

PLANTING CHURCHES CONVERSATION GUIDE 2

From Groups to Plants to Organised Churches

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DISCIPLE-MAKING & CHURCH PLANTING RESOURCES

Following Jesus.

Walk through the Gospels. Explore in depth Jesus' journey and His example and teaching of disciple-making and movement building.

Following the Spirit.

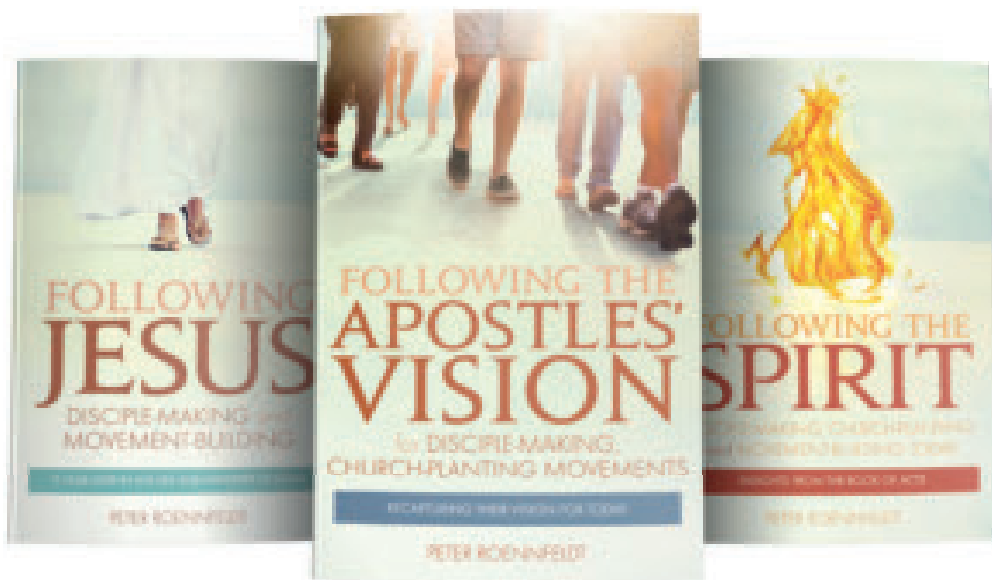
Be inspired. Explore the book of Acts—experience the resilience of early believers in disciple-making, church planting and movement building.

Following the Apostles' Vision.

This book re-reads the letters of Paul to these new churches, disciples and team members, discovering a biblical master-plan for an integrated district disciple-making model that is relevant to every culture and context.

If you can eat ... you can make disciples.

Drawing on Jesus' example and teaching on disciple-making in Luke 10:1-24, this book demystifies evangelism for all—showing how Jesus related to His multi-faith world.



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GETTING STARTED

Jesus began His ministry making disciples. Before He ascended He commanded: *'Go and make disciples of all nations.'* (Matthew 28:19)¹ This is our commission. On the evening of His resurrection, He said: *'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* (John 20:21)

The starting point for church planting is disciple-making—making new disciples who multiply. A new church plant is a gathering of new disciples.

- The gospels tell of Jesus' multiplying disciple-making—His model, teaching and commission. He is our example—and the gospels are our manual.
- Acts tells of the early believers following Jesus—and then gathering new disciples into multiplying church-planting churches. Acts is our manual for church-planting.

We have prepared three conversation guides to explore these themes—

- 1. MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES—with the book *Following Jesus*.**
- 2. CHURCH PLANTING—with the book *Following the Spirit*.**
- 3. CULTIVATING MOVEMENTS—with the book, *Following the Apostles' Vision*.**

In this *conversation guide* we walk through the Book of Acts—to identify key steps in planting new churches and church formation.

Welcome to this journey. Welcome to the challenges, excitement, rewards and drama of planting new communities of faith—of gathering new disciples into multiplying churches. You are on the cutting edge of mission—on a spiritual journey that demands teamwork, faith, and prayer.


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¹ Bible references are from the *New International Version*, Holman Bible Publishers, 1986.

THE GREAT COMMISSION— END VISION

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20

Read using the *Discovery Bible Reading* process:

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

1. What one thing did Jesus commission disciples to do?

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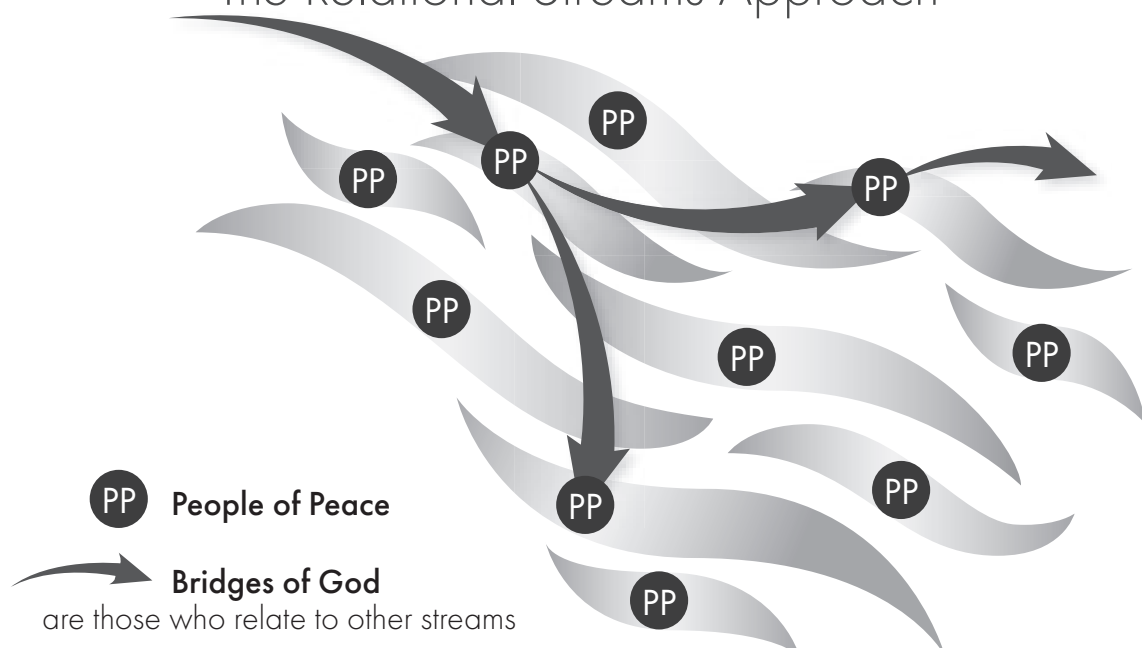
2. The word 'nations' is *ethnē*. What does this mean for disciple-making?

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The Relational Streams Approach



3. VISION: What is God's vision for disciple-making?

New disciples are able to make and multiply disciples.

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

4. MISSION: The reason why your church plant will exist:

[illegible]

Why Plant Churches?

What do you consider to be key reasons for planting new churches?

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How would you rank the following reasons for planting churches?

- ☐ To reach new people.
- ☐ To extend God's kingdom.
- ☐ To put disciple-making back on our agenda.
- ☐ To equip new leaders.
- ☐ To build a fresh relationship with God – for all as missionaries (Acts 1:8).
- ☐ To ensure established churches experience new life (Acts 8-10, 14-15).
- ☐ To put us in tune with God's missionary heart – at work outside the church.
- ☐ To take us to where the Spirit is working outside the church (Acts 10-11, 16:9, 17).
- ☐ To pass on faith and church to next generations (Acts 13:1-4).
 - It is the way next generations find a new relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
 - It is the way the next generation takes ownership of the church.
 - It is the way the next generation of church is cultivated by the next generation of believers.
- ☐ To compel the church to engage with the culture and the future of church (Acts 17).
- ☐ To put us in touch with our New Testament and faith heritage.
 - It reminds us of our origins as a planting movement.

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Why do you think our pioneers emphasized that new believers “be organized into churches” —rather than just added to existing churches (Ellen G White, 7 Testimonies, 19-20)?

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Discuss this statement:

“We must do more than we have done to reach the people of our cities. We are not to erect large buildings in the cities, but over and over again the light has been given me that **we should establish in all our cities small plants which shall be centres of influence**” (Ellen G White, 7 Testimonies, 115). What conclusions do you come to?

Criteria for being an Organized Church

(1) Organized Church

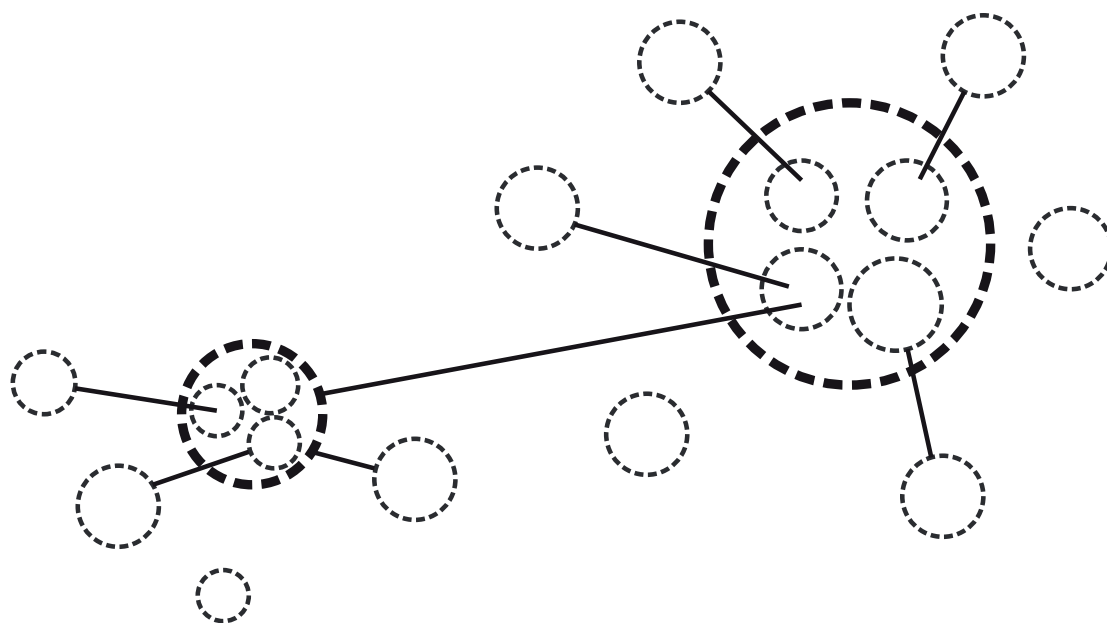
In the Seventh-day Adventist Church there are two levels of local church organization¹:

1. **Church company**—for isolated believers or a small group, house church or church planting core group whose objective is to become an organized church.
 - It is approved by the conference/mission executive committee.
 - A district pastor will be appointed—with a leader, secretary and treasurer chosen.
 - The church board for a company is the conference/mission executive committee.
2. **Organized church**—for a church plant or company that is prepared to take full responsibility as a church, in organization and for mission.
 - It is approved by the conference/mission executive committee.
 - A specific procedure of organization and structure is outlined in policy.

Procedures. Many plants do not start with isolated believers, nor without leadership.

- A core team of church planters can be organized as a church company.
- A church company can be approved for organized church status quite quickly.
- A church plant does not first need to be a church company before being an organized church—however, this can be a good process. As soon as the criteria are met, a church plant or church company should be organized into an organized church.

As a portrayal of an organized church, what qualities and characteristics does the following diagram suggest for a local church?



¹ Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, Review & Herald Publishing, 2016, pages 36-38. <https://www.adventist.org/en/information/church-manual/>

(2) Criteria to be an Organized Church

LIST criteria needed for a group, plant or "hand church" to become an organized church:

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RATE each of the following criteria—where 5 is vitally important & 1 is of little importance:

- ☐ 20 +/- baptized members.
- ☐ Completed a Church Formation workshop. What would be included?
- ☐ A cooperative spirit toward district pastor and conference/mission leaders.
- ☐ Members trained and making disciples—with new disciples being baptized.
- ☐ Members and new disciples involved in multiple *Discovery Bible Reading* groups.
- ☐ At least 3 people qualified and equipped to lead as elders.
- ☐ The Lord's Supper is regularly celebrated.
- ☐ Sabbath School/youth groups are all conducting branch Sabbath Schools.
- ☐ A clear plan to plant another new church within 12 months.
- ☐ At least one ongoing service project in their community.
- ☐ A clear plan to return of tithes and offerings to the conference/mission.
- ☐ Intergenerational experiences—with children and youth affirmed and involved.
- ☐ Ministries for those (children, youth, married, elderly, etc.) attending.
- ☐ Clear accountability procedures being followed for safety of all.
- ☐ A sustainable, multiplying network of churches—under houses, in homes, school classrooms etc. and committed to multiplying simple, sustainable church plants.
- ☐ A training centre for church planting.

What further suggestions do you have?

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Sustainability. What is necessary for a church to be sustainable?

- Leadership from within.
- Clear purpose (Acts 2:42-47; Revelation 14:6-13).
- Equipped disciples able to lead others to Jesus and multiply by:
 - Sharing their stories of meeting Jesus.
 - Inviting others to Him—and leading *Discovery Bible Reading* groups.
- Facilities that do not create a debt burden.
- Able to conduct worship without a visiting preacher.
- Simple and reproducible.
- Have clear values or attitudes.
- Clear beliefs.
- Functional structures.

Functional structures. Consider these:

Personnel:

1. Who will do the tasks and how?
2. How will decisions be made?

Network:

3. How will this gathering relate to the mission/conference?
4. Is this a direct relationship or through a 'parent' church?

Finances:

5. How will tithes/offerings be collected and returned to the mission/conference?

Legal:

6. What moral, legal and ethical responsibilities need to be met?
 - Working with children:
 - Safe places:
 - Boundaries:
 - Insurance:

[illegible]

Theological Frame —church planting flows from God's heart

1. *God's triune being and activity*: John 17:21.

Created 'in His likeness' (Gen 1:26) He seeks to dwell with us, as His 'body'—in the world.

- *God is the missionary (missio Dei)*: John 3:16.
Mission is not primarily a human activity. It flows from God's heart and is His activity.
- *God became 'flesh and blood' to save us (incarnation)*: John 1:14.
God saves us through complete identification with us and the method for sharing this is: our incarnation/identification in our communities.

In what way will the incarnation of God shape the new church?

2. *God gave Himself in sacrifice for us*: Philippians 2:1-11.

How will God's cruciform nature and sacrifice reshape churches?

3. *God's kingdom vision*: Luke 4:18-19.

Growing God's kingdom in people's lives is an imperative for established and new churches.

How will this vision drive the new church plant?

4. *God's temple/body*: Ephesians 2:19-22 — we are God's household.

- *An equipped mature people*. (Ephesians 4:1-16)
- Consider the APEPT¹ principles – how are these gifts to be used? (Verses 11-13)
- How many believers in a church of 20 manifest each of the equipping gifts? (Verse 11)

5. *Oneness in Christ*: 1 Peter 2:1-10; Galatians 3:26-29. All believers are to minister.

- What does a 'royal priest' do in the kingdom of God?
 - What do we learn about the nature of church?
- How do you involve every person as a 'royal priest'?
 - What roles of service are for Jews or slaves only?
 - What should not be shared with males – or females?

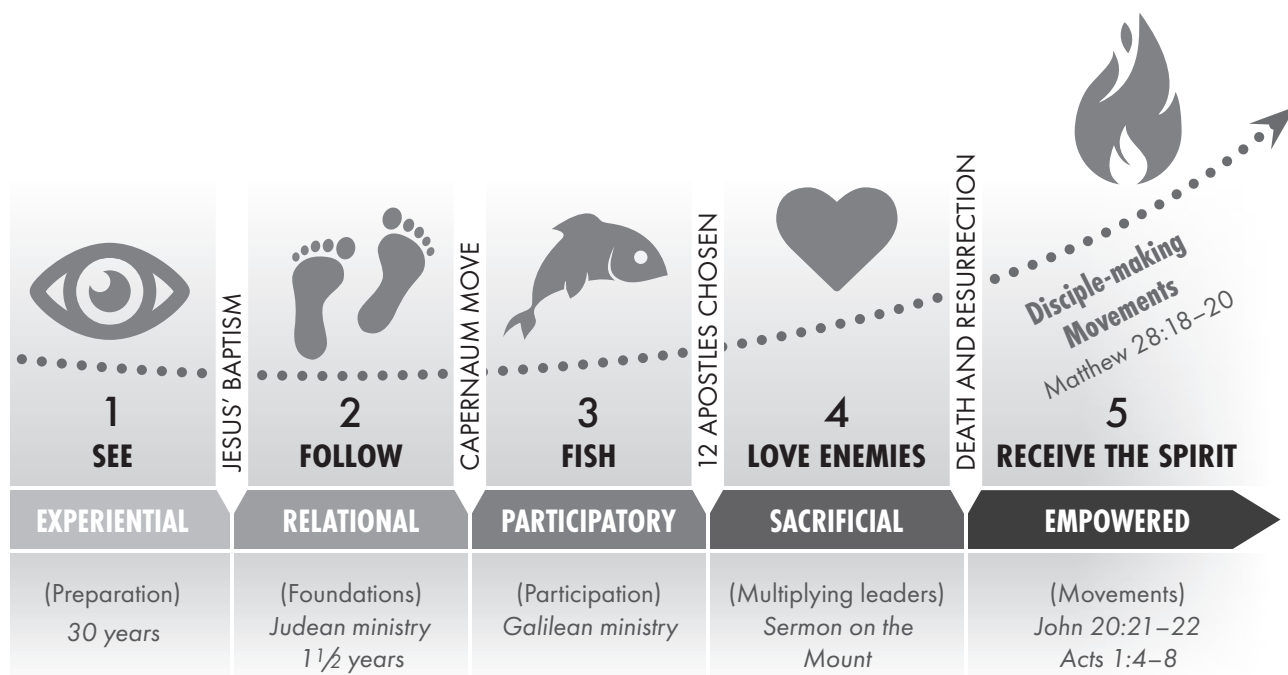
6. *The priestly duty of reaching all*: Romans 15:14-33.

¹ Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher

ESSENTIAL FRAMES

Jesus' Method—Disciple-Making: John 20:19-23

5 INVITATIONS



What can you apply for your disciple-making and church planting?

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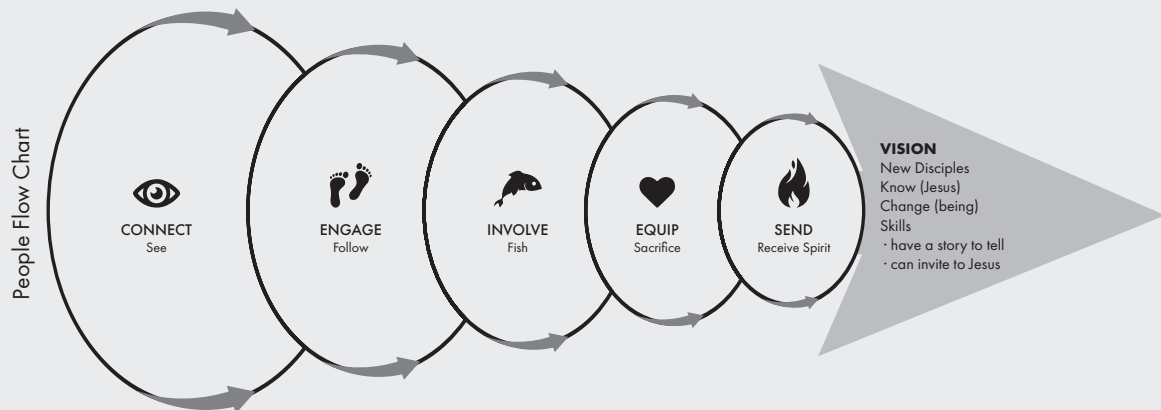
- Preparation phase – **Come and See** (John 1:35-39)
- Foundations phase – **Follow Me** (John 1:43)
- Participation-training – **Fish with Me** (Matthew 4:18-20)
- Multiplying leaders – **Love your enemies/sacrifice with Me** (Matt 5:43-45; 16:24)
- Movements phase – **Receive the Spirit** (John 20:21-22)



ACTIVITY:

Use the People Flow Chart to identify –

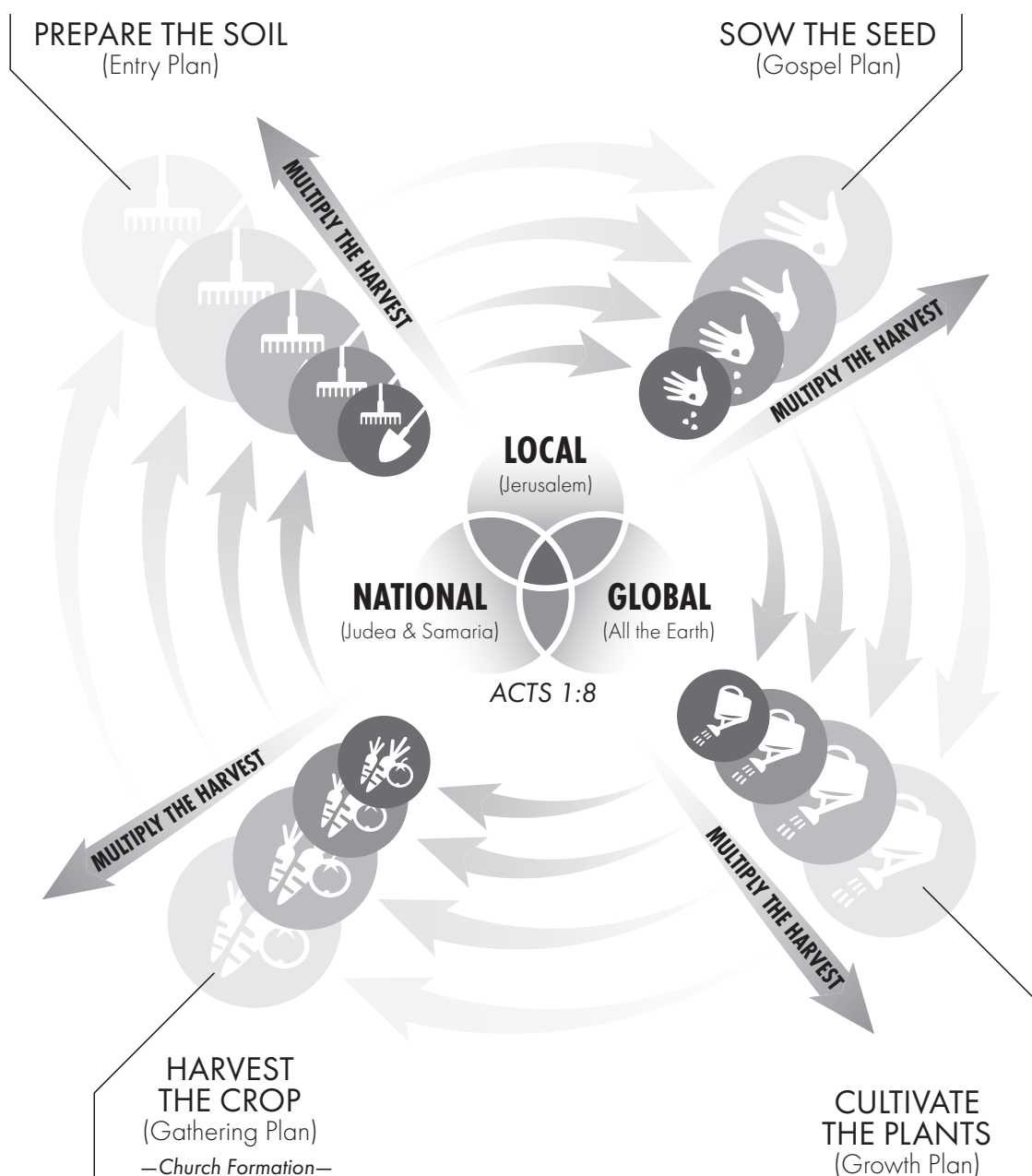
1. Where you are on this journey of discipleship.
2. Where your core church planting team members are on this journey.



Harvest Model: Mark 4:26-29

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

Discuss this agricultural and disciple-making model².



¹ Nathan and Kari Shank, *Reproducing Churches Using Simple Tools*, 2007.

² Peter Roennfeldt, *Following Jesus: Disciple-Making and Movement-Building*, Signs, 2017: 134

Jesus' Teaching—Disciple-Making: Luke 10:1-24

Use the *Discovery Bible Reading* process to review Luke 10:1-9

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

STEPS IN DISCIPLE-MAKING & CHURCH PLANTING:

An overlay of Jesus' teaching on entering new fields (Luke 10:1-24) with His harvest model (Mark 4:26-29) reveals five steps:

DISCIPLE-MAKING

Review what happens in each area of activity in disciple-making:

1. Prepare (empty field):

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2. Sow:

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3. Cultivate (growing 'all by itself'):

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CHURCH PLANTING

4. Harvest (Gather):

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5. Multiply:

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Disciple-making precedes church-planting:

- What 2 things can all new disciples do?
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- If a new church plant is a gathering of new disciples, what are the implications?
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- What would be the benefits of following the following counsel: *"Those who take their stand for the truth are to be organized into churches, and then the minister is to pass on to other equally important fields"* ~E G White, 7 Testimonies, 19-20?
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CHURCH PLANTING

Jesus' Idea of Church: Matthew 16:13-21; 18:15-20

1. What did Jesus say about church?

Matthew 16:13-21; 18:15-20 Jesus used the word 'church' on two occasions.

The church is given the **keys to the kingdom**.

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The basic unit of church — **the two or three gathered in His name**.

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The church is founded upon **sacrificial love**.

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2. What do we learn about the reason for church from Jesus?

Matthew 22:36 40 The great commandments

Worship:
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Ministry:
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Matthew 28:16-20 The great commission

Evangelism:
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Community:
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Christ-likeness:
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The word church means gathering. It is a gathering of disciples.

The *body of Christ* (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Each person has spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

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

How did the idea of buildings, institutions and denominations start?

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Centred-set faith and church

a. What is message and mission of the church? Acts 1:1-8, 22; 2:22-36

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b. How will God's special message to prepare people for Jesus' coming define church?
Revelation 14:6-13 – God's special message for today.

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c. In what ways does the message shape the method?

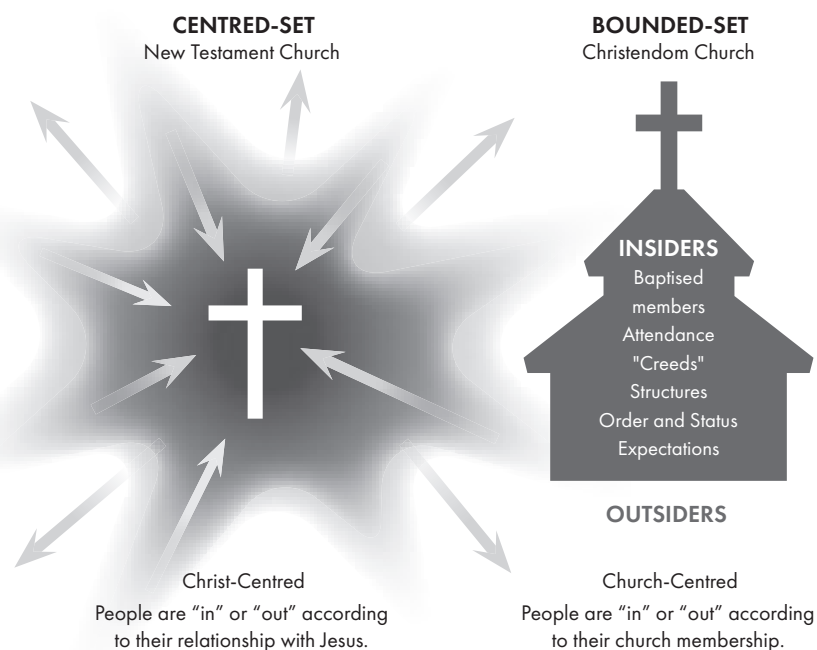
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d. In what ways does the method reshape the mission of the church?

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1. PREPARE

What gave life, vitality and dynamic growth to the early church? (Acts 1-2)

1. TEAMS

- Core teams

Existing churches restructured and organized according to where people live:

Branch Sabbath Schools:

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Branch youth group activities:

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Other:

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Discovery Bible Reading groups:

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People of peace sharing within their networks:

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- Qualities of the church planting core team

Characteristics: (have been with Jesus):

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The S.H.A.P.E¹ of team members—and the team:

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How many are needed for a core team?

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2. PLACES

- Local, regional, international (Acts 1:4-8)

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- Where the Spirit is at work

Samaritans (Acts 8:2-25) – who do they represent today?

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Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) – who does he represent today?

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Saul (Acts 9:1-39) – who does he represent today?

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¹ Spiritual gifts, Heart passion, Abilities, Personality, Experiences.

Cornelius & his household (Acts 9:32-11:18)
– who do they represent today?

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What insights have you gained as to where and among whom you will plant?

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- The disenfranchised start movements. Who are they?

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- Fan every flame. Where are they flickering?

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- Where might God scatter you to?

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3. PRAYER

- Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 2:1-47)
The ordination of every new disciple for disciple-making

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- Conversational prayer
Discovery Bible Reading bookmarks.

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Conversational prayer bookmarks.

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CLARIFY Preparing

BIBLICAL PURPOSE —which verse or verses describe the vision?

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VISION —what do you believe is God's end-vision for the church you will plant?

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MISSION —how would you describe God's mission for this plant?

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VALUES/WORLDVIEW —what 5 or 6 values or attitudes will under-gird this plant?

List essential, distinctive and realistic values that will govern how your new church plant will relate within and with the community—with key actions that will flow from each:

Value —attitudes we value:	Actions —that flow from these:

PLACE & PEOPLE

List the places where you see the Spirit is active:

Describe the people. Who are they?

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What do you discover through demographic studies?

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List the place/s where new groups have formed:

Describe the people. Who are they?

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What can you discover through demographic studies?

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Where are new groups needed?

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Describe the people. Who are they?

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What can you discover through demographic studies?

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2. SOW

- What characterized the Jerusalem church?

Acts 2:42-47

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Acts 4:4 – by this time, what did the church look like in Jerusalem?

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- Abundant* sowing of gospel seed. How will your region be filled with the gospel?

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- What was a key ingredient of worship gatherings? 1 Corinthians 14:26

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Transitions—the tipping points for church planters (Acts 7:1-11:18)

- What was the significance of Stephen's speech? (Acts 7:1-8:3)

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- Identify the key transition in thinking in each of the stories in Acts 8:4-11:18:

1. Samaritans (Acts 8:4-25):

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2. Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40):

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3. Saul (Acts 9:1-32):

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4. Peter and Cornelius (Acts 9:32-11:18):

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Antioch—A Case Study (Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-4)

- Who planted the church in Antioch—and how?

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- What do you discover about church planting?

Teams:

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Foundations:

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Multicultural:

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Equipping:

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Values:

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- Why do you think Antioch became the centre of the NT missionary journeys?

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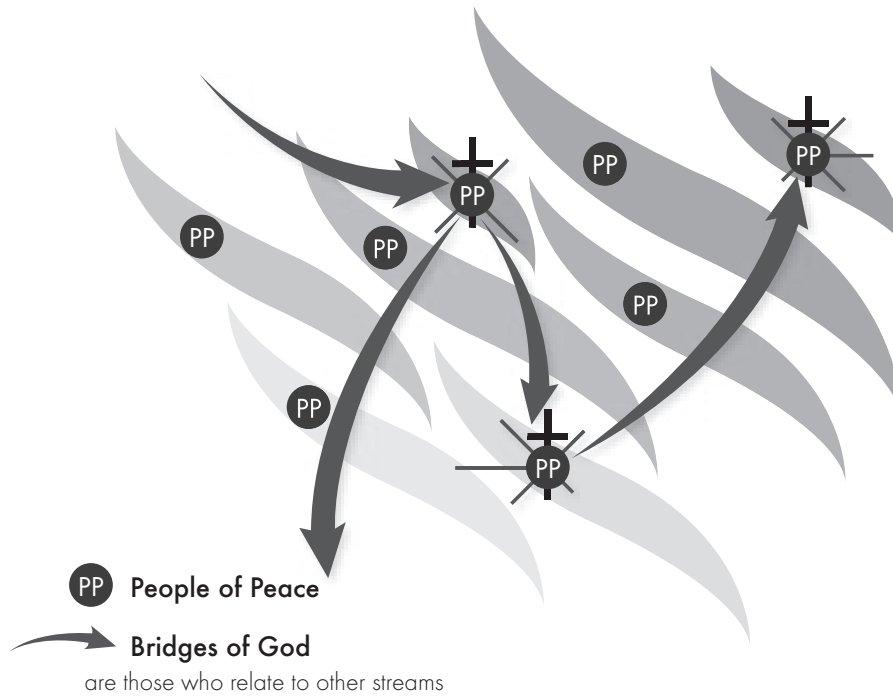
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Paul—Pioneer Church Planter

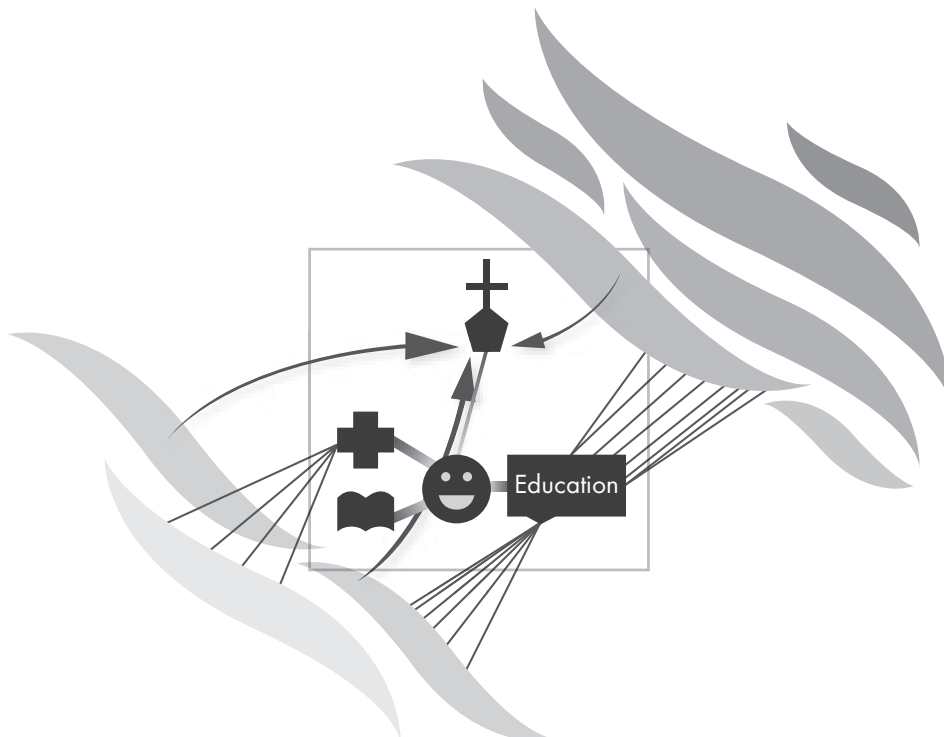
- Review Paul's journeys and identify the key principles and actions he took.
- Paul followed the *relational streams* approach that Jesus modelled and taught.

RELATIONAL STREAMS



- Compare the 19th and 20th century *mission station* approach—

MISSION STATION



- What are the strengths of Jesus' *relational streams* approach?

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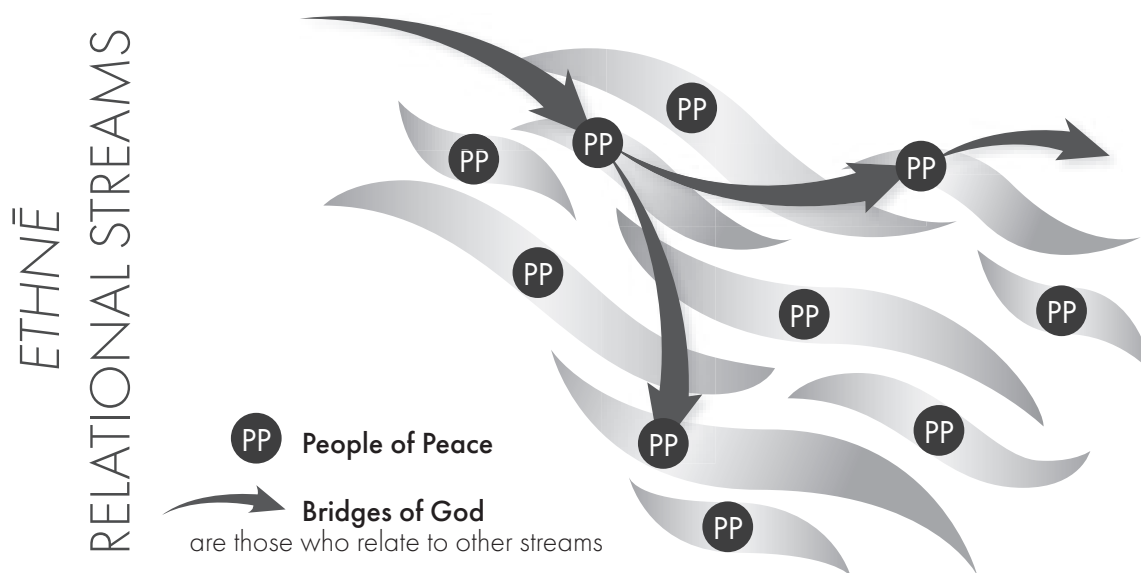
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Journey 1: Acts 13:1-14:28

Following *relational streams* (*ethnē*)



- How did Paul multiply leaders and churches?

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- How will you identify *persons-of-peace*?

1. Welcoming—hospitable

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2. Receptive

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3. Reputation

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4. Influence

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- Where could you find these key people?

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- What specific principles will you apply to your church planting from this model?

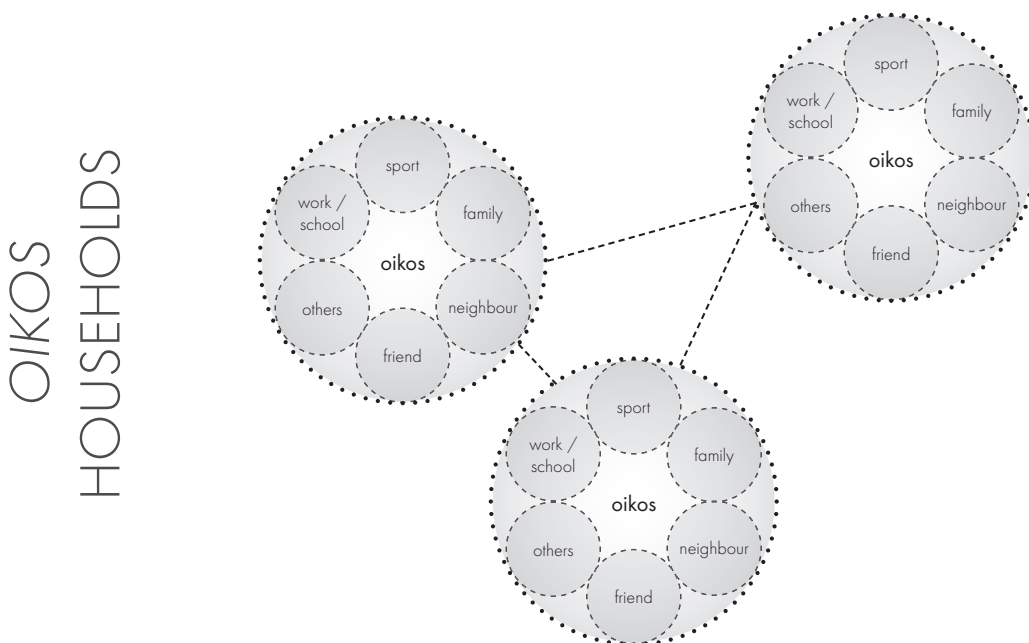
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Journey 2: Acts 15:36-18:22

Planting in households (oikos)



- How did Paul use households to multiply churches?

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- How were the household leaders involved?

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- How did involving them multiply leaders and disciples?

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- What specific principles will you apply to your church planting from this model?

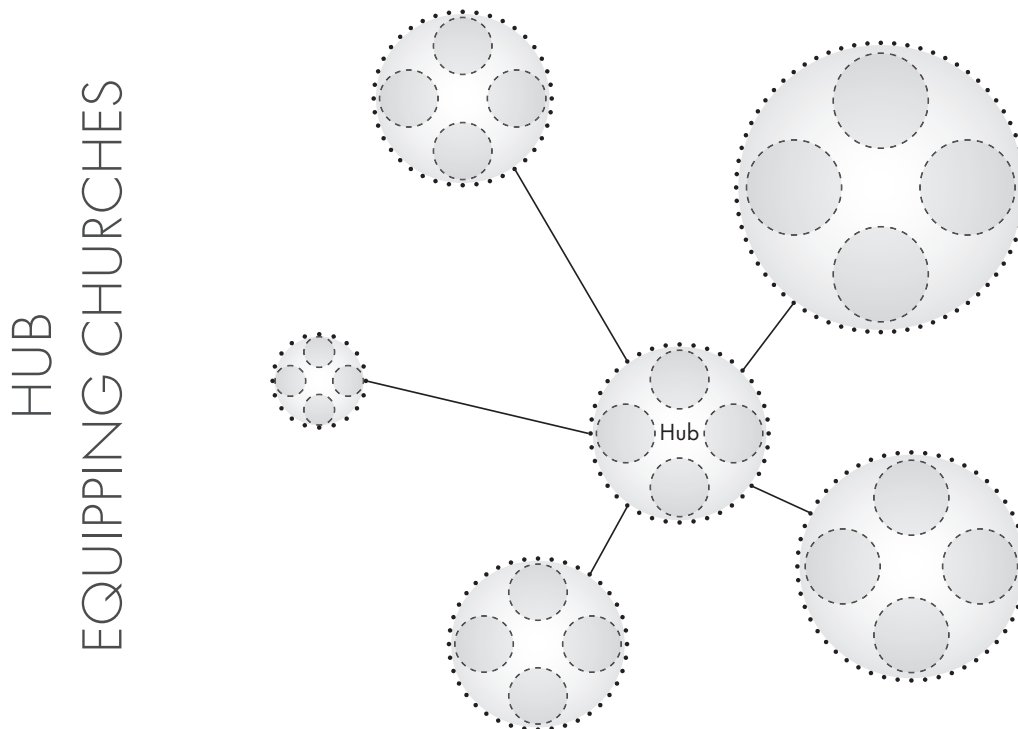
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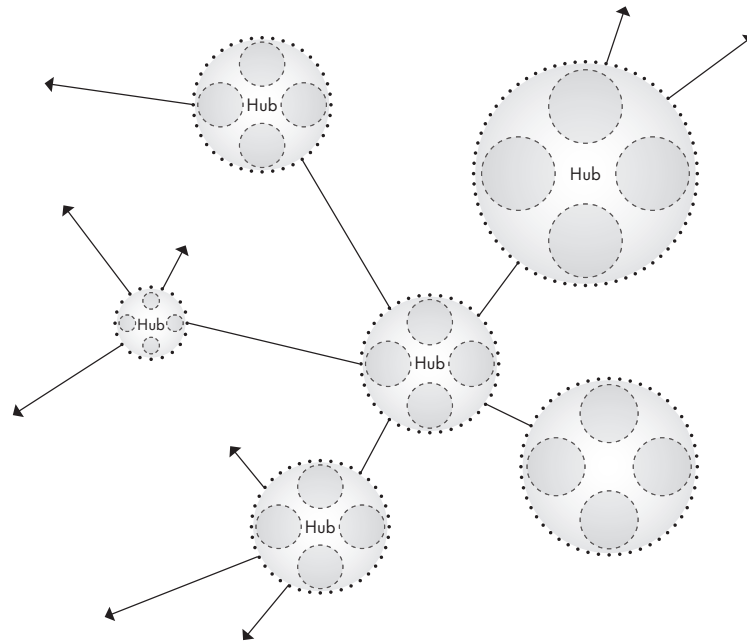
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Journey 3: Acts 18:23-21:16

Establishing a *hub of church planting*



The vision is that each new church be planted as another hub, equipping and releasing:



- Describe the hub of *church planting* at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20):

How far did it reach?

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How might it have been structured?

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- What specific principles will you apply to your church planting from this model?

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- How could your churches or plants become hubs of church planting?

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Where would you find the church planting teams?

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How would you equip the church planting teams?

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How could you multiply satellite groups and plants?

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3. CULTIVATE

Cultivating leaders

What was the important role of *people-of-peace* in Paul's church planting — and today, how are they encouraged and supported by pastors, elders and deacons /deaconesses?

Pastors (apostles)	<i>Persons-of-peace</i> (natural house leaders)	Elders	Deacons/Deaconesses

What part could very new believers play in your church planting?

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How would you recognize, equip and release them?

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Mentors for new leaders

Who mentored and coached Lydia and the jailer?

Who mentored Jason and his household?

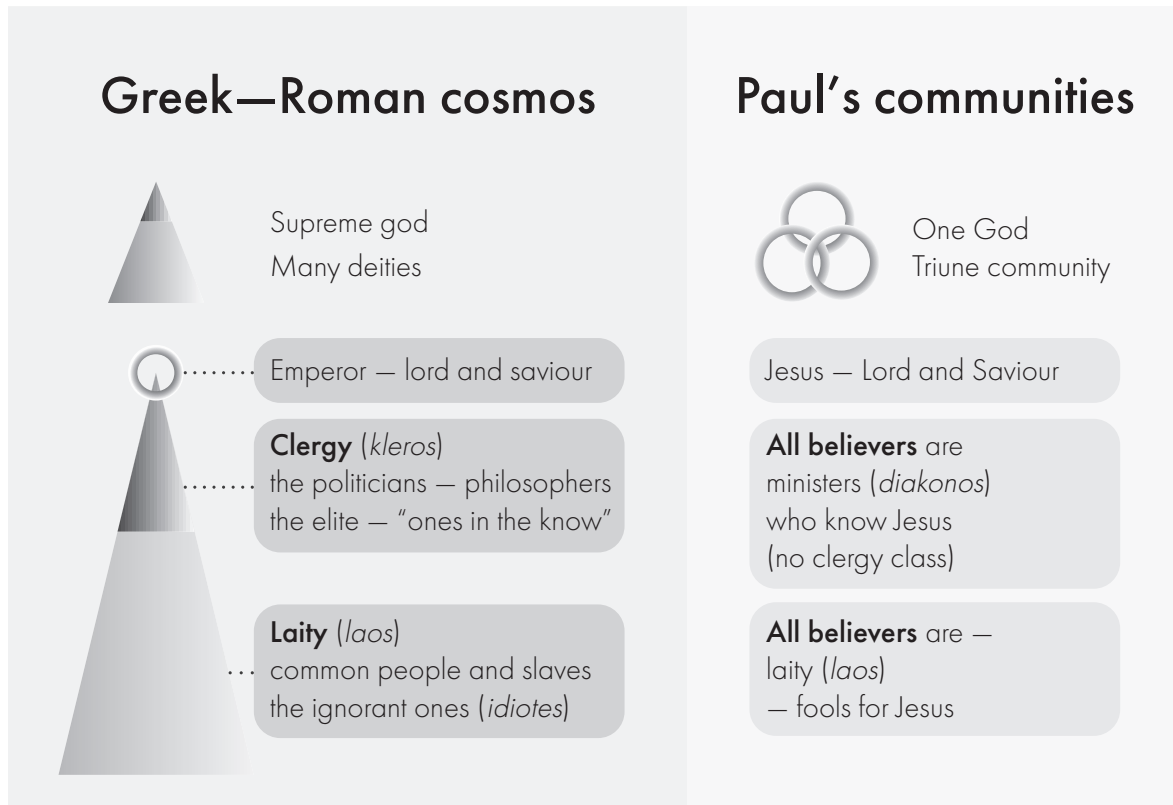
How will you mentor new leadership teams?

Leadership principles

Functional

Sacrificial (cruciform)

What differences do you see in Paul's model of leadership?



How could Jesus' and Paul's idea of leadership be implemented in new plants?

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CLARIFY

Sowing & Cultivating:

BELIEFS —what key beliefs will define your church plant?

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Who are the people in your community?

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How do fundamental beliefs or doctrines define your church plant for your community?

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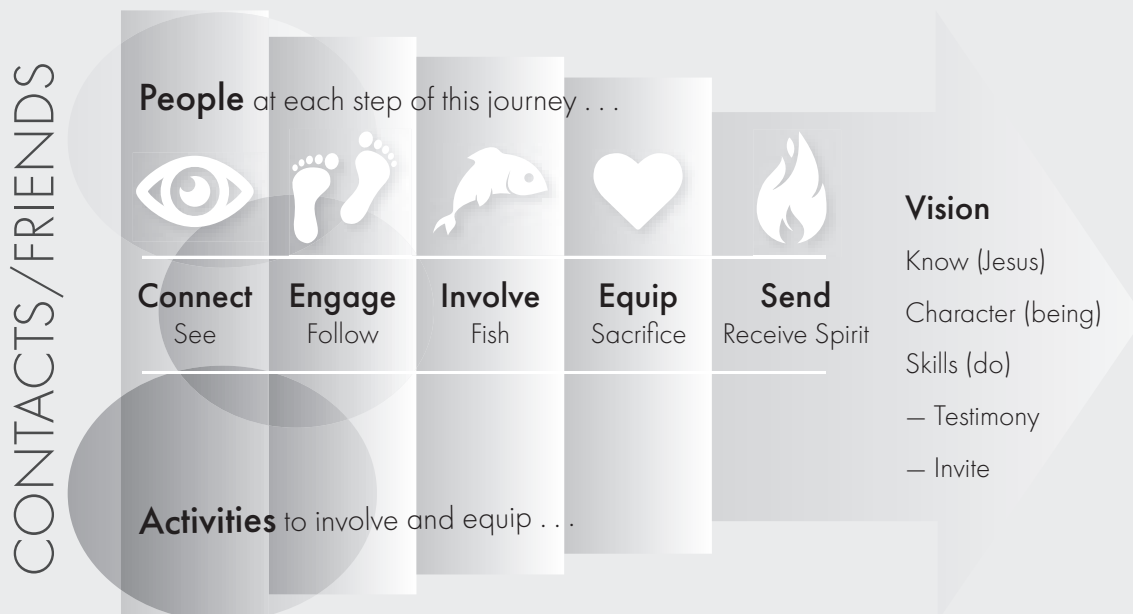
What key beliefs will it be important to feature for their experiences?

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DISCIPLESHIP PATH —what path will move people from unbeliever to disciple-maker?

Use this frame to identify your disciples path:



In Jesus' disciple-making—what could all new disciples do?

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What training events will fit into this journey?

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2.
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6.

What place will *Discovery Bible Reading* have in this journey?

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How will you avoid the trap of making-members rather than making-disciples? How will you keep balance—for you want new disciples to also identify as members of your church plant?

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CHURCH FORMATION



4. GATHER

Oikos Mapping: develop a personal Oikos Map—and pray for those on your map:

The meaning of the word *church* is *gathering*. In the *harvest model* of disciple-making and church-planting the activity of gathering or harvest is the time when groups of new disciples are gathered into new churches.

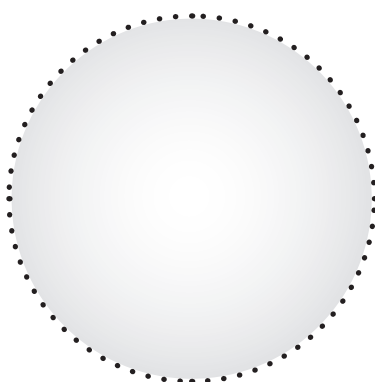
What is the difference between a group and a church? When does a group become a church plant, and how does a plant become an organized church?

Groups

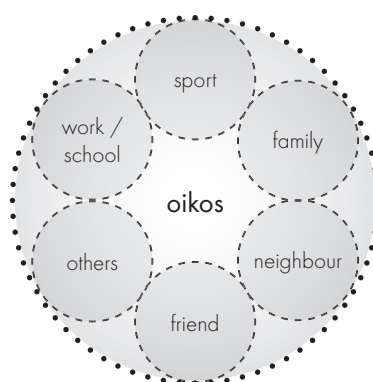
Groups may begin as small *Discovery Bible Reading* groups, perhaps as a “branch” from a church youth or Bible study group—or simply a group of friends getting together to share.

Groups can be represented by a dotted line circle (1), indicating their fluidity and openness. Some may build around *oikos*—or (2) relational connections.

(1) Group



(2) Relational connections

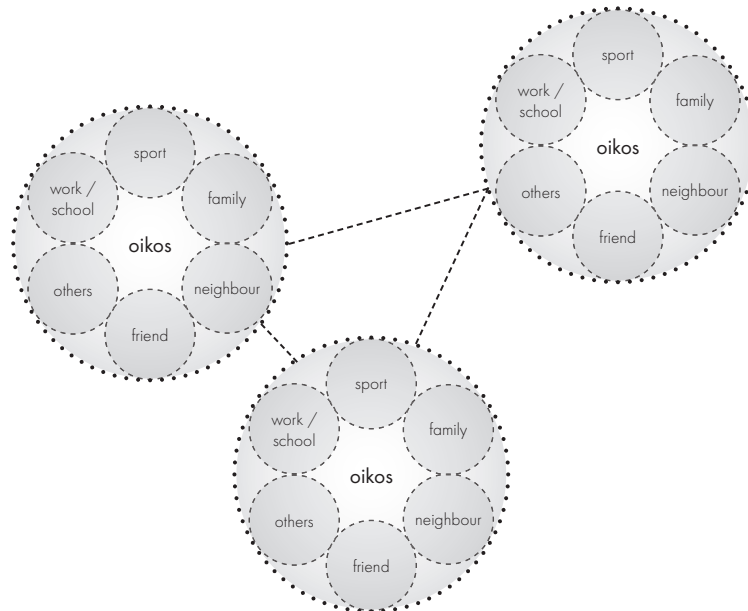


- They meet in homes, cafés or offices, at any time of day or night
- There will be a little food, fellowship, prayer and Bible reading.
- There is no particular long-term commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ.
- The natural leaders lead, and they are simple and reproducible.
- A group of 3-10 family members, neighbours or friends exploring a gospel.
- There may be some limited ad hoc service in the neighbourhood.
- Some become believers, and perhaps some are baptized.
- Other:

When does a small group such as this become a new church plant?

Church Plants

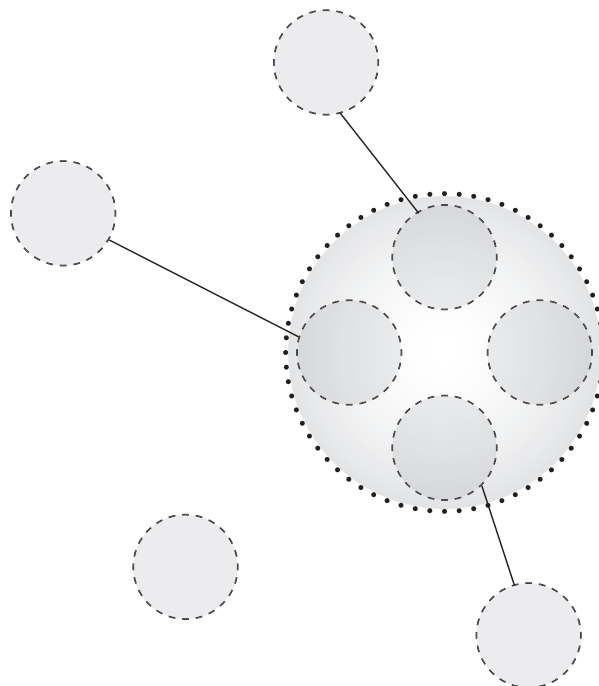
A single group can transition to being church plant, or planting teams cultivate a network of groups—even in a variety of *relational streams*:



Church plants are gatherings of new disciples. They are still simple in structure, and need not be large—even 10-15 people. However, there is more commitment to mission, with focused equipping and multiplication.

Church plants can be represented by a dotted circle, portraying their openness to mission and their communities.

- There will be a number of groups or activities within—Bible and youth groups, etc.
- Each group within multiplies through “branch” groups—some with direct links (i.e. they know they are groups of the plant), and others with no direct links at this stage:



The *Church Health Indicators* of Acts 2:36-47¹ identify the journey from group to church plant. These include:

- Recognized local leaders
- Regular gatherings to read the Word—keeping it simple.
- Lord's Supper regularly celebrated—as an open communion.
- New disciples are equipped as they become disciples—to make other disciples.
- New disciples are baptized, with authority to baptize others.
- Regular habit of giving (tithes and offerings).
 - With agreed accountability/banking arrangements with headquarters.
- There is a regular cycle of foundational studies in disciple-making for all.
- There is a strong growing identity that we are church:
 - A clear, simple *church planting project plan* has been prepared.
 - A regular community *service project* is fostered.
 - Recognition as a church plant within the conference/mission.

How do you relate to these indicators?

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What other indicators are important?

- Vision and responsibility for outreach to the region.
- A multiplying network of new *Discovery Bible Reading* groups.
 - As the new church plant's small groups are cultivated, some of the groups also become church plants—and so the multiplication process multiplies.
- Simple, functional, multiplying structures.

- Healthy relations with movement or denominational headquarters.
- Healthy affirming relationship with the *sisterhood* of other churches.
- Safe places and legal awareness, with training and procedures developed.

Leadership: Who will lead the new church plant?

Discuss:

- The natural leader/s (the *person/s-of-peace*):

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- The planting team:

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- Elder from the existing church:

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- What are the negatives of frequently using invited and itinerant preachers?

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- How will the leadership be coached and mentored?

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1 Steve Addison, *Pioneering Movements: Leadership that Multiplies Disciples and Churches*, IVP Books, 2015, page 91—uses the Church Health Indicators of Acts 2:36-47 to identify the journey from group to new church plant.

Venues: Where will the plant gather?

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of:

- The home where the group has been gathering up until now:

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- Other homes:

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- Under a raised home / outdoors:

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- Facilities that can be used without great cost—

- School classrooms
- Community houses
- Library seminar rooms

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- A new church building:

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- Other:

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School campus based church plants

Christian schools with dedicated teachers, supported by on-campus chaplains and pastors, offer great evangelistic, disciple-making and church-planting opportunities.

1. Challenges. Discuss these potential challenges and opportunities:

- Many students are from families with no Christian heritage or commitment.
 - Parents want the values-based education offered, but not church.
- Many students are from fragmented and economically-challenged families.
- While committed, a % of teachers do not wish to participate in a campus church.
 - A % of teachers are not Adventist and a % not involved in church at all.
 - A % of Adventist teachers do not participate in any church.
 - A % or Adventist teachers choose churches not connected with the school.
- School evangelistic initiatives are supported almost entirely by paid personnel—
 - Salaried teachers, staff, chaplains, evangelists, etc.
- Relationships with the current church—are less than enthusiastically supportive.
- Current initiatives focus upon baptisms and membership—
 - Rather than disciple-making or church-planting.
- Community people are hesitant about coming onto a school campus.

2. Integration. Discuss the visions and evangelistic disciple-making paths for schools and on-campus church plants.

- In what ways are their visions and strategies integrated?

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- In what ways do their activities mesh? Chapels, Bible classes, spiritual emphasis weeks, baptismal classes, Sabbath worship services, etc.

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- Is disciple-making with integration into a missional church the journey—or are baptisms and membership the goal?

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3. Influence and support systems. For school children becoming new disciples—perhaps as young as primary grades 5 or 6—the support systems might be limited or absent—

(1) The home—the *relational streams* of the children and young people.

- How will this be managed if there is only limited or no support from their families for their spiritual journeys?
- How can the relational streams of the children be engaged in a journey of becoming disciples themselves?

(2) The church—where baptized children will be members.

- How will children be involved if their families don't bring them to church—or if sport, language/cultural classes etc. are a higher priority for the families?
- If few can be expected to attend church, in what ways are children and young people being moved toward discipleship—rather than simply baptism and membership?

(3) The school—a major influence in the disciple-making of children.

- With school personnel (teachers, staff, administrators, chaplains and pastors) stretched for time and energy, how will it be possible to involve the wider membership of a campus church plant in visitation of

school families?

- What legal, ethical or procedural issues would need to be addressed for school children and families to be visited, disciplined and mentored by members other than staff?

4. Design simple procedures to address the challenges and the gaps in support systems.

- How will each student's relational streams be reached for disciple-making?

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- What simple processes will students be given to share faith with their families?

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- How can more members/staff be involved—in ways that refresh rather than exhaust?

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- How might a central hub campus church—with other expressions of church under this hub—cultivate a healthy evangelistic disciple-making church?

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5. MULTIPLY

The DNA of multiplication must be built into the plan of multiplying disciples from the start.

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

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

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His model and teachings:

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His Spirit:

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PAUL pioneered the planting of multiple churches—the movement of disciple-making.

Review Paul's journeys. What did he hand on?

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Key principles:

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Actions and methods:

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Are the right numbers being counted?

Disciples make and multiply disciples, resulting in a multiplication of churches.

- List the disciple makers in your team/church (not members):

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- How many are being equipped to plant another group/church?

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How is an environment of multiplication fostered?

Every healthy church reproduces and multiplies through—

1. Encouragement (fan every interest):

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2. 'Grand-parenting' (releasing):

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3. Simple church models (reproducible):

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4. Cultivating Holy Spirit presence:

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5. Searching for another '*person-of-peace*':

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CHURCH GATHERING & MULTIPLICATION PLAN

GATHERING/PLANTING —multiplying groups, plants and churches

a. How are disciples being multiplied?

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b. How are *Discovery Bible Reading* groups being fostered?

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c. What other gospel seed-sowing is being done—and how?

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d. What model might your church use for its mission – *ethnē*, *oikos*, or *hub*?

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e. What is your pathway from group to plant to organised churches?

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f. How will your church plant foster other plants?

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g. Outline a process of new church formation:

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MULTIPLYING —

a. What key processes will you build into your church plant to ensure multiplication?

Equipping disciples as disciple makers:

Multiplying leaders:

Multiplying groups (*Discovery Bible Reading* groups):

Identifying natural leaders:

An environment of multiplication:

Other:

DISTRICT CHURCH FORMATION PLAN

District: District Director:

List by name all organised churches:

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For each organised church, list:

1. Names & places of branch Sabbath schools:
(Sabbath school classes—restructured according to where members live)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

2. Name of elder who oversees 5-6 Sabbath school classes:

1. List of *hand churches* (or companies) cared for by the “mother church”:

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2. List branch Sabbath schools for each *hand church*:

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List names of elders overseeing 5-6 Sabbath school classes in companies of *hand churches*:

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List the criteria that each *hand church* needs to meet to be organised:

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3. List the year when these criteria will be met:

In each district/province list every town, village or area that needs to be entered:

1. List district:

2. List date for entry:

3. Identify team for entry:

4. Outline the plan for each place:

.....

CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT PLAN

Your name: Your church:

Your pastor:..... Place where you will plant:

Refer back to ideas on pages 15-16, 24-27 and 36-37 in this *Conversation Guide* to draft your plan.

1. Team: (usually 4)

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2. Place: Describe the people and place where you will work.

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List any *persons-of-peace* you can already identify:

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3. Mission: Why will this church plant exist?

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List 3 or 4 scriptures that support your mission and vision:

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4. Vision: What do you believe is God's end-vision for the church you will plant?

Disciple makers:

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Multiplying groups and churches:

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5. Beliefs: What key beliefs will define your church plant?

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What key beliefs will be important for the people of your community?

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6. Values and actions: Make a list of your values and the actions to cultivate them.

Value—attitudes we value:

Actions—that flow from these:

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7. Disciple-making: What path will you take with an unbeliever to be a disciple-maker?

In Jesus' disciple-making—what could all new disciples do?

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What place will *Discovery Bible Reading* have in this journey?

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Steps on the path:

What training events will fit into this journey?

1.
2.
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7.

8. Multiplication: Describe how your church plant will multiply:

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9. Feedback loop: When and how will you evaluate whether God is pleased?

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

Submit this plan to your leaders and church planting coordinator.

Name: Date:



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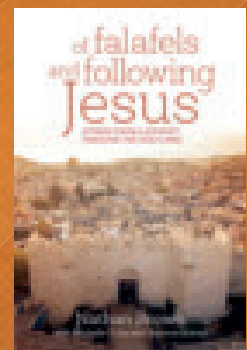
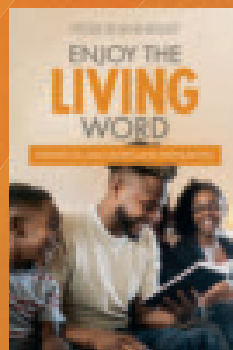
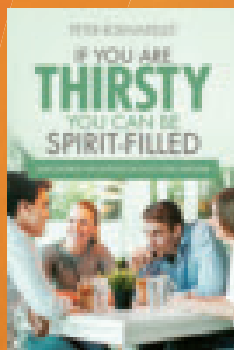
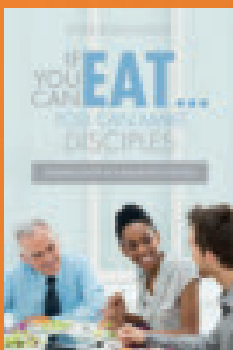
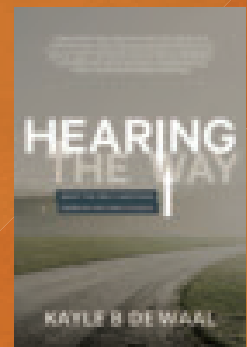
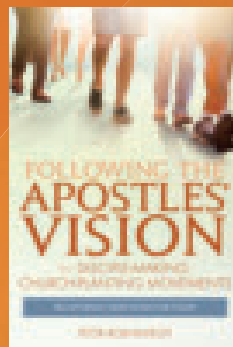
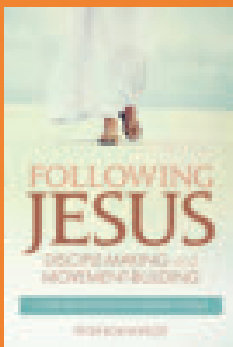


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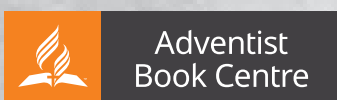
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LOCAL CHURCH

FROM SOCIAL CLUB TO MISSION HUB



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