A disciple is Christ’s witness, who lifts Him up through words and deeds. A disciple is able to see and demonstrate in daily life how God’s Word, truth and power can benefit all.</p> <p>📖 See Acts 5:42, 1:8, 14:21-23, 22:14-15, Romans 2:21-24, Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-18.</p>

Table 3.1 Some characteristics of a disciple

10	<p>A disciple <u>regularly gathers with other believers</u> to worship God and to be involved in service through the church.</p> <p>📖 See Hebrews 10:25, Psalm 122:1, Acts 2:42-47 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.</p>
11	<p>A disciple <u>has an attitude of a servant</u>. Jesus demonstrated the example of a servant. He told His disciples they must be servants and that the greatest must be servant of all.</p> <p>📖 See Mark 10:42-45, Acts 6:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 12:15.</p>
12	<p>A disciple <u>honors God by freely giving their time, talents and money back to Him</u>. Everything a believer is and has is given to them by God. A disciple is blessed when they give back to God.</p> <p>📖 See Malachi 3:10-11, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:8-9 and Philippians 4:14-19.</p>
13	<p>A disciple <u>walks according to the Spirit, displaying the fruit of the Spirit</u>. A disciple needs to have the fruit of the Spirit strong in their life so they do not live as the world lives. The fruit of the Spirit includes goodness, knowledge, self control, perseverance, godliness, kindness and brotherly love.</p> <p>📖 See 2 Peter 1:5-8, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Galatians 5:22-26 and 1 Peter 2:18-23.</p>
14	<p>A disciple <u>reproduces himself</u>. The natural fruit of a disciple is another disciple. Jesus commanded believers to make disciples. Disciples are obedient to their Lord, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>📖 See John 15:8 and 2 Timothy 2:2.</p>

Discipleship is God's way to multiplication growth. Diagram 3.1 compares two types of discipleship growth: Addition and Multiplication.

Diagram 3.1 Addition versus multiplication growth

ADDITION VERSUS MULTIPLICATION		
Addition		Multiplication
Years	Win 1 a week	Disciple 1 a year
1	53	2
2	105	4
3	157	8
4	209	16
5	261	32
6	313	64
7	365	128
8	417	256
9	469	512
10	521	1,024
15	781	32,768
20	1,024	1,048,576
25	1,301	33,554,432
30	1,537	107,744,000
32	1,641	4,294,976,000

- Addition growth** takes into account only one person witnessing and winning new believers. The example in Diagram 3.1 shows a person winning one person to Christ each week. At the end of one year, there are 53 believers (counting the one witnessing). Notice that at the end of 10 years, there are 521 more new believers. In this method, however, there is no discipleship training taking place. These believers **are not** being taught how to witness, win and disciple others.

Addition is the result of one person doing all of the work. This is a very ineffective method of church growth. But, if each of these new believers were discipled, they would mature in their Christian faith. The result would include church growth.

- Multiplication growth** is the result of evangelism **AND** discipleship training done by all believers. New believers witness and win other new believers. The example in Diagram 3.1 shows the result when a person disciples and trains only one believer each year and, in turn, each trained believer disciples and trains a new believer each year. At the

The law of multiplication is the most effective method of church growth.

end of ten years, there will be a growth of 1,024 believers. If the cycle continues for 30 years, there are over 107 million trained believers. Not only are there new believers, but each has been trained and is able to teach others about Jesus. This is called the **LAW OF MULTIPLICATION. This is the most effective method of church growth.**

Study Diagram 3.1 carefully. Compare the results. At the end of 32 years, the “multiplication” method adds over **4 billion trained** believers, while the “addition” method adds only 1,641 new believers who are **not** yet trained.

C. Church’s mission achieved through making disciples

The responsibility and privilege of the local church is to disciple and train believers for active Christian service. Paul spoke about the mission of the church in his letter to the Ephesians.

Discipleship is evidence that Scriptural truth is functioning in your local church.

Consider Paul’s instructions to Timothy contained in Ephesians 4:11-13 as written out in Diagram 3.2.

Diagram 3.2

Results of effective leadership in the church

It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

- *To prepare God’s people (believers) for works of service*
- *So that the body of Christ (church) will be built up*
- *All reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God*
- *Becoming mature in Christ*
- *Attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

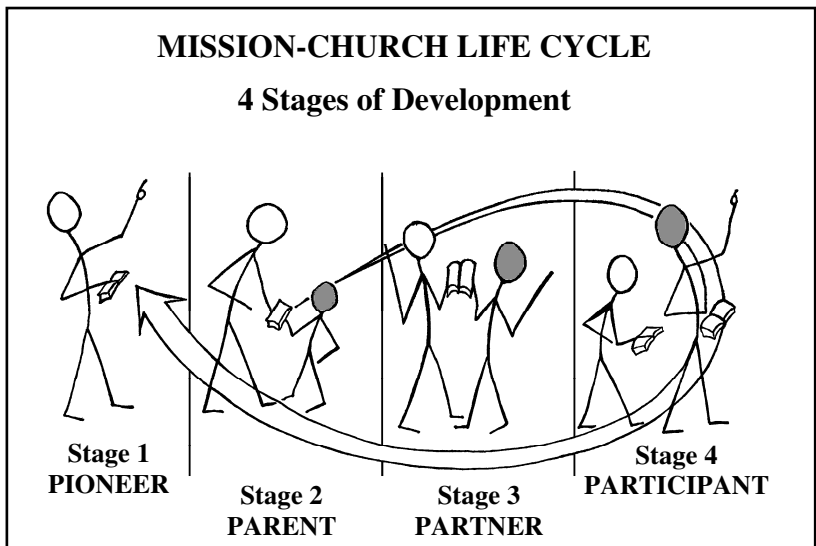
The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is told throughout the world by His disciples. These verses show that leadership in the

church must function properly so that the body of Christ (believers in the church) will mature. Leadership is taught in Lessons 11 and 13.

D. Mission-Church Life Cycle

Diagram 3.3 shows the Mission-Church Life Cycle. **This life cycle consists of four stages of development and maturity: Pioneer, Parent, Partner and Participant.** The relationship of the mature believers and the new believers in a new church will change with each stage. Notice how these stages are a reflection of growing relationships within a natural family. This diagram shows the discipling process necessary to produce the next generation of believers.

Diagram 3.3



Adapted and used with permission from *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Ralph Winter, (William Carey Library), 1999.

Also notice that each life cycle should start over again after Stage 4, Participant. It is a continuous cycle. After the “Parent” teaches, the “Partner” disciples and the “Participant” mentors, believers are then equipped to go out and do the work of a Pioneer (evangelist) – thus the cycle starts all over again. The life cycle process can be used as an individual discipling pattern or as a pattern for training a whole body of believers.

This manual teaches the Missions–Church Life Cycle in detail as shown in Diagram 3.4. Each stage contains the following kinds of teaching:

- Lesson showing Biblical perspective
- Lesson(s) showing practical application of Biblical truths

Diagram 3.4

Lessons	Mission-Church Life Cycle Lessons
4, 5, 6	Stage 1 – Pioneer represents a single mature adult, teaching about Jesus.
7, 8	Stage 2 – Parent shows a “parent-to-child” relationship between the mature believer and the new believer.
9, 10, 11	Stage 3 – Partner shows an adult-to-adult relationship with each one acting as a partner with equal responsibility.
12, 13	Stage 4 - Participant shows the former child has now matured and assuming the leadership role while the original “parent” provides help and assistance.

The “Missions–Church Life Cycle” is also taught in the ***Facilitators Guide to the Getting Equipped™ Series***.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. What does this Scripture say in terms of serving God?
2. Compare Matthew 10 with Luke 9:1-6, 57-62. Discuss the cost of being a disciple.
3. Review Diagram 3.1, Addition vs multiplication growth of discipleship. Discuss why the multiplication method is more effective.

4. Review Diagram 3.3, Mission-Church Life Cycle. Discuss how the role of a natural parent could be compared to the four stages of church growth.

Personal Activity

1. Read Acts 1-13 in preparation for Lesson 4.
2. Read the Scripture references given in Table 3.1, Some characteristics of a disciple. List the characteristics that need more development in your own life.

Discipleship Activity

The remaining lessons in this manual contain a “Discipleship Activity.” These activities are to be used by the mentor in discipleship training. As the mentor and the disciple work through these activities, the disciple will grow and mature in their Christian faith and walk.

1. Review Table 3.1 relating to the qualifications of a disciple. Invite someone to be your disciple. Commit to personally train and disciple this person for at least one year. Use the 14 characteristics of a disciple in your training sessions.

Lesson

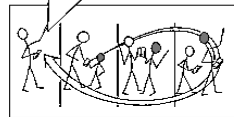
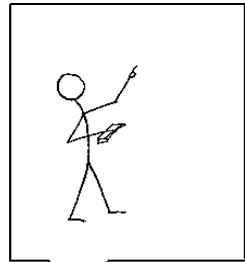
4

PIONEER: Biblical Perspective

Objectives

- Understand that Christ is an example of a “pioneer”
- Understand the importance of a Pioneer having vision
- Understand Jesus’ sending of the disciples
- Learn Christ’s message
- Learn to become imitators of His message

Stage 1 - Pioneer



Key Verse

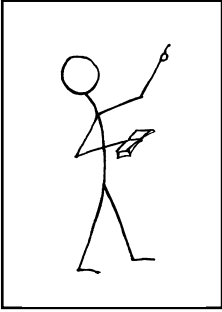
Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with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

As discussed in Lesson 2, the Great Commission explains the mission of the church. It is to **go**, **make disciples** of all nations, **baptize** them and **teach** them to obey God’s Word. The result is a new way of life. Remember, the church is a group of like-minded

Each believer, as a part of the church, has a role in this mission.

believers. Each believer, as a part of the church, has a role in this mission.

The Mission-Church Life Cycle explains how to accomplish the mission of the church through service by believers.



Stage 1: Pioneer

The **Pioneer Stage** is the beginning of the Missions-Church Life Cycle. The Pioneer is one who tells others about Jesus, God and God's Word. The definition of a pioneer is a person who "leads the way," who "starts new growth," who "establishes" and who "prepares."

The primary person active in this stage is the Pioneer who acts as an evangelist preaching and explaining God's Word. Before a person can become a believer and be born again, they must first hear God's Word. The Holy Spirit will then work in their hearts so they can understand their need for the Savior, Jesus Christ. The Pioneer is sent out from a local church to an area that needs to hear about Christ. This person goes and begins to preach to non-believers. As new believers come to Christ, the Pioneer gathers them together to start teaching and discipling them. Together, they form a new church.

The Pioneer stage is the beginning efforts of planting a new church. Like a seed must be planted for a new plant to grow, the Pioneer must "plant the seed of God's Word" for a new church to start to grow. The following ideas will be taught in this lesson.

- A. Vision
- B. Being sent
- C. Jesus' mission and the church's message
- D. Method of preaching

A. Vision

Vision is critical to becoming an effective Pioneer. Just as an artist has a vision of how the painting will look even before it is begun, the Pioneer has a God-given vision to see new believers and plant a new church. Without vision, there is no goal for which to work.

1. What is vision?

Vision is the ability to anticipate possible future events and developments. God gives vision to believers to help them accomplish the work He has for them to do (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17). The Bible gives many examples of God speaking to a person through a vision or a dream. Some of these examples are:

- Joseph (Genesis 37-41)
- Jacob (Genesis 46:1-4)
- Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37:1-15)
- Ananias (Acts 9:10-16)
- Cornelius & Peter (Acts 10)
- Paul (Acts 16:6-10)

a. Testing the vision

When the Pioneer receives a vision from God for their life or church, they must first test the vision to make sure it fits with Scripture. The Bible is the baseline for Christian life. A God-given vision will not go against Biblical principles. If the vision you received from God is unclear, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in better understanding what God wants you to do. Search the Bible for examples of people who had a vision similar to the one God gave to you. Study how they implemented their vision and its outcome.

b. Four steps of vision

There are four steps involved in a God-given vision: vision, revision, provision and supervision.

1. **Vision** – An effective leader seeks God’s vision, not their own. A Christian leader’s vision comes:
 - from God
 - from God’s Word
 - from a seen or heard need
2. **Revision** – Identifying the necessary tasks and making an action plan will sometimes change the original vision. When this happens, it becomes a “re-vision.” This revision might be a major change or a small change. Be open to God as He refines your vision over time.
3. **Provision** – God’s will and grace never leads a believer beyond His provision, care and sight (Philippians 4:13, 19). Provision has two parts: faith and focus.

- **Faith for provision** – The first part of provision is released when a believer begins to move in obedience to what God wants for them. Several examples of faith follow. 📖 See Hebrews 11 to learn more about other heroes of faith.
 - Noah acted in faith when he built the ark.
 - Abraham walked in faith. He chose to believe God, not his physical circumstances.
 - God provided manna for the Israelites to eat while in the wilderness.
 - **Focus on provision** – Focus your love and worship clearly on God, the provider, who is the giver of all good things. Look to God and not to people. Do not manipulate people to meet your needs. Trust God to meet your needs.
4. **Supervision** – “Super-vision” is the most critical stage of vision. It is harnessing resources to fulfill the God-given vision and bring it to completion. It is also the place where the greatest spiritual warfare takes place. Satan, the enemy of God, is in great opposition to God’s people working together in unity by the power of the Holy Spirit. Supervision uses the power of God Almighty to do supernatural works. Effective supervision includes:
- **Communication of the vision** – It is the leader’s job to communicate the vision effectively. To effectively accomplish the vision, each member of the team must become a vision partner, not just a worker. The team must accept ownership and responsibility for the results. There must be a high level of commitment to overcome problems and not be overcome by them.
 - **Motivation** – A vision partner’s motivation must come from a pure heart toward God. This prevents the enemy from coming in and robbing the reward of faithfulness and successful completion of the vision. Motivations will be tested along the journey.
 - **Recruitment of fellow laborers** – Recruitment of vision team members begins with prayer. Jesus said to pray that the “Lord of the Harvest” would send forth laborers (Matthew 9:38). It is very important to build a team that has a united spirit to submit to God Almighty, the vision and to one another.

- **Commitment and submission to leadership** – It is critical that each vision partner commit and submit to leadership. When this happens, there is great joy in completion of God’s task by His people. Without commitment and submission, nothing will be accomplished for the Kingdom of God.
- **Action** – Servants of God submit to Him and one another with a heart of a servant knowing that in God’s kingdom there are no lesser or greater persons. Your attitude is far more important to God than your actions. Your abilities come from Him anyway. He sees the motives of your heart.

c. **Example: Nehemiah – a man with a vision**

Nehemiah is a good example of a man with a vision from God. Nehemiah demonstrates excellent leadership. He was spiritually ready to answer God’s call. He used careful planning, teamwork, problem solving and courage to get the work done. He joined other workers and worked very hard. 📖 As you have time, read the book of Nehemiah. As you read this book, make a list of the leadership and organizational actions used by Nehemiah.

God gave Nehemiah a vision and a burden not only to rebuild the walls, but also to rebuild the faith of the people. He accepted the vision given to him by God. However, he knew that he could accomplish this task only with God’s help. Nehemiah continued to pray and ask for God’s help during the entire time he was working in Jerusalem. He actually traveled to Jerusalem to oversee this great task. Nehemiah risked his job and his life to accomplish the vision God gave him.

He **communicated the vision** to the volunteers who would be working with him before asking them to sacrifice their time and energy. He **appealed to their sense of dignity, identity and responsibility** in committing to accomplish the vision God gave them.

He organized the people into groups and assigned each group a particular section of the wall to repair. After encountering enemies who threatened them, Nehemiah divided the workers into two parts: one half was armed to protect the other half while they worked. He put in place a strategy among the people which included prayer, guard duty, hard work and encouragement for everyone. The walls were successfully rebuilt and completed in just 52 days.

Diagram 4.1 The wall – God’s vision given to Nehemiah

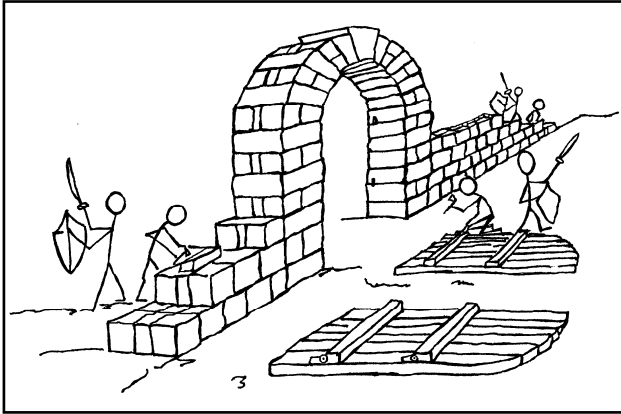


Diagram 4.1 **is about the wall** – it is not about the workmen or the guards! The wall represents the vision given by God. Each person had a focused task to perform so that the vision could be accomplished. Each one concentrated on their own duty. The result was that, as a team, they quickly completed the wall.

After rebuilding the walls, Nehemiah continued to organize the people. The vision required a change of heart – both of him and the workers. It also required commitment to complete the vision.

- **Change of heart** – Nehemiah experienced a change of heart when he heard the sad news about the condition of Jerusalem. God gave Nehemiah a vision that would change the situation and the hearts of many people. God’s vision to accomplish His will and purpose will change your heart’s desire too. As you seek to obediently follow Him, He will change your desires.
- **Commitment to complete the vision** – The rebuilding of the wall was only the beginning. The Israelites’ love of God was renewed by the reading of God’s Word. Likewise, God’s people today are renewed through study and reading of the Bible, God’s Word.

The result was a revival of God’s people. Because of Nehemiah’s organizational skills, they were able to serve God faithfully and obediently (Nehemiah 6:15-16). Table 4.1 shows some results of a successful completion of Nehemiah’s vision.

Table 4.1 Results of Nehemiah's vision

1	<p>The work to accomplish the vision cost Nehemiah temporary time from his responsible and wealthy position with the king of Persia. (Nehemiah 2:1-9)</p> <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Israelites rallied as a nation and began to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:18-3:32).
2	<p>This work brought intense opposition from powerful men.</p> <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They overcame threatened attacks by taking wise defense measures. (Nehemiah 4)• They overcame disunity among the Israelites by facing the problem and setting a good example. (Nehemiah 5)• They overcame false accusations by insight and courage. (Nehemiah 6:1-14)
3	<p>The walls were rebuilt and the gates were repaired in 52 days. The city was fully inhabited by the Israelites. (Nehemiah 6:15-16, 7:73)</p>
4	<p>Nehemiah arranged for Ezra, a prophet of God and scribe of Israel, to read the Law so the people could mold their lives by it. (Nehemiah 8:8-9)</p>
5	<p>Nehemiah, Ezra and all the people confessed their sins. (Nehemiah 9-10)</p> <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They sought God's forgiveness.• Their commitment to God was renewed.
6	<p>The city of Jerusalem was once again inhabited by the Israelites. (Nehemiah 11-12)</p> <p>Result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They organized and committed to regular worship.• The walls and gates were dedicated.
7	<p>Nehemiah continued to provide spiritual guidance for the people for many years. He provided fresh leadership to new opposition. (Nehemiah 13)</p>

B. Being sent

Once a Pioneer receives God's vision, they must then be sent out from a local church to accomplish and complete the God-given vision.

1. Christ is sent by the Father

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. (John 6:38)

There are many places in the Bible, especially in the book of John, that relate the fact that Jesus was sent by the Father. 📖 As time permits, look up the following verses in John 3:17, 4:34, 5:30, 7:16-18 and 8:29.

2. Disciples are sent

a. Sent by Jesus

Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, Jesus sends His disciples today. Disciples are commanded to go to all nations, make disciples, baptize and teach as stated in Matthew 28:18-20.

b. Sent by early churches

The early church leaders witnessed Jesus' example of sending His disciples to tell about God. They followed His example. They commissioned mature believers and sent them to tell others about Jesus, the Son of God. These believers were sent by the early church to do the following tasks.

- **Sent to proclaim the Word of God** – In obedience to the Holy Spirit, the early church sent mature believers to proclaim God's Word to people in other cities and nations. (Acts 13:2-5)
- **Sent to an assigned field** – Jesus came to extend the call of God to all mankind – both to the Israelites and the Gentiles. Paul wrote about being “assigned to a field.” Paul’s “field” was the Gentile people and nations to which he was sent (2 Corinthians 10:13). Other apostles were sent to the “field” of the Jewish people.
- **Sent as apostle and teacher** – Paul said he was appointed to be a herald, an apostle and a teacher (1 Timothy 2:7). A herald is “one who makes formal public announcements in the name of a king.” Jesus is the king about whom Paul was heralding the good news.
- **Sent to be witnesses to the whole world** – Believers in the early church received the power of the Holy Spirit to use in witnessing about Jesus, the Christ (Acts 1:8). After the Holy Spirit came to them, they were able to effectively witness to the whole world about Jesus Christ.

C. Jesus' mission and the church's message

1. Jesus' mission

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10)

Sin separates people from God. Jesus came to restore the relationship between God and mankind. His mission was to make it possible for mankind to return to God the Father by having their sin cleansed and forgiven. The following list shows some aspects of Jesus' mission.

- Came to be an example and pattern for life (1 John 2:6, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Peter 2:21)
- Came as light so no one would have to stay in darkness (John 12:46-47)
- Came to call sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32, Matthew 9:13, 4:17, Mark 2:17)
- Came to seek and save (Luke 19:10, 1 Timothy 1:15)
- Came to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17)
- Came to serve and give His life as a ransom (Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 2:24)
- Came to preach the good news (Luke 4:43)
- Came to give new birth and eternal life (John 10:10, 3:16, 10:28, 17:2 and 1 John 5:11-12)
- Came as the Savior of the whole world (John 3:17, 1 Timothy 1:15)
- Came to be a mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5, John 17:20-21, Hebrews 7:25)
- Came to reconcile people to fellowship with God (Ephesians 2:14-18, 1 John 1:3)
- Came to destroy the power of death (Hebrews 2:14-15 and John 11:38-45)

2. Disciples' mission

Jesus taught His disciples what to do and what to say. Then, it was their task to do what He showed them and taught them. A disciple today must also follow the pattern and example of Jesus because He still works through His disciples. It is the same for His disciples today as it was for His disciples 2,000 years ago.

3. Jesus Christ is the message

A Pioneer who is commissioned and sent out by a local church must proclaim the message taught by Christ. Jesus came to call mankind back to God. Jesus said that He was the way, the truth and the life. The only way to know God (the Father) is through Jesus, the Son (John 14:6).



Always remember that Jesus calls His disciples to Himself. The work of believers in the church is to call others to Jesus, not to themselves, a denomination or a church group.

4. The early church's mission and message

Disciples in the early church followed Jesus' example and command. They went first to Judea, then to Samaria, then to the entire world proclaiming the Good News about Jesus (Acts 1:8). The gospel they proclaimed included the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah and Lord. People were urged to repent, believe in Christ and be baptized.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39)

D. Method: teach and preach about Jesus

Table 4.2 gives some examples of how the early church proclaimed the Good News about Jesus to all people and all nations throughout the world.

Table 4.2 Early church preached to everyone

- **To large groups** – The first and second gospel messages were delivered by Peter. The results were that 5,000 believers were added. (Acts 2:14-41 and 3:11-4:4)
- **To households** – Peter preached to Cornelius and his household. All believed. They were some of the first Gentiles to believe. (Acts 10)

Table 4.2 Early church preached to everyone

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During persecution – Peter and John preached to the Jewish leaders. Because of this, they were put in jail and persecuted. (Acts 4:1-22)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-on-one – Philip was instructed by an angel of the Lord to travel to Gaza on a certain road. He met an Ethiopian who was seeking to know God. Philip told him about Jesus. The Ethiopian believed. (Acts 8:26-39)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everywhere they went – The apostles and disciples preached about Jesus wherever they found themselves. (Acts 8:4-8, 11:19-21)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To everyone – The Gospel is to be preached to everyone. (Romans 1:14-15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where Christ has never been preached – Paul, an apostle, preached Christ to those who had not heard. (Romans 15:20)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul said he became all things to all men – Paul said this so that by all possible means he might take the opportunity to preach about Jesus so that people would believe. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With zeal and boldness – The apostles and believers continued to preach the gospel even when it became dangerous and illegal. (Acts 5:17-42)



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Read about Barnabas and Saul (later known as Paul) in Acts 13. Discuss the following questions.
 - Whom did the church at Antioch send out to preach?
 - What did Barnabas and Saul preach?
 - To whom did they preach?
 - What was the “sending out” process given in Acts 13:1-3?
2. Is this process taking place in your church?

3. Why is it important that the Pioneer, who is going out to preach, demonstrate the character and person of Christ? What did Jesus do when He saw the multitude?

Personal Activity

1. Read Romans in preparation for Lesson 5.

Discipleship Activity

1. Who disciplined you? Who is your disciple?

Lesson

5

PIONEER APPLICATION: Part 1 – Go, Preach

Objectives

- Realize that the Pioneer leads and does much of the work
- Understand the first work of a Pioneer is to go and preach
- Learn there are spiritual gifts for use in ministering to others
- Learn about personal evangelism
- Understand development and importance of vision

Stage 1 - Pioneer



Key Verses

For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:13-15)

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great

patience and careful instruction. ... But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
(2 Timothy 4:2, 5)

These key verses explain the importance of preaching to people who have not heard about Jesus. How can they hear and know about Jesus unless someone goes to tell them? The Pioneer is one who is sent by a local church to tell others about Jesus – to preach God’s Word to them.

Stage 1: Pioneer



Primary gift:

- Preaching

Primary obstacle:

- The Pioneer tries to do everything.

The “Pioneer” is the first stage in the Mission-Church Life Cycle. At this point, the Pioneer is sent out from a local church to take the message of Jesus Christ to areas that have not

heard about Jesus. The Pioneer gives people the knowledge that salvation comes through the forgiveness of sins.

a. Primary gift: Preaching

The main job of a Pioneer is to tell others about Jesus. The Pioneer gives a personal testimony of how their own life has changed because of their new life in Jesus.

b. Primary obstacle: The Pioneer must do everything

At this stage of church development, almost all of the work is done by the Pioneer. The Pioneer must do the work of an evangelist and win new believers to Christ. These new believers will eventually become a newly planted church.

c. Local church at the Pioneer stage

There are no believers yet from which to form a church.

Lessons 5 and 6 give practical suggestions of how the Pioneer should approach and perform each of the following areas.

Table 5.1 Pioneer – Lessons 5 and 6 content		
Lesson 5	• Go	Obedience to evangelize is the growth factor for the local church.
	• Preach	
Lesson 6	• Teach	These components of spiritual growth will not happen until the church is obedient to go and preach.
	• Baptize	
	• Result: New way of life	

A. Go

The first part of Jesus' commission to His disciples was to "go."

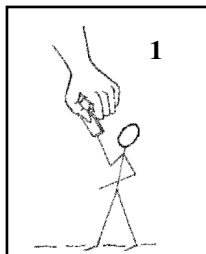
1. Who is to go?

Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples. This command still applies to disciples today. As taught in Lesson 3, a disciple is one who earnestly desires to learn about and follow Jesus at all costs to self or life. Although all believers are called to tell others about Jesus, the Pioneer is sent from a local church with the specific purpose of preaching God's Word to non-believers.

The Pioneer is sent from a local church with the specific purpose of preaching God's Word to non-believers.

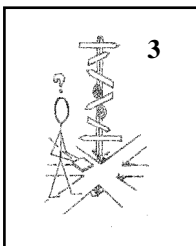
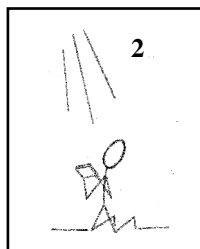
2. Go with a vision


The Pioneer must have a God-given vision regarding the mission field in which they will be working. This vision is a goal to work toward and an encouragement when times are difficult and hard. The following pictures explain how the Pioneer should seek to understand a vision from God.



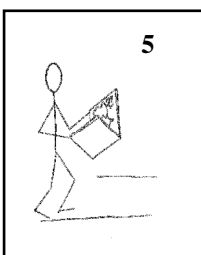
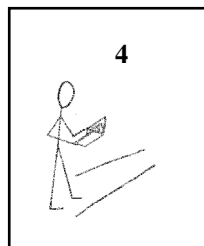
1. **Almighty God entrusts His vision and purposes to His servants.** God's vision is about furthering His kingdom. This vision must be from God and agree with God's Word.

2. **Pray for direction, timing and provision.** Like Nehemiah, hold God's vision and meditate about it. He fasted, prayed and meditated on the Scriptures and promises of God. (Nehemiah 1)



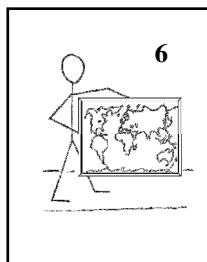
3. **Choose to believe God rather than your physical circumstances.** As Abraham received vision from God, he chose to obey and went out from his homeland – not even knowing where he was going.  Read about this in Hebrews 11:8-10 and Genesis 12:1-9.

4. **Look entirely to God for wisdom, knowledge and understanding** of how you, God's servant, can be used to achieve God's purposes. Nehemiah held the vision before God, not looking at his own abilities or qualifications. (Nehemiah 1)



5. **Pray to see the plans, purposes and strategies of God.** Nehemiah physically went to spy out the conditions and the task before him. (Nehemiah 2:12-16)

6. **Have a clear understanding of the vision. Present the vision to believers in your church.** Then the people can work together to quickly complete God's plan and purposes. (Nehemiah 4:6, 6:15)



3. Where to go

A Pioneer must go to non-believers at all levels of society. Most of the time, their lives are full of sin that is destructive in their family, business and community. When one of these people becomes a believer, the very core of their being is transformed and their life changes.

The words of Jesus are plain: He instructs His disciples to go into the entire world. What does that mean? “All the world” includes:

- Your family, friends and neighbors
- Those in your city, state or province
- Those in your country
- Those in all of the world



The natural reasoning is to go to the wealthy merchant. It is important to share about Christ with the wealthy person too, but do not place all of your efforts on the rich. Being wealthy and successful does not make them more important to God than people who are poor and needy.

4. How to go

The Pioneer must follow Jesus' example as they preach the Good News to non-believers. Jesus taught and demonstrated love, obedience and care for others. A Pioneer must be careful to go with the following attitudes of heart and character.

Motives Checklist

Pioneer's basic motives

- ✓ Love
- ✓ Obedience
- ✓ Care for others

- **Go prepared.** It is critical that the Pioneer takes time to prepare themselves spiritually and be ready to witness. They must always witness and preach with **great patience** and **careful instruction** (2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 3:15). The following steps will help a Pioneer be prepared to witness effectively.

Diagram 5.1

Spiritual preparation for witnessing

1. Pray, yield and submit yourself to God. (James 4:7)
2. Take authority in the name of Jesus. (Philippians 2:10-11)
3. Humble yourself to do God's will, not your own will. (1 Peter 5:6, Ephesians 6:6)
4. Ask for the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (1 John 2:20)
5. Yield to the control of the Holy Spirit. Ask that He release His presence in you. (Acts 1:8)
6. Ask the Holy Spirit to put His words in your heart, mind and mouth. (Acts 4:29-30, Isaiah 50:4)
7. Thank him that He has heard and answered your prayers. (John 14:12)

- **Go as a servant.** Just as Jesus came to live on earth as a servant, a Pioneer is to serve others. They must have and show the attitude of being a servant to those to whom they are sent. 📖 See John 13:13-16.
- **Go in pairs.** Jesus sent His disciples to minister in pairs. Follow His example. 📖 See Mark 6:7, Luke 10:1.
- **Go as a witness.** A Pioneer gives witness (testifies) about who God is, what He has done in their life and what He has done in the lives of others. They also witness about God's goodness and plan of salvation. A "witness" does not create a false story – they just tell the truth. The Pioneer must be sure to preach the truth about God. Three examples of how the Pioneer can be a witness follow.
 - 1) **A Pioneer draws people to God** – A true witness of Jesus will draw people to Him. (John 3:14-15)
 - 2) **A Pioneer is to be light to the world** – Their life is to be a shining example of God's goodness. If their life is not a good testimony through their deeds, others will view them

as a hypocrite and possibly reject God. (Matthew 5:14-16, Acts 13:47, Ephesians 5:8-9)

- 3) **A Pioneer is to be salt** – Why did Jesus tell believers they were the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)? What does salt do? It makes food taste better, it makes people thirsty and it is essential to a healthy life. The life of a Pioneer should be a blessing and witness to others so that their life is better by just being around the Pioneer. Someone has said that Christianity is better caught than taught. A Pioneer's life should make others "thirsty" for the living water given by Jesus. (John 4:13-14, 7:37-38)


- **Go with Jesus' authority and the power of Holy Spirit.** It is very important to realize that it is not the Pioneer's job to change anyone. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to work within and upon people to complete the work of God in their character and works. The Holy Spirit makes the presence of God known in all nations – to non-believers and believers. **It is the job of the Pioneer** to testify to others about what God has done in their own life (Acts 1:8). **God uses the power of His Holy Spirit to transform lives.**

Note: EGI's Getting Equipped™ Series includes ***Equipped Through Basic Beliefs of Christianity***. Lesson 4 of this manual gives more information on God the Holy Spirit.

- **Go using the spiritual gifts.** A Pioneer's primary job is to proclaim the "Good News" of God's Word to non-believers. The Pioneer is given specific spiritual gifts to enable them to successfully accomplish this task. They are able to preach effectively when they are guided by the Holy Spirit and wisely use the spiritual gifts given to them.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to live in each believer from the time they first believe and accept Him as their Savior. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each believer to help them accomplish what God desires for them to do and to enable them to live a life pleasing to Him (Hebrews 2:4).

Spiritual gifts – All spiritual gifts are given and directed by the Holy Spirit. **There are no greater or smaller gifts**, all are needed in the church. Each believer is to use their unique gift to serve others (1 Peter 4:10). These gifts are given for use by believers for the common good of the local church. Sometimes a person may be given an additional spiritual gift to use for a

period of time.  For more information on spiritual gifts, read: Romans 12:1-6, 1 Corinthians 12 and 14:1-25.



Signs, wonders and miracles

We have witnessed signs, wonders and miracles in many parts of the world. Some parts of the body of Christ are experiencing the very same miracles that the early church experienced.

- **Go committed to do God's will.** A Pioneer must go in obedience and with a commitment to do God's will. As the Pioneer follows Jesus' example by obeying the promises and truths written in the Bible, they become God's instruments in the world. This is all accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Pioneer must work with people from all life styles in society: rich and poor, wise and foolish, educated and non-educated. Sin is no respecter of persons. All levels of society have the same ability to sin. But, God desires all to know Him and has sent the Pioneer from a local church to this area for preaching and ministry to these people.

A Pioneer must be willing to witness and preach to people in the condition they find them. The Pioneer may have to experience some disgusting situations in order to minister to them. After they have heard about Jesus, they will decide whether to accept Jesus. After receiving Jesus, they receive a new life. The Holy Spirit will guide them and they will then begin the life-long process of living a pure and holy life. Remember, discipleship is a process.



Miraculous work of God

Many times, the Lord uses healings to speak to non-believers about the power of Jesus. In several areas where we witnessed and started Bible studies, God got everyone's attention in the town by doing a miraculous healing.

One example was when a mission team went on a trip to a remote area accessible only by boat. They found a young man who had fallen while playing basketball and had broken his back. He had been in bed for 8 years. He was unwashed and lived in a very dirty environment. He was so sad that he did not want to live. He had sent his parents to get poison so he could die.

Believers from the mission team prayed for him. God did a miracle and healed him. The young man was able to get out of bed and walk with the assistance of a cane. Because of this miracle, many people in this town believed in Jesus. A Bible study was started in that area. Now there is a church.

DO THE WORK. TRUST GOD FOR THE RESULTS!

The Pioneer's job can be draining – both physical and spiritually. The following list shows some things of which the Pioneer should be aware.

Diagram 5.2

Pioneer's checklist

- ✓ Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance so that when God wants to use you, you will be ready.
- ✓ Trust that the Holy Spirit will give you words to say. Pray and be available to speak as the Holy Spirit leads you. (2 Timothy 4:2, Matthew 10:19)

Pioneer's checklist Continued

- ✓ Be diligent to make appropriate preparations; but, do not worry that every little detail be in place ahead of time.
- ✓ Having been trained and sent, do not be anxious about the results. The Holy Spirit is responsible for the results.
- ✓ Begin the work God has for you to do. Put your hand to plow (Luke 9:62). The work can not be completed until it is begun.
- ✓ Count the cost (Luke 14:27-33). Be aware that following Jesus and being a Pioneer will cost you time, effort and emotions.
- ✓ Do the natural, expect the supernatural.



Counting the cost

Going into an area as a Pioneer takes commitment. It would be a bad example to the community if someone preached Christ, had new believers, and then just left them there to “find their own way.” You must “count the cost” before you begin evangelism. This means that you, as a disciple of Jesus, do not belong to yourself anymore. You are now a follower of Jesus. You cannot come and go at your own will. You have a responsibility to disciple these new converts.

While we were on the mission field in Asia, both of our fathers died in America. We were not able to go back home to attend their funerals. It was difficult for us and difficult for our families, but that is often the price one must pay. We were able to visit Jo's father a few weeks before he died. His last words to us were, “You have chosen the right way – whatever you do, do not let anything stop you from preaching the gospel. There is nothing more you can do for me here that you cannot do from the mission field – and that is to pray.”

B. Personal evangelism

The first step in making disciples is to witness to a person about what Jesus Christ has done in your own life. Tell them about Jesus and invite them to believe in Him and accept Him as Savior. This is called **personal evangelism** – when you personally share about Christ with others.

Most of the time, people respond by believing the message about Jesus and accept Him to become their Savior. They repent of their sins and ask Jesus to forgive them. It is important for these new believers to pray as soon as their decision is made. This brings closure to their decision. It is a time for them to remember when they made their decision to follow Jesus. (See number 8 in Table 5.2.) The next thing is for them to tell someone about their decision.

It is very important that they become part of a local church who will disciple them to live a Christian life. When the person accepts Jesus as their Savior, they experience a new birth into the family of God. They have a need to fellowship with other believers in God’s family.

Evangelism can focus on specific groups of people. Sometimes the Pioneer may focus on witnessing to children. This is called “child evangelism.” A Pioneer may go from one house to another telling people about Jesus. Other times, a Pioneer may preach and witness to persons or a group on a street. This is called “street evangelism.” But, the important thing to remember is that the Pioneer witnesses to others about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Table 5.2 gives nine (9) steps to use to witness and lead someone to Christ. When a non-believer expresses interest in Jesus, take time to go through these steps with them. Evangelism is just the beginning – discipleship is a life-long process.

Table 5.2 Personal evangelism guidelines

1	Daily, pray to God and get your heart right. Repent of any sins you have committed and ask God for forgiveness. God will not use a dirty vessel!
2	Ask God to fill you with His love and His Holy Spirit. Ask that the fruit of the Holy Spirit be seen in your life. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Table 5.2 Personal evangelism guidelines

3	If possible, have a companion go with you. It is best for men to witness to men, women to witness to women and couples to witness to couples.
4	Allow the Holy Spirit to lead your path and witness. Examples are listed to help you. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start with a social greeting. You may ask if there is anything in their life for which they need prayer.• Then, as soon as possible, express that you have something very important to share.• Share your personal testimony about what Jesus has done in your life.• Share scriptures about the Gospel and Jesus.• Share other truths as the Holy Spirit leads you.
5	Be sure the person understands that their spiritual position with God is hopeless and futile without Jesus.
6	Ask the person to make a decision about what they will do about this Good News.
7	Make sure they understand the basic process of becoming a Christian: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They must believe that they are a sinner.• They must understand that judgment is sure to come and that there is a spiritual penalty of death for sin.• They must believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth and died on the cross for their sins.• They must understand their need to repent of sins and put their trust (faith) in Jesus Christ alone.• They must understand that this decision is a new beginning into a new way of life.
8	In advance, prepare a simple prayer you can use to help the person to pray. An example of a “sinner’s prayer” is: <i>Lord Jesus Christ, I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and deeds. I repent of my sins and ask your forgiveness. I turn back from all the things that are wrong in my life. I know you gave your life on the cross for me. I thank you by giving you my whole life. I invite you to come into my heart and change me. Come into my heart as my Savior, my Lord and my friend. I will serve you my whole life. Amen</i>

Table 5.2 Personal evangelism guidelines

9	The job is not yet complete. You have just witnessed the birth of a new Christian believer. This new believer is like a baby or a young child. It is your responsibility to follow up and teach them how to live their new life in a way that is pleasing to God. If it is not possible for you to personally disciple this new believer, you must be sure they become part of a local church who will disciple them in Christian living. Remember, discipleship is a life-long process.
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C. Preach – Declare God’s Word and truth

Now, it is time to learn about preaching. The Pioneer’s main role is to preach God’s Word and truth to people, especially to non-believers. Preaching means to make **God’ Word clear and giving the meaning so people can understand** (Nehemiah 8:8).

Paul wrote to Timothy to encourage him in ministry. The following Scripture is also an encouragement for the Pioneer to use as they preach God’s Word. Note the actions Paul is encouraging Timothy to do and use.

***Preach the Word; be prepared** in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.** ... But you, **keep your head** in all situations, **endure hardship, do the work** of an evangelist, **discharge** all the duties of your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:2, 5 emphasis added)*

 See also Ephesians 4:11-13.

1. Goal of preaching – A new and changed life

When a person becomes a Christian, they are not just changing religions. Instead, that person comes into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. By reading, studying and obeying God’s Word, Jesus (through the work of the Holy Spirit) affects and changes the new believer’s life. That person has become a child of God. They have changed their kingdom allegiance from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8)

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 emphasis added)*

A new believer is a new creation – they have exchanged their old way of life for a new way of life. They have become a member of God’s family.



Sometimes, a person to whom you witness may claim to be “religious.” This does not necessarily mean they are a believer and follower of Jesus. They may even belong to a church and do good works, but they may have never really accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. They do not apply

Biblical truths to their lives and Jesus is not the center of their life. Since they do not truly believe, these “religious” people only add to their knowledge **about** Jesus.

It is important to know that a person is truly a believer in order to effectively disciple them. Only true believers should be placed in positions of leadership in the local church.

The person to whom a Pioneer is preaching will make one of the following decisions:

- I accept it and believe it.
- I believe it and must change.
- I must work in a new way.
- I do not accept or believe the preaching.

2. What to preach

Preach God’s Word. It has power to touch the thoughts and attitudes of the hearer. A Pioneer has the power and authority to preach the Word of God to non-believers and believers. The Bible says the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, that it is living and active and is like a two edged sword which is able to separate soul from spirit. (📖 See Hebrews 4:12).



A Pioneer must use God’s Word when preaching. The Holy Spirit uses that powerful Word to draw new believers to God. The following list shows some things about which the Bible says to preach.

- Preach the truths of God’s Word with authority (Mark 16:16-18, 2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 2:9)
- Preach about Jesus (Romans 10:14)
- Preach about Christ in every way (Philippians 1:18)
- Preach that Jesus is the Son of God (2 Corinthians 1:18-20)
- Preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23)
- Preach that Jesus is the only way (John 14:6)
- Preach repentance (Matthew 4:17)
- Preach about the kingdom of God (Acts 28:31, Matthew 10:7, Luke 9:2, 60)
- Preach peace (Ephesians 2:17)
- Preach about righteousness (1 Peter 2:5)
- Preach that believers are to continue in faith and hope contained in the Gospel (Colossians 1:23)



Witness to people at all levels in society

When we started witnessing and planting churches, we lived in a city that had very few “born again” believers – but it had many religious people. So we chose to witness to people who practiced no religion and who had lives that were entangled with various sins. We went to a part of town called “Kalye Sexy” where there was much drinking, gambling and prostitution.

We conducted street evangelism and house to house evangelism. When there were enough people who said they believed in Jesus, we started a home Bible study. Many who started coming to the study soon fell away. But there were some people from that time who are lasting disciples today.

In other “sinful” areas, many came to the Lord. One lady was known for years as the “Queen of Juetting” (illegal gambling). She accepted Jesus as her Savior. She became an enthusiastic soul-winner and witness until she died and went home to be with the Lord. She told many people about what Jesus had done for her. Her changed life showed it. She was able to effectively witness to many people in that area of town and led them to salvation with the Lord Jesus.

3. Preparation to preach

Effective preaching is achieved through practice. It is hard work, but the more you do it, the better you will become at it. God said that

Effective preaching is achieved through practice.

His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). As you surrender to be led by the Holy Spirit, God's will is done.

Paul's letters to Timothy instructed him how to preach, teach and make disciples. 📖 When time permits, read 1 and 2 Timothy. These letters are a useful resource for a Pioneer who will be preaching, evangelizing and discipling. Paul told Timothy to be prepared to preach "with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2). Diagram 5.3 shows the process to prepare to preach.

Diagram 5.3 Preparation for preaching

1. **Prayer – Prayer is the first and most important thing.** A Pioneer must pray and seek God about what He wants you to preach.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to teach what you need to know.
 - Pray as you prepare notes for preaching.
 - Ask for His guidance as you encounter opportunities to preach.
2. **Read and study God's Word.** If possible, read more than one translation of the Bible. Use various study aids to better understand the meaning of Scripture. If available, consult concordances, commentaries, Bible dictionaries and other study aids.
3. **Understand the culture** of the people to whom you will be preaching.
4. **Learn their language** if practical and time permits. At least learn some phrases in their language. That tells them you are sincere in wanting them to understand and believe your message.

EGI's Getting Equipped™ Series includes a manual entitled **Bible Study Skills**. If possible, read and study this manual to learn how to accurately observe, interpret and apply Scripture.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Divide into small groups. Discuss how to preach and evangelize in your community. List some possible areas to target.
2. In class, write out your testimony of how God changed your life. If you do not finish, complete it at home.
3. Discuss the six pictures about vision. Why is it so important for the Pioneer to have a God-given vision? Can they do the work of a Pioneer without receiving a vision from God?

Personal Activity

1. Go out and witness to five (5) people about Jesus.
2. Read the book of 1 Corinthians.
3. Write about the vision God has given to you.

Discipleship Activity

1. Take your disciple with you when you witness about the Good News of Jesus to others. Pray together. Allow them witness how God has changed their life.

Lesson

6

PIONEER APPLICATION: Part 2 – Teach, Baptize

Objectives

- See the importance of teaching God's Word
- Learn the importance of preparing to teach
- Learn the significance of baptism
- Understand the result is a new way of life

Stage 1 - Pioneer



Key Verse

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)

The key verse says that whatever you do, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus always giving thanks. The Pioneer must continue in the work with an attitude of teaching, admonishing and praising with a thankful heart.

Table 6.1 Pioneer – Lessons 5 and 6 content		
Lesson 5	• Go	Obedience to evangelize is the growth factor for the local church.
	• Preach	
Lesson 6	• Teach	These components of spiritual growth will not happen until the church is obedient to go and preach.
	• Baptize	
	• Result: New way of life	

As shown in Table 6.1, this lesson will teach you practical information about how to teach (make disciples) and conduct baptisms. The result is a new way of life for all who believe in Him and trust Him as their Savior.

A. Teaching – Jesus’ method of making disciples

A teacher makes disciples by teaching others not only with words, but also by example. Teaching implies a personal relationship between the teacher and the student with active participation in acquiring knowledge. It is a spiritual gift and is also a function of service to the church body.

All believers are called to make disciples – to instruct others in living a Christian life.

Teaching is part of the divine nature received when Christ comes to live in you. The Holy Spirit enables each believer to teach. Discipleship not only affects the individual believer’s life, it also impacts their family, community and society.

The local church should follow Jesus’ example. When we look at Jesus’ life, we see he was always teaching and helping people. Jesus personally trained His 12 disciples while He was on this earth. He prepared them so they could go out and make other disciples in all nations.



Teaching new disciples

We followed Jesus' example in making disciples. The following list shows the method we used when making disciples.

1. Jesus called them – We invited our new believers to come to meetings and to go with us evangelizing. Even as new believers, it is important to get them involved in ministry (Mark 1:14-20, 3:13-19, Matthew 10:1-4, Luke 6:12-16)
2. Jesus taught them – We not only held regular teaching services at church, but we also led special discipleship classes in homes. (Mark 1:21-22, 6:34, Matthew 5-7, Luke 4:15)
3. Jesus showed them – We took new believers with us as we ministered to people. This included street meetings, hospital prayer for the sick and house-to-house evangelism. We were showing them how to do these things. (Mark 1:23-28, Matthew 8:1-4, John 3:1-2)
4. Jesus separated them – For those who proved their commitment, we separated them to be workers beginning to fulfill leadership qualifications. (Luke 9:57-62)
5. Jesus sent them – As they matured, we sent them out to conduct open-air meetings and do mission activities on their own. (Mark 6:6-13, Luke 9:1-6)
6. Jesus evaluated them – When they returned, they reported to us what had been accomplished. We then evaluated their success. We made suggestions on how it might have been better or what they could change to make it more effective the next time. But, we always encouraged them and spoke positive words, not criticism. **Remember: Thank God for the results – guard against pride.** (Mark 6:30-31, Luke 9:10)
7. Jesus left them – After 10 years, we left them. They were fully leading, we were no longer needed. These churches are still active today – 20 years later (as of 2006) – multiplying and starting new churches. (Luke 24:45-51, John 16:1-16)

1. How to teach

There is little difference in teaching and preaching. But, teaching IS different from preaching in that the Pioneer is teaching and explaining the truths of God. The focus has changed from that of decision and salvation to learning about God and how to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

A good teacher prepares in advance to teach students about God. There is a responsibility to teach accurately. Preparation includes the following actions:

1.	First, a good teacher is a student – they desire to learn as much about the topic being taught as possible. To be accurate, a teacher must study.
2.	Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance as you prepare to teach each particular group of students. Each class will be different and each student will have unique needs. Ask to be led in your teaching by the Holy Spirit who will touch the hearts of the students.
3.	Know your students and their needs. Understanding their culture will help you explain God’s truths to them.
4.	Determine the objective of your teaching and focus your teaching on it. Some teachings might focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salvation• Doctrine• Service• Commitment• Healing• A godly life
5.	All teaching should be based on the Bible. Select a key Scripture upon which to focus. Does the key Scripture deal with the topic being taught? Identify other Scriptures that relate to this topic.
6.	Use examples that will help explain the meaning and application of your teaching. Consider the culture of your students.
7.	Know the material being taught. Study thoroughly to be able to effectively teach the topics.
8.	Organize the order of your teaching. Write the three most important things you want your students to learn from each lesson. Then list sub-points under each of these important ideas.

Table 6.2 Preparation for teaching

9.	Present the lesson in a way that is easy to listen and learn. Be conscious of your body language. Relate to your students in the following ways:		
	• Appearance	• Interaction	• Speech
	• Posture	• Eye contact	• Questions
	• Convincing	• Agreement	
10.	Summarize the main points of your teaching at the end of the lesson.		
11.	Close the lesson with a challenge for the student to make a decision to live according to the truth being taught.		

2. What to teach new believers

The Pioneer should focus on teaching new believers basic Christian doctrine. New believers should have a good understanding of their new way of life as a Christian. They should understand their old way of life is gone; they are now a new creation with a new, eternal life. Some areas of teaching might include:

- Repentance (Acts 2:38, 3:19-20, Acts 17:30)
- Baptism (See teaching later in this lesson.)
- New birth (John 3:1-8, 1 Peter 1:23)
- New nature (2 Peter 1:3-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 4:22-24)
- Eternal life (John 3:36, 4:7-26, 17:3)
- Fellowship with God and other believers (1 John 1:3-10, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:19-25, James 4:7-10)

Note: EGI's **Basic Beliefs of Christianity**, a manual in the Getting Equipped™ Series, is a good resource for teaching these truths.

3. Methods of teaching

The Pioneer's life is to be an example as they teach others about Christ. Teaching is demonstrating how to live Biblical truths in a way that is pleasing to God.

Teaching is demonstrating how to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

Remember, you are helping to mature a new disciple who will go out and share Christ with others.

A good teacher will use different methods while teaching a topic to their students. Some methods of teaching are described in the following text.

- **Discussion** – In a conversation with your students, talk about a particular Scripture or topic. Ask them what they think, then interject your thoughts. **Example:** In Matthew 16:15-20, Jesus asked Peter the question: Who do you say I am? Discuss why Peter answered the way he did. What was Jesus’ response to his answer?
- **Expository** – This is the act of describing and commenting in detail on a Scripture(s). **Example:** Discuss John 3:1-6 which tells about Nicodemus and new birth.
- **Illustrations** – Use situations that help explain the topic about which you are teaching. **Example:** The parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) might be used to explain about forgiveness of the father to the sinful son.
- **Character study of a person(s) in the Bible** – Look up and study all references to that person(s) in the Bible. **Example:** Study about Joseph, the son of Jacob (Genesis 37-50).
- **Topical study** – Select a specific word or topic to study. Look up all the verses in the Bible that relate to the topic about which you are teaching. **Example:** Repentance.

Topical study verses on “repentance”			
Isaiah 30:15	Matthew 3:8	Matthew 3:11	Mark 1:4
Luke 3:3, 8	Luke 5:32	Luke 24:47	Acts 5:31
Acts 11:18	Acts 13:24	Acts 19:4	Acts 20:21
Acts 26:20	Romans 2:4	2 Cor. 7:9-10	2 Tim. 2:25
Hebrews 6:1	Hebrews 6:6	2 Peter 3:9	

- **Drama** – Select people and act out a Bible story or truth. **Example:** Act out the story of the four friends who brought the paralytic for healing (Mark 2:1-5).
- **Pictures and drawings** – Use a simple drawing or show pictures about the topic being taught. **Example:** The narrow and wide gates (Matthew 7:13-14).

B. Baptize

Another command of the Great Commission is to baptize new believers.

1. What is baptism?

Baptism is an ordinance (a ceremony or ritual) that signifies the person being baptized is a believer in Jesus Christ – they are set apart from the world to a new life. The Greek word *baptisma* means to dip, to plunge, to submerge or to immerse. When a person repents from their sin and believes Jesus died for them, they are to be baptized. This is usually done before many witnesses.

Why would Jesus command that His believers do such a thing? By being baptized, the believer is publicly identifying themselves with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Scriptures indicate the importance of baptism to Jesus. He commanded the disciples to be baptized and then to make disciples and baptize them also (Acts 2:38).

Baptism is an act of obedience. We know of one example where baptism was not possible – and the believer was saved. The thief who hung on a cross next to Jesus proclaimed his belief in Jesus – and Jesus told him he would be with Him in paradise (Luke 23:39-43). However, Scripture is very clear that baptism is important.

 See Matthew 28:19 Mark 16:16, Acts 10:48, 22:16.

2. Significance of baptism

Baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (1 Peter 3:21). It is an outward expression of an inward change of the believer's heart. It is an event in the believer's life they can look back on and remember. Many times, baptism is performed immediately after the person believes. In other cases it is performed after a person studies and understands more about it.

Truly understanding baptism can be a key to a victorious and liberated Christian life. In many cultures this is the outward demonstration of becoming a Christian and accepting Christ as the Lord of their life. The act of baptism is a picture demonstrating what

has happened to the Christian believer, it is a symbol of new birth (Romans 6:1-11 and Colossians 2:11-12).

Table 6.3 illustrates baptism in relation to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

Table 6.3 Understanding baptism	
He died – I died in Him. The old sinful nature of the new believer is put to death by confessing Jesus Christ as Savior.	
	📖 See Romans 6:6-7, Acts 22:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 1:13.
He was buried – I was buried with Him. Just as a person is buried after death, the new Christian must “bury” the sinful person that they were before they accepted Jesus – represented by going under the water.	
	📖 See Romans 6:3-4, 1 Corinthians 15:22 and Ephesians 4:22-23.
He was raised – I have a new life in Him. The new believer is now alive for eternity in Jesus Christ. This is represented when they are raised up from under the water.	
	📖 See Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:4-5, 8-11, Ephesians 2:6 and Colossians 3:1.

3. How to do a baptism ceremony


Baptism is a witness to people who are watching, whether they are invited guests or other people observing from a distance. It is important to be respectful and honor God. A baptism ceremony can differ from one person to another and from one culture to another. Consider the following suggestions relating to a baptism ceremony.

- Invite friends and family to witness and hear the confession of faith in Jesus Christ of the person being baptized.
- Explain the importance and meaning of baptism. There might be some witnesses who are believers but have never been baptized. And, there may be some who wish to become a Christian and be baptized.
- Say a prayer to encourage and remind the person being baptized of their faith and commitment to God.
- Ask the person being baptized if they believe in Jesus as their personal Savior.

- As you baptize them, do so in the name of the Father, the Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Congratulate the new believer in their obedience to follow the commands of God's Word by being baptized.
- Invite others to talk with you if they have questions or would like to know more about becoming a Christian or being baptized.

C. Result: New way of life

When a person accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they become a new creation. They have repented from their old sinful ways; they have turned away from them and have been forgiven by Jesus. Jesus has redeemed them from their sinful self. They are justified and made righteous before God. They are "freed" from the bondage of their old ways of sin. They now have the opportunity to serve God and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19  Also see Isaiah 61:1-2.)

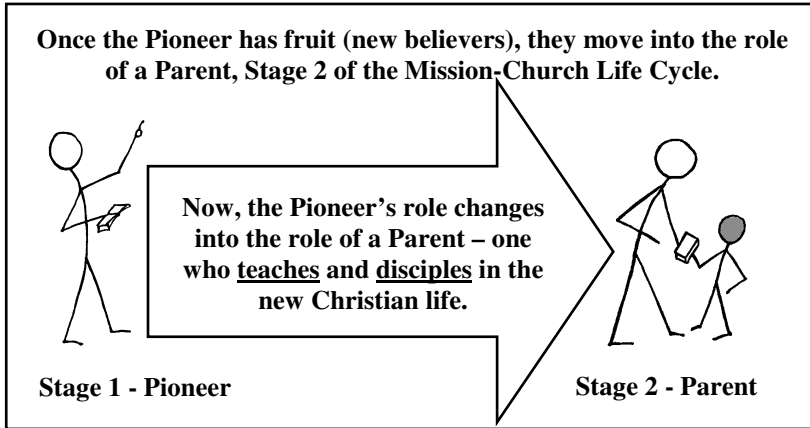
Jesus came to set the captives free. Sin destroys life **BUT JESUS BRINGS LIFE!** He heals:

- | | |
|---------------|---------|
| • Bodies | • Lives |
| • Minds | • Homes |
| • Communities | |

D. Next step – training and discipling

It is very important that each new believer now enter into a time of training and discipling. It is critical that they learn the disciplines of prayer and study of God's Word if they are to grow in their faith into mature believers. Once a Pioneer has fruit (new believers), they move into the role of a Parent, Stage 2 of the Mission-Church Life Cycle. The Pioneer/Parent begins to train and disciple these new believers. The Parent stage is taught in Lessons 7 and 8.

Diagram 6.1 Transition from Pioneer to Parent



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Write out your testimony of how God has changed your life.
2. Divide into groups. Have each group pick one of the methods of teaching to discuss and work through the example given.

Personal Activity

1. Go out and witness to five (5) people about Jesus.
2. Read 2 Corinthians.

Discipleship Activity

1. Report all that has happened to the leaders who sent you out as a Pioneer. Guard against being possessive of the results. Remember, the results belong to God. Spiritual authority and covering are a necessity to successful planting and growth of a new local church.

Lesson

7

PARENT: Biblical Perspective

Objectives

- Learn about Mission-Church Life Cycle Stage 2 – Parent
- Understand Jesus' methods of teaching
- Learn the characteristics of the early church

Stage 2 - Parent



Key Verse

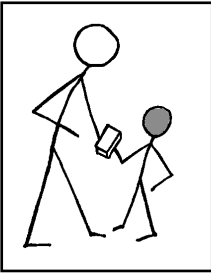
I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

Therefore I urge you to imitate me. (1 Corinthians 4:14-16)



The key verse points out that Paul considered himself a parent (father) to the believers in Corinth. The Pioneer now accepts the responsibility of “parenting” new believers won to the Lord.

Stage 2: Parent



The second stage of church growth is **Parent**. The picture shows the Parent (mature believer) teaching a child (new believer). At this stage the new believer is like a child who must be given the “milk of God’s Word.” Just as children need much training, so does the new believer.

Teaching is the primary gift relating to this stage of growth. A teacher is “one who imparts instruction and communicates knowledge.” A **Parent** teaches new believers mostly by example just like they would teach their own children. For instance: The Parent teaches a new believer to pray by praying with them. The focus of the Parent should be teaching and demonstrating Bible truths.

The focus of this lesson is teaching – both Jesus’ example and that of the early church. Lesson 8 will give practical information on teaching and mentoring.

A. Jesus’ example

During Jesus’ time on earth, He taught His disciples how to have a relationship with God. He provided an example for the “Parent” to follow when teaching new believers about God (John 13:15).

1. Jesus’ teaching – To whom and where

The Bible shows that Jesus continually taught about God. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell about Jesus’ teachings and His ministry to people. Although He taught crowds of people and others, He spent most of His time teaching the 12 disciples. Table 7.1 shows a few examples of people taught by Jesus.

Table 7.1 Examples to whom Jesus taught

Crowds of people	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7, Luke 6:20-49)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fed and taught 5,000 (Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:5-13)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the temple (Matthew 21:23-22:22)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the local places of worship (Matthew 9:35-36)
Small groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the house of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-41)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the house of Simon, the leper (Matthew 26:6-13)
Individuals	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-24)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samaritan woman (John 4:1-28)
Temple officials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharisees and Scribes rebuked (Matthew 15:1-9, Mark 7:1-13)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadducees (Mark 12:18-27, Luke 20:27-40)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the Pharisee’s supper (Luke 14:1-6)
His 12 Disciples	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructions on how to go out and teach about God (Matthew 10:5-42, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the meaning of parables to His disciples (Matthew 13:36-52). (Parables will be discussed later in this lesson.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the transfiguration to Peter, James and John (Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:28-36)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taught the disciples to come as little children (Matthew 18:1-14, Mark 9:33-50, Luke 9:46-48)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last Passover, Jesus trained them to carry out His work after He left (Matthew 26:17-30, Mark 14:17-26, Luke 22:7-38)

2. Goal of Jesus’ teaching

Jesus’ teachings are relevant today for all people in all times. His life demonstrated the evidence of His teachings. Jesus called a small group of disciples specifically to teach and mentor them. “Mentoring” means to teach with words and actions. It is part of the discipling

process discussed in Lesson 3 and is discussed in more detail in Lesson 8.

Jesus demonstrated that commitment to Him would require denial of self and submitting to one another. This is not an easy thing to do, but is required of those who want to be His disciples.

Jesus' call to repent and follow Him is meant to reach all people throughout all time – until He comes again.

- **He called His disciples** (Matthew 10:1, Luke 6:13, 9:1)
- **He still calls believers today** (1 Corinthians 1:26, Hebrews 3:1 and 1 Peter 5:10)

3. **Methods of Jesus' teaching**

Jesus used many methods while teaching about God. Some of them are discussed in the following text.


- a. By relationship with disciples
- b. By demonstrating use of Scripture in daily life
- c. By teaching the written Word of God
- d. Through parables and other teachings
- e. By use of signs and miracles
- f. By questions
- g. By use of His authority

a. **Method: Relationship with disciples**

A parent teaches their children through the experiences of life - not always in a classroom or church service. We teach some by what we say, more by what we do, but most by what we are. Jesus taught on all three levels. He invested His life, time and energy into people who would later become leaders of the early church. He had a personal relationship with those He taught.

We teach some by:

- **What we say.**
- **What we do.**
- **What we are.**

The Old Testament Law told parents to teach their children. ( Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9.) Jesus used principles found in these verses when teaching His disciples.

- Jesus lived with His disciples and taught them through daily experiences of life.
- Jesus taught them as they traveled from one place to another.
- Jesus taught His disciples while He was doing the Father’s work.

Jesus “parented” His disciples at His personal expense. Because of His teaching, He did not have much “alone time.” Even His prayer life was interrupted by His disciples.

b. Method: Demonstrating use of Scripture in daily life

Jesus used Scripture to demonstrate the new life with God. Some examples follow:

- **Servant** – Jesus taught about being a servant. One example is when He washed the disciples’ feet (John 13:3-17). It was a custom during Jesus’ time for servants to wash the feet of visitors. Jesus showed His disciples how to serve others by taking on the role of a servant and washing their feet. Serving others is an example believers should follow today.
- **Love one another** – Jesus taught His disciples about loving one another. The Bible says we will be known by our service to others (John 13:34-35).
- **Serving with humility** – Jesus demonstrated humility and taught this character quality by example. (📖 See Matthew 20:26-28.)

c. Method: Teaching the written Word of God

Jesus used Scripture to teach about God. In the Gospels, Jesus quoted Old Testament Scriptures about 150 times. Some examples are:

- He explained that He came to fulfill the Law, not to abolish it (Matthew 5:17-20).
- Jesus affirmed the authority of the Scripture by stating that knowing it kept people from error (Matthew 22:29).
- Jesus used the Scripture to combat Satan when He was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Each time Satan tempted Him, He answered with quotations from Scripture. He said “It is written” (Matthew 4:1-10).

d. Method: Parables and other teachings

1) Parables

Jesus taught many lessons by use of parables. A parable is a story used to illustrate a moral truth (lesson) or answers a question. Although the story does not tell about a historical event, it usually involves a situation that is common to the lives of the hearers.

**Parables are stories
about day-to-day
Christian living.**

Parables are sometimes called “heavenly stories with earthly meanings.” The word parable means “to place beside, to cast alongside.” A

parable, then, is a story that teaches by placing one idea beside another. Parables are stories about day-to-day Christian living.

Parables are designed to illustrate one particular point or theme. Each detail contained in a parable reinforces that one theme. The content of a parable is familiar to those to whom it is told. Many times, parables are later explained (interpreted) in Scripture.

Lesson 7 of *Bible Study Skills*, one of the manuals in the Getting Equipped Series™, gives information about how to interpret parables.

Example 1: In Mark 4:26-29, the Parable of the Growing Seed, Jesus used this parable to teach that spiritual growth is a continual, gradual process. In the right environment, the seed matures to its full potential. Likewise, God’s Word steadily reveals itself in the life of an obedient believer. Use of this parable made this lesson unforgettable.

Example 2: Many parables can be taught from more than one perspective. Each point of view has a different perspective in teaching the truth taught by the parable. For example, the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32) can be viewed from several points of view.

- **The father** was watching and waiting to forgive, restore and rejoice.
- **The prodigal son** experienced the following character changes: greed, rebelliousness, lust, sin, remorse, repentance, return, humility and restoration.

- **The older brother** demonstrated the following bad character qualities: envy, jealousy, pride, bitterness and disrespect.
- **The guests** saw the joy of the father, love and forgiveness.

Note: Table 7.3 at the end of this lesson shows many parables along with the moral truth being taught.

2) Other teachings

Jesus taught many crowds of people. One of these teachings occurred on a mountain where Jesus taught crowds of people perhaps over a period of several days. This teaching is referred to as the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). He taught them about what the Kingdom of God would be like and how it would differ from their current system of the Law.

- **Beatitudes** – The beginning of the Sermon on the Mount is called the “Beatitudes” (Matthew 5:3-10). The Beatitudes show the character qualities of a believer. They represent an eight-step progression of spiritual growth. Each one describes Christian character. These characteristics cannot be obtained by actions of a person’s will; rather they are the result of a right relationship with God. These character qualities begin when a person becomes a believer. Each believer continues to mature in these qualities throughout their entire Christian life.

Each Beatitude contains a blessing. These blessings imply an inner satisfaction and sufficiency that does not depend on outward circumstances for happiness.

As a Parent mentors and disciples others, these character qualities must be visible (just as they were in Jesus). As a new believer grows, these qualities become visible in them too. Table 7.2 lists the Beatitudes, the associated blessing and a short explanation of each character quality.

Table 7.2 Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)		
	Character quality	Blessing
1	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit ...</i>	<i>For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (v. 3)</i>
	The initial step in spiritual growth is to be “poor in spirit,” to be humble, to have a right estimation of yourself. It is to recognize your spiritual helplessness. 📖 See also Luke 6:20, James 4:7-10 and Romans 12:3.	

Table 7.2 Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)		
	Character quality	Blessing
2	<i>Blessed are those who mourn</i> ...	<i>For they will be comforted.</i> (v. 4)
	This means to look at sin as God looks at it – and to mourn over it. It is to be sorry for your sin (and the sins of others), repent and return to God. 📖 See also Luke 6:21, Psalm 51 and James 4:7-10.	
3	<i>Blessed are the meek ...</i>	<i>For they will inherit the earth.</i> (v. 5)
	Meekness is not weakness. Both Jesus and Moses were meek (humble) men. (Numbers 12:3, Matthew 11:29) Meekness means to have a gentleness that accepts the experiences of life without complaint. It has the same meaning as a horse that has been broken – power under control. 📖 See also Matthew 11:27-30.	
4	<i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ...</i>	<i>For they will be filled.</i> (v. 6)
	This is a way of life and service that continually seeks to demonstrate love for God. It is like a craving that can never be satisfied. 📖 See also Luke 6:21, John 16:5-11, Philippians 3:7-11.	
5	<i>Blessed are the merciful ...</i>	<i>For they will be shown mercy.</i> (v. 7)
	A Christian is to share God's mercy with non-believers and others. They have empathy and sympathy for others in their circumstances. They work to restore a wrongdoer to God's graces, not condemn them. 📖 See also Ephesians 5:1-2.	
6	<i>Blessed are the pure in heart</i> ...	<i>For they will see God.</i> (v. 8)
	One who sees God is sincere, single-minded and honest. It is a continuous cleansing as a result of a growing relationship with God. 📖 See also 1 John 3:1-3.	
7	<i>Blessed are the peacemakers</i> ...	<i>For they will be called sons of God.</i> (v. 9)
	A Christian demonstrates God's peace to others. They desire to reconcile people to God and to each other. 📖 See Romans 12:9-21 and Hebrews 12:10-11.	

Table 7.2 Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

	Character quality	Blessing
8	<i>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness ...</i>	<i>For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (v. 10)</i>
	The ways of God and the ways of the world are very different. One who lives a godly life will experience conflict from others of the world. A clear loyalty to Christ in some areas of the world brings persecution. 📖 See also Matthew 5:11-12, Luke 6:22, 2 Timothy 3:12.	

- **Other teachings about life situations** – Jesus also taught lessons about Christian living in daily life. Some of these teachings were given in the Sermon on the Mount.

e. Method: Use of signs and miracles

Jesus often performed signs and miracles. He used them to demonstrate His power and authority. The following are a few examples of teaching by use of miracles.

- Healed a man of leprosy (Luke 10:12-14)
- Healed the blind man (Mark 10:46-52)
- Raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44)
- Stilled the storm (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25)
- Healed the Centurion’s servant (Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10)
- Fed 5,000 men (Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:1-13)

f. Method: Questions

Jesus revealed much about the thoughts and attitudes of the heart of those He was teaching by answering questions. For example, the Samaritan woman (John 4:1-38) asked Jesus many questions. Through His answers to her, she understood her need for living water.

g. Method: Use of His authority

Crowds of people followed Jesus because He was one who taught with authority (Matthew 7:28-29).

B. Early church example

1. Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Jesus knew His disciples (both then and now) would need supernatural help to do the tasks that He asked them to do. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a helper who would live in believers and be with them forever. 📖 Read John 14:15-26, 16:13, 1 John 4:6. Note that these Scriptures refer to the Holy Spirit as “Counselor” and “the Spirit of truth.”

The book of Acts tells about the beginning of the church. It says the Holy Spirit gives power to witness about Christ (Acts 1:8). It is through the power of the Holy Spirit – who guides, counsels, rebukes and encourages – that a believer can effectively teach and witness about God.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is required to live a Christ-like life. Some examples of the Holy Spirit’s relationship with believers follow.

- Through His Spirit, a person is drawn to be a child of God. (Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:6-7)
- A believer is united to Christ through His Spirit. (1 Corinthians 6:17, 1 John 3:24, 4:13)
- A person who belongs to Christ has new life and the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:9-11, John 6:63, 2 Corinthians 3:6, 1 Peter 3:18)
- The Holy Spirit dwells in believers, and He works through all. (John 14:17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19)
- The Spirit begins a lifelong process of change resulting in a believer becoming more like Christ. (Galatians 3:3, Philipians 1:6, John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13)

2. Workings of the early church

The book of Acts tells about the character and activities of the early church. It is important that believers in local churches today have and demonstrate a loving and caring attitude toward other believers. Local churches in various cultures may be different in structure, but they should all have the following characteristics.

- **Early church met together (Acts 2:46)** – They met together daily for teaching and to encourage each other. It is still true today. Hebrews 10:25 also stresses the importance of meeting together as a way to encourage one another.
- **Early church had regular fellowship (Acts 2:42, 44)** – What is fellowship? How did they fellowship? “Fellowship” means “sharing in common.” The early Christians understood the importance of fellowshiping with one another. They had fellowship with one another by meeting together, eating together, sharing their worldly goods, praying and praising God together. The Bible says they fellowshiped together with “glad and sincere hearts.”
- **Early church was devoted to the apostles’ teaching (Acts 2:42)** – Believers showed great love, commitment and loyalty to the apostles’ teachings. They submitted to their teaching. Submission to authority in the church is essential for unity of the believers.
- **Early church prayed and praised God (Acts 2:42, 47)** – The early church set an example of meeting together for prayer and praise. Paul, in writings to new bodies of believers, encouraged them to pray together (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- **Early church cared for one another (Acts 2:44-47)** – Believers in the early church cared for each other. They cared for one another by supplying money and resources when needed.
- **Early church found favor with others (Acts 2:47)** – Believers in the early church found favor with all people. It is important to remember that each believer is a representative and a witness about Christ. People will react to your witness whether it is good or bad. The early church believers were a good witness for Christ.
- **Early church grew daily because of their witness to others (Acts 2:47)** – A healthy church grows by making new disciples, not from people moving from one church to another.
- **Early church qualified and appointed leadership (Acts 2:42-47, 6:1-6)** – The early church qualified and appointed leadership. The role of leadership in the early church was to teach, serve and meet the needs of the people. This is the role of leadership still today. More will be taught on leadership in Lessons 11 and 13.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Choose a parable from Table 7.4 at the end of this lesson. Discuss it in class. Consider the following points about the parable:
 - What is the main truth taught in this parable?
 - What was the situation when Jesus taught this parable?
 - How can the truths of this parable be used in your church today?
2. Review Table 7.2. Divide into small groups. Assign each group to read and discuss one of the eight steps taught in the Beatitudes. If time permits, have each group report their findings back to the whole class.

Personal Activity

1. Using the book of Acts as a guide, begin and lead regular house meetings if possible. Invite friends and neighbors to join.
2. From the following “topics of instruction” (Table 7.3) included in the Sermon on the Mount, select one that is pertinent to your life. Read what Jesus said about it. Write how your life needs to change.

Table 7.3 Other topics of instruction found in the Sermon on the Mount

• Salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)	• The Law (Matthew 5:17-20)
• Anger (Matthew 5:21-26)	• Lust (Matthew 5:27-30)
• Divorce (Matthew 5:28-32)	• Vows (Matthew 5:33-37)

Table 7.3 Other topics of instruction found in the Sermon on the Mount

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loving enemies (Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving to the needy (Matthew 6:1-4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Money (Matthew 6:19-24)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worry (Matthew 6:25-34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criticizing others (Matthew 7:1-6, Luke 6:37-42)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asking, seeking, knocking (Matthew 7:7-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Way to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit in people's lives (Matthew 7:15-20, Luke 6:43-45) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who build houses on rock and sand (Matthew 7:21-27, Luke 6:46-49)

3. Read the book of Mark.

Discipleship Activity

1. Schedule and spend time with your disciple(s). Take them with you as you minister to others. Teach them to serve others.

Table 7.4 Some parables and other teachings of Jesus

Parable or teaching	Message	Scripture
Barren Fig Tree	Bearing fruit	Luke 13:6-9
Blind Guides	Self examination, spiritual vision and cleansing	Luke 6:39-42
Creditors and debtors	Forgiveness and mercy	Luke 7:40-43
Friend at Midnight	Encouragement to prayer	Luke 11:5-13
Good Shepherd	Christ is the only way to God	John 10:1-18
King of Battle	Cost of being a good disciple	Luke 14:25-35
Light in the World	Effect of good example	Matthew 5:14-16
Narrow and Wide Gates	Difficulty of repentance	Matthew 7:13-14
New Wine in Old Wineskins	New life	Matthew 9:16-17 Mark 2:21-22 Luke 5:36-39
Parable of a Rich Man's Reasoning	Reliance upon wealth	Luke 12:16-21
Parable of the Lost Coin	Christ's joy over sinners who repent	Luke 15:8-10
Parable of the Good Samaritan	Golden rule for all	Luke 10:25-37
Parable of the Sower	God guarantees harvest	Matthew 13:3-23 Mark 4:1-20 Luke 8:4-15
Parable of the Great Banquet	Salvation depends on proper response	Luke 14:15-24
Parable of the Growing Seed	Growth of the Kingdom	Mark 4:26-29
Parable of the Hidden treasure	Joy of Kingdom	Matthew 13:44

Table 7.4 Some parables and other teachings of Jesus

Parable or teaching	Message	Scripture
Parable of the Lost Sheep	Christ's joy over sinner's salvation	Matt. 18:12-14
	Importance of "one"	Luke 15:1-7
Parable of the Lost Son	Christ's joy over sinners	Luke 15:11-32
Parable of the Mustard Seed	Growth of the kingdom	Matt. 13:31-32 Mark 4:30-34 Luke 13:18-19
Parable of the Net	Proclaim the Gospel to all	Matthew 13:47-52
Parable of the Pearl	Value of Kingdom	Matt. 13:45-46
Parable of the Persistent Widow	Perseverance in prayer	Luke 18:1-8
Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Humility in prayer	Luke 18:10-14
Parable of the Sower	God guarantees harvest	Matthew 13:3-23 Mark 4:1-20 Luke 8:4-15
Parable of the Talents	Stewardship is rewarded	Matt. 25:14-30
Parable of the Ten Virgins	Watchfulness	Matthew 25:1-13
Parable of the Two Sons	Obedience better than words	Matt. 21:28-32
Parable of the Wedding Banquet	Necessity of purity	Matthew 22:1-14
Parable of the Weeds	Final separation of righteousness and evil	Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Salvation not connected to wealth	Luke 16:19-31
Speck and log	Do not judge others	Matthew 7:1-6

Table 7.4 Some parables and other teachings of Jesus

Parable or teaching	Message	Scripture
Wise and Foolish Builders	Importance of spiritual foundation	Matt. 7:24-29 Luke 6:46-49
	Discipleship demands obedience	

Lesson

8

PARENT APPLICATION: Mentoring, Discipling

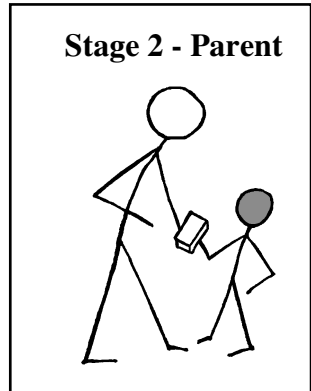
Objectives

- Learn the importance of spending dedicated time mentoring new converts
- Understand the need to be patient
- Learn weaknesses and strengths of each disciple




Key Verse

*For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
(1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)*



The key verse explains that mature believers are to act like a “father” who encourages, comforts and urges the children to live a life that is worthy of God. This is the basic goal of a Parent – the focus of this lesson.

Stage 2: Parent



Primary gift:

- Teaching (mentoring)

Primary obstacle:

- Paternalism

While the Pioneer continues to preach and evangelize, they also begin Parenting new believers.

The main job at this stage of church development is “Parenting” new believers as they mature in their faith. The Parent stage reflects a parent-child relationship. The Parent functions as the teacher who leads the way for new believers in a local church. The new believers’ function is as a child who is constantly learning from the parent.

Just as young children require significant time and effort to care for them properly, new believers require significant time and effort to teach them how to live a Godly life. The Parent is the one who does much of this training and mentoring.

1. Primary gift: Teaching (mentoring)

The primary gift used in the Parent stage is teaching as a mentor. A “mentor” is one who teaches by words AND actions. Mentoring includes both formal classroom instruction and informal teaching situations. A mentor teaches and encourages spiritual growth in younger, less experienced believers. Teaching and mentoring results in discipleship. It is very important for the Parent to designate a regular, scheduled time to use for discipleship.

Teaching + Mentoring = Discipleship

The Parent must also encourage and support believers to take responsibility in the church. As new believers mature, each one should be given some task(s) to do in the local church. This will

create in them a heart for service and will lessen the load of the Parent and leaders. Yet, they must be subject to good leadership. Just as a child learns to become a mature adult by following the parent's good example, believers in the church must mature under good and effective leadership by the Parent.

2. Primary obstacle: Paternalism

The primary obstacle in the Parent stage is "paternalism."

**Avoid
paternalism!**

Paternalism occurs when a Parent keeps the new believers depending on them and looking to them for everything – just as a very young child would naturally look to their parents.

Paternalism encourages a father-child dependence. While this kind of relationship is important at the beginning as the new believer begins to grow and mature in their faith, it is important for the Parent to begin to release them so they will learn to depend on God for guidance. Just as children are allowed to make some minor decisions at an early age, so the Parent must allow their students to begin to study, pray and make some decisions on their own. **Paternalism hinders both the growth of the new believer and the growth of the local church.**

**Children only
appreciate the work of
a parent when they
become parents.**

3. The local church at Parent Stage

The Pioneer's responsibilities now include that of a Parent. At this stage in the Mission-Church Life Cycle, there is probably a very small group of believers who have formed a new church. The Pioneer has now assumed the responsibilities of Parenting these new believers. There may also be other mature believers who will help to mentor and disciple new believers, but most of this work is done by the Parent. Some new believers are beginning to study the Bible on their own.

The Parent must start regularly scheduled discipleship training sessions. These sessions should be held 1-2 times each week. They can include one believer or a small group of believers.

The Parent must now designate regular time and effort to disciple the new believers won during the Pioneer stage. They are leading

small discipleship groups of new believers, teaching them the basic beliefs about Jesus and God. These groups will probably meet in a home. They will become vehicles for personal evangelism. As new believers tell their friends and family about their new faith in Jesus Christ, they can invite them to attend the discipleship meetings. After they become Christians, they too will be disciplined in these house meetings.

Evangelism without follow-up discipleship could be likened to spiritual abandonment of a child after birth. “Equipping” is achieved through discipleship. Effective discipleship matures new believers and the church grows.

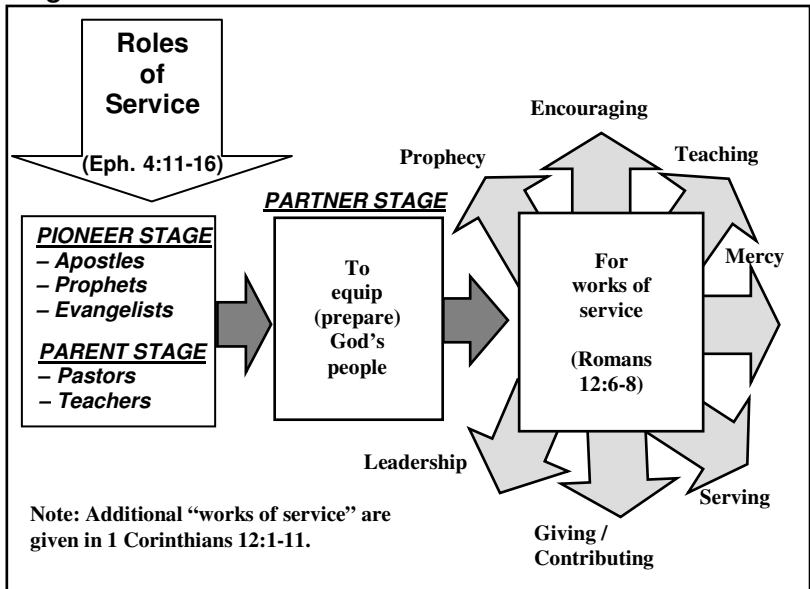
Effective discipleship matures new believers and the church grows.

After a short while, some believers will grow into a “teenager.” Just as a teenager in a family, they are beginning to take on responsibility doing some tasks under the Parent’s leadership. They accept responsibilities and duties in the church and are training younger believers. They have much energy and fervor, but lack maturity and experience. They must be accountable to the Parent and leaders in the local church.

Diagram 8.1, Mobilization of the Church, shows how the five roles of leadership/service in the church (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) work together to mature believers in their faith.

- In the beginning, the **Pioneer** preaches the Good News about Christ.
- Then the pastors and teachers act as a **Parent** doing the work of discipleship – teaching these new believers how to live Godly lives.
- Then the maturing believers and the Parent work together as **Partners** to equip and prepare God’s people to serve other believers and the community. Some examples of service include mercy, teaching, giving and encouragement.

Diagram 8.1 Mobilization of the Church



Effective equipping (preparation) produces the following results.

- God's people are equipped to serve one another and others.
- The local church is built up.
- Believers mature in their faith. They receive knowledge of God and His son, Jesus Christ.
- A believer's life reflects Christian character qualities.

Caution: A major breakdown in church growth happens between Stage 2 (Parent) and Stage 3 (Partner).

In Stage 2, there is a strong "parent dominated" church body which controls ministry and responsibility. The Parent has all of the authority and makes all of the decisions, including financial and spiritual matters. Although this model of leadership is necessary when a church begins, it can also hinder or completely stop church growth if continued too long. If the Parent is not willing to recognize that their "children" are growing spiritually and are able to take responsibility, the church will stagnate and stay the same year after year. The Parent must be sure to disciple believers into the next stage of growth. As believers mature in their Christian life



and take responsibility, they are able to work with leaders as a Partner (Stage 3).

It is important that the Parent establish accountability checks and balances. This assures that a good authority pattern is put in place for the new church. It also lays the foundation for what the new church will become. The Parent must continue to teach, mentor and disciple believers for the church to grow. Without these important activities, believers will fail to mature in their Christian growth and the church will become stagnant and will not grow.

The church fails to grow when believers do not teach, mentor or disciple new believers and others to maturity.

A. Why mentor (disciple)?

God's mission does not stop with evangelism. It must continue on to teaching by word and example – mentoring and discipling. The Parent teaches, encourages and guides – mostly by personal example. Making disciples is a structured effort to make sure new believers know truths about God and His Word.

1. Commanded by Jesus

Jesus told His disciples to make disciples in His name. The Parent, as a mentor, must first be a good student of Jesus Christ. They must seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for everyday living. The Parent then mentors their new believers to follow their example and pray, study and listen to guidance by God. As they do this, the lives of the students will take on godly character and attitudes. 📖 See Colossians 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 4:1-11 and 2 Timothy 2:24.

The Bible describes Jesus as a “good shepherd” and it says believers are like sheep. A good shepherd watches over their flock, protects them from danger, and provides food, water and shelter. The shepherd talks to them and they know his voice. 📖 See John 21:15-17, 10:11, 14-16, Hebrews 13:20 and 1 Peter 5:4.

In John 21:15-17, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Three times Peter said he did. Each time, Jesus told him to take care of His sheep – first as lambs, then as young sheep and then as mature sheep.



Care for new believers

The book of Acts gives an example of discipleship and instruction for the church to follow. Discipleship assures that each believer will have an opportunity to grow and mature in Godly living, character and attitude. We followed these guidelines as we mentored and disciplined new believers in the churches we planted.

1. **Feed the lambs with God's Word** (John 21:15)
 - Young sheep need the most care.
 - Teach them God's Word gently but firmly.
 - They are the next generation of believers and leaders in a church.
2. **Care for the young sheep like a shepherd** (John 21:16)
 - Watch over them with tender, loving care.
 - Know their needs and character so you can effectively teach them.
 - Keep them away from danger and evil.
 - Lead them to "green pastures" – a life that is pleasing to God and peaceful, content and joyful.
3. **Feed the mature sheep** (John 21:17)
 - Well fed sheep are healthy.
 - Mature sheep listen to the voice of Jesus, their Shepherd.
 - They reproduce and increase in numbers.
 - Like Abraham and Lot prospered in shepherding their sheep, a church will prosper as they continually teach, mentor and disciple believers.

2. "Set apart" by the church

The church at Antioch is a good example of a church who selected mature believers to be sent out to preach to non-believers and mentor new believers. In Acts 13:1-3, Barnabas and Saul (later named Paul) were "set apart" by church elders to do God's work.

The Bible gives many examples of mature believers who acted as a Parent to mentor new believers in the church. The book of Acts contains many examples.

- Barnabas mentored Saul (Paul)
- Barnabas and Saul mentored John Mark (who later wrote the book of Mark)
- Paul mentored Timothy
- Barnabas continued to mentor John Mark
- Paul mentored and worked with Silas
- Paul worked with and mentored Priscilla and Aquilla
- Priscilla and Aquilla mentored Apollos

B. Willing to mentor

Mentors are essential in the Mission-Church Life Cycle because they help others to understand the Gospel and demonstrate a good example of daily Christian life. As new believers are Parented, they will grow in their Christian faith. Each new believer must have a mentor to encourage and show them Christian character and attitudes. They ARE NOT to be neglected or abandoned.

During the Parent stage, the job of the pastors and teachers is to mentor and disciple new believers until they begin to mature in their Christian faith. Then, these young believers are to start training other new believers. Each new believer should teach and train others with the training they have received. This process is seen in a natural family where the older children teach the younger children. Thus, the church grows as more and more people are equipped in their Christian faith to teach and mentor others.

1. Gift of teaching in the church

There is a distinct pattern and order of care for the new emerging church that results in a self-sustaining and self-regenerating church. The new emerging church should be motivated by love. Love for one another is the most powerful quality demonstrated in the emerging new church. The first way a Parent can show love is to teach and disciple new believers. It is critical that each believer be disciplined in their new Christian life. 📖 Read Hebrews 5:13-14.

In his writings to the churches in Rome and Ephesus, Paul taught Christians the importance of the gift of teaching. He instructed these churches that the Holy Spirit gives specific gifts so believers in the

church would be equipped to teach others about Christ. 📖 Read Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 12:5-8. Teaching is used:

- to prepare God's people to serve.
- to build up the God's people in the local churches.
- to reach unity in the faith and knowledge of Jesus.
- to become mature Christians.

2. Goal of discipleship: mature believers

The goal of discipleship is to produce mature Christians who are able to stand firm in their faith. This is achieved through structured and regular discipleship activities. Paul encouraged believers in the church at Colossia by using Epaphras as an example of one who was accustomed to praying for others to stand firm (Colossians 4:12 and Ephesians 4:12-14).

The goal of discipleship is to produce mature Christians who are able to stand firm in their faith.

Just as a "child" becomes like their natural parent, so the Parent mentor must be a mature Godly Christian. A disciple will become like their mentor. People will recognize them as Christians because they have Godly attitudes and qualities.

3. Character and attitude of a Parent

A good Parent teaches their children Godly character and attitudes by example in a gentle and loving manner. For example, if they try to teach someone about being generous, the Parent must demonstrate a generous and giving character. If they are stingy and selfish, the student will have doubts about anything the Parent may teach. We teach some by what we say, more by what we do, but most by what we are.

We teach some by what we say, more by what we do, but most by what we are.

The Parent becomes like a "special father" and the new believer is like their "special child." As the Parent teaches their "special child," a strong parent/child bond and relationship develops. But, if the Parent does not allow the "special child" to mature and take responsibility, it will hinder the growth of the child – and they will remain as a little child. Imagine an adult that is so immature that they only want to drink milk or suck on a baby bottle. 📖 See Hebrews 5:12-14.

As a Parent mentors new believers, they must teach with authority, not being afraid what people think or say. The Parent must know the Scripture so they can base their teachings on the authority of the Scriptures, not on people's ideas about God.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12, Paul taught the desired character and attitude of an apostle. In this Scripture, He [Paul] is functioning as a spiritual Parent by writing a letter to mature believers in the church in Thessalonica. Some desirable character qualities and attitudes of a Parent listed in this Scripture are shown in the following text.

- **Gentle and nurturing** – It is important that the Parent be gentle and kind – like a mother caring for her little children – not like a dictator telling others what to do without regard to their weaknesses. Paul instructed the Thessalonian believers and Timothy about being gentle when teaching new believers. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- **Loving** – The Parent must love people with Christ's love. They must love them enough to want to share the Gospel with them and be willing to mentor them about Christian living. The Parent treats other believers as brothers and sisters in the family of God. God is love and loves all mankind. He wants all to come to know him. (1 John 3:16, 4:15-16, 2 Timothy 2:2)
- **Servant** – The Parent is one who serves Christ by actively serving others. They serve the people of God; they are NOT the one being served. They share their lives and their Christian faith with others. A Parent works hard so they will not be a burden to others. (Matt. 20:20-28, 1 Thes. 2:9, Galatians 6:10)
- **Blameless life style** – The Parent lives a life that is pleasing to God, a life that is holy, righteous and blameless. (2 Peter 3:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:12)
- **Encouraging, comforting and urging** – The Parent is one who encourages others by giving direction, vision, help, understanding and comfort to others. They must be willing to mentor even in the face of persecution and trials. (Acts 8:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18, Hebrews 13:20-21)
- **Accept responsibilities** – The Parent is mature in their faith and accepts the responsibility to mentor their disciples through the experiences of life. As they rely on God, they are able to teach others about God. (Hebrews 5-6, Colossians 1:28-29)
- **Imitate Christ's example** – The Parent lives a life that imitates Christ. Their character qualities and attitudes demonstrate that they are transformed into the image of Christ. (Romans 12:1-2)

- **Become leaders and establish local churches** – The fruit of a Pioneer who wins others to Christ and starts to disciple them is the formation of new churches. If the Pioneer is in a new area away from the mother church, they must continue to do all of the teaching and mentoring, in addition to preaching. If the new church is close to the mother church, other mature believers may be available to pick up some of the “parenting” of new believers in the new church. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 16)



Parent – a diligent servant

Being a Parent is hard work! It requires diligent and consistent effort. It is important that the Parent understand that it is natural and that they too will become tired and weary.

It can be a very exhausting time, but it is fulfilling too when you see new believers’ character and attitude begin to change before your very eyes. As we Parented our new believers, we were involved in many, many meetings. Some of these opportunities to preach, teach and serve included:

- Home groups
- Main church meetings (at least 2 per week)
- Outreach meetings (planned to reach new areas)
- New areas of evangelism
- Discipleship meetings
- Radio program
- Hospital visitation
- Home visitation
- Language study

The Parent must keep going. They progress through all of the stages of church growth – from preaching (Pioneer, Stage 1), to teaching and mentoring (Parent, Stage 2), to becoming a partner with new church leaders (Partner, Stage 3) and eventually to becoming a Participant (Stage 4).

Weariness and responsibility can get overwhelming but the **excitement of new births and new believers clears out the weariness.** Weariness makes the Parent want to quit. **THEY MUST NOT GIVE UP!** Remember, the work of the laborer cannot stop or the harvest will be lost.

C. What to teach as a Parent

A Parent CANNOT drop these spiritual babies. They MUST continue to teach God's Word to these new believers so they will mature in their faith and personal relationship with Jesus. The Bible says to teach under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Parent should start with basic doctrine that teaches about God and their new life in Christ.

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so. (Hebrews 6:1-2)

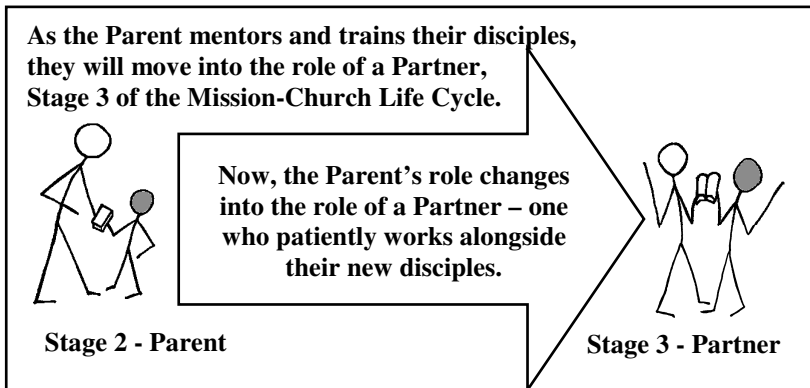
The Parent should also teach topics applicable to the needs of the church.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Note: One good training tool to use as a resource in this area is **Basic Beliefs of Christianity**, a manual in EGI's Getting Equipped™ Series.

D. Moving to Stage 3

Diagram 8.2 Transition from Parent to Partner





Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Discuss “paternalism.”
 - Can paternalism be used properly?
 - Why is it so dangerous to the growth of a new church?
2. Read Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12. Using Diagram 8.1, Mobilization of the church, discuss the growth process as the church mobilizes believers for works of service.

Personal Activity

1. Read the books of Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12. List the basic character qualities of a Parent found in these verses. Consider which qualities in your personal life need to change. Repent and pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to change your life in these areas.

Discipleship Activity

1. If possible, spend regular time with the person mentoring you.
2. Meet with your disciples and discuss the character qualities and attitudes found in 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12 as shown in the following text. Look up the Scripture references given. Select two areas on which they can work to improve their Christian witness to others.

- Paul, Silas and Timothy were gentle (1 Thessalonians 2:7, 1 Timothy 3:3, 2 Timothy 2:24)
- They were delighted to share the Gospel and their lives (1 Thessalonians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 9:22)
- They were blameless (1 Thessalonians 2:10, Philippians 1:27, 1 Timothy 4:12, James 3:13, 1 Peter 3:11-12)
- They treated believers as a father deals with his children: encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, Ephesians 4:1, 5:2, 5:15, 1 John 2:7)

Lesson

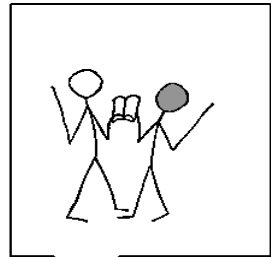
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PARTNER: Biblical Perspective

Objectives

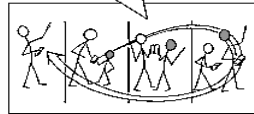
- Learn about mentoring
- Understand that the source of strength and power is God's Word and the Holy Spirit
- Learn the importance of effective leadership

Stage 3 - Partner



Key Verse

*"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."
(John 16:13-15)*



Stage 3: Partner



The third stage of church growth is **Partner**. A partner is “one who shares a task” or “one who has something in common with another person.” The picture shows two people almost equal in size. At this stage, the Parent’s role in leadership diminishes while emerging leaders in the church are growing and taking on more leadership. Although they are not equal in maturity and experience, they **ARE NOW** partners together in ministry.

The Partner stage requires a change from a parent-child relationship to an adult-adult relationship. The spiritual gifts used at this stage are **mentoring** and learning to **serve God together**.

The **Partner** must be willing to help new leaders “grow up” and sustain their own faith with God. This is one of the most difficult things for a teacher/mentor to do, but it is **essential** for the church to mature and grow.

In this stage, the Partner works together as a co-laborer with leaders and maturing believers to accomplish the purpose of the church. Jesus clearly “partnered” with His disciples when He sent out the 12 disciples (Matthew 10:1-14, Luke 9:1-6) and when He sent out the 72 followers (Luke 10:1-12). They reported back to Him and were accountable for their actions.

At this point in the life cycle, the local church has many believers who are being taught and discipled (mentored) by the Partner. They too are teaching, preaching and nurturing others in order to fulfill their responsibility to prepare God’s people for service. They are working together to help each believer mature in his/her relationship with Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

This lesson focuses on the following examples of Jesus and the early church.

- Mentoring
- Leadership
- Delegation of authority

A. Mentoring – Jesus’ example

Jesus is by far the greatest mentor to have ever walked the earth. He spent three years dedicated to teaching and explaining to His disciples about a new relationship with God. They turned the world upside down by following His example in teaching and preaching to others what they learned from their mentor, Jesus. Jesus mentored others because:

- He was sent by His father in heaven. (John 5:36)
- He was unified with His Father’s purpose. (John 8:28-29)
- He was one with the Father. (John 10:30, 12:49-50)
- He desired to bring glory to God. (John 14:13)
- He knew His source was God the Father. Whatever flowed through His ministry belonged to the Father first. (John 16:15)
- He knew the earth was not His home. (John 16:28)
- Because He would not remain on earth forever, He knew He must to delegate His ministry to those around Him. (John 20:21, 21:15-19)

Note: Some information on mentoring was used with permission and adapted from writings of Pastor Charlie Tuttle.

The reasons that motivated Jesus to mentor His disciples still apply to us today. Mentors need to have an attitude and disposition towards mentoring like that of Jesus. His reasons for mentoring should be our reasons for mentoring. Jesus knew that humanity would usually miss the greatness of God and attempt to trace it back to man. Jesus also knew that God would not allow anything to slip past His eternal sight, no matter who received the credit on earth. Jesus knew that heaven’s reward was more precious than earth’s recognition. Jesus mentored with eternity in mind. 📖 Read Philippians 2:1-13 where Paul writes about this attitude.

B. Leadership

A leader is defined as a person who guides the way by “going in advance.” A leader is also one who exercises responsible authority over an organization. Leadership includes the ability to guide, direct, and influence people. It is a character quality, a talent and a gift from God. It can be learned, but some people

INEFFECTIVE church leaders will cause division and trouble in a church.

have a God-given gift of leading. An effective leader does the following.

- ✓ Provides vision and direction
- ✓ Seeks to be effective
- ✓ Is a good influence
- ✓ Deals in concepts, not necessarily in the details

Effective leadership is seen in the disciples who were daily mentored by Jesus as He preached and taught about God. They were with Him:

- when Jesus preached to the multitudes.
- when Jesus healed the sick.
- when Jesus fed the thousands.
- when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
- when Jesus performed miracles.
- when Jesus taught them after His resurrection.
- at Jesus' transfiguration.

Jesus called His disciples so that He could teach them and eventually send them out to preach with authority.

*Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he **might send them out to preach** and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:13-15)*

1. Jesus' example: A servant leader


Jesus established a new style of leadership – that of a servant leader. A servant leader is one who is under the authority of another and one who guides the way. Jesus was under the authority of Father God. As the Son of God, He was a humble, obedient servant of God. He guided His disciples by teaching them to serve God. Jesus desires for believers today to follow and serve Him.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (John 12:26)

 See also Matthew 20:26-28.

Jesus was an example to His disciples of how they should live and what they should do. He mentored them so they would be able to carry on His ministry after His death and resurrection. Likewise, Jesus expects His disciples today to make new disciples and train new leaders for service in the church.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)

 See John 13:15, Philippians 2:5-8 and Matthew 11:28-30.

2. Early church's example

Jesus designated the 12 disciples as “apostles” (Mark 3:13-15). An apostle is a person who is sent forth as a messenger with the special commission to tell about Jesus. They lay a foundation for new believers in areas just learning about God. The early apostles became the leaders of the early church.

The early church apostles were in a position to carry on Jesus' ministry to the world. The Holy Spirit provided guidance and wisdom to help them in this mission. They were equipped and prepared to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18).

The book of Acts tells about the development and structure of the early church. Some actions taken by the apostles as new leaders of the church included the following:

- **Chose a new apostle to replace Judas** (Acts 1:21-26) – One of the first things the apostles did was to choose a replacement for Judas, the disciple who betrayed Christ. They recognized that this new leader must be a disciple of Jesus – one who had been with them from the beginning and learned from Jesus' teachings. After prayer, they selected Matthias.
- **Identified the need for teaching and prayer** (Acts 2:42-47) – This Scripture tells about the workings of the earliest church. The apostles and new believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, caring for one another and prayer.
- **Selected the first deacons** (Acts 6:1-6) – The apostles soon realized they could not do everything themselves and still remain effective leaders. They selected deacons who were full of the Spirit and full of wisdom to serve and minister to the physical needs in the church.

- **Selected leaders to work and minister in new areas.** An example is when the apostles sent Barnabas to work with the new church in Antioch. (Acts 11:19-30)
- **Recognized the need to expand the church to other parts of the world. They sent mature leaders on missions** to other cities and countries to tell about Jesus. Some of these early church leaders were:
 - Philip (Acts 8:4-40)
 - Peter and John (Acts 8:14-25)
 - Peter went to Cornelius' family (Acts 10)
 - Barnabas went to Antioch (Acts 11:25-30)
 - Barnabas, Saul (Paul), John Mark in Cyprus (Acts 13:1-14:28)
 - Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke (Acts 15:36-18:22)
 - Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)
 - Paul, Timothy, Erastus (Acts 19:1-21:4)

C. Delegation of authority

1. What does it mean to delegate your authority?

First we must define authority. **Authority** is the power, or authorization, a person possesses on which they act. All authority belongs to God. Jesus' authority came from His Father in heaven. His is a heavenly authority. The Bible says that all authority in heaven and on earth is given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18). Jesus taught with authority. 📖 See Romans 13:1, Matthew 7:28-29, Mark 1:27 and John 5:27.

Delegation of authority means to trust someone else to perform a task for you, or to authorize another person to act in your behalf. Along with delegation of authority comes accountability. The person who is delegated to act for another must be accept responsibility and report the results of their actions to them. For example: The leader delegates their authority when they, as the leader of the group, allow someone else to lead that group and make decisions. The delegated person is accountable to them to properly use this delegated authority. They are responsible for the results of their actions while acting under delegated authority.

Delegation of authority is a Biblical concept. The following are some examples of delegated authority.

- God delegated authority to His Son to redeem mankind. (Hebrews 10:7)
- Moses delegated his authority to the elders of Israel to govern with him. (Exodus 18:13-27)
- Jesus delegated His authority to His disciples to evangelize the world. "... *As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.*" (John 20:21)
- God has delegated His authority through Jesus Christ to believers to finish the task. (Matthew 28:18-20)

2. Delegating authority effectively

It is important for church leaders to delegate authority to those who are trustworthy and mature in their faith. One leader cannot do

One leader cannot do everything that must be done in a church.

If they try, they will break down, wear out and become ineffective leaders. The church will not grow.

everything that must be done in a church or an organization. If they try to do everything, they will break down, wear out and

become ineffective leaders. The church or organization will not grow. It is the responsibility of the leader to pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit when delegating their authority. Each leader and believer is instructed to do their part in the church. Proper delegation of authority includes the following areas.

- **Clear instruction** – Clear instruction must be given to define the scope of authority being delegated. The person receiving the authorization to act on behalf of another must know what they can and cannot do.
- **Authority** – The authority to act is given and defined.
- **Accountability** – Both the one delegating their authority and the one acting on it are responsible for the results.
- **Supervision** – The person delegating their authority should supervise the actions of the one acting under their authority.
- **Evaluation** – There should be a time when the person with authority and the one to whom authority was delegated review and evaluate the results.

Lesson 11 contains more information on empowering leaders through delegation of authority.

3. Jesus' example

Two examples of when Jesus delegated His authority were when He sent out the 12 disciples and when He sent out the 72 followers.

a. Sent out the 12 disciples (Matthew 10:1-16, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6)

Jesus gave the 12 disciples practical experience as they followed Him. He sent them out in pairs delegated with His power and authority to drive out demons, to cure diseases, to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He gave them explicit instructions of what to do and how to behave during this time.

Table 9.1 shows a list of the instructions Jesus gave to His disciples as He sent them out to act with His authority. These are good guidelines for the Partner to use when they send disciples out from their local church. Adapt them for use in your situation.

Table 9.1 Jesus' instructions to disciples (Matthew 10:1-16)	
1. Called to do what?	Given authority over unclean spirits and to heal. (10:1)
2. Who was called?	The 12 disciples were called by name. (10:2-4)
3. Where were they to go?	Do not enter any city of the Samaritans (10:5)
4. To whom were they to go?	Go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (10:6)
5. What were they to preach?	The Kingdom of heaven is at hand (10:7)
6. What were they to do?	Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons (10:8)
7. How were they to heal?	Freely received, freely give (10:8)
8. What were they to take with them while on this trip?	Do not take gold or silver or copper, a bag or even two tunics or sandals or staff (10:9-10)
9. Support from whom?	The worker is worthy of his keep (10:10)
10. Where were they to stay?	Inquire who is worthy and stay with them, do not change homes (10:11)

Table 9.1 Jesus' instructions to disciples (Matthew 10:1-16)

11. Greeting to whom?	Give a greeting of peace upon the home in which you are staying (10:12-13)
12. What to do if rejected?	Shake the dust off of your feet. Get free. They will be judged more severely than Sodom or Gomorrah (10:14-15)
13. How to act?	As sheep among the wolves, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (10:16)

b. Sent out 72 followers (Luke 10:1-22)

There were many other followers of Jesus. They followed Him and learned from His teaching and preaching. Jesus selected 72 of them, instructed them and sent them out to act in His authority. He sent them out in groups of two with specific instructions to heal and teach about the Kingdom of God. Note that their mission was to also tell people that the Kingdom of God is near. His instructions to the 72 followers were similar to those given to the 12 disciples.

4. Early church's example

After Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He remained on the earth for about 60 days specifically teaching and mentoring His 12 disciples. They were beginning to really understand Jesus' teachings as they related to the Scriptures. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, they received the Holy Spirit who was sent to dwell in them and to guide them as they witnessed, preached and taught about Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability and power to act in the name and authority of Jesus, the Son of God. 📖 See Matthew 16:19, 18:18, Acts 16:4-5 and 1 Thessalonians 3:2.

These apostles became the first leaders of the church. Thousands came to know Jesus. They became witnesses throughout the world.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Discuss why mentoring is critical in developing effective leaders.
2. Read Exodus 18:17-23. Discuss how Moses got to such a bad place that he wanted God to kill him. Have you been there?
3. Break into small groups of 5-6. Review Table 9.1. Discuss how Jesus' instructions when sending His disciples can be applied today.

Personal Activity

1. Read the books of 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy.

Discipleship Activity

1. Read and discuss 2 Timothy 4:2 with your disciple. Make a list of the things in this Scripture that you are instructed to teach them.
2. Your disciple should begin to disciple others. Ask your disciple who they will commit to train. Have your disciple make a list of the things they will teach them.

Lesson 10

PARTNER APPLICATION: Part 1 - Fruitfulness

Objectives

- Learn the importance of being fruitful
- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in ministry
- Learn the importance of mentoring
- Realize the importance of Christian character and attitude

Stage 3 - Partner



Key Verse

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, **he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. ... This is to my Father’s glory, that **you bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5, 8 emphasis added)*

The key verse focuses on the importance of being fruitful. Just as a natural plant will reproduce fruit, disciples are to reproduce themselves by mentoring and training others. Jesus said that those who “remain” in Him will bear much fruit. This “fruit” is new believers who are mentored into a new Christian life style. Fruitfulness is evidence of a Christian life.

Stage 3: Partner



Primary gift:

- Mentoring, serving together

Primary obstacles:

- Adolescent attitudes and actions
- Paternalism – The Partner tends to protect, dominate and control a new believer’s relationship with God.

The Partner stage requires a change from a parent-child relationship to an adult-adult relationship.

In business, a partnership is based on ownership. A partner is one who owns a percentage of a business along with one or many other partners. Each one is responsible for the success of that business. Likewise in the church, a Partner is one who bears responsibility for the success of the church by mentoring and discipling new leaders. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul refers to believers as being in a “partnership in the gospel” (Philippians 1:5).

a. Primary gift: Mentoring and serving together

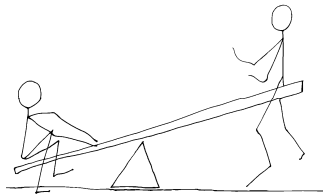
This stage of church growth requires that both the Partner and the disciple **work together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit** for the church to function effectively. It is now time for the disciple to accept some responsibility in leadership within the church. The Partner must realize that their disciple, the emerging new leader, will soon become the major leader in the church, while the Partner will have less responsibility.



Partner Stage – a teeter totter experience

We often felt like we were on a teeter totter in the partner stage. Sometimes we were at the top. At other times, the leaders we were training would be at the top. It was a delicate balance! They were growing in maturity and were our friends, but sometimes we had to exercise our authority and correct them as a “Partner.”

We had to take care in doing this so we would not undermine their confidence. Sometimes when they would do something really immature, we felt like jumping off the teeter totter and let them plummet to the ground just to teach them a lesson. But we did not do this because we knew that was not the best way to help them grow. We needed to help them grow into interdependence with both of us functioning in leadership so the church could function effectively.



b. Primary obstacles

Adolescent attitudes and actions – The Partner stage very much parallels the adolescent teenage years in physical parenting. A child growing to adulthood has some maturity in many areas, but is rebellious in other areas. Many times they have immature judgment and a wrong value system. They think they “know it all.” Just as a teenager will test parental authority, a “teenager church” will test its leaders’ authority. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to division and results in an ineffective church.

Paternalism – Another major obstacle occurs when the Partner is overly protective and tries to dominate and control the disciple’s relationship with God rather than allowing them take responsibility to grow in their faith and leadership abilities. This is paternalism. It is easy for the Partner to continue to “parent” the new disciple and not allow them to mature as leaders. **The Partner must make a conscious effort to allow their disciples to learn to lead.** This process often means the disciples or emerging leaders will make some mistakes. The Partner’s job is to gently and patiently continue

to instruct their disciples while leading by example. Just as it is hard for a parent to let their children take responsibility and grow into adults, it is also hard for the Partner to let their disciples take responsibility for their spiritual life and learn to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Allow disciples to grow

Many times, the Pioneer/Parent has a fear that their disciple may become a better teacher or preacher when they transition to the Partner stage. For this reason, the Partner may try to keep their disciples in the parent/child relationship rather than allow them grow up into a partnership relationship.

The Partner must allow their disciples to grow on their own or this will cripple their spiritual growth and damage their ability to lead effectively.

c. Local church at the Partner stage

The local church is in the process of growing in wisdom, knowledge, truth and skills development. During this time, believers are beginning to grow in Christian character and attitude. They are learning to depend upon God's Word. They are being guided daily by the Holy Spirit in day-to-day situations on their journey of life. The emerging leaders are taking more and more responsibility in church leadership and its outreach projects. As believers mature, the Partner is able to identify potential leaders who demonstrate a heart for ministry to the people. The Partner can also now recognize those who are immature – those who just want the title and authority without being willing to accept the responsibility to serve.

This lesson focuses on the roles of the Holy Spirit and the Partner as mentor of emerging leaders.

Roles: Holy Spirit and the Partner

A. Role of the Holy Spirit

Jesus continues to build His church today through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be

sent by the Father in His (Jesus') name to be a counselor (a guide) for believers forever. The Holy Spirit lives in each believer. The following are a few verses that tell about the Holy Spirit working in the life of each believer.

Holy Spirit is partner to each believer

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and **he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.** The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.**" (John 14:15-17 emphasis added)*

***But you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8 emphasis added)*

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things** and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26 emphasis added)*

1. The work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit makes the presence of God known in believers and in the world. The Holy Spirit works in many ways to convict, encourage and enable believers so they will be strong and mature in their Christian faith. The following list shows **some** of the works performed by the Holy Spirit.

- **He teaches.** (1 John 2:27, John 16:13, Nehemiah 9:20, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
- **He helps believers pray.** (Romans 8:26, Jude 20)
- **He speaks to and leads God's people.** (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:18, Acts 8:29, 10:19-20, 16:6-7, 20:23)
- **He appoints men to specific service.** (Acts 13:2, 20:28)
- **He testifies of Christ.** (John 15:26, 16:14, 1 John 4:2)

- **He ministers new birth.** (John 3:6, Titus 3:5-6)
- **He brings unity.** (Ephesians 4:3, 11-13, Romans 15:5, Philippians 2:1-2)
- **He gives assurance of salvation.** (Romans 8:16, 1 John 3:24, 4:13-14)
- **He indwells (lives in and fills) the believer.** (1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, John 14:16-17, Romans 5:5, 8:9, Ephesians 5:18, 1 John 3:24)
- **He gives life.** (Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 3:6)
- **He empowers believers to be witnesses.** (Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 2:13)
- **He sets apart (seals) every believer into the Body of Christ.** (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13)
- **He makes believers holy (sanctified).** (1 Peter 1:2)
- **He empowers believers to change to be like Jesus.** (Galatians 5:22-26, Ezekiel 36:27, Romans 5:3-5, 8:2-4, Titus 3:5)
- **He gives spiritual gifts to each believer.** (Hebrews 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)
- **He brings freedom to the believer.** (2 Corinthians 3:17)

2. The fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit

As believers and leaders mature in their faith, their lives will change to be like Jesus and to reflect Christian character. This character is evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their life. The Partner uses the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve and minister to others. The fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit are shown in Table 10.1 and will be briefly discussed in the following text.

Table 10.1 Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit	
Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)	Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)
<i>But the fruit of the Spirit is:</i>	<i>To one there is given through the Spirit the:</i>
• Love	• Message of wisdom
• Joy	• Message of knowledge
• Peace	• Faith
• Patience	• Gifts of healing
• Kindness	• Miraculous powers
• Goodness	• Prophecy
• Faithfulness	• Distinguishing of spirits
• Gentleness	• Speaking in different kinds of tongues
• Self-Control	• Interpretation of tongues
<i>Against these things there is no law.</i>	<i>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.</i>

a. Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The “fruit of the Spirit” is the outward evidence of a person who is led by the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit includes character qualities demonstrated by Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

John 15:16-17 teaches that each believer is chosen and appointed to bear fruit that will last. What does the Bible mean when it talks about fruit and being fruitful? Fruit is a metaphor (a word picture) of the believer living a life that is pleasing to Jesus. Being fruitful in Christ is like a grapevine producing grapes. The grapes are the fruit that contain the seeds of the grape vine. The vine nourishes the fruit until it is ripe. Then the fruit becomes “seed” for new grapevines. This is the natural progression of a fruit.

b. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

God gives spiritual gifts for use by leaders and believers to accomplish the tasks He has for them to do. These gifts are to be used in service and ministry for God’s glory. **There are no greater or smaller spiritual gifts**, all are needed in the church. Each

believer receives at least one spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit. Sometimes a person may use one gift of service for a season, and a different gift at a different time as directed by the Holy Spirit. Some spiritual gifts are shown in the following list.

- Contributing (Romans 12:8)
- Encouraging (Romans 12:8)
- Faith (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9)
- Helping others (1 Peter 4:10)
- Leadership (Romans 12:8)
- Message of knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Message of wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)
- Prophesying (Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, Ephesians 4:11)
- Serving (Romans 12:7)
- Showing mercy (Romans 12:8)
- Teaching (Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11)

📖 Read the following Scriptures for a complete list of spiritual gifts: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 14:1-25, Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

B. Role of the Partner

1. Partner is a mentor

The Holy Spirit enables and guides the Partner as they mentor and disciple emerging leaders in the church. It is important for the Partner to mentor these new leaders by personal example of truths given in God's Word.

Example: Paul acted as a Partner to Timothy when he mentored him in leadership skills. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he instructed Timothy to mentor new leaders. He emphasized to Timothy that God's Word must be used to teach, rebuke, correct and train leaders in righteousness so that they would be thoroughly equipped for good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:2).

Diagram 10.1 Role of the Partner in mentoring leaders

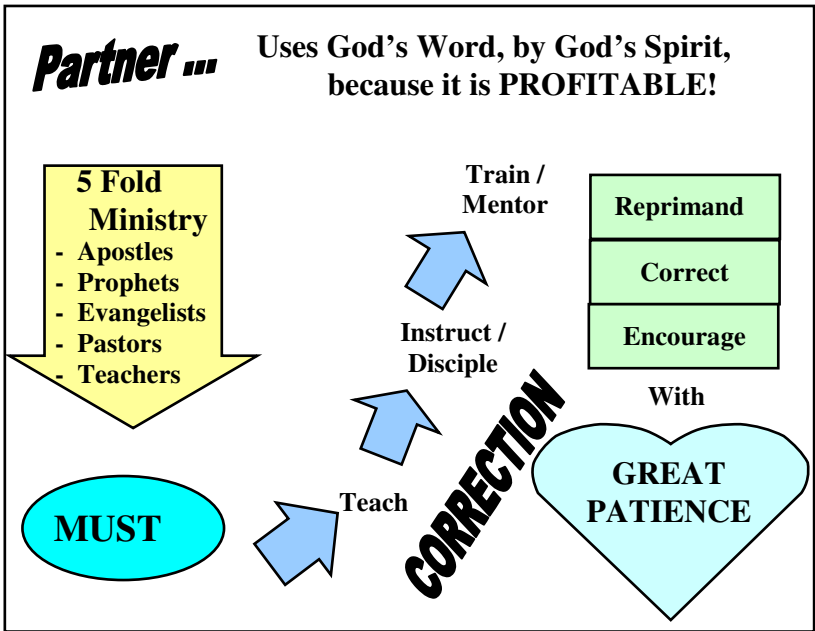


Diagram 10.1 shows the process a Partner uses to mentor new leaders so they are prepared and equipped for service to the church, believers and others.

This diagram also shows that the process starts with the Partner working to disciple church leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) as mentioned in Ephesians 4:11-12. These leaders will play a role in each stage of the Mission-Church Life Cycle. The Partner must teach, instruct and train leaders by teaching the Scriptures and by personal example. They must be diligent to monitor the progress of new leaders offering correction when needed. This “correction” includes reprimand (good criticism), correction and encouragement. New leaders must be accountable to their mentor for their behavior and actions. Even when leaders mature in their responsibility, they still need to be accountable to their church and other believers.

One of the most important character qualities of a Partner is to have “great patience” with the emerging leaders you are mentoring and training. Patience is the ability to tolerate being hurt, provoked or

annoyed without complaint or loss of temper. Other words that explain patience are endurance, staying power, tolerance and persistence. A Partner's mission is to mentor emerging leaders **with great patience**.

2. Partner guides and corrects



It is the responsibility of the Partner to provide correction and constructive (good) criticism when a new leader fails to effectively perform their duties or responsibilities. **Correct them in private. Do not shame your disciples by correcting them in public.**

CONCLUSION: The Partner should ask themselves the following questions:

1. Did I teach them fully?
2. Did I give clear instruction of how to apply this truth to their duties?
3. Did I train them by personally showing them or demonstrating how to do the task correctly?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no,” **do your job before correcting them for not doing theirs!** The Partner may need to repent and apologize to their disciple for not adequately training them for the failed task. The Partner should discuss in private what went wrong and show the leader by example how to do it correctly. The Partner must be willing to offer advice and guidance when asked – with great patience and love.



Lead with patience and love

In doing church planting, there are many times when you are disappointed in the actions or attitudes of your disciples. But, you must deal with them patiently and with love.

For example: After the “grand opening” of a church we helped to plant, the leader from that area asked that we return the next day because his cousin (who was a church member) was still having a problem with gambling. We arrived from a different direction than we usually came. And there we saw this leader, his wife, brother-in-law and his wife playing a gambling game.

We stopped walking and just stared at them. They saw us and started running in different directions. We immediately turned around and went back to our home – fleeing the temptation to take a match and burn down the new building. We wanted to be careful not to say or do something to them that was wrong. We were so heartbroken that we got on a bus and went to Manila. But that did not ease the pain.

So after several days, we returned home. Through the grace of God, we met with the leader and his wife. We repented of wrong feelings and not having God’s love to counsel them through this problem. They repented of their gambling and being a bad testimony.

Years later they shared with us that when they were doing church planting, they experienced the same thing with some believers in their church. They told us that they remembered how we loved them and were patient with them. They were able to minister in the same way – with patience and love.

3. Partner’s character and attitude

To effectively mentor and disciple new leaders, it is critical that the Partner demonstrate Christian character and attitude. Classroom teaching is important, but **students follow the EXAMPLE of their teacher**. Some Christian attitudes and character qualities include the following:

- **A Partner should be a humble and willing servant** – The Bible says a leader (overseer) is to serve willingly and be a good example. (1 Peter 5:2)
- **A Partner should be a fellow worker (co-laborer)** – Being a fellow worker requires a progression in maturity. All believers are like brothers and sisters in the family of Christ. As believers mature, the Partner must accept them as fellow workers. The Partner must also be a fellow worker with believers from other churches or denominations. The highest form of maturity is when the Partner becomes a soldier of Christ's – one who is willing to work with others to fight the spiritual battle for men's souls. (2 Corinthians 8:23, Philippians 1:5, 2:25, 4:2-3, Colossians 4:11 and Philemon 1, 17)
- **A Partner is accountable to God and others** – A Partner is accountable to God and other leaders to equip emerging leaders for service. As new leaders are mentored and disciplined in leadership skills, they influence the lives of many people. The church grows as a result. (John 15:16)
- **A Partner should be responsible** – A Partner is responsible to do what is right in all areas of life. They should be a good example and teach new leaders to continually work toward maturity in their personal life. (Philippians 3:12-14)
- **A Partner should be committed** – The Partner who chooses to help plant a new church must be committed to see the task through to the end. What would happen to the new church if the Partner gives up at this stage and leaves?

As learned so far in this manual, this Partner started out as a **Pioneer** who went about preaching and winning souls to Christ. Then he (or she) moved to a relationship of teaching (discipling) new believers about God like a **Parent** teaches their children. The current step is that of a **Partner** who works alongside new leaders to mentor and encourage them as they learn how to be effective leaders. The final stage of the Mission-Church Life Cycle is a **Participant** where the newly trained leaders become the dominant authority and the Pioneer / Parent / Partner / Participant becomes a friend, guide and counselor to assist in church growth.

You will never have good leaders unless you challenge them to meet Biblical qualifications of leaders. Then they can start preparing their lives and work to fulfill these qualifications. Developing effective leaders is the focus of Lesson 11.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Read and discuss the topics in the following verses. How can you, as a Partner, use these verses to teach, encourage and mature those in your churches?
 - Matthew 7:1-7 – Judging others
 - Matthew 7:7-12 – Seeking, asking and knocking
 - Matthew 7:13-14 – The narrow and wide gates

Personal Activity

1. Read the book of John.
2. Write your favorite five (5) verses and memorize them.

Discipleship Activity

1. With your disciple, review Diagram 10.1. Discuss the three steps in the conclusion. Think of a situation where you needed to correct a disciple. Did you follow these three steps?

Lesson

11

PARTNER APPLICATION: Part 2 – Developing Leaders

Objectives

- Learn how to empower new leaders
- Understand the function of leadership
- Learn the spiritual qualifications for leaders

Stage 3 - Partner



Key Verse

For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. (1 Corinthians 3:4-9)

In the key verse, Paul is teaching the Corinthian Christians about being a fellow worker with God. He says that some will plant the

seed. In the Mission-Church Life Cycle, the Pioneer plants the seed. The “seed” is a word picture for God’s Word which can be planted in the hearts of people. Other people “water” the seed, they take care of it and make sure it has the right conditions in which to grow. These are the “**Parents**,” the initial leaders of the new church. They protect, care for and nourish believers to become mature in their faith in God. Paul emphasized that it is God who causes the seed to grow and mature. God’s Holy Spirit is responsible for growth – both in the individual and in the church. The “**Partner**” is a fellow worker with God and emerging leaders working to teach non-believers to place their hope in the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Being a Partner in the Mission-Church Life Cycle includes teaching and demonstrating how to effectively lead others to want to know Jesus. Then, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, they will come to believe in Jesus. These new believers cause growth in the church. Good leadership is critical for an effective, successful local church.

A. Function of leadership

The function of leadership is to prepare God’s people for service. The result is that the church will be united in their love for Christ and service to others. Paul taught the Ephesian Christians that there are five roles of leaders in the church. Their primary objective is to prepare believers for service to the church and others.

*It was he who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **pastors** and **teachers**, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13 emphasis added)*

The Partner is to work with these emerging leaders as a co-laborer. As a team, their objective is to build up and mature the faith of believers in the church. The “works of service” are given in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

Function of believers in the church – The Bible also gives instruction of the way believers are to relate to their leaders. The following list shows some of them.

- Submit, obey and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7, 17)
- Honor the elders. (1 Timothy 5:17)
- Be devoted to their teaching. (Acts 2:42)
- Be a good Bible student. (Acts 17:11)
- Respect those who work among you. (1 Thessalonians 5:12)

This lesson will discuss several ways a leader should function within their church or ministry. Each will be briefly discussed in the following text.

- a. Delegation of authority
- b. Leadership: A team effort
- c. Teaching the vision

a. Delegation of authority

One key to growth and responsibility is **delegation**. Training and teaching alone will not make an effective church. A single leader cannot do every task that must be done in a church or an organization.

Successful leaders:

- ✓ **delegate their authority.**
- ✓ **require team work in their church.**
- ✓ **have credible character.**
- ✓ **teach their vision.**
- ✓ **submit to authority.**

Leaders must trust and give people authority to work.

Delegation is a release of control, but not accountability.

Leaders are responsible to hold all believers accountable. Refer to Lesson 9 for the Biblical perspective of delegation of authority.

The Partner must delegate authority to the emerging leaders they are training. "Delegation" means trusting and authorizing another person to act in your behalf. An example of delegation is when the leader of the group allows someone else to lead that group and make decisions.

The Partner should pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit before delegating their authority. It is critical that the Partner delegate authority to emerging leaders who are trustworthy and are maturing in their faith.



Care must be taken when you delegate your authority to someone else. Remember, if they make a bad decision, it is just as if you had made that decision. It is important to:

- realize the NEED to delegate.
- recognize tasks that SHOULD BE delegated.
- recognize tasks that SHOULD NOT be delegated.

Delegation of authority is necessary for the effectiveness of the emerging leader and the health of the church.

Delegation is a Biblical concept. Consider the leadership example of Moses. God chose Moses to be a leader of the Israelites during deliverance from Egypt and on their journey to Canaan, the Promised Land. At first, Moses acted as the only judge to resolve every issue brought to him by the Israelites. At this time, there were about three million Israelite people. His father-in-law, Jethro, observed that Moses needed to change his way of leading because he was becoming weary and worn out. 📖 Read Exodus 18:17-23 and Numbers 11:10-17. From these Scriptures, we see the problem, solution, duties/responsibilities and the result.

Problem: Wrong leadership style produces these fruits

- Wear yourself out
- Work was too heavy
- Cannot do it alone
- Death wish (Moses)
- People were complaining
- God was angry
- Complaining leadership
- The people were weary

Solution: Moses selected capable men to help lead

- Men of knowledge, understanding and wisdom (not novices)
- Men who feared God
- Men of truth
- Men who hated covetousness and dishonest gain

Duties and responsibilities of selected leaders

- Represented the people before God
- Taught decrees and laws
- Showed the way to live
- Understood the duties they were to perform
- Served as judges on simple cases
- Referred difficult cases to Moses
- Appointed as officials over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Result: Change in leadership style

- Kept God's commands
- Lighter load
- Withstood the strain of leadership
- Shared the responsibility
- People were satisfied

b. Leadership: A team effort

Leadership is the life – or death – of any movement involving people. Leadership must be a team effort! A leader must choose to enable others to act. God can work through people to accomplish extraordinary things when they feel trusted, a part of a team (church), strong and capable. Leaders are required to steer the boat (or church), as discussed in Lesson 2. However, it takes a team of people to make the boat go through the waters of life.

There is a difference between “seeing” an opportunity for ministry and “actually doing” it!

c. Teaching the vision

A great vision CANNOT become significant through the actions of a single leader. It is critical that the leader understand the importance of teaching their vision to others. The Partner must teach their vision to the emerging leaders so that they can help carry the vision. Teaching a God-given vision to others is the process of communicating it to other leaders and church members and recruiting their help to accomplish it. This vision affects their lives, their hopes and their dreams.

Review the six illustrations in Lesson 5 regarding the Pioneer's receiving and understanding a God-given vision. It was critical that the Pioneer becomes the “visionary” and share this vision with the

church. It is important that the Partner teach their emerging leaders to also learn to share their vision effectively with other leaders and the members in their church.

There are two basic roles of people involved in a successful vision: those who have the vision and those who work to make the vision a success.

Those who first have the vision

1. The “visionary” is the person to whom God first gives the vision. This person must share the vision with other leaders. They become “vision sharers.”
2. The “vision sharers” include people who have heard the vision and agree with it. They also share the vision with others and join the “visionary” in teaching the vision to the other people who will work on the project.

Those who work to make the vision successful

The whole team includes all team members who will work together to implement and accomplish the vision’s goal. **A vision cannot be implemented successfully unless the whole team is committed to its success.**

The people to whom the vision is being communicated go through three phases of involvement.

1. They are drawn to the people who have the vision.
2. As they agree with the vision, they become a co-owner, partner and part of the team.
3. The whole team catches and carries the vision with commitment, responsibility and unity.

You get rewarded for what you finish – not for what you start!

The Partner is the visionary who is responsible to be sure the vision is properly communicated. They are the team leader who communicates the following ideas about a vision to their team.

- Motivate toward a shared vision!
- Envision the future!
- Show others the exciting possibilities of the vision!
- Enlist others in a common vision!

B. Spiritual qualifications of a leader

Every leader wants their church to grow AND each church must have qualified leaders in order to grow. The Bible gives specific qualifications for church leaders. These leaders primarily function as elders and deacons. Leadership qualifications are found in the following Scriptures:

- Acts 6:1-6
- Titus 1:6-9
- 1 Timothy 3
- 1 Peter 5:1-11

Credibility is the foundation of leadership. A leader's credibility is established and seen through their relationship with God and their actions in serving people. A credible leader is trustworthy, reliable, sincere and honest. They must have the ability to inspire belief and trust. Jesus expects His disciples to follow His example. Jesus said that His disciples must be servants – just as He came to be a servant (Matthew 20:25-28).

Scripture points out that a leader is to have a good testimony and demonstrate good character in all areas of life. A godly leader is one who is living a holy life and leading people to follow God. A leader must always guard their credibility so they can maintain their authority to lead the people. This is a very important thing! For this reason, men should work with and counsel men, women work with women and couples work with other couples.


Qualifications for leaders affect three main areas of life: spiritual, moral and home. Examples of qualifications relating to each area are shown in Table 11.1.  For a complete listing of qualifications, read the Scriptures mentioned previously.

Table 11.1 Some qualifications of leadership

Spiritual character qualities include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiness• A person of good reputation to the outside world• Able to teach others well• Takes a firm stand on doctrine they have been taught• Able to encourage believers and convince those who oppose sound doctrine• Not a young convert

Table 11.1 Some qualifications of leadership

Moral character qualities include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blameless• Sensible• Gentle• Not overly fond of wine• Not greedy for money• Not self-willed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-controlled• Behaving properly• Fair-minded• Not violent• Not quarrelsome• Not quick-tempered
Home life character qualities include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospitable – willing to receive strangers into their home• Oversees their own house well – brings up obedient children in a right family relationship• Keeps good company	

C. Development process for emerging leaders

Just as a parent teaches their children how to live a successful life, a Partner must encourage their spiritual children to listen to God and lead God's people in an effective way. And, just as a child reaches a point where

It is very hard for a Partner to step aside and let a new leader take on responsibility; but, it is CRITICAL so that the new leader and the church body grow and mature.

he or she is ready to be responsible for their own lives, the Partner must be willing to release their disciples to lead. It is very hard for a Partner to step aside and let a new leader take on responsibility; but, it is critical so that the new leader and the church body will grow and mature.

When mentoring new leaders, the Partner must follow a process to develop new leaders who will be effective in the church. This process includes the following steps. Each one will be discussed in the following text.

1. Identify and select potential leaders
2. Separate and mentor them for leadership
3. Empower them through delegation of authority
4. Release them to lead

1. Identify and select potential leaders

During Jesus' life on earth, He explained to His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in them, guide them, teach them things about God and give them power to be witnesses to the world. All believers, and especially effective leaders, allow the Holy Spirit to be in control.

*You, however, are **controlled** not by the sinful nature but **by the Spirit**, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9 emphasis added)*



Selection of leaders

When we were doing church planting, we were looking for potential effective leaders who met the Biblical qualifications for leadership.

We began by teaching classes in basic discipleship and then more advanced discipleship. After completing these classes, we observed those who committed to attend the classes to see if they regularly attended these teachings. We looked to see if their lives and lifestyle had changed and if they were faithful to do whatever was asked of them.

Of course, the most important thing was that their life must meet the Biblical qualifications of leadership. We were also looking for believers who had a heart and desire to serve. It is very tempting to want to put someone in leadership who is a friend, or a relative, or who has the most money or even someone of importance in the community. But if they do not meet the Biblical qualifications of a leader and truly have a desire to serve people in the church and the community, they will be weak and ineffective leaders.

We saw an example of this in a large church in India. The leader (a father) chose a new leader to succeed him who was NOT Biblically qualified to take over leadership. Before the leader of the church died, he appointed his son to be the head of this church. His son, however, was a novice and had very little leadership experience.



Selection of leaders continued

Within a short time, this church was having many problems because of the new leader's inexperience and failure to meet the qualifications for leadership. The other leaders in the church had served for years under the leadership of the father. They did not respect the son or his leadership. He was ineffective as a leader. The whole church was thrown into turmoil because the father had appointed his son to leadership *just because he was his son*.

The father had failed to consider whether his son was the most qualified or whether he was the leader the people needed.

The Partner must pray and seek guidance of the Holy Spirit when identifying and selecting potential leaders for service in the church. Many times people like the “position” or “title” of being a leader. The Partner must carefully choose those on whom God has put a call on their life to lead and those who are Biblically qualified to lead the church. **This is a critical decision and will affect the future of the church.**

📖 Review the “Role of the Holy Spirit” taught in Lesson 10. See also John 14:26 and Acts 1:8.

2. Separate and mentor them for leadership

The Partner must separate potential leaders for special times of training. Jesus had many followers, but He separated off the 12 disciples which whom He could have a one-on-one relationship to teach them about all the aspects of ministry. Jesus mentored them to be leaders in the church that would be established after his death and resurrection.

Mentoring is the art of transferring applicable knowledge, experience, wisdom and skill to someone else. Mentoring is relational. Paul mentored Titus and Timothy by personally teaching them to be good leaders of the church. He referred to them as his “sons in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4). Through his letters to Timothy and Titus, we see that he continued to mentor

them. Paul taught them to have a relationship dependent on the Holy Spirit. Consider the following points of good mentoring.

- Encourage the student to pray for God's guidance.
- Expect the student to think for themselves.
- Encourage students to model certain areas of their ministry after the example of other godly people. Do not be jealous of others they may admire.
- Coach the students; do not try to control them.
- Allow for their mentoring needs and development to be accomplished by others, if necessary.

3. Empower them through delegation of authority

It is important for the Partner to delegate responsibility to emerging leaders so they can begin to lead the church with authority. However, the Partner must be available to guide, counsel and encourage new leaders as they begin leadership responsibilities in the local church. It is best for the disciple to learn to lead under the supervision and watchful guidance of the Partner. This helps to produce effective, patient and loving leaders.

4. Release them to lead

This is probably the hardest part of being a Partner. As a leader, the Partner has taught them, cared for them, looked out for them – and now it is time to release their disciples to be leaders themselves. The book of Acts gives several examples where leaders were released to go and teach other groups of believers.

- Jerusalem church sent Peter and John to Samaria to verify that the Gentiles had accepted Word of God. (Acts 8:14)
- Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch. (Acts 11:22-23)
- Church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 13:1-3)
- Church at Thessalonica sent Paul and Silas to Berea. (Acts 17:10)
- Paul sent his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia. (Acts 19:22)
- Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus to encourage them. (Acts 20:17-36)
- Paul sent Timothy to encourage the believers at the church in Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 3:2)



Empower new leaders

The Partner must provide some leadership opportunities for qualified emerging leaders whom the Lord has gifted to teach and/or preach. They must be given the opportunity to practice under supervision by taking over some of the teaching responsibilities in the church.

We started our emerging leaders by first letting them teach home Bible studies (or cell groups). Then we expanded their responsibilities to include teaching in outreach areas. Finally we allowed them to teach occasionally in the mid-week and Sunday services in the local church.

It is very important for the Partner to attend their teaching sessions often and listen to the comments of others so they can give encouragement. Give them suggestions on how to improve. One problem a new leader often experiences is that they try to preach and teach too long and cover too much material in one session. This makes the hearers tired. Give them guidelines and time limits. Help them to focus on the most important areas!

D. Moving to Stage 4 - Participant

Diagram 11.2 Transition from Partner to Participant

As the Partner works alongside their disciples, always training them, they move into the role of a Participant, Stage 4 of the Mission-Church Life Cycle.



Stage 3 - Partner

Now, the Partner's role changes into the role of a Participant – one who delegates responsibility and patiently offers advice.



Stage 4 - Participant

The Partner must now encourage their disciples to rely more on guidance of the Holy Spirit while relying less on the guidance of the Partner. This is a very difficult thing for the Partner to do. It is like a parent who may send their “almost grown” child off to school or a job. **The Partner has taught them well, now it is time to let them lead with authority!**

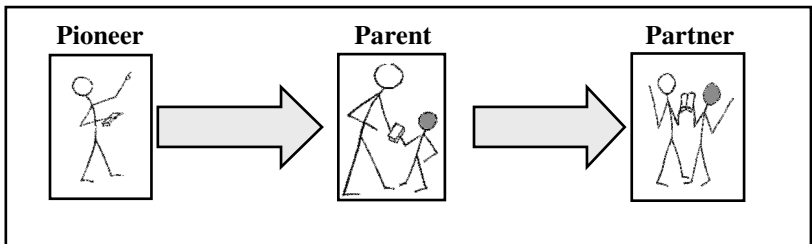


Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Review and discuss the changes in responsibility in each of the first three stages of the Mission-Church Life Cycle shown in Diagram 11.3. (The final stage, Stage 4 – Participant, will be taught in Lessons 12 and 13.)

Diagram 11.3 Change of role and service



- What is the primary purpose of each stage?
- What gifts are used?
- What are the obstacles to avoid?
- In what stage is your church?

Personal Activity

1. Read the books of James, 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Identify and write about Peter’s growth and failures in leadership.

Discipleship Activity

1. Discuss with your disciple the first three stages of the Mission-Church Life Cycle. Answer any questions they may have. Consider areas that were not effectively completed and make plans to correct this situation.

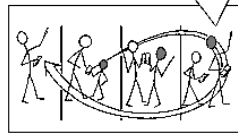
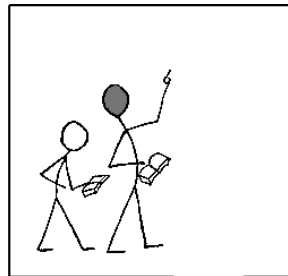
Lesson 12

PARTICIPANT: Biblical Perspective

Objectives

- Realize the importance of letting go
- Understand that false teachers and false doctrine are dangerous
- Learn why endurance is a key to victory

Stage 4 - Participant



Key Verse

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

The mark of a truly successful leader is revealed only in time. The Christian journey places a leader into difficult life situations. These include relationships with people in their own household, other believers and people in the community. It is hard work to be a Christian leader, work that includes service and ministry – and work that never seems to be completed. A leader can become weary and

burdened as reflected in the key verse. That is one reason Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened ...” We must always remember that we are **His** servants doing **His** work by **His** power. We run our race before a large cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1). God promised to never leave or forsake those who belong to Him (Hebrews 13:5, Deuteronomy 31:6). **BE FINISHERS** as was Jesus, Paul and the apostles. (📖 Read Hebrews 11 for a list of some faithful followers of God.)



Stage 4: Participant

The last stage of the Mission-Church Life Cycle is **Participant**. The picture shows that the role of the new leader has grown while the role of the Participant is less. The Participant, who began work as the Pioneer who started the church, is now close to completing their task.

The church is maturing and is continuing to win and disciple new believers. The church now has many mature believers in leadership. They are in control of day-to-day responsibilities and are teaching and preaching regularly. The new leaders are making new disciples, training and mentoring potential future leaders. The Mission-Church Life Cycle is completing its cycle. The cycle starts over when these new leaders actively lead the church to plant new churches, win new believers and identify and train new leaders.

At this stage, the **Participant** acts in the role of a counselor, a guide, an advisor, an encourager and a teacher. The new leadership in the church looks to the Participant for wisdom, instruction and encouragement. It is now time for the Participant to let go of their authority and allow the new leaders to accept responsibility to lead with authority and the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus fully equipped His disciples and knew they could carry the Good News forth successfully after His resurrection. The book of Acts tells how the apostles boldly proclaimed Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. They preached and taught about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. People became believers and were added to the church daily. The book of Acts gives an account of the early church growth. The New Testament letters tell how the apostles *participated* with new churches throughout their world.

Just as Jesus trusted the apostles to carry the “Good News,” He also trusts that disciples TODAY will carry His Good News to all people in all nations.

A. Christ’s example of letting go

Jesus knew all the things that would happen to him. He knew He would be crucified, He knew He would die and He knew He would rise again after three days. As that time drew closer, Jesus specifically focused on teaching His disciples. Just as Jesus focused on teaching His disciples, the Participant must focus on mentoring, counseling and guiding new leaders.

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Ephesians 3:10-11)*

 See also Colossians 1:18.

Jesus knew that after His death and resurrection, He would go to the Father and then the Holy Spirit would come and empower the apostles to accomplish His commands. Jesus left the church with the resources necessary for it to grow and serve Him. Some of these resources include:

- The Word of God (John 17:8, 14)
- The Holy Spirit (John 16:7, 20:21-22, Luke 24:49, Acts 2:38-39)
- Jesus’ prayers (John 17, Hebrews 7:24-25)
- Trained leaders (John 11:54)

B. Paul’s example of letting go

All church leaders will eventually have to release their authority in the church to new leadership. Paul is an example of an apostle who planted many churches among the Gentiles. With each church Paul organized, he went through the four stages of the Mission-Church Life Cycle.

- **Pioneer** – Many Jews and Gentiles became believers in the Lord, Jesus Christ, because of Paul’s witnessing and preaching. Although he taught in the Jewish synagogue too, he focused his evangelistic efforts on the Gentiles.
- **Parent** – As Paul taught these new believers like a parent teaches a child, they grew in their faith in Jesus and formed churches.
- **Partner** – Paul mentored and trained new leaders. He quickly turned the authority and responsibility to govern these new churches over to these new leaders. He “partnered” with them to identify and develop the vision of the new church. He mentored them in leadership skills. He constantly reminded them that the work would be done by God and the Holy Spirit. Their task was to follow through with the teaching and preaching of God’s Word and caring for new believers.
- **Participant** – Paul participated with each of the churches he helped to organize by offering encouragement, advice, instruction, exhortation and warnings. He maintained contact with these churches and participated in their maturity through visits and written letters.

The importance of Paul’s ministry is evident because he is responsible for writing most of the letters found in the New Testament. These letters were written to churches located throughout the world at his time. They were located in Corinth (1 and 2 Corinthians), Galatia (Galatians), Ephesus (Ephesians), Philippi (Philippians), Colosse (Colossians) and Thessalonica (1 and 2 Thessalonians). He also wrote letters to church leaders (Titus, 1 and 2 Timothy). And, he wrote to all believers about doctrines of the church (Romans and possibly Hebrews).

In most of these letters, Paul started out by encouraging the local church. He usually provided a personal example of his life, taught a lesson needed in that church at that time, offered warnings and provided instruction on Christian living. Basically, Paul was “participating” in these churches (though absent in person) by offering written encouragement, advice and wisdom. He allowed them to be led by the Holy Spirit and their local leadership.

1. Last words to the elders at Ephesus

One example of Paul’s release to allow leaders in local churches to lead is his last words to the elders in Ephesus. On his way to Jerusalem, Paul sent for the elders of Ephesus to meet him in

Miletus. 📖 Read about Paul's last instructions to these elders in Acts 20:17-38. Paul reminded them of their need to serve the Lord, teach, preach, encourage, testify about Christ and beware of false teachers. Some other final statements and instructions to these elders are listed in the following text.

- Left them with God's Word (Acts 20:20, 27)
- Warned against false teachers (Acts 20:30)
- Committed them to God (Acts 20:32)
- Released with prayer (Acts 20:36)

2. Last words to Timothy

On each of Paul's missionary journeys, he took several trusted believers to mentor as leaders. One of these future leaders was Timothy, who traveled with Paul as a very young man. During Paul's ministry, he worked closely with Timothy. In fact, he considered Timothy as a son (2 Timothy 1:2).

The book of 2 Timothy may have been Paul's last correspondence with Timothy. At the time, Paul was in prison in Rome and knew he was soon to die because of his faith in Jesus Christ. He sent words of instruction, encouragement and warning to Timothy. The whole book of 2 Timothy is Paul's instruction to Timothy as he matures in leadership in the church. Paul cautioned the young Timothy about the following areas of church leadership:

- Persecutions and sufferings
- False teachers and false doctrines
- Continue in ministry

Each will be briefly discussed in the following text.

a. Persecutions and sufferings

Paul encouraged and warned Timothy about the persecution and sufferings he would experience because of his preaching. Some examples from 2 Timothy are shown in the following list.

- Do not be afraid to walk in power, love and discipline. (1:7)
- Do not run away from suffering for the Gospel. (1:8)
- The power that is in Christ strengthens you to continue to preach while suffering for the sake of the Gospel. (1:9-12)
- Endure suffering like a soldier. (2:3)

- The reason to preach (even during persecution) is that people will obtain salvation by hearing the Gospel. (2:10)
- Persecution is sure for those who want to live a Godly life. Paul reminds Timothy of the persecution he endured for the sake of the Gospel. (3:10-13)
- Do not react to suffering by deserting (denying) your faith. (4:5)

b. False teachers and false doctrine

In his final letter to Timothy, Paul warned him to preach the whole truth of God’s Word and to guard against false teachers and false teachings. False teachers are dangerous, deceiving and destructive. He even refers to these false teachers as “ravenous wolves,” meaning they are destructive to God’s people and to the churches.

Characteristics of a false teacher – The Bible gives many examples of how to recognize a false teacher. Table 12.1 shows some characteristics of a false teacher.

Table 12.1 Characteristics of false teachers	
False teachers may have much sin in their personal life.	
	📖 See 2 Peter 2:14, Jude 4 and Matthew 7:15-23.
False teachers pervert the core doctrines of Christianity.	
	Comment: They distort the Biblical understanding of Jesus and the doctrine of salvation. 📖 See 2 Peter 2:1 and Jude 4.
False teachers are deceived by Satan and his demons.	
	Comment: The lies they teach were conceived by Satan. 📖 See 1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.
They pretend to be Christian leaders.	
	Comment: They pretend that they are people with authority in the church. 📖 See 2 Corinthians 11:13 and Matthew 7:15.
They often despise authority.	
	Comment: Like Satan, false teachers resent any authority but their own. They do not want limits on their behavior. 📖 See 2 Peter 2:10, Jude 8 and Isaiah 14:12-15.
They make up deceitful stories.	
	Comment: Some false teachers pretend that God or angels have told them things that contradict Scripture. 📖 See 2 Peter 2:3, Colossians 2:18 and Jeremiah 23:26.

Table 12.1 Characteristics of false teachers

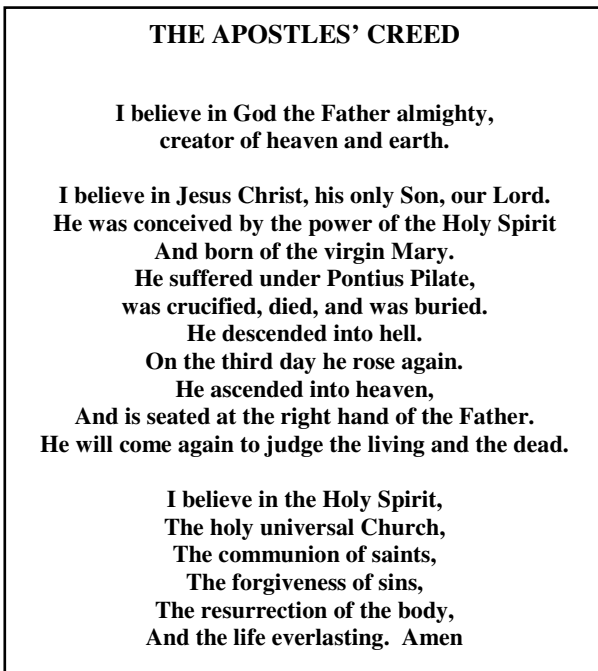
They desire to have many followers.	
	Comment: By gaining large numbers of followers, false teachers gain whatever they want. They may be seeking wealth, immorality or the ability to control others. 📖 See Acts 20:29-30, Galatians 4:17 and Matthew 20:25-28.
They prey on the morally weak.	
	Comment: Those who reject the Biblical God of righteousness find the immoral doctrine of some false teachers very appealing. 📖 See 2 Peter 2:14, 18, 2 Timothy 4:3-4 and Jude 4.
They are divisive.	
	Comment: They spread controversy in order to divide the church and draw away those who believe their lies. 📖 See 1 Timothy 6:4-5, 1:3-5, Jude 19, Mark 3:25.
They may exploit the church for money.	
	Comment: They want to use the church to acquire wealth. 📖 See 1 Timothy 6:5, 2 Peter 2:14 and Titus 1:10-11.
They pretend to be believers.	
	Comment: They pretend to be believers so that they may spread their false doctrine inside the church. 📖 See Jude 4 and 2 Peter 2:1.
They hurt the reputation of the church.	
	Comment: Often, those who follow false teachers claim to be believers causing confusion among unbelievers. 📖 See 2 Peter 2:2.

False teacher test – There are many ways to test to be sure a leader is teaching the truth of God’s Word. Ask these questions:

- Would Jesus teach and support it?
- Are there at least three (3) Bible verses agreeing with the teaching?
- Does the teaching cause division among believers?
- Does it agree with the Apostles’ Creed?

The Apostles’ Creed is an ancient statement of Christian beliefs. Use this as a guideline to help judge whether a teaching is false doctrine.

Diagram 12.1



c. Continue in ministry

As a “Participant,” Paul charged Timothy to continue to go on with his ministry. Before Paul instructed Timothy to “*discharge all the duties of his ministry*,” he encouraged and warned him about many things that he would experience in the ministry. His encouragement to Timothy is still suitable for each of us today.

*In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. . . . But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*** (2 Timothy 4:1-2, 5 emphasis added)

It is very important for the mentor, the “Participant,” to continue to encourage and support emerging leaders. Some of Paul’s encouragements to Timothy are shown in Table 12.2. Use this list as a guideline in your ministry.

1	Fan into flame the gift God has given you because God gives a spirit of power, love and self discipline. (1:6-7)
2	Do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord. (1:8)
3	Join in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. (1:8)
4	Keep Paul’s teachings as a pattern of sound teaching with faith and love in Christ Jesus. (1:13)
5	Guard the good deposit (sound teaching) with the help of the Holy Spirit. (1:14)
6	Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2:1)
7	Entrust Paul’s teachings about Jesus Christ to reliable men who are qualified to teach others. (2:2)
8	Endure hardship like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (2:3)
9	Reflect and the Lord will give you insight into all this. (2:7)
10	Keep reminding them. (2:14)
11	Warn them against quarreling. (2:14)
12	Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed. (2:15)
13	Correctly handle the Word of truth. (4:15)
14	Avoid godless chatter. (4:16)
15	Flee the evil desires of youth. (2:22)
16	Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. (2:22)
17	Have nothing to do with foolish, stupid arguments. (2:23)
18	Be kind to everyone. (2:24)
19	Be able to teach. (2:24)
20	Do not be resentful. (2:24)
21	Gently instruct those who oppose you. (2:25)
22	Have nothing to do with people who are lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure. (3:2-5)
23	Continue in what you have learned and of which you have become convinced. (3:14)
24	Know the Holy Scriptures. (3:15)

Table 12.2 Paul's charge to those in ministry	
25	Be taught and equipped by God's Word. (3:16-17)
26	Preach God's Word at all times so people will not turn away from sound doctrine and turn to myths. (4:2-4)
27	Guard against those who oppose your message. (4:15)

C. Reasons you can let go

1. Christ is the Head of the church

Jesus instructed believers to go, preach the Word, teach, baptize, and heal (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18) in His name. When a believer is faithful to obey, the Holy Spirit enables them to do the work of the ministry.

Jesus is the head of the church; the church belongs to Him. It is His responsibility (through the Holy Spirit) to make the church into what He wants it to be. Remember, it is not **your** church; you are a servant working in **His** church. After doing the work of evangelizing, training and mentoring, the Participant can now release new leaders and trust the Holy Spirit to continue to work through them to complete the work that was begun.

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:18 emphasis added)

 See also Ephesians 4:15.



What remains!

In our years of doing church planting, we always told the believers that the true test to see if they were following Jesus - or us - would be what remained five years after we were gone.

We had the privilege of returning for a visit to these churches. After being gone for five years, we found that they had greatly increased their leadership, tithes and offerings and had planted new churches. Now, 16 years later (as of the year 2006), they have planted additional new churches and multiplied their elders and deacons. Of the seven original elders, four have been sent out to do church planting in different provinces or countries. Some had to learn new cultures, food and language.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go.”
(Proverbs 22:6)*

From the very beginning, we started by instilling a heart for missions in the leaders of these churches. Even after we were gone, they put into practice what they had been taught.

2. Priesthood of believers

In the Old Testament, people could not approach God directly. God dedicated the tribe of Levi exclusively to be priests. As representatives of God's people, the priests were the only ones allowed to approach God. Through the redeeming work of Jesus, all believers are now God's chosen people and are called a "royal priesthood." They belong to God and are allowed to approach God directly. The following verses tell about the believer's new position in relation to God.

*But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
(1 Peter 2:9-10 emphasis added)*

As noted in the previous verse, it is the responsibility of each believer to declare the praises of God to others. Jesus created the church to be the Body of Christ on earth. The church, as the Body of Christ, is under the control of God through His Holy Spirit. The following list shows some responsibilities of a believer in relation to the church.

- All believers have direct access to God. (Romans 5:2, Ephesians 2:18, 3:12, Hebrews 10:19-22)
- The Holy Spirit (dwelling in the believer) is ultimately the great teacher of God's Word. (John 16:13-14, 1 John 2:20-21, 27)
- God makes competent ministers, not us. (2 Corinthians 3:5-6)
- Ultimately, it is God (not us) who makes His church grow; however, God has given believers a responsibility and action. (1 Corinthians 3:6-9, Ephesians 4:15-16, Colossians 2:19)



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Look up Paul's instructions to the elders of Ephesus in Acts 20:17-38. Discuss the importance of this action as Paul acted as a Participant with these elders.
2. Review Table 12.1, the characteristics of a false teacher. Discuss how you can recognize false teachers and false doctrine.
 - Do any of the religions working in your area fall into these categories?
 - If so, warn your people about them and show how their teachings contradict Scripture.

Personal Activity

1. Read the books of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude.
2. As you read, write John's warnings and encouragements regarding God's Word.

Discipleship Activity

1. With your disciple, read 2 Peter again. List and discuss the warnings about false teachers found in that book.

Lesson 13

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION: Release

Objectives

- Learn the function of leadership in the church
- Understand leader-believer relationships
- Realize leaders can become weary and need rest
- Learn that the church should grow simultaneously in four ways

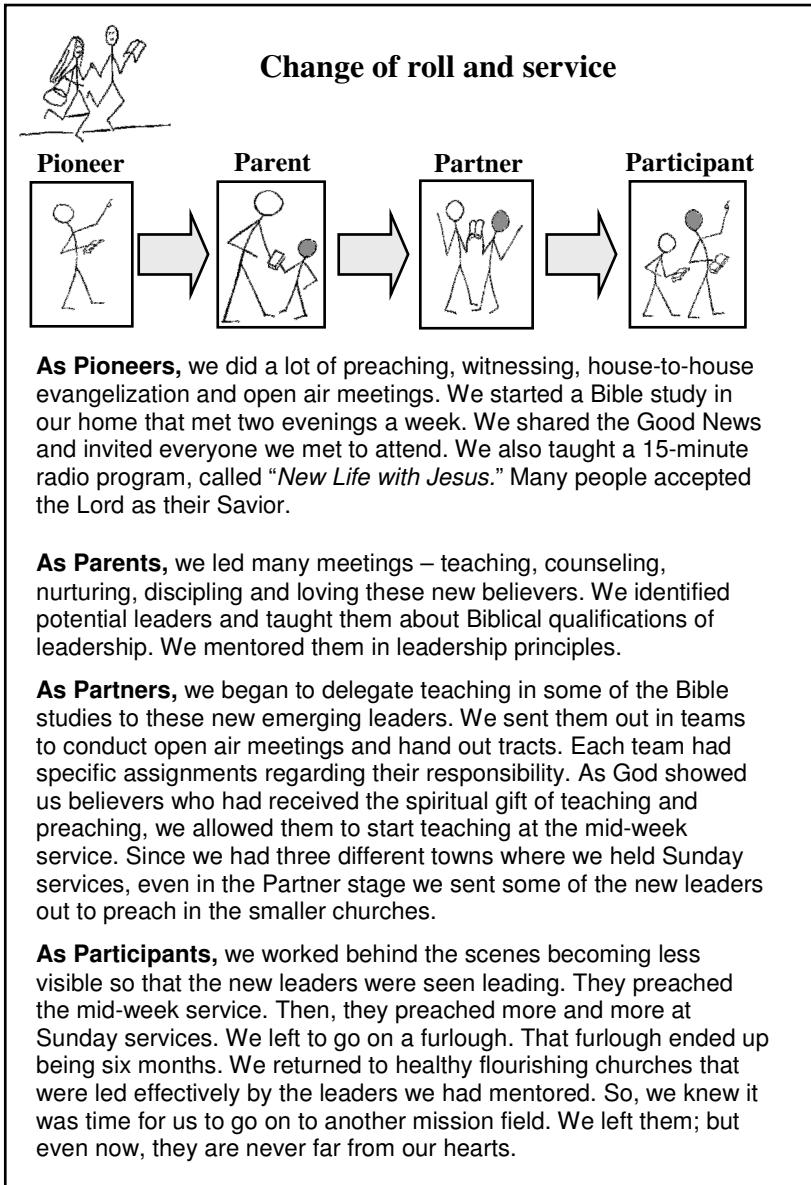
Stage 4 - Participant



Key Verse

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness! ... For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. (Matt. 25:21, 29)

This is the way the Mission-Church Life Cycle worked for us as we did church planting.



The key verse is taken from the Parable of the Talents. 📖 Read Matthew 25:14-30. This parable can be used to illustrate the responsibility given to believers and leaders of Jesus' church. Each believer is given different amounts and kinds of spiritual gifts **AND**, each one is to use these gifts to honor Christ. One focus of this manual is leadership, a spiritual gift for use in the church.

This lesson focuses on the duties of leadership, the spiritual health of a church and caring for one another. Spiritual gifts were explained in Lesson 10.

Stage 4: Participant

	<p>Primary gift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring and encouraging leadership <p>Primary obstacle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letting go successfully
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a. Primary gift: Mentoring and encouraging leadership

The primary gift of the Participant is now to patiently mentor, guide and encourage leaders and offer advice when asked. The Participant's authority in the local church diminishes while the authority of the new leaders increases. These mature leaders are now qualified to take on the roles of a Parent, Partner and Participant in the lives of other new emerging leaders. Thus, the Mission-Church Life Cycle continues.

Successful leadership causes growth and is responsible to meet the needs of the people in the church.

Successful leadership causes growth in the church and is responsible to meet the needs of the people. There is a constant requirement to train and mentor new leadership.



San Vicente

As the church was growing, the new leaders were beginning to take on more responsibility. As we were doing strategy planning with them one day, they said they wanted to plant a church in San Vicente. Our first reaction was “No!” because we had previously sent a team to that area for summer outreach. They lived in that village for a month and had very little “fruit.” Our reasoning was that it seemed to be very “hard ground;” very few people were accepting Jesus as Savior. But as a Participant, we advised them that if they felt the Holy Spirit was leading them and they still wanted to do it, go ahead.

We are so glad we did not try and force our “wisdom” on them because that village was now ready and open to the Gospel. It was evident to us that the Holy Spirit had planted the desire to evangelize this area in the hearts of the new leadership. Many people came to the Lord and a strong, vibrant church was planted there.

Allow your new leaders make their own decisions. You may be surprised to find out that they sometimes have the mind of the Lord more than you.

b. Primary obstacle: Letting go successfully

The primary obstacle for the Participant is to release the leaders who have been mentored and trained to actually lead the church. The result of successful transfer of spiritual authority is a growth in new believers and leaders in the church. The church should not experience a loss of believers just because of a change in leadership.

The result of a successful transfer of spiritual authority is growth in new believers and leaders in the church. The church should not experience a loss of believers because of change in leadership.

As the Participant phases out in their role of leadership and authority, they may have to physically leave that church so the new leadership will be able to lead with authority. If the Participant does

not leave, the people may continue look to them – rather than the new leaders – for leadership decisions. This is a very difficult thing for everyone – the Participant, the new leader and the believers in the church. The Participant should be careful to plan a graceful change of authority with the new leaders and the church so there is no misunderstanding.



The hardest thing was . . .

At the Participant Stage, we were purposely becoming less and less visible as the primary leaders of the churches. Joe was not preaching very much so that the new leaders could preach and be seen by the people. However, we were spending extensive one-on-one time mentoring each leader.

On one occasion, we were away several weeks on business to Manila. During that time, a believer from Manila transferred into town and immediately became involved in the church. The first time we were at church after returning from our trip, we were in the congregation participating without any role of service or recognition. After the service, we were greeted by this believer. She approached us and said, “Oh sister, I am so glad you could visit with us today. My heart stopped and I wanted to cry, “No! This is **OUR** church that **WE** started.”

But actually this was the final phasing out of our time there. We had accomplished what we (and the Holy Spirit) wanted. It was not “**OUR**” church but it **WAS** “His” church. Soon after this, we left to begin a new work relating to leadership training in other parts of Asia.

A. God’s instructions on how to govern/lead

1. Function of leadership

What does an effective leader of God’s people do?

Does leadership exist to serve the church body? OR, does the church body exist that it might serve leadership?

As a Participant, consider these questions regarding the new leaders in the church. The church is designed to use the gifts of every believer in the church. It is the leadership's responsibility to **coordinate the work of the whole church** for service to the Lord (Ephesians 4:11-13).

a. Shepherd the “flock”

Jesus referred to himself as the “Chief Shepherd” (John 10). He also referred to leaders of the church as being a “shepherd” of His flock. Jesus instructed the apostles to feed, watch over and take care of His sheep (John 21:15-19). The church is the organism through which believers, “His sheep,” are nourished and fed.

Many Scriptures telling about a leader's responsibilities use the example of a shepherd who carefully, diligently and tenderly care for and protect their sheep. The shepherd is responsible to care for each animal under their responsibility and is expected to give an account for each one. A good shepherd knows each one of his sheep and leads them by talking calmly to them. He actually calls them by name. Each sheep knows the voice of the shepherd and is expected to be obedient to it.

The following Scripture gives an overview of the responsibilities of an elder, a Christian leader in the church responsible to act as a shepherd and overseer.

*To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.** (1 Peter 5:1-4 emphasis added)*

These responsibilities applied to Peter, the elders of the early churches and they still apply to all Christian leaders today. A leader must be eager and willing to serve those God has entrusted to them for care. They are to be an example to the “flock” in their spiritual, moral and home life. (Refer to Lesson 11 for Biblical qualifications of leadership.)

b. Responsibilities of the “shepherd”

Each elder is responsible to function as a shepherd caring for believers in the church. The following table identifies some of the responsibilities of an elder.

- **Serve the flock of God willingly** (1 Peter 5:2, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16)
- **Preach and teach the flock of God** (1 Timothy 3:2, 5:17, 2 Timothy 2:2, 2:24-25, Titus 1:9, Acts 2:42)
- **Protect and watch over the flock of God as an overseer** (Acts 20:28, Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:7)
- **Care for and tend the flock of God** (James 5:14-15)
- **Govern the flock of God wisely** (Acts 16:4, Romans 16:17-19, Colossians 2:8)
- **Live your life as an example for others to imitate** (Hebrews 13:7)
- **Warnings about being an elder** (Jeremiah 23:1-5, Ezekiel 34)

Note: The function of New Testament eldership is identified in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3.



4 of 7 Leaders – It works!

Four of our first seven church leaders went out as Pioneers to plant new churches in other regions and other nations. There was no regular financial umbilical cord to us, the Pioneer missionaries, or to the original sending church. The Mission Church Life Cycle works!

On return visits, we saw that the children of the leaders we had mentored were becoming the next generation of leaders by Biblical qualification – not by family relationship.

2. Maintenance of leader-believer relationships

*From him the **whole body**, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in*

love, as **each part does its work**. (Ephesians 4:16
emphasis added)

Church leadership is responsible to maintain a good and proper relationship between themselves and believers.

Motives Checklist

- ✓ **Love**
- ✓ **Obedience**
- ✓ **Care for others**

These are to be the foundational motives of a leader.

Consider the Motives Checklist and Diagram 13.1, Maintenance of leader-believer relationships. These actions and attitudes reflect Christ-like character. It is important that the Participant teach new leaders that when they serve one another, they are serving Christ. You may want to remind the leaders by reading this list at the beginning of each leadership meeting.

Diagram 13.1

Maintenance of Leader-Believer Relationships

- Love one another. (John 13:34-35)
- Be devoted to one another. (Romans 12:10-13)
- Have the same mind to one another. (Romans 12:14-19)
- Do not judge one another. (Romans 14:13)
- Edify one another. (Romans 14:19)
- Accept one another. (Romans 15:7)
- Instruct one another. (Romans 15:14)
- Care for one another. (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
- Serve one another in love. (Galatians 5:14-15)
- Do not provoke or envy each other. (Galatians 5:25-26)
- Bear burdens with one another. (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- Be kind, compassionate and forgiving with one another. (Ephesians 4:32)
- Submit to one another. (Ephesians 5:21)
- Abound in love toward one another. (1 Thes. 3:12)

Maintenance of Leader-Believer Relationships Continued

- Encourage and build up one another. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:11, Hebrews 3:13)
- Spur one another to love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)
- Do not speak evil of one another. (James 4:11)
- Do not grumble or hold a grudge against one another. (James 5:9)
- Confess your sins to and pray for one another. (James 5:16)
- Love one another deeply from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22)
- Live in harmony, be compassionate and humble with one another. (1 Peter 3:8-9)
- Show hospitality to one another. (1 Peter 4:9)
- Minister to one another. (1 Peter 4:10)
- Be humble to one another. (1 Peter 5:5)
- Fellowship with one another. (1 John 1:7)

3. Leaders weary and need rest

A good leader soon realizes they cannot be everywhere and do all things. A good leader delegates tasks to chosen leaders (and/or believers) and gives them authority to accomplish their agreed upon goals. Good leaders allow others to work in their God-given talents and gifts.

As discussed in Lesson 11, Moses' style of leadership needed to change to effectively meet the needs of the people (Exodus 18:13-26). One of the biggest problems experienced by leaders is that they get weary. Some leaders wrongly think they must be involved in everything for a church to be successful. This causes them to be over worked and have little or no time with their family. They become tired, weary and discouraged. Each leader must guard against becoming weary and burned out.

a. Signs of weariness

Sometimes weariness can be caused by a leader's reluctance to rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and they try to lead in their own strength and experience. Other times, weariness can be related to an individual leader's personality. A few examples are:

- Because a leader has high expectations, they may feel unappreciated and oversensitive when things do not go as planned.
- The leader may be very idealistic and impractical regarding tasks and programs that the church can accomplish. They may become weary when the task is not completed as they envisioned it would.
- Because they accept too large a share of the responsibility for success, they may feel unappreciated, misunderstood and think no one cares.
- They may be high achievers with a lot of energy and personal resources. So, if a program is not completed on schedule, they can feel defeated, over worked and never fulfilled.
- They may be very goal driven. They can become over sensitive. They may resent it if there is a lack of resources available for use to achieve the goal.
- They work very hard but may feel they are under paid.

These signs can lead to a progression of frustration that ends in a state of being ineffective, weary and discouraged. The progression of a weary leader seems to follow this pattern.

1. Enthusiasm and vision
2. Weariness
3. Disillusionment
4. Failure and surrender
5. I do not care. Even death is preferable.
(Moses: Numbers 11:15)

Sometimes, a weary leader desires removal.

b. Restoration to service and ministry

Can a leader ever get out of this weariness of life? The good news is that there are ways to restore leaders who have become weary.

The Participant should use the following questions to help a weary leader understand their position in the church and their responsibility for its success. Ask them to think about the following questions and pray with them for restoration.

- What do I have in Christ?
- Who am I in Christ?
- Who can do all things – me or Jesus?
- Who can save the soul?
- Who should we fear – God alone?
- Who made us and knows our capabilities?
- Who are we serving – God or people?
- Know the Word of God! It is truth! God's Word is eternal while this present life is temporal.

Now that they understand their “position,” what can they **DO** to refresh their spirit of service and ministry? Diagram 13.2 shows several methods a weary leader can use to become effective again. Consider them prayerfully.

Diagram 13.2

How to become restored to service and ministry

- **Take some time off.**
- **Spend time alone with God fasting and praying.**
- **Counsel with other Godly leaders.**
- **Prioritize the work.**
- **Set up reasonable expectations.**

These will help a weary and tired leader to be refreshed and restored to service within the church.

c. Summary

It is a leader's responsibility to surrender and to obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is also their responsibility to live a Godly life as an example for their disciples and other believers. The writer of Hebrews recognized that leaders have a difficult time and need the encouragement and prayers of all believers (Hebrews 13:17-18).

B. Spiritual health of the church

The Participant, along with the new emerging leaders, must continually be aware of the spiritual condition of the church. The Participant should never go off and leave a new leader with a “sick” church body. They should stay and help the new leaders get the church healthy before they leave to go to another mission field.

A church body can become spiritually sick just like a person can become sick with a virus or the flu. This sickness could easily spread throughout the church possibly because of two things: poor personal spiritual conduct and error in teaching. 📖 Read Ephesians 5:1-21. A spiritually sick church is crippled and will not grow nor be effective. The following list shows some ways a church could be spiritually sick.

- Immaturity
- Poor leadership
- No vision
- Not equipped for ministry
- Do not understand the purpose of the church
- Faith without works
- Disunity
- Lack of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ
- Procrastination
- No giving (tithing)
- Lack of prayer
- Busy building individual personal kingdoms, no time for God’s kingdom

1. Personal spiritual conduct

Every leader should exhibit the fruit of the Spirit as they work in ministry with other believers and in the community. The fruit of the Spirit is shown in the following Scripture.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

In nature, fruit contains seed that reproduces itself. Likewise, the “fruit of the Spirit” can only reside in the life of one who lives a

Christ-like life. It is critical that the lives of the Participant and new leaders reflect these characteristics in their life.

The fruit of the Spirit will reproduce and bear more fruit. Sometimes “fruit” will be new believers; sometimes it will be a life maturing toward God. Paul wrote to the Colossians about leading a pleasing life worthy of the Lord.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:10-12)

If a leader’s personal conduct is less than Christ-like, the church will suffer and will not grow. Poor personal conduct is a very serious thing in the church and should be guarded against. Paul wrote to the Galatians about the sinful nature of people (Galatians 5:19-21).

2. Avoid error

Paul, John and the other apostles warned new leaders and believers to avoid error by guarding against false teachers. It is very important to understand that one way Satan will cause disharmony among believers is through false teachers. Refer to Lesson 12, Table 12.1, Characteristics of false teachers.

In order to protect their “flock,” the leader may have to do some things that are culturally and socially difficult. For example, you may have to ask someone who is teaching error to leave one of your services or meetings. The following happened to us.



Protection from false teachers

In the first years of our ministry, we held meetings in the large living room of our apartment. In 1983, my mother was visiting us. Before a meeting was scheduled to begin, we heard her talking to someone in the living room. Then we saw who it was. We knew that this older gentleman belonged to a cult and liked to “steal” young believers away from churches.

Fortunately he came early. Joe had to ask him very nicely, but firmly, to leave. He turned and asked my mother: “Why is your son-in-law like this?” Joe told him he was not welcome because his religion was deceiving people away from Jesus Christ and the truth of the Gospel.

We had to protect our people from being deceived by him. He finally left. When we told my mother with what group he was associated, she was happy we had him leave.

C. SUMMARY – CHURCH GROWTH

The church is a living organism expanding with a growth that comes from God.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

The church is made of people; the church is NOT a building made of stones. As people must grow to stay healthy, so the church must grow to stay healthy. The goal of growth is to offer salvation to people who do not know Christ and to make new disciples. It is NOT to increase numbers of people just to have a larger church.

Growth is a continuous cycle. As shown in Diagram 13.3, there are four basic phases of growth that a healthy local church must experience in order to bear fruit for the Gospel.

- Upward growth
- Outward growth
- Inward growth
- Onward growth

A thriving church can be active in all four areas of growth at the same time.

Upward growth

Growth in spiritual disciplines such as praise, worship and fellowship with God.

As individual members of the local church grow and mature in their own personal spiritual lives, they are filled with new strength from Christ and the Holy Spirit. Believers grow in Christ's character and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25) using the spiritual gifts given by God.

Outward growth

Growth in Christian fellowship, unity, serving one another and caring for the community resulting in producing daughter churches within the same culture.

The church should grow by continually adding new believers from the community. This involves preaching the Gospel. The church should multiply itself, producing "daughter churches" **within the same culture**. The result is growth in Christian fellowship, unity, serving one another, caring for people in the community and multiplication or congregations.

Inward growth

Growth in deeper Christian life, holy living through Bible study and prayer.

Believers in the church are maturing in a deeper Christian life and holy living through Bible study and prayer.

Onward growth

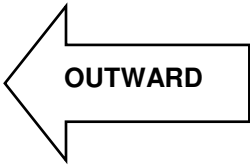
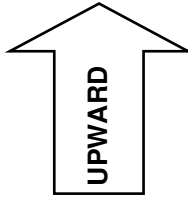
Growth in witness, evangelism and multiplication of congregations beyond its own culture.

The church should extend its witness and church planting **beyond its own culture** by ministering to people in other cultures and nations. This is accomplished through witnessing and evangelism. The result is multiplication of congregations. As this is accomplished, new “daughter” churches are planted.

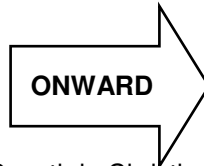
Diagram 13.3

**SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP
IN THE CHURCH
PRODUCES GROWTH**

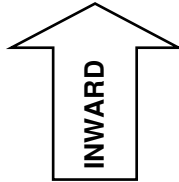
Growth in spiritual disciplines
such as praise, worship and
fellowship with God.



Growth in witness,
evangelism and
multiplication of
congregations
beyond their culture.



Growth in Christian
fellowship, unity,
serving one another
and caring for the
community resulting
in new daughter
churches within the
same culture.



Growth in deeper Christian
life, holy living through
Bible study and prayer.

FINALLY

... The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4).

Throughout the ages, Jesus Christ has preserved His people through all types of difficulties. He has good plans and wants the best for His people so they may be a blessing to the nations, glorifying His name, praying for the peace of Jerusalem and His second coming. Like Him, always be found ready and preparing others for eternity in the Kingdom of God.



Activity Assignments

Class Activity

1. Discuss how leaders can shepherd and guard their sheep.
2. Review Diagram 13.3, Successful leadership in the church produces growth. Discuss how a church can grow in all four areas at one time.
3. Divide into groups. Review the “Maintenance of leader-believer relationships,” Diagram 13.1. These relationships show Christ’s love and care for others.
 - Have each group choose five (5) of these to discuss.
 - If there are some relationships between believers in your church that are not in order, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide in resolving each area. Do whatever you can to heal or cure the situation.

Personal Activity

1. Read the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Titus and Philemon.
2. Are you in danger of becoming weary and burned out? If so, write your thoughts. Pray and consider the best way of refreshing and restoration. This may be a good time to counsel with your mentor.

Discipleship Activity

1. Read the “Maintenance of leader-believer relationships,” Diagram 13.1, together with your disciple.
 - Review whether you are both practicing each one.
 - Talk openly about which ones are difficult for you to obey.
 - Pray for one another’s weaknesses.
2. With your disciple, discuss how the four types of church growth can happen at the same time.

Appendix

Equippers Group International

EGI's mission

To provide user-friendly Biblical training and materials to under-resourced parts of the Body of Christ so God's people are equipped to be fully functioning followers and servants of Jesus Christ.

And the things which you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)

The need

The church seems to be growing fastest in places where believers have little opportunity for formal training. This quote is from the founders of EGI:

After 30 years on the foreign mission field, we have observed that the majority of grassroots leaders in the emerging church do not have access to seminaries or Bible schools. Many churches have pastors without any Biblical training whatsoever. EGI was created to provide practical training and materials uniquely designed to meet these urgent needs.

*Rev. Joseph (Joe) & Jo Hughes
Founders, Equippers Group International*

There must be a way to reach these fellow believers and equip them with the tools they so desperately need to grow and multiply.

The vision

EGL's vision is simple and direct: Equip leaders for effective ministry that equips others for multiplication. This vision focuses on these efforts:

- Provide training in each group's own language.
- Provide practical training related to essential elements of church doctrine and discipline.
- Provide believers with Biblically-based materials to equip them for the Christian journey and use in equipping others.

To meet the need, essential Christian materials must be created that are concise, comprehensive, easy to translate and easy to teach. They should cover the entire range of needs - from basic doctrine and disciplines to church leadership and mobilization. Wherever the Holy Spirit opens a door, partnerships can be made with existing church networks in target areas. EGL works with them to provide training materials, facilitate train-the-trainer sessions and do training as requested.

The strategy

EGL's strategy to implement the vision is:

- Create Biblically-based training materials that can be freely translated and distributed. EGL has created a series of books for a training system called the Getting Equipped™ Series.
- Develop relationships with leaders of church networks in target areas.
- Strategize with national contacts to determine how EGL can best help believers in that country.
- Partner with leaders, set priorities and develop a plan to bring needed training to that region of the world.
- Celebrate the growth. Release each church to fulfill its unique purpose through local leadership.
- Implement the plan. Often, an EGL representative will conduct the initial training session for pastors and church leaders. This "train-the-trainer" session launches EGL's series and materials and begins the process of multiplication and mobilization.

- Measure effectiveness through follow-up with church leadership. This assures accountability for each leader and continual improvement and feedback for EGI.

The Holy Spirit is our greatest Partner and Leader in this effort. To the best of our God-given wisdom and ability, we will move whenever and wherever He directs.

So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

The Getting Equipped™ Series

The Getting Equipped™ Series is EGI's response to this urgent need for materials. It consists of training manuals that cover the major elements of Christian doctrine, discipline and leadership. While comprehensive in scope, the Getting Equipped™ Series follows guidelines that make it relatively easy to translate and read. It provides a practical, Biblical path that takes believers from early conversion to church leadership. Key points that make this series highly desirable are:

- Biblically based
- Written without church clichés and western cultural references
- Practical and doctrinally balanced
- Each lesson includes application exercises
- User-friendly design

The Getting Equipped™ Series is constantly being expanded with new topics, publications and translations as the need arises. Contact EGI for the current list of publications.

Published manuals

Facilitator's Guide to the Getting Equipped™ Series (2005)

Currently available in English, Gujarati, Russian and Spanish.

Equipped Through Basic Beliefs of Christianity (2004)

Currently available in English, Kiswahili, Russian and Spanish.

Equipped Through Bible Study Skills (2005)

Currently available in English, Russian and Spanish.

Equipped Through Genesis: The Book of Beginnings (2006)

Currently available in English and Russian.

Equipped Through Missions and Church Planting: A Practical Guide (2006)

Currently available in English.

Equipped Through The Christian Family (2008)

Currently available in English.

Equipped Through Stewardship (2008)

Currently available in English.

Translations

As each manual is published in English, it will also be translated into other languages as the opportunity arises. Contact EGI or Nations Vision, Inc. for the current list of translations.

EGI contact information

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