

GO
MAKE
DISCIPLES

THE SCHOOL
OF GREAT
COMMISSION



The Global School of Great Commission

A Handbook on Fulfilling the Task of

The Great Commission

1st Edition

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Lesson 1: An Introduction To The School Of Great Commission Handbook

Welcome To The School Of Great Commission!

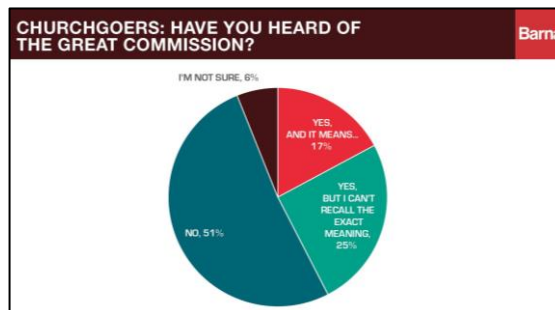
We welcome you to the School of Great Commission, the greatest School of all Schools and learn from the greatest teacher the Lord Jesus Christ, the Master Guru! We appreciate you for enrolling yourselves in the School of Great Commission.

Objective:

The objective of The School of Great Commission is to help the learners to understand the Great Commission clearly and develop clarity of the vision and helping them to develop a well-defined simple and reproducible plan in their context to fulfil the Great Commission task. This is not meant to be prescriptive but only as a broad guideline.

Barna Study

In 2017, the Barna Group, a global research firm conducted a study of awareness of the Great Commission among churchgoers in American Churches. When they were asked, how many of you have heard about the Great Commission, **51%** of people said we have not heard. Only **17%** of the churchgoers said, we heard, and we understand the meaning of the Great Commission. (<https://www.barna.com/research/half-churchgoers-not-heard-great-commission/>)



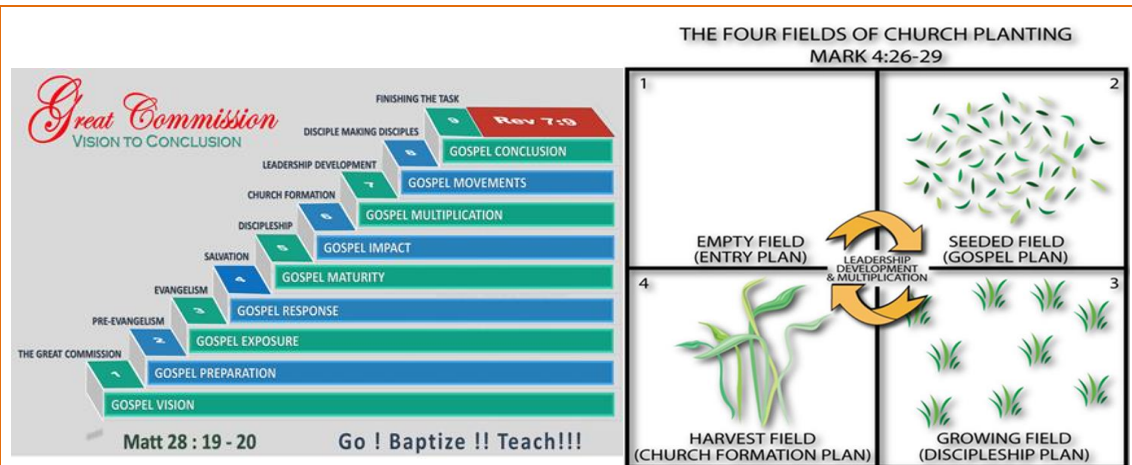
Other Schools In The Bible

We also read about the School of scribes by Ezra (Ezra 7:1), School of prophets by Samuel (1 Sam. 19:24) and School of Prophets by Elisha (2 Kings 4:28). We also read about the School of Tyrannus in Acts 19:9.

The School of Great Commission was conducted by Jesus himself and his primary students were his chosen 12 disciples who he taught for nearly 42 months and at the end of the School he graduated and commissioned them on the Mount of Olives to go and fulfil the Great Commission task.

Steps For Fulfilling The Great Commission

We have used a nine-step process from vision to completion for fulfilling the task of the Great Commission. We have also used the four-field analogy based on the Gospel Mark 4:26-29 to understand the steps for fulfilling the Great Commission using the farming as an example.



About This Handbook

This training manual has been designed and developed by a team of experienced ministry leaders from Asia, to train their own leaders and grass root believers to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission. They share their experiences and those of others who have seen powerful movements in their own nations. While we are sharing these principles learnt from God's Word and also in our experiences, we have also taken inputs from several other movements and included some of the best practices for fulfilling the Great Commission. We learn from the book of Acts that fulfillment of the Great Commission varied in strategy and method in different situations. We need to be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and respect those who have done it differently. The examples and models shared in this book are from an Asian context, but you may need to adapt these in your own cultures and situations.

We hope this book will provide some guidelines to evaluate our current activities and see if there is anything better, we can do in each setting. This is meant to be a comprehensive manual to include all aspects of fulfilling the Great Commission task and understand the big picture. This will also help each of us to understand how our goals will fit into the big picture of the Great Commission task.

We expect every trainee to be an obedient disciple of Jesus who will pass it on to the next generation of disciples as in 2 Tim. 2:2. Ezra studied the commandments obeyed and taught them to the people of Israel (Ezra 7:10). Such disciples can be called a H.O.T Christians (Hear, Obey, Teach).

Guidelines For Using This Handbook

This manual should be used as much as possible by a group of people coming together as a learning community using active participative methods. The group can be led by a mature leader, but his goal must be to facilitate learning as a group rather teaching them using a lecture model. Allow freedom for every participant to share while the leader makes sure that they stay on the subject and not get distracted.

Encourage participants to read the scripture portions mentioned and allow them to share what they understand in relations to the topic of discussions. Encourage every participant to write notes as they learn. Practice the art of teaching one another in smaller groups. Encourage them to write down what they do not understand so that their mentors

can help them. Encourage every participant to discuss the questions and assignments. Encourage every participant to write down assignment after each class. The guidelines are summarized below:

- This handbook is intended to be used in the context of local churches coming together as a learning community.
- Read the scriptures and discuss in groups in relation to the topic
- Every lesson to be led preferably by a trained leader who will act as a facilitator and guide.
- Use interactive discussion method for training (Socratic discussions)
- Allow participants to express freely
- Encourage immediate obedience
- Practice the art of teaching one another after the class
- Every participant to be encouraged to write down or do an audio recording of the discussion and practical application questions for each lesson.
- Every trainer trains other to train others!

Suggested Format to Be Used in The Class:

We encourage that in each class the following simple steps may be followed for maximum effectiveness

- **Look back** – What have I learned last week? What did I obey last week? What challenges did I face?
- **Look Up** – Praise and worship and prayer for one another and guidance of the holy spirit to learn today's lesson
- **Look forward** – Ask every person to write or share what will they obey and whom will they teach.

We have designed each of the chapters in this handbook of The School of Great Commission with the following titles in most of the lessons with some exceptions. Generally, each lesson consists of:

Objectives

These are the learning objectives for the lesson by participating in the class. Carefully understand the learning objectives.

Key Verses/Passages

Read and discuss the key Bible passages, before going to the chapter content. These verses emphasize the main concept of the chapter

Chapter Content

This is a description of the topic based on the objective and key passages. Additional passages may be quoted in this section and please read and study all the verses carefully. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual. The topic is to be learnt using a participative model and discussing each verse and point.

Questions For Discussion

A few questions may be given in each lesson. Use additional questions coming up during the discussion.

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

Study, Obey And Teach (Ezra 7:10)

“For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions. Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

- What have I learnt?
- What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
- Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
- Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
- Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 2: An Introduction to The Great Commission

Objectives

The objective of this lesson is to give a general understanding of the Great Commission.

Key Verses

Mathew 28: 18-20 *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"*

Mark 16: 15-16 *He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.'*

Chapter Content

In this chapter, we will be discussing the following questions as an introduction.

- What is the context of the Great Commission?
- Why did Jesus give the Great Commission?
- Why should we take the Great Commission seriously?
- What is the Great Commission?
- What do we need to fulfill the task of the Great Commission?
- What does it take to finish the task of the Great Commission?
- What will it look like when the task of the Great Commission is fulfilled?

What Is The Context Of The Great Commission?

The context of the Great Commission is God's mission for this world. God's mission is to reconcile mankind with God, to restore all that was lost due to man's rebellion and sin against God and ultimately resulting in new creation. God revealed this plan initially to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and subsequently through the nation of Israel, he chose to fulfill his mission. This plan is the Big Story of the Bible. The climax of this Story is the coming of the Messiah, his death on the cross and his resurrection. After Jesus, the Messiah accomplished God's mission on the cross, he then commissioned his disciples and through them the community of God's people (the Church) to take the message of this good news to all the world. Obedience to this Great Commission would result in making all the families of the world, disciples of the Messiah.

Why Did Jesus Give the Great Commission?

Jesus gave the Great Commission to fulfill God's plan for mankind.

God has a plan for all mankind. God created Adam and Eve in His image to fulfill His plan for the world. He put them in the garden of Eden but when they failed God's commandments and purposes and they lost their relationship with God. Yet God had a plan for restoration through the Messiah. John 3:16. *"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."*

- **God wants all men to come to the saving knowledge of the Lord.**
1 Timothy 2:3-4 *"This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
- **God does not want anyone to perish.**
2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*
- **God desires the earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.**
Habakkuk 2:14. *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea"*

Why Should We Take The Great Commission Seriously?

- It is the last commandment of Jesus.
- Jesus commanded; Apostles practiced.
- If we love him, we must obey Him.
- It is the mandate for every believer.
- It is the mandate for every church.
- We are saved by the Gospel.
- We must share with others.
- Jesus is the only answer.
- Without Jesus, mankind is lost forever.

What Is The Great Commission?

Let us look at two key verses on Great Commission in the Bible and discuss in small groups "What is Great Commission" and what will it take to fulfill? Memorize these verses and learn to teach with actions, or song or graphics.

Jesus commissioning of the disciples in Mathew 28:19-20 is generally considered as the best example of "Great Commission". However, we need to remember that different versions of the Great Commission are recorded in different Gospels and the book of Acts which we will study later.

Mathew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15- 16 "He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." We will study and discuss more verses on Great Commission in the subsequent lessons. The goal the Great Commission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Fundamental Steps For Discipleship:

The fundamental steps to make disciples are:

- **Go (and preach)**
- **Baptize**
- **Make Disciples by teaching**

Given below are 3 steps based on the scripture portions we studied.

Step 1: Go

The Great Commission involves “going”. Going is also associated with “sending”. In John 20:21, Jesus commissioned his disciples saying, “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you”.

What should we do as we go?

God sent Jesus as the Messiah to fulfill His mission to save mankind. Jesus in turn sent his disciples to continue the mission and take the message of the Gospel to all the nations. Later we see that the Church commissioned and sent apostles (Paul and Barnabas) to continue the mission (Acts 13:1-2). Thus, the church which has a vision for the Great Commission, prays for the unreached areas and then the Holy Spirit will identify individuals for the mission. They are commissioned and “sent”. They were sent to proclaim the Good News (Gospel). (Mark 16:15). They were to be witnesses to the risen Christ (Acts 1:8)

To whom?

All nations (Mathew 28:19). The word nations (ethnos) here include people groups, meaning every caste, every tribe, and language.

Where?

The geographic scope is all the world in Mark 16:15. It is to be ends of the earth as in Acts 1:8. It also means wherever any people group which has not heard the Gospel lives. It could be your own neighborhood, next village, or next street in your colony.

Step 2: Baptize.

Those who respond to the proclamation of the Good News of the Messiah and believe will be separated and identified as belonging to the Messiah family through baptism. It also an identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah. Thus, baptism is a powerful sign that one is willing to bury the past and is ready for complete transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here we are asked to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, indicating participation of the Trinity (Father God, Son, Jesus the Messiah and the Holy Spirit).

Step 3: Make Disciples By Teaching Them To Obey

Those who respond to the Gospel and are baptized are to be made disciples of the Messiah. Discipleship is a process of learning all that the Messiah has taught. Holy Spirit is the Master Teacher. Along with the Holy Spirit, we teach the new believers so that they will be transformed into becoming more and more like Jesus. Teaching helps to change their thinking and then obey them. Their lives would be changed, and they will be able to live as the children of the Messiah. The measure of discipleship is the degree of obedience than their learning.

What Should We Teach?

“Everything Jesus commanded and what the Apostles taught”. The body of teaching that the believers were taught is referred to as “Apostles’ Teaching” in Acts 2:42. In every place the apostles started a church, they taught them the “apostles’ teaching”. We find these teachings in the New Testament, especially the epistles. Apostles already had the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus taught these while he was still with them (Luke 24:44-45). Holy Spirit opened their minds to understand the Scripture and Jesus teachings.

What Do We Need To Fulfill The Task Of The Great Commission?

a. Clear understanding of God’s Mission and the Great Commission.

The Great Commission is in the context of God’s mission and God’s love for mankind. It is God’s love that brought Jesus Christ to the world and took him to the cross. Jesus stated his mission statement in Luke 19:10. “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” He has invited the church, including you and me to take this message to the lost. Thus, we need to understand God’s love, his passion for the lost, and understand the Gospel message of the cross so that we could be partners in Christ’s mission to take the message to the lost.

b. Passion for completing the task

If we understand Christ’s passion for the lost, we need to share that passion in our own lives. Jesus expressed his passion for finishing the work when he said, “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.” (John 4:34.)

Apostle Paul had the same passion. In 1 Cor. 9:16, he said “For if I preach the Gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!”.

In Acts 20:24, we read “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace”.

c. Faith to see the impossible

When we look at the difficulties and challenges of finishing the task of Great Commission, we wonder “Can the Great Commission task be completed”? Ephesians 3:20 (MSG) says, “God can do anything and everything, more than what you can think or imagine beyond your wildest dream”. DL Moody remarked thus regarding the completion of the Great Commission task:” It can be done, it ought to be done, It must be done?”

d. Commitment to persevere and single-minded like Jesus

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work.” John 9:4. It is our prayer that every student in the school of Great Commission will have the same passion that Paul and other apostles had to take the Gospel of the Messiah to all the world and faith to believe the impossible and persevere till the task is over.

e. Commitment to the unfinished task:

As Joshua was coming to the close of his ministry, old and well stricken in age, the Lord reminded him in Joshua 13:1 (NKJV) *“.....And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed..."*. Though Israel now essentially controlled Canaan (Chapter 12), there was "much land" yet to be possessed, and so it was a reminder for Joshua that the task assigned to him is not over. Joshua challenged the people of God who were hesitant to possess the promised land. *"How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has given you?"* (Joshua 18:3)

What Does It Take To Finish The Task Of The Great Commission?

We have divided the lessons in this school of Great Commission under 9 headings and we will discuss each of these topics in detail in the class.



Gospel Vision	-	The Great Commission
Gospel Preparation	-	Pre-Evangelism
Gospel Exposure	-	Evangelism
Gospel Response	-	Salvation
Gospel Maturity	-	Make Disciples
Gospel Impact	-	Church Formation
Gospel Multiplication	-	Training leaders
Gospel Movements	-	Disciples making disciples
Gospel Conclusion	-	Finishing the task

What Will It Look Like When The Great Commission Task Is Fulfilled?

- All people would have had a chance to hear the Gospel in a way that they can clearly understand and respond. (Matthew 24:14)
- There would be a great multitude of disciples /worshippers /worship groups from every people group, every language group, all over the world, in every country, in every state, district, sub-district, or block, village, urban neighborhood (Rev 7:9).

Questions For Discussion

1. What is God's mission for mankind?
2. How was this mission fulfilled?
3. Why did Jesus give the Great Commission?
4. Why should we obey the Great Commission?
5. What are the most essential steps for fulfilling the Great Commission?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

2 Timothy 2:2 - "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."

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes:

Lesson 3: Understanding the Great Commission In The Light Of The Mission Of God And The Big Story Of The Bible

Objective

- To understand the Great Commission in the light of God's Mission
- To understand Great Commission in the light of the Big story of the Bible.

Both Old Testament and New Testament tell us the story of God's dealing with mankind. Together they tell us God's good news, which is God's plan to save mankind from the consequences of sin and rebellion. That is the big story of the Bible.

Key Verses

Gen 12:1-3: "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Chapter Content

What is God's Mission for the world?

How God commissioned a people of God and individuals to be partners in His mission?
What was God's plan to accomplish His mission? (What is the Big Story of this plan?)
How does the Great Commission fit into God's Plan?

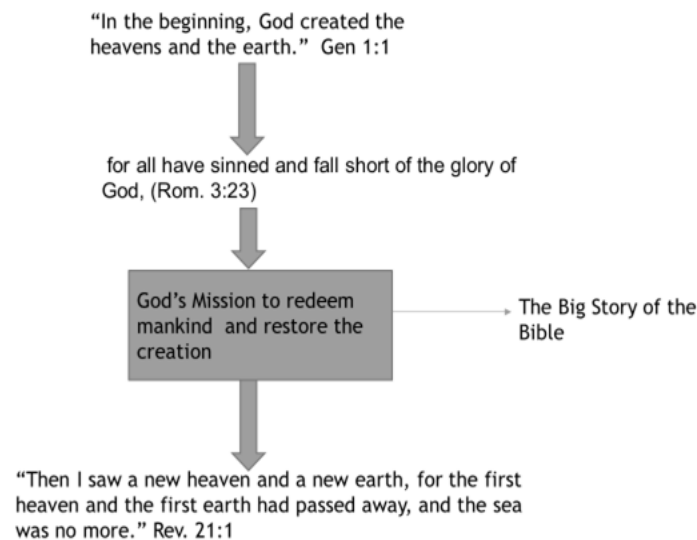
What is God's mission for the world?

The God of the Bible is a God of mission. Jehovah, the Lord God of Israel, is the one and only universal God of all the earth or of all nations or of all humanity. God has a mission for this world.

Missio Dei is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the "mission of God," or the "sending of God." We can understand Great Commission if we understand God's mission for the world, which was revealed initially through Israel and now through the church.

God's Mission is to redeem mankind and the entire creation from the consequences of man's sin and rebellion. His Mission is to restore the fallen creation. End purpose of God's mission or (vision) is to restore God's original creation. That is what we see in revelation 21 – New heaven and new earth.

As a part of His Mission, God has called and is preparing a people of God (The church) to participate with Him in the accomplishment of that Mission. The entire Bible is the story of God's plan to accomplish this mission.



The Big Story of the Bible

God's Mission to redeem mankind is the central story of the Bible. The Bible though has several stories, together it is one Story- God's Story. In the Old Testament, we see the stories as the Israelites understood and experienced it. In the New Testament, Jesus and the apostles retold these Old Testament stories with a different understanding. New Testament writers knew that the Old Testament stories had reached their fulfillment in the coming of the Messiah. They knew that the story had reached its climax with the coming of the Messiah. Knowing that God's purpose of reconciling the world with Himself has been accomplished on the cross, New Testament writers retell these stories in the light of the cross.

The New Testament disciples knew that the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated. They saw themselves as part of this live story and retold the Old Testament stories in the light of the Messiah and the Cross.

This Big Story of the Bible begins in Genesis 1 and ends in Revelation 21.

The Story Of Creation

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Gen 1:1

God created the earth and all the universe. He created mankind in His image and entrusted them with stewardship over creation (Gen. 1:26-28), to have dominion, to be fruitful and to subdue it.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- Subdue the earth (**kabas**): cultivate and many other similar activities
- Have dominion or rule over (**radah**): task of ruling over and exercising dominion as representatives of King of kings, God.
- To Work it or serve it (**abad**) means to cultivate or till it.
- Keep it (**smar**) means to keep something safe and with protection and care.

We are called to have dominion over creation by serving and protecting it. Thus, the creation mandate was to subdue and have dominion over all the earth and to serve and keep the creation.

Story Of Man's Rebellion (The Fall)

Then mankind rebelled against God. Fall is knowing the truth and deliberately turning away from it. (Rom. 1:18,21)

What was the sin that Adam and Eve committed?

What did Satan tell Eve? Satan asks Eve “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden? Adam and Eve, nations through all ages, individual through the ages, we all ourselves have turned away from the truth. Adam’s choice was death over life (Gen 2:17, 3:6)

God warned them of consequences of crossing the boundaries. *“in the day you eat from it you will die”* (2:17). God had put boundaries for man, and they knew the boundaries well, boundaries within the Creator – Creation relationship.

Satan comes along and tells them,

- that God is lying, and
- God has some ulterior motive in preventing them from having the best. (3:4)
- If you cross the boundary (eat the fruit) “you can be like God” (3:5).

Adam and Eve believed Satan’s lie and rebelled against God by disobeying his commandments. The temptation to be like God was too strong

What was the consequence of disobedience?

They forfeited the beautiful relationship that they had with God and was separated from God. They hid themselves from God (3:8-10)

What were the further consequence of Fall (Gen. 4-11)?

- Inability to fulfil God’s purpose for mankind,
- Sinfulness of every human heart – Stories of evil, envy, murder.
 - Cain and Abel story: (Genesis 4) The story of two sacrifices and the first murder
 - Noah and flood story (Gen 6:11-12)). Corruption and violence, Gods judgment
 - Babel story (Gen. 11). Fracturing and confusion of the families (nations) of the earth.

We see a hint of God's mission in Gen. 3:15 with the promise that the offspring of woman would crush the head of Satan.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

How God Commissioned A People Of God And Individuals To Be Partners In His Mission?

God's Plan to Undo the Effects of Sin was revealed to Abraham.

God's plan for redemption of mankind was revealed to Abraham, in Gen. 12:1-3. It is the beginning of the redemption story to reverse the consequence of sin, redeem mankind and restore the creation. The end result of this story is New Creation, picture of which we see in Revelation 21.

Gen 12:1-3 "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

God renewed this covenant of blessing for all nations with Moses (Exodus 19:3-6) and later David (2 Sam. 7:16). These promises and hundreds of other prophecies regarding the Savior, Messiah were fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day, he rose from the dead in fulfilment of the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3). Salvation and forgiveness of sins was proclaimed through Jesus. Before he ascended to heaven, he promised that he would return as Savior, Judge, and King. He would establish new heavens and new earth, to restore all that was last due to sin and fall. This is the big story of the Bible. This is the Gospel (good news) that Christ and the Apostles proclaimed.

The Gospel Story

Where does the Gospel story begin? At Christmas? At Calvary? At the empty tomb?

All these are important components of the Gospel story. But where did it actually begin? We read in Gal. 3:8 "The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announced (preached) the Gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you. "This is the beginning of the Gospel story. Paul says that the Gospel was first preached to Abraham and refers to Gen 12:3.

What was God's plan to accomplish His Mission? (What is the Big Story of this plan?)

What was God's Good News, message for a lost world promised through Abraham?

"You have rebelled against your creator God. But there is good news, God has chosen one-man Abraham and made a covenant with him. In his Seed shall all the nations of the earth will be blessed" Effects of sin, curse and death will be reversed." In Abraham's "SEED", all the nations of the earth will be blessed. (Gen 22:18)

Paul says in *Galatians 3:16*, *"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed. The Scripture does not say, "and to seeds," meaning many, but "and to your Seed," meaning One, who is Christ."*

Thus, the promise of the Gospel proclaimed to Abraham was indeed the announcement of God's Mission to reverse the effects of sin and fall and turn curses into blessing. Scope of this mission included blessing for all the world (all the families of the earth)

Commissioning of Abraham

God called Abraham to participate in the mission of new creation – blessing the whole world. God called him for a mission to participate in His (God's) own mission - To be a means of blessing to all the families (nations, people groups) of the earth". To bring God's Good News for a Lost World.

God's commission was given not just to Abraham but to his children and his descendants – the nation of Israel. Abraham and through him the nation of Israel, who were declared as God's own people, were commissioned to go and be the channel of blessing to all nations.

Purpose of the Commission to Abraham

In Gen 18:19, God gave the purpose of the commission that He gave to Abraham.

"For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

The (Great) Commission That Was Given To Abraham Includes:

- Go (sent by God)
- Be a blessing
- To all the families (nations) of the earth
- Teach his children and his household after him,
- To walk in the way of the Lord
- To do justice and righteousness (transformed life).

The similarity between the commission given to Abraham and the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ in Mathew 28:19-20 is so striking.

This promise to Abraham was fulfilled In Christ Jesus. The promise to Abraham (and all other commissions) were fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah. Because of the Messiah, all the families, all the nations, all the earth can receive the blessing that God has planned and promised to Abraham. To be freed from the penalty, consequence, and power of sin and to restore the creation to its original purpose.

Great Commission from Abraham to Jesus to the Disciples

There are others who were chosen to be participants of the mission of God, first revealed to Abraham. Through 2,000 years, God chose, commissioned, and sent several people to participate in his mission.

Some of these are:

- Joseph (Gen 45:7)
- Moses (Ex. 3:10)
- David (2 Sam. 7:16)
- Isaiah (40,52)
- Jeremiah (Jer. 1:5-8)
- Ezra (Ezra 7:14)

God's Mission And Commissioning Of Moses

Redemption of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt was an integral part of God's Mission. This was in continuation of the mission revealed to Abraham. God prepared, called and commissioned Moses for his part of God's Mission. From, Ex. 2:23, we learn that God heard the cry of the Israelites and remembered the covenant with Abraham.

God appears to Moses and commissions him and his brother Aaron to lead the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 3) to redeem Israel from slavery.

Exodus 3:10 "So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

We read about the commission that God gave Moses and through him to Israel in Exodus 3:14-17 and 19:3-6. On their way to the land of Canaan, God makes a covenant (renewal of the covenant made with Abraham.) There He declared Israel as treasured possession, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. This was the commission to be God's chosen people, to be part of God's mission for the world.

Good News in Isaiah

Centuries later, while warning about the Babylonian exile, Isaiah was told to proclaim good news of the Messiah. During the worst time in Israel's history, where they lost land, city, temple, lives and above all, hope, they needed to hear Good News or Gospel.

Is 40:3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Quoted by John in Mark 1:3)

Is 40:9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

In Isaiah 52, Isaiah is asked to proclaim the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. 7 How beautiful on the mountains (Paul quotes in Rom. 10:12-15) are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" YHWH Reigns brings Shalom – peace

How Does The Great Commission Fit Into God's Plan?

Jesus to the Disciples

However, the descendants of Abraham, the nation of Israel who were called to participate in this mission, failed to live up to the purpose that God had for them. God's plan for blessing all the families was however, fulfilled in the death and resurrection of

Jesus the Messiah. After accomplishing this on the cross, being raised from death, Jesus commissioned his disciples and through them the Church to take the message to all families of the earth. (Mat. 28:19-20).

For the past two thousand years, the followers of Jesus have been taking the Gospel all parts of the world, in obedience to this Great Commission. The Commission of God the Messiah is to go and be a blessing to these villages and colonies that God has given you. The Gospel we proclaim is the good news of blessing that was promised to Abraham.

This includes of forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, transformed lives and assurance of our eternity with Christ and being a blessing. It is this message that we take to the villages and towns, people, and language groups.

The call was to make disciples by teaching them the Gospel of forgiveness of sins and to walk in the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice in this world *(Similar to the commission to Abraham. Gen 18:19).*

By obeying the Great Commission, we are becoming partners and co-workers with God in fulfilling the mission of God revealed to Abraham. We are called and commissioned to be a blessing to our villages. What a privilege!

Questions For Discussion

1. What is God's mission for the world?
2. Where does God's plan for redemption start and how is God accomplishing His plan?
3. What is the main theme of the Big Story of the Bible?
4. Who is the Central character of the Biblical story?
5. How does the Great Commission in Mathew 28:19-20 fit into the God's Plan for the world that we see in the whole Bible?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

2 Timothy 2:2 - "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."

Practical Application

- Please write down your answers to the following questions.
 - Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.
1. What have I learnt?
 2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
 3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
 4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
 5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes:

Lesson 4: The Four Field Analogy

Objectives

To introduce the concept of the Four Field strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission and use it as a practical guide while designing your ministry plans.

Key Verses

Read the whole passage Mark 4:1-20; 26-29.

Discuss the ways you can compare this to the fulfillment of Great Commission.

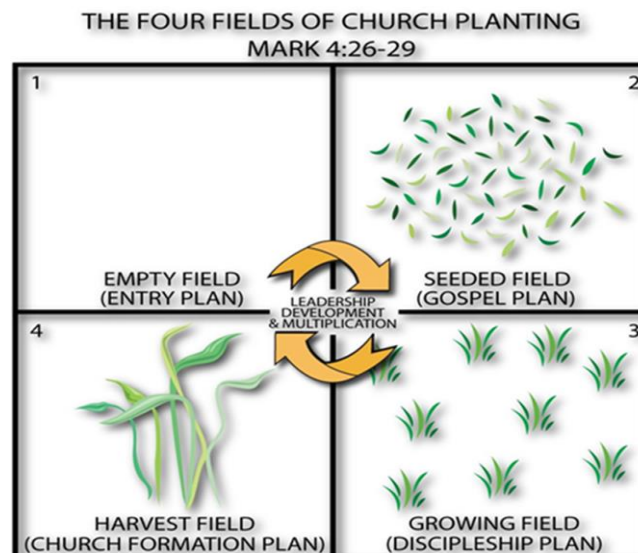
Mark 4: 26-29 "He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Chapter Content

In this chapter we will study the parable of the sower, where we see the “Four Field” concept for fulfilling the Great Commission. This illustration of farming is simple for everyone to understand as we are all familiar with agriculture. Jesus utilized the imagery of farming multiple times in scripture to describe kingdom growth. A farmer understands the idea of reproduction in farming. His livelihood depends upon multiplying returns as each new harvest is gathered. What a farmer sows, he intends to reap. His labors are motivated by a vision for the up-coming abundant harvest. For this reason, he is committed from the beginning, so that eventually he would be able to reap based on what has been sown and how he has taken care of his crop.

What Is Four Field Analogy?

A graphic representation of the various fields adapted from the parable is given below.



What Are The Four Fields In The Above Picture?

- Empty Fields
- Seeded Field
- Growing Field
- Mature Field

What Does A Wise Farmer Do? *(Discuss In Groups.)*

As we look into this parable, several essentials stand out. Consider line by line, what is needed to begin a new work.

A farmer should have a well-defined vision for his chosen field as the target of his farming. He will not sow his seeds where he does not intend to harvest. The field looks like an empty field today, but he has a vision for his chosen field. With the eyes of faith, he enters the field, dreams of a great harvest; day and night he will toil and prepare the ground. He will carry seeds and scatter them and will eventually see the sprouting seeds coming up. He cares for them until he sees his fully ripe field and a huge harvest. That is his inspiration for all the hard work he is going to put into his field. A good farmer will also prepare the best seeds for re-sowing.

At the end of the season, he will evaluate every step to understand why he has not got the expected harvest. It will also help him to decide what he can do better next time. A farmer with a great vision will also look for expanding the fields and choose additional empty fields to increase the harvest. Let us summarize the stages in farming.

What Are The Stages In Farming?

1. Select a field for sowing the field, define the boundary and decide the crop
2. Prepare the field for sowing.
3. Select the best seeds, mobilize the sowers and scatter the seeds.
4. Nurture the budding seeds and cares for it till it is ready for harvest.
5. Mobilizes laborers for the harvest, puts the sickle and gather the harvest.
6. Select the best of the crop as seeds for re-sowing
7. Evaluates every step to learn to it better
8. Look for new empty fields for expansion

How Do We Compare The Four Fields And Great Commission?

Select Empty Field	Gospel Vision	Pre-Evangelism
Prepare the Field	Gospel Preparation	Pre-Evangelism
Select best seeds, mobilize sower and scatters the seeds	Gospel Exposure	Evangelism
Sprouting of the seeds	Gospel Response	Salvation-decisions
Caring for the growing plants	Gospel Maturity	Discipleship
Gather the harvest into the storehouses	Gospel Impact	Church Formation
Prepare for re-sowing.	Gospel Multiplication	Equipping Leaders
Choose new fields for sowing and reaping	Gospel Movements	Disciples making disciples
Expand the fields until there are no more empty fields	Gospel Conclusion	No Place Left Movement None Should Perish movement

What Are The Responsibilities Of A Sower Of The Gospel, Based On This Metaphor?

Let us look at the following principles from this analogy.

Choosing empty fields: Mark 4:26

"This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground." In this verse we can see responsibility of the sowers of the Gospel or the soul winners. As the farmer surveys the ground, the Gospel sower surveys the field.

Know the ground (Soil) - The hearts of the lost into which seed is cast.

The soil could be people, people groups, or places. Knowing the audience is essential for the soul winners. The soil is all around us. Everywhere we look, we can see the lost.

Consider these questions concerning the soil:

1. Who are the people and people groups with whom I will share the Gospel?
2. Who are my Friends, Relatives, Associate and Neighbors who need Jesus?
3. Who else can I share the Gospel?
4. Which all places can I sow the seeds?
5. What is their world view? What are their convictions and beliefs?
6. Are they literate or illiterate?
7. How will I share the Gospel with them?

Choose Empty Lives: People Who Do Not Know Jesus

Choose Empty Places: Place Without Churches

Prepare the chosen fields:

Every chosen field must be prepared before sowing the seed because the yield will be better. This can be done through prayer and other platforms which will be discussed later.

Mobilize Sowers

We need to mobilize and train large number of sowers willing to sow the seeds of the Gospel. Whom will you train.? The simple answer is all believers.

All believers are called be soul winners. "I will make you fishers of men" Mark 1:17

There may be some people who are specifically gifted sowers in my church or among all disciples and they can also be trained to be trainers and doers.

Scatter the Seed– The word of God sown by the sowers.

Consider these questions concerning your use of God's seed (The Gospel message or the word of God), We will also address this in detail later during this school. He has to answer several questions

The seed:

The seed is the Gospel (Word of God) for a soul winner. We need to make sure that we share the pure and simple Gospel of Jesus clearly in a way that the listeners understand

in their own heart language in their cultural setting without adulterating the Gospel message.

"So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". Romans 10:17

- Explore the barriers for understanding the Gospel message:
- Are we sharing in their heart language?
- Are we doing in a culturally appropriate manner?

Sowing abundantly:

2 Corinthians 9:6 *"He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly; he who sows generously will reap generously."*

Sow with tears, Reap with rejoicings (Psalms 126:6.)

Care for the new growth

After a person accept the Lord, we need to help them to grow to be a mature believer and this discipleship. Look for growth and be prepared to water and add fertilizers when it sprouts.

Continue to pray and allow the Spirit of God gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Gathers the harvest

The believers should be gathered into churches or communities of believers. If there is a Bible believing church, encourage them to be part of the church. If there are no churches encourage them to start a new house church in their house while you continue to mentor and equip. They need fellowship, teaching and encouragement to continue to grow in faith.

Prepares the best seeds for re-sowing

We need to train and equip leaders in every church to multiply the harvest which should be done in the context of the church or harvest.

- Evaluate the quality and quantity of the produce
- Evaluate the whole process from beginning till the end and learn to do better.
 - How much did I sow?
 - Did I prepare the fields well?
 - Did I water well?
 - Did I harvest in time?

Consider expansion

- Where else can I sow?
- Are there any empty places or villages left without a church?
- Are there any unreached people Group or language group?
- Are there anyone who has not heard the Gospel in our community?
-

Choosing our roles in fulfilling the Great Commission Plan

We are all called to be co-workers in the field, but we might have different roles. In 1 Cor. 3:5-9, Paul talks about different roles for those in the ministry, using farming analogy.

".... as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

Questions For Discussion

1. What are four fields?
2. How can we connect it with the Great Commission task?
3. How will you use this analogy in planning your ministry?
4. What would you consider as the role that God has assigned you?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

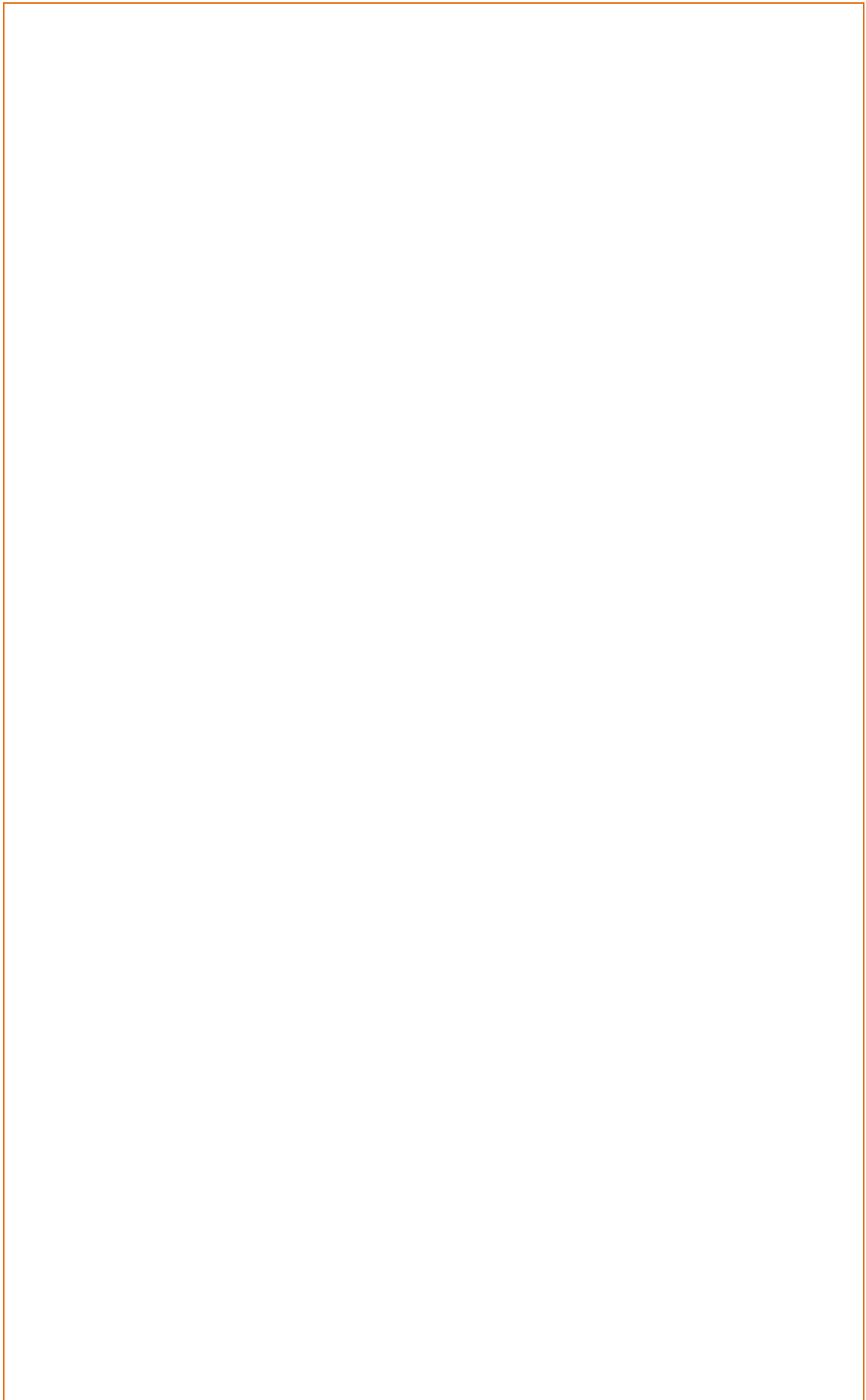
2 Timothy 2:2 - "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

Practical Application:

Please write down your answers to the following questions. Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes



Lesson 5: The Gospel Vision: A Deeper Understanding Of The Great Commission

Objectives

To understand Great Commission, its scope and purpose with more clarity.

To understand how the Apostles fulfilled the Great Commission in the book of Acts.

Key Verses

Primary Great Commission verses:

Mathew 28:18-20 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."

Mark 16:15-18 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel 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."

Additional Bible Verses on Great Commission

Mark 13:10 "And the Gospel must first be preached to all nations".

Luke 24:47 "And repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem".

John 20:21 Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Acts 1:8 "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."

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Chapter Content

Understanding The Great Commission

As we have learnt in Lesson 2, the context of the Great Commission is God's Mission for mankind. Jesus the Messiah has accomplished through his death and resurrection, all that was needed for restoring the world that was lost because of man's sin and rebellion.

God's mission revealed to Abraham extended to all the families (nations) of the world. After completing his part of the mission, the Messiah commissioned his chosen apostles to take the Gospel (Good News) to all parts of the earth and all people groups. In participating in the Great Commission call, we are participating in the mission of the Messiah.

We should have a clear understanding of the Great Commission to know the tasks that He has entrusted to us. When we look into the following scriptures, we find certain key words. Please read the following scripture passages carefully in your Bible and note the key words and discuss in small groups. Try to learn these verses by heart.

Primary Great Commission Verses:

In the following verses we see how the Great Commission was conveyed in different ways by the evangelists:

<i>Mathew 28:18-20</i>	Call to go, baptize, make disciples by teaching them to obey.
<i>Mark 16:15-18</i>	Call to go, preach, baptize, signs and wonders, casting out demons, healing
<i>Luke 24:47</i>	Call to preach repentance and forgiveness to all nations.
<i>Acts 1:8</i>	Call to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit and be witnesses ...
<i>Luke 4:18,19</i>	Call to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners
<i>John 20:21</i>	Call to go as the Father sent Jesus to fulfill His mission.

What Are The Key Words In These Passages?

These are some of key words:

- **GO,**
- **MAKE DISCIPLE,**
- **ALL NATIONS,**
- **BAPTIZE,**
- **ALL THE WORLD,**
- **PREACH,**
- **JERUSALEM,**
- **JUDEA**
- **SAMARIA**
- **ENDS OF THE EARTH,**
- **POWER**
- **HOLY SPIRIT**

Our Response To The Great Commission: Commitment To Obey

The first step is our commitment to obey the Great Commission. This is special because this was the last command that Jesus gave before ascension. If you are ready to obey, then the first step is to GO. We have already discussed where we need to go and what we need to do as we go.

Go ... BaptizeTeach (Ref. Chapter 1).

The next step is to consider these in a deeper way, **WHERE** you should go in and **WHAT** you should do as you go? Let us review it.

Step 1: Go

The Great Commission involves “**going**”. Going is associated with “**sending**”. In John 20:21, Jesus commissioned his disciples saying, “As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you”.

What should we do as we go?

God sent Jesus as the Messiah to fulfill His mission to save mankind. Jesus in turn sent his disciples to continue the mission and take the message of the Gospel to all the nations. Later we see that the Church commissioned and sent apostles (Paul and Barnabas) to continue the mission (Acts 13:1-2).

Thus, the church which has a vision for the Great Commission, prays for the unreached areas and then the Holy Spirit will identify individuals for the mission. They are **commissioned** and “**sent**”.

- Those who were sent were to proclaim the Good News (Gospel) (Mark 16:15)
- They were to be witnesses of the risen Christ (Acts 1:8)

To whom?

All nations (Matthew 28:19). The word nations (ethnos) here include people groups, meaning every caste, every tribe, and language.

Where?

The geographic scope is all the world in Mark 16:15. It is ends of the earth in Acts 1:8. It also means wherever any people group which has not heard the Gospel lives. It starts with your immediate neighborhood, next village, or next street in your colony.

Step 2: Baptize

Those who respond to the proclamation of the Good News of the Messiah and believe will be separated and identified as belonging to the Messiah family through baptism. It also an identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah. Thus, baptism is a powerful sign that one is willing to bury the past and is ready for complete transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is also identification with the Messiah community, the church.

Here we are asked to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, indicating participation of the Trinity (Father God, Son, Jesus the Messiah and the Holy Spirit)

Step 3: Make Disciples By Teaching

Those who respond to the Gospel and are baptized are to be made disciples of the Messiah. Discipleship is a process of learning all that the Messiah has taught. Holy Spirit is the Master Teacher. Along with the Holy Spirit, we teach the new believers to obey so that they will be transformed into becoming more and more like Jesus. Teaching helps to change their thinking and then obey them. Their lives would be changed, and they will be able to live as the children of the Messiah. Remember the key is teaching them to obey that head knowledge.

What should we teach? “Everything Jesus commanded”.

The body of teaching that the believers were taught is referred to as “Apostles’ Teaching” in Acts 2:42. In every place the apostles started a church, they taught them the “apostles’ teaching”. We find these teachings in the New Testament, especially the epistles. Apostles already had the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus taught these while he was still with them (Luke 24:44-45). Holy Spirit opened their minds to understand the Scripture and Jesus teachings.

What Is The Scope Of The Great Commission?

There are two clear cut commands which help us to understand the scope.

- *Go to all the world (Geographic scope): The scope starts with immediate neighborhood, the neighboring villages, streets, blocks, districts states, and extends to all geographic locations.*
- *Go and disciple all nations (Ethnic scope): This will include all people and language groups*

PLUG Strategy:

This can be summarized as the PLUG strategy. All persons in every People Group, Language Group, Urban Area and Village (Geographical location). We refer to this as the ‘PLUG’ strategy which is based on the verses listed above and summarized in Rev 7:9.

- **People Group**
- **Language Group**
- **Urban Areas**
- **Geographical Villages**

When the task of the Great Commission is completed, every people group in every language in every city or town and in every village will be effectively evangelized and disciples formed. When this happens, there will be gatherings of believers (the Church) in every people and language group and every city and village. This is the end vision or the goal of the Great Commission.

People Group: By people group, we mean a distinct homogenous tribe, caste, or group of people with the same cultural and ethnic background, and often the same language also. One practical definition is endogamy in Asian context—the boundary within which marital relations are made.

Language Group: When the task of the Great Commission is completed, people of every language will be worshipping the Lord in heaven (Daniel 7:14, Rev 5:9, 7:9).

Urban area: Jesus went to all the cities and villages and preached the Gospel, giving us a model to follow for today's mission strategy (Luke 8:1). The Pauline model of church planting was to go to strategic cities, evangelize, plant churches, appoint elders, and move on with occasional revisits to encourage and strengthen the believers and the churches. Although both Urban and Rural strategies can be considered geographic

strategies. Urban areas may be considered as separate class in itself, as the needs and challenges are different from those of the rural settings. We also need to consider the urban neighborhoods as potential fields depending on how the city is divided.

Geographical areas (Villages): One of the goals of the Great Commission is to reach and establish a gathering of believers in every village. In Romans 15:17-21, we read the strategy of Paul, “From Jerusalem to Illyricum, I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ.” This means he had covered systematically every place and every village in between these two cities.

You can take a pause here and prayerfully choose a well-defined field for your ministry. The size of your vision should be bigger than just your church or your denomination. This could be a people group, a language group, town, a city, a portion of a city, a block or a sub district, a group of villages, a district, or a state.

- Enlarge my territory. (Prayer of Jabez. 1 Chronicles 4:10)
- Enlarge the place of your tent.... (Isaiah 54:2)
- Increase our faith! (Luke 17:5 Pray like the disciples)

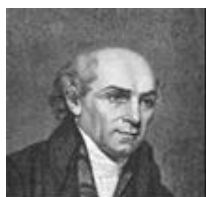
How Did The Apostles Fulfill The Great Commission?

The book of Acts was written by Luke primarily around the Great Commission statement as we see in Acts 1:8. “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.”

Power Of the Holy Spirit

The most important factor in the fulfillment of the Great Commission for the apostles was the power of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus’ ascension, they waited for the Holy Spirit as commanded by the Jesus. Coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the fearful, doubting, timid, reluctant disciples into bold, powerful unashamed witnesses for the risen and living Lord and Master. Peter who denied Jesus out of fear of the Jews stands up and proclaimed, *“this Jesus whom you crucified, God has made him both Lord and Christ”*. Every new expansion of the Gospel in the book of Acts, whether to a new geographic territory or a new ethnic group, was under the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the early years of the New Testament church, their witnessing was limited to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, that too only among the Jewish people. God had to shake up Peter with a vision (Acts 10) to show that the new Messiah family is for all the people of the world, including the gentile Romans. Yet, there was no intentional plan to go and fulfill the Great Commission to reach *“ends of the earth”*.



Expect great things from God,
attempt great things for God.

~ William Carey

Antioch Church Model

Antioch church consisting of Jews and Gentiles was started by Jewish believers who were scattered because of the persecution. After one year of teaching by Paul and Barnabas, it is the Antioch church that had a plan for fulfilling the Great Commission to reach the “ends of the earth”. They commissioned Paul and Barnabas to travel to other parts of Asia and later Europe to preach the Gospel. It is this apostolic model of fulfilling the Great Commission that we see in the book of Acts. From chapter 13 onwards, we see how Paul and his team implemented the Great Commission in Asia and Europe. We also see that Paul and his team were accountable to the Antioch church which sent them on the mission in the first place.

Pauline Strategy & Cycle

Pauline Strategy as summarized in the book of Acts. (Acts 14:21-23)

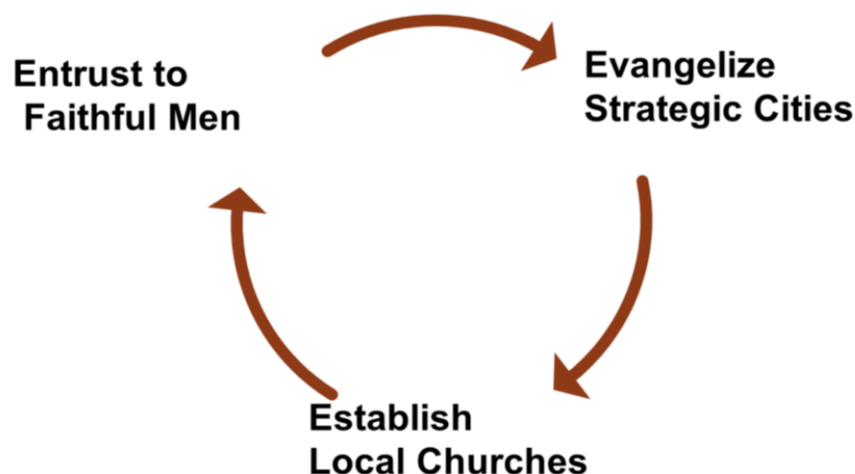
“When they had preached the Gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

There are three Greek words that summarized the Pauline strategy.

- Kerygma- Proclaim the Gospel
- Didache - Teach – What Jesus and the Apostles taught
- Sterizo - Strengthen or establish in faith.

I - Pauline Cycle (Jeff Reed)

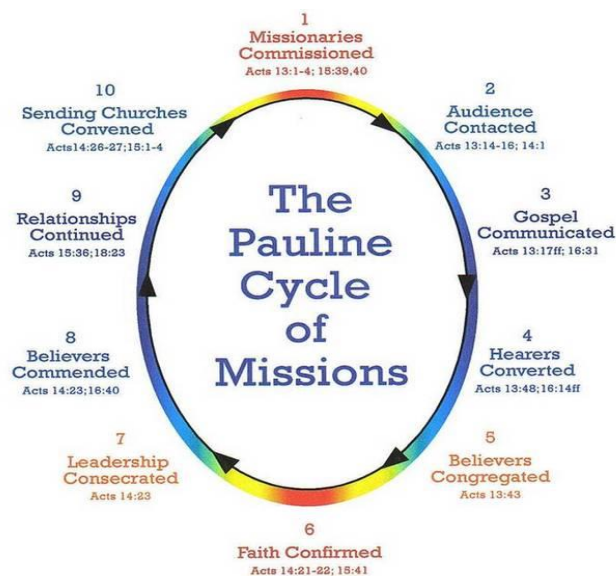
Jeff Reed summarizes these in three steps as Pauline strategy for fulfilling the **Great Commission** task.



- Evangelize strategic cities
- Establish Churches
- Entrust to faithful men.

II - Pauline Cycle As Given By Hesselgrave:

From a study of Paul's methods, we can see that he had a strategy, which is followed repeatedly in his missionary journeys. David Hesselgrave, a great man of God who has studied mission in the Bible, has written a book on this subject. In one chapter he has described what he calls "Pauline Cycle" for missions or for fulfilling the Great Commission. He lists ten steps in this Pauline Cycle. Since it is based on the book of Acts and used repeatedly by Paul and his team, we can consider this to be normative (Biblical teaching on fulfilling the Great Commission). In some situations, all the ten steps may not be applicable. It will be interesting to study how Paul fulfilled this in Ephesus, where all the steps were not recoded by Luke.



1. Missionaries Commissioned Acts 13:1-4; 15:39-40

Since the Great Commission is given to the Church, the Church (local or network level) takes the ownership. Then the church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through prayer, selects, trains, commissions and sends individual leaders for specific missions.

2. Audience Contacted-Acts 13:14-16; 14:1; 16:13-15; 18:19; 16:13-14; 19:1,8-9

In place where Paul and his team went, they chose appropriate method of finding the right people (man of peace) to contact. Very often, it started with Jewish synagogue and other occasion, it was through his professional contacts.

3. Gospel Communicated - Acts Acts 13: 17-41; 16:31; 19:4,9-10

After identifying the right people, they communicated the Gospel in the language and context that the audience could relate to.

4. Hearers Converted - Acts 13:48; 16:14-15; 19:5,18

When the Gospel was presented, some of the believers would respond, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and be converted.

5. Believers Congregated - Acts 13:43; 19:9-10

Those who responded to the Gospel met together a new community and were taught God's Way more thoroughly and clearly. This became the starting point for a local house church.

6. Faith Confirmed**Acts 14:21-23; 15:41-20,27-28; 1 Tim. 1:3-4;2:2**

The group of men and women who believed and started meeting together followed the four steps of Acts 2:42, especially being taught so that their faith was conformed the church was strengthened.

7. Leadership Consecrated Acts 14:23

Summing up Pauls' first missionary journey, Luke tells us "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed". Thus, appointing and equipping leaders was an integral part of Paul's mission in every church.

8. Believers Commended-Acts Acts 14:23; 16:40; 20:1,25,32

The believers and the church were commended for their faith and was encouraged by the apostles. They were prepared to face the opposition and persecution that they were likely to face.

9. Relationships Continued-Acts 25:36; 18:23; 20:17; Eph. 1:1-3,15-16

Paul continued to be in touch with these churches, through letters he wrote to them, praying for them, sending his co-workers to visit them and encourage them and revisiting them whenever possible.

10. Sending Churches Convened – Acts 14:26-27; 15:1-4; 18:22-23

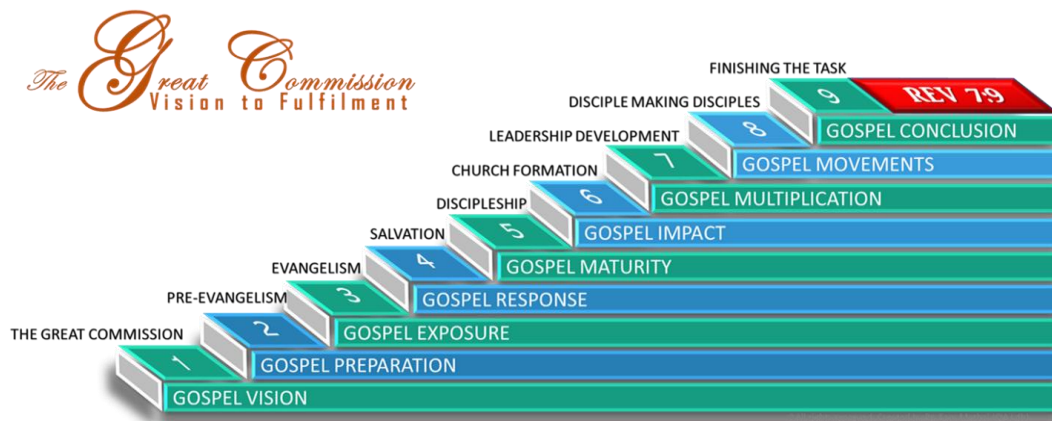
You may recall that Paul and his team were commissioned and sent by the Antioch church. We see that they went back to Antioch church and reported all that God had done. Even though Paul was the main leader, he was willing to be accountable to the sending churches, both Antioch and Jerusalem.

A Few Important Aspects Of Pauline Cycle Described Above.

The cycle has a beginning and an ending. In one sense each major element in the cycle is distinct and sequential and, in another sense, they flow into one another and overlap. They must be viewed synchronically as well as diachronically. That means all the initial stage activities must be carried out throughout the life cycle.

- Holy Spirit was the divine Director of the mission (Acts 13:1, 52)
- The entire mission was covered by an atmosphere of prayer (13:1-4, 15:40)
- The foundation of the mission was the entire Scriptures, both Old and New Testament. (Acts 15:15)
- The agency through which the Great Commission is fulfilled is the Church. The church commissions individual leaders for specific tasks. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:22)
-

Compare this with the 9 steps of Great Commission that has been presented in the School of Great Commission.



Matthew 28:19-20

Go! Baptize!! Teach !!!

- What are the similarities?
- What are the differences?
- Does this make sense?

Questions For Discussion

What is the essence of the Great Commission task?

How did the Apostles practice the Great Commission?

Discuss the Pauline strategy and Pauline Cycle for fulfilling the Great Commission task?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes:



Lesson 6: Gospel Preparation: Pre-Evangelism

Objective

- To help those involved in the Great Commission tasks to decide how to choose and prepare empty fields to sow the seeds.
- To understand how to establish contact with the audience.
- To understand Jesus' and apostles' method of preparing the field

Key Verses

Romans 15:20: "My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else." (NLT)

Mathew 13:8: Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! (NLT)

Colossians 4:3-4: 3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. 4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. (NLT)

Additional scripture portions:

- Luke 10:1-12
- Rev 3:20

Chapter Content

In this chapter we will discuss two principles and two questions to be considered by the sowers of the Gospel.

Two simple principles

- Choose empty fields to sow the seeds of the Gospel. (Romans 15:20)
- A prepared soil will certainly yield better yield than an unprepared soil. (Mathew 13:8)

Two questions

- How do we choose empty fields?
- How do we prepare the empty fields?

Choose Empty Field

What is an empty field in the context of the Great Commission task?

An empty field can be empty lives, people, or places. Let us explore further.

- **Empty lives:** Consider any one without Jesus in an empty field? This could be a Friend, Relatives, Associates or Neighbors or people in your community or anyone else whom you know.
- **Empty people / language groups:** Consider any people or language group as an empty field?
- **Unreached People groups**
- **Unreached Unengaged People Group**
- **Bible-less languages**
- **Empty places:** Consider any place where the Gospel has not been preached or where there are no churches or where Gospel has not been shared.
 - Villages,
 - Towns,
 - Urban colonies
 - Neighborhoods

Choosing empty lives.

The best way for us to choose empty lives is from our OIKOS. Oikos is a Greek word most often translated house or household, including the family members and servants. Oikos, could also mean even beyond a household, to the sphere of one's influence. An oikos corresponds the three universal units of societies worldwide and are based on

- Common kinship or blood relations.
- Common community and
- Common interests

The New Testament church grew primarily through the relationships or through the Oikos. This is true even today and, in some studies, almost 90-95% of the people come to the Lord through some one whom they knew and introduced to Jesus.

Oikos evangelism

Oikos Evangelism is the God-given and God-ordained means for naturally sharing the supernatural message. The New Testament church consisted of "blood relations, slaves, clients, and friends. The early church spread through oikos evangelism-evangelizing family members who saw the old sinner become the new saint; sharing with the neighbor who questioned how such a difference had come over his old friend and reaching the guys in the local trade union or the oikos that played a game together or had a common trade within a community, and common interest groups.

A simple and practical way for anyone to identify your Oikos is to begin by choosing Friends, Relatives, Associates or Neighbors who need Jesus. There are perhaps also other strangers also that you can share the Gospel as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Associates could be your co-workers, colleagues, classmates, milk man, shop keepers or any one with whom you are connected. These are the people you know and may have some form of relationship or connections. These are the people whom you know that they need Jesus, and you desire them to be with you in heaven. These people are easier for you to share your faith than those in the street although we are not stopping you from

doing that if the circumstances allow. You have a better chance of winning these people to the Lord than strangers. Ask every believer in the church to identify five or more unsaved people from each of the categories at a time and encourage them to pray for them. In fact, they can write as many names as possible and choose a set of 5 or more people to pray every day. The names can be written and pasted on desk or the wall as a reminder. Remember, they will be lost forever if they do not hear the Gospel. DO WE CARE?

Consider the following passages where OIKOS evangelism was mentioned.

- John 1:41-42 -- Andrew brings Peter.
- John 4:28,29,39 -- The Samaritan woman
- Acts 10: 27,44 – Cornelius and his family, friends, and neighbors
- Acts 16:14-15 – Lydia and her family
- Acts 16: 34 – Jailer and his family
- Acts 18:8 – Crispus and his family

In each case, in the midst of prayer, the Holy Spirit opens a door to the homes of peace. In each case, the entire family is enabled to believe and all who believe are baptized immediately. Each of these situations, use of the Greek word ‘Oikos’ can be used to describe the family or household.

Prepare empty lives/ people before sharing the Gospel:

Here we will discuss some ways in which we can prepare the field for sowing the Seed of God’s Word.

Prayer

The best way to prepare the hearts of people is to pray, pray focused, consistently, intensely, with perseverance. Prayer will open closed doors of their hearts and homes. Prayer will open the minds and eyes of people whom the devil has blinded. Prayer will prepare the ears prepare the hearts of people to sow the seeds of the Gospel.

What can you pray for them?

You can pray as the Holy Spirit prompts you to pray. If you know of their specific needs, you can pray for them. Use scriptures to pray for your FRAN claiming God’s promises. Pray for blessing or a pray for healing. Let Holy spirit give insight to you as to what to pray for your FRAN.

A simple prayer for beginners is OPEN PRAYER and BLESS prayer which everyone can easily do.

OPEN PRAYER

- **OPEN THE HEARTS (Rev. 3:20)**
- **OPEN THE HOMES (Luke 10:5-7)**
- **OPEN THE DOORS (Colo 4:2-3)**
- **OPEN HEAVEN (Malachi 3:10)**
- **OPEN EYES (Ephesians. 1:18)**
- **OPEN EARS (Mark. 7:35)**

BLESS PRAYER

Offer to pray for any specific need if you know. If not, you may follow the 'BLESS' prayer model.

Pray for B.L.E.S.S

- **B** - **BODY (Health, Healing, Wellness)**
- **L** - **LABOUR (Job, Studies, Work)**
- **E** - **EMOTIONS (Peace, Joy & Happiness)**
- **S** - **SOCIAL NEEDS (Economic, Family & Community)**
- **S** - **SPIRITUAL NEEDS (knowing god personally, prayer)**

A SAMPLE FRAN CARD

My commitment for prayer					Name: _____
#	F RIENDS	R ELATIVES	A SSOCIATES	N EIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

#	F RIENDS	R ELATIVES	A SSOCIATES	N EIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

FRAN PRAYER	BLESS PRAYER	OPEN PRAYER	
FRIENDS	BODY	O P E N	HEART
RELATIVES	LABOUR		EYES
ASSOCIATES	EMOTIONS		EARS
NEIGHBOURS	SOCIAL NEEDS		DOOR
	SPIRITUAL NEEDS		HEAVEN

PEOPLES

MINUTES

DAYS

WEEKS

- Write the names of 5 or more FRAN who are not believers.
- Select 5 or more people to pray at a time
- Pray consistently and regularly as the Holy Spirit leads
- Pray alone, in families and in groups, using scriptures and claiming promises
- Pray for specific needs of the people if you know
- Pray until God prepare their hearts to receive the seeds of the Gospel.
- Share the Gospel to those who have been prayed for as prompted by the Holy Spirit

CHOOSING EMPTY PLACES (Without Gatherings of Believers): -

Every disciple/church/leader is encouraged to adopt five or more empty fields (villages or urban neighborhoods for preparing and sowing the seeds of the Gospel based on Romans 15:20 principle.

- Select empty places – villages, neighborhoods, colonies without churches.
- Gather all information and Spiritual mapping (Numbers 13: 17-20)
- Open Prayer and BLESS Prayer for the people in the locality
- Prayer and prayer walking (Joshua 1:3)
- Mobilize the church to pray for empty fields and to send forth laborers (Matthew 9:38)
- Keep doing until the door is opened. (Colossians 4:3)

A sample village adoption form is given below.

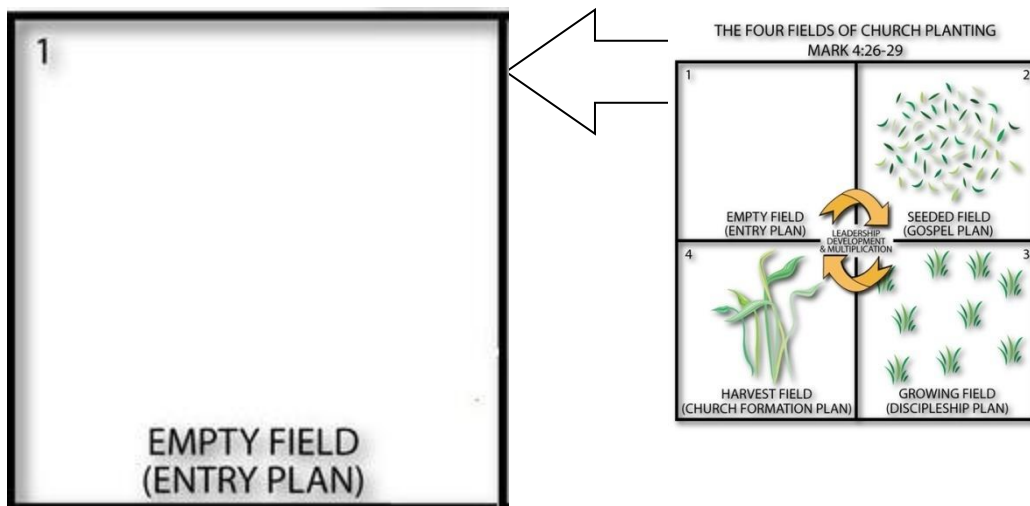
EMPTY FIELD ADOPTION FORM

Sl.No	Name Of Village/Colony	Sub District/Block/ Town/City	District	State
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Every Church Planter/Church is encouraged to adopt five or more empty fields (villages or urban neighbourhoods, for church planting) based on Romans 15:20 principle.

1. Gather all information and spiritual mapping (Numbers 13:17-20)
2. Prayer and Prayer Walking (Joshua 1:3)
3. Mobilize the church to pray for empty fields and send forth laborers. (Matthew 9:38)
4. Keep doing the above, until the door is opened. (Colossians 4:3)

How do we prepare the empty fields or empty places? What could be the entry strategy for empty fields?



The first thing that a diligent farmer does before he starts sowing the seed is to prepare the ground.

- How do we enter the empty field and prepare it for sowing the seeds?
- What can you do before sowing the seeds?
- How do remove the hurdles for sowing and reaping effectively.

Some may call it, Entry strategies which may vary from place to place depending on the target group.

Principles Of Entry Strategies

Develop a clear plan for preparation of people or places for sowing the Gospel.

Gather all information on the selected empty fields (places or people groups)

A sample survey form of the chosen field may include:

- Names of the chosen field.
- How many people live here and who are they?
- Who are the major religious groups, major people groups?
- The social and economic status of the people? Their world views.
- Who are the important people in this area?
- What are the religious and spiritual strongholds which stand as a hindrance to the penetration of the Gospel?
- Is there something in this people group and their religious practices that may point to Jesus?

Prayer as the most powerful tool for preparing the empty fields (Psa. 2:8)

- Mobilize your family and the whole church to pray for the empty fields
- Identify the specific needs of the community and pray for them
- Pray for open doors. Col 4:2-4
- Pray for laborers. Matt. 9:37,38

Prayer walking to prepare the field

After praying for the chosen empty field, we can do prayer walking as the next step

Guidelines for prayer walking

(Please note this is not a manual on prayer. You may read more about prayer and prayer walking in our prayer manual)

- Prayerfully prepare yourselves as this is a spiritual battle.
- Ask God to guide, direct, lead and impress you with His agenda for the people.
- Pray claiming scripture promises.

A few prayer points while doing prayer walking

- Claim the land (Joshua 1:3)
- For the peace of the city (Jeremiah 29:7, ESV).
- For hearts to be opened (Acts 16:14, ESV).
- For doors of opportunity to open: (Colossians 4:3-4, ESV).
- For god's favor to be released: (Isaiah 61:1-4, ESV)
- For turned hearts: (Luke 1:17, ESV).
- For removal of obstacles: (Isaiah 57:14, ESV). For
- Prosperity: "Proverbs 11:10-11, ESV). For salvation: "...
- For the healing of the land: "... (2 chronicles 7:14, ESV).

Other possible entry strategies.

Choose unique plans for your chosen field. However, the options must be weighed in the light of the impact and reproducibility based on guidance from the Holy Spirit. Consider the most appropriate strategies that are simple, effective and reproducible in your chosen field. This should be seen as acts of good works you can do because God loves and cares for people.

Use of Bible Story, Educational films, Jesus films, etc.

Many people use Bible stories, educational films and Jesus films to prepare the ground. However, you need to consider the advantages and disadvantages and risks if you are in a closed country.

Use of discovery Bible studies as a platform:

In disciple making movements many people effectively use Bible studies with non-believers using participatory method to prepare the hearts of the people before sharing the Gospel. They use the principle "belonging before believing"

How did Jesus send out his disciples and how did they establish contacts? (Luke 10 principle.)

Luke 10:1-12 What was the plan that Jesus asked his disciples to do as he sent people?

- Pair of two – A team of people.
- Place- where he himself was about to go.
- Promise of harvest -Harvest truly is plenteous.
- Problem for the harvest – Laborers are few
- Pray as you go -Send forth labors
- Promised Protections - As lambs among wolves.
- Provisions as you know – Do not take money or purse
- Person of Peace – House of Peace
- Personal focus – Not move from house – Eat what is give
- Preach and heal

How did Apostles contact their audience?

In places where Paul and his team went, they chose appropriate method of finding the right people (man of peace) to contact. A few examples and models are given below.

- Used Jewish Synagogue as a platform for establishing initial contacts. (Acts 13:5, Acts 13:13-17)
- Paul spoke from the old testament, reminding them of what they already knew. Abraham to Christ Discourse. (Acts 13:19-41)
- Professional contacts. Market place contacts Lydia (Acts 16:14), Tent makers-Priscilla and Aquila, (Acts 18:3)
- Sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 16:6-10)
- Contextualized preaching – Athens – The unknown god. (Acts 17:23)
- Anointing of the Holy Spirit accompanied by Signs” (semeion)—visible pointers to God’s supernatural activity. “Wonders” (teras)—works intended to create a sense of awe and amazement. “Miracles” (Dunamis)—mighty acts that reveal God’s power.
- Discussions lecture hall of Tyrannus. Apologetics (Acts 19:8)

Questions For Discussion

1. How should I choose empty fields - People and Place?
2. How should we prepare empty fields - People and Place?
3. What lessons can we learn from the models of Jesus and Apostles for establishing contact?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 7: Gospel Exposure: Evangelism (Part-I)

Objective

- To understand clearly what the message of the Gospel is - THE MESSAGE
- To understand the qualifications and preparation of the messenger - THE MESSENGER
- To learn the different ways to share the Gospel -THE METHOD (We will discuss this in the coming classes)

Key Verses

Read and memorize the following verses

(Every sower of the Gospel must learn these verses to be used while sharing the Gospel)

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

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

John 3:3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again"

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

Other scriptures for study: Acts 10:34-43, 1 Cor. 15:1-5; Romans 1:1-4, Acts 2:32-38

Chapter Content

In the last session, we discussed how to choose and prepare empty fields. Now having prepared the field, we need to sow the seeds of the Gospel – the word of God. Remember sowing in a prepared field yields better harvest and sow with the intention to reap. Presenting the Gospel to those living in darkness is the heart of the Great Commission. In this chapter, we will learn to understand the message clearly and how we can prepare ourselves and our church members to master the art of evangelism. To become a master in evangelism is not enough, but it is essential that we must become a model and train others for a maximum harvest. The goal of a sower is every corner of the field should be saturated with the seeds. Let us analyze a few questions that every soul winner must ask. In simple terms, we need to sow abundant, and we will reap abundantly. For this to happen, we need to equip every believer to be sowers of the Gospel.

- What is The Message?
- Who can be The Messenger?
- What are the methods?

In this chapter we will focus on the message and the messenger in this lesson. We will discuss the methods in detail later.

The Message:

What is the Gospel message?

The Greek word “evangelion” translated “Gospel” in our Bibles means good news, especially good news from the battlefield. The question is, what is the good news of Jesus Christ, which apostles proclaimed to the then known world? Mark records that Jesus preached the Gospel of God, which is “the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel”. It is this Gospel of the Kingdom of God that apostles proclaimed starting at Jerusalem (Acts 2,3,4). Jesus' call to be part of the Kingdom of God was to Repent and Believe.

Explanation of the Gospel

It is so important that we share the true Gospel clearly in a way that the hearer can easily understand and respond. This is best done in the heart language of the hearer than in a trade language.

Let us explore the following verses to learn the essence of the Gospel in simple words. Read the scripture portions mentioned and make a summary of the Gospel in simple and clear terms in your own words. What are the essential elements of the Gospel, based on the above passages?

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-7
- Acts 2:32-38
- Acts 10:34-43

A few other key verses for Gospel presentation are given below and please add anything if you find appropriate. Try to memorize these and other Bible verses and the word of God is powerful and sharper than two-edged sword.

Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23 Romans 5:8, John 3:16, John 3:3, Mathew 11:28
John 1:12, Romans 10:9 Acts 2:32-38

The Gospel message described in the above passages can be summarized as below:

Messiah came according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-5)

The Gospel that Paul preached to the Corinthian church is that the Messiah came, died, and raised according to the Scripture. Note the key phrases highlighted.

“...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures....”,

Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah. (Acts 2:32-38)

The Gospel that Peter preached on the day of Pentecost is that Jesus is the promised Messiah, whom the Jewish leaders crucified. But God raised him up and made him the

Lord and the Messiah. Response that we need to give is to repent from our sins, turn around, be baptized, be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit.

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

....**“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”**

38 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.”

Acts 10:34-43. This is based on Peter’s Gospel message in the house of Cornelius.

Summary of that Gospel message here is:

- Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,
- God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.
- He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him
- They put him to death by hanging him on a tree
- God raised him on the third day.
- Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

What is the Gospel message that we need to proclaim?

The Greek word for proclamation of the Gospel is Kerygma.

Let us summarize elements of the Gospel message. You may modify and write down this to fit into your style and culture without diluting the message.

- The Almighty God created the heavens and earth and all that is in them.
- God created man and woman, they committed sin and separated from God.
- God, because of His great love for mankind sent Jesus according to the Scriptures into this world (2000 years ago)
- Jesus lived on the earth for 33½ years, He did good to people, led a sinless life; he healed the sick, raised the dead,
- He was crucified on the cross, buried, and raised from the dead, ascended to heaven.
- He will come back to judge the world.
- In the name of Jesus there is forgiveness of sin and salvation.

The Messenger

Who can all share the Gospel? Who is qualified to be messengers of the Gospel?

The Gospel is entrusted to the Church. Within the church, every believer is called to participate in the Great Commission by sharing the Gospel. The Great Commission is for all and not some. Every obedient believer can and must share the Gospel. The call is for all believers to become fruitful. The call is for all believers to be his witness.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called!

- Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." (Mark 1:17) Every follower of Jesus is called to be fishers of men.
- God chose us so that we may bear fruits (John 15:16) God has called every believer to bear fruits and that the fruits may remain.
- God uses ordinary people to proclaim the message of salvation. (Peter - a fisherman)
- Samaritan woman started testifying her story of meeting the Messiah. (John 4:28-29)

The Example Of Samaritan Woman:

The Samaritan woman did not have any special qualification to be an "evangelist". She is an uneducated woman from a lower social class, and an outcast, as far as Jews were concerned. She also had a sinful past, probably hated by the community. But she met Jesus the Messiah and now she is a transformed new believer, saved by the grace of God.

If she is still qualified, then every believer is qualified. What was her message? "Can this be the Christ?"

"The Simplest Plain Form of the Gospel is to show Christ to others."

The story of Antioch Church:

The scattered persecuted believers who were ordinary people were used by God to plant several churches. (Acts 11:19-20) The scattered believers from Jerusalem who went to different places because of persecution started sharing their faith and planting churches. In fact, the Antioch Church was started by ordinary believers who were scattered because of persecution and not by any big Apostles.

Read the following passage.

Acts 11:19-21 *"now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch speaking the word to no one except Jews. but there were some of them men of Cyprus and Cyrene who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also preaching the Lord Jesus. and the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord."*

The Antioch Church commissioned Paul and Barnabas to go and take the Gospel to unreached strategic cities of the Roman Empire. (Act 13:1-3)

Evangelism as an expression of gratitude to God

Evangelism must come out of a grateful heart. If we are grateful to Jesus, we cannot but proclaim His goodness. It is important that we train every believer in the church to share the Gospel and share his or her testimony

The story of the demon possessed man who was healed *(Luke 8:26-39)*

After he was healed, he wanted to go with Jesus, but this is what Jesus told him and this is what he did.

"Return home and tell how much God has done for you. So, the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him" (Luke 8:39)

The Methods

a) What are the methods for Gospel preparation?

We will discuss the methods in detail in the next class, but in this chapter we will emphasize that men and women empowered by the Holy Spirit are God's method. (Acts 1:8). Therefore, the life of the messenger itself will be a powerful method that God uses. In other words, every messenger of the Gospel should demonstrate the Gospel through their life.

b) Demonstration of the Gospel

Lifestyle Evangelism

While it is true that every believer can and must share the Gospel, it's also important that we demonstrate the Gospel that we preach by our life style, our words and actions. (Matthew 3:8 "Bear fruits worthy of repentance").

Demonstration of the Gospel through power encounters

Sharing of the Gospel must be in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Paul says *"and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."* 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Questions For Discussion

1. What is the message of the Gospel?
2. Who can be the messenger?
3. What are the qualifications of the sowers of the Gospel?
4. How will you mobilize and equip more sowers of the Gospel in your church?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

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Practical Application

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1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 8: Gospel Exposure: Personal Evangelism (Part-II)

Objective

- To learn more about methods of Gospel Exposure
- To learn about Personal Evangelism
- To learn how to train and equip more sowers of the Gospel

Key Verses

Romans 3:23: "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 5:12: "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."

1 Tim 1:15: "This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all."

Jn 10:10: "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

John 14:6: "Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12: "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Chapter Content

In the last chapter we looked at the **Message**, **Messenger**. In this chapter we will discuss the **Methods** of Gospel presentation.

There are a variety of ways to proclaim the Gospel. However, the focus of this chapter will be **"Oikos (Household) evangelism or personal evangelism"**. Therefore, we will just be mentioning some of the methods, but we will focus more of on evangelism in the context of church planting.

Every believer should be encouraged to share his faith with others. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". (Mark 1:17) Every follower of Jesus is expected to be a fisher of men.

Encourage every new believer to start sharing his new-found faith as soon as possible, just like the Samaritan woman. Set a goal of sharing the Gospel with at least five people every week. Let us explore more about personal evangelism.

What Is Personal Evangelism?

Personal Evangelism is a DEFINITE PRAYER and PERSONAL EFFORT to bring a fellow sinner to accept Jesus as his/her own Savior and follow Jesus as his/her Lord.

“The only **POWER** trusted is the **HOLY SPIRIT**”

“The only **INSTRUMENT** used is the **BIBLE**”

“The only **SAVIOR** proclaimed is **JESUS CHRIST**”

Example of personal evangelism-The story of Andrew and friends: We have a beautiful example of personal evangelism among family and friends in the story of Andrew, which we read in John 1:35-51. We will discuss more about it in the next class.

Why Should We Do Personal Evangelism?

- You came to the Lord because someone shared the Gospel with you
- The world needs Christ, and you may be the only person who can effectively share the Gospel to someone under your influence.
- Every Christian can and called to be a witness.
- It may be practiced anywhere and anytime without any expense unlike a crusade, convention, or other forms of evangelism.
- We can reach all classes of people through personal evangelism.
- The Gospel conveyed to the crowd will be a general message but in personal evangelism it can be addressed to his specific need.
- Personal evangelism can satisfy and meet every spiritual need
- Personal evangelism has the best chance of producing abundant result

How Can We Prepare For Personal Evangelism?

Personal assurance of salvation and satisfaction in Christ.

- Every personal evangelist must have a personal experience with Jesus - ‘Fact, Faith, feeling’
- Only what we have seen and heard we can proclaim. –
(1 John 1:3) "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."
- Woman of Samaria told about Jesus whom she encountered. (Jn 4 :5-42)
- Blind man shared how Jesus healed him – (John 9:13-34)

A Working Knowledge of The Bible

Every personal evangelist must have a working knowledge of the word of God

- To show that all are sinners - (Romans 3:23, 5:12, Eph 2:1)
- To show that Jesus is the savior he needs. (Romans 6:23.1 Tim 1:15, Jn 10:10, Acts 4:12, Jn 14:6)
- To show what Jesus did for us (1Pet 2: 24, Jn 10:11)
- To show how to make this Savior his own. (Romans 10:9, John 1:12, John 3:16)

A Consistent Prayer Life (Psalms 126:6)

Every personal evangelist must have a consistent prayer life

Our prayer will open the heart of the person we share. Lydia (Acts 16 :14)

Christ Like Character. (Galatians 5:22-23. 2 Corinthians 3:18)

Every personal evangelist must demonstrate Christ Like Character. Remember you will be watched carefully by your listeners

A Separated Christian Walk. (Heb 12:1-2)

Every personal evangelist must have a separated Christian walk. Remember your life is equally important as your words.

A Christ Like Compassion

Every personal evangelist must demonstrate Christ-like compassion in words and deeds.

Compassion was the driving force in all that Jesus did. (Mat 9:36)

Holy Spirit Filled Experience. (Acts 1:8)

Every personal evangelist must be anointed and led by the Holy Spirit

Philip was led by the Holy Spirit in each step while sharing the Gospel to eunuch of Ethiopia. Acts (8:26-35)

Approach Of A Soul Winner:**How shall I approach a person for personal evangelism?**

In the world there are two kinds of people you may encounter

- Often seen friends- FRAN-OIKOS
- A total stranger we may meet.

Where do we meet?

We can meet them in a common place such as businesses, schools, places of worship.

We may also meet in casual meeting places like houses, hospitals travel

Attitude of a soul winner

- Be Prayerful
- Be friendly
- Be watchful
 - Is he unoccupied?
 - Is he alone?
 - Is he talkative?
 - Is he serious?
- Be natural
 - Some people change their voice when they pray or preach.
- Be sincere
- Be persistent (Rome was not built in a day)
 - Our first attempt may be unsuccessful
 - Do not get disheartened

Opening remarks of a soul winner while witnessing to Christians

A few examples are given below but you may choose that is most appropriate

- When was your second birthday?
- Can you tell me what I must do to be saved?

Methods Of Personal Evangelism**The Shock method**

This method is for nominal Christians who are not serious about their spiritual life E.g. Where will you spend your eternity if you die today?

Tract or literature method

Different kinds of Christian literature are available. We can give to the listener a tract or booklet judiciously which can continue to speak, even after the conversation is over.

Indirect Method

E.g. Jesus and Samaritan women (John 4:4-26)

*Start on the **natural**. - Jesus asked Samaritan woman for a drink.*

*Slide into the **spiritual** - Jesus introduced the living water.*

*Settle on **Christ** - Then Jesus told her I am the Messiah.*

Practical kindness method

Eg: Giving a lift to a person, taking someone to the hospital
Helping someone in times of their needs / grief

Personal Evangelism Diagnosis *(Interact Like Doctor Patient Relationship)*

While talking to a person, you can use the question-and-answer method like a Doctor and Patient. You will be able to make a lot of observations and make a diagnosis of the person's spiritual condition and level of interest etc.

We can divide mankind into 3 types of people.

- Believers who are born again and mature
- Christians who are backslidden or
- Non-believers of other faith or nominal Christian

They can further be divided into two groups

a) Unconcerned

- They are spiritually blind. (Mt. 13:13)
- They are spiritually bound. (Rom. 7:19)
- They are spiritually dead. (Lk. 15:32, Eph 2:1)

BASIC conviction text

- He is **B**ound (Jn 8:34)
- He is **A**waiting Judgement (Rom. 14:12)
- He is **S**elf-willed (Isa 53:6)
- He is **I**gnorant (1 Cor. 2:14)
- He is **C**ondemned already (John 3:18)

b) Concerned or convicted

Those who are already exposed to the Gospel through Christian programmes
Use the Bible to bring conviction with the help of the Holy Spirit

How To Lead A Person To Christ And Follow Him Up?

The objective of all evangelism is to lead a person to a personal commitment to Christ. Therefore, it is important to present the Gospel clearly. We must avoid putting pressure on the person to make an immediate decision. Some people would need time to think through the issues and count the cost involved in following Jesus.

There are 4 steps in the process of a person accepting Christ

Repentance - (Acts 2:38. Mark 1:18)

Repentance is not feeling sorry or remorse for our sins but on the other hand repentance is taking a right about turn or a U-turn. For example, the prodigal son when he came to his senses, he left the dirty surroundings and walked towards his father's house and made confession of his sins.

Believe – (Acts 16 :31 Romans 10:9)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your household will be saved
Believing is not intellectual assent to certain truths, but it is committing your life into the hands of Jesus Christ. Eg Asking an expert driver to take over the steering wheel of your life to take you to the right destination.

Receive – (Jn 1:12 Rev 3:20)

Receive Jesus as the Savior and Lord of your life and decided to live for him for the rest of your life.

Confess – Rom (10:9,10)

Confess with your mouth Jesus Christ is your Lord (Mat 10 :33) Whoever shall deny me before men I will also deny him before my father in heaven.

How Do We Follow-Up?

If a person has made a decision, you may do the following as he may have many questions regarding the next step.

Assurance of Salvation: How can I know for sure that I am saved?

It is not based on feeling but it is based on what the Bible says.

- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins.” (1 Jn 1 :9)
- When you believe in Jesus Christ, he has promised eternal life (Jn 3:16)
- We passed from death to life, no more a thing of the future but a present reality. (Jn 5:24)
- The Spirit gives us the assurance that we are God’s children. (Rom. 8:16 and John 1:12)

Continuance: How do I continue in my newfound faith?

- Prayer
- Meditating on God’s word
- Fellowship of like-minded people
- Witnessing

Questions For Discussion

1. How can we prepare ourselves and others for personal evangelism?
2. What principles of personal evangelism have we learnt today and how do we apply?

Teach Others

(Ezra 7:10) Study, Obey and Teach

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle based on 2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 9: Gospel Exposure: Oikos Evangelism (Part-III)

Objective

To learn more on Gospel exposure using the Oikos evangelism principle from the story of Andrew and friends and the story of the Samaritan woman.

To learn how to prepare a personal story and share it with others

Key Verses

The story of Andrew, which we read in John 1:35-51. Read this story and find the chain of witnessing in this story.

The story of the Samaritan woman- John 4: 4-42 (Read the story of the Samaritan woman and discuss what we can learn on Gospel exposure)

Chapter Content

We have learnt the three key principles of Gospel exposure in our previous lessons - *The Message, The Messenger, and the Method*

In this lesson, we will also look at other methods of evangelism but first let us look at two stories

- The story of Andrew and friends
- The story of the Samaritan woman's story and her method of evangelism.

The Story Of Andrew And Friends

We have a beautiful example of personal evangelism among family and friends in the story of Andrew, which we read in John 1:35-51. Read this story and find the chain of witnessing in this story.

- John testifies about Jesus to two of his disciples "Behold the Lamb of God" (Jn 1:29-35)
- Jesus met the two disciples and one of them was Andrew. (Jn 1:40)
- Andrew told his brother Simon Peter "We have found Messiah" and brought him to Jesus (Jn 1:41-42)
- Andrew or Peter tells Philip who is on the same village of Bethsaida (Jn 1:44)
- Philip told Nathaniel about Jesus and brought him (Jn 1: 45-51)

The nature and progress of the Gospel was through natural relationships-Friends, Relatives, Associates, Neighbour (FRAN Principle)

The Story Of The Samaritan Woman And Her Method Of Evangelism.

Who was the Samaritan Woman?

She was a Samaritan woman- considered as outcaste in the society by the Jews, probably illiterate, living in sin

How did she meet Jesus?

At the well of Jacob in Sychar (John 4:5)

What was their conversation?

Started over a drink of water leading on to conversation on living water. Jesus told about her past. (John 4:7-18)

What was the result of their conversation?

"Give me that water that I may never thirst" (John 4:15)

What did she do?

"She left her jar and went back to the town and told the people what happened to her" (John 4:28)

What was the message

The Samaritan woman told her Oikos that Jesus is Christ the messiah Saviour!

"John 4: 29 come see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She not only shared the message but also gave a Gospel invitation; Come and See.

What was the result?

The whole city came to see Jesus, and many believed because of her testimony. They also acknowledged that Jesus is indeed the Saviour of the world.

What was qualification of the Samaritan woman?

She was a sinner but now saved by grace

What was her method?

She shared her testimony (John 4:39)

When did she start doing that?

Immediately in gratitude to God for a life changed. No Bible college or seminary taught her.

John 4:29-30 "and she said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

John 4:39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, *"He told me all that I ever did."*

We read that the Samaritan woman was a sinner who met Jesus. Through a series of conversation, she realized who Jesus is. She was transformed and she went and shared with the whole village. Jesus first won her and then sent her to call her "Oikos" to faith. She was a tremendously effective evangelist! Within one chapter, her whole village has been exposed to the Gospel and many believed.

What Would Have Been Her Testimony?

Write in your own words the testimony of the Samaritan woman. This is a sample of what she would say.

"One day I was in the town of Sychar, I met a Jewish man who asked me for water. I told him that I am Samaritan woman, an outcaste as far as Jews are concerned. He was not supposed to ask me for water. Then he told me that He is the promised Messiah and he offered me living water. I did not understand what he meant. I told him that he did not have anything to draw water. I asked him "are you greater than Jacob?" Then he said if we drink the water he gives, we will never thirst again and have eternal life. I asked him to give me that water of life. Moreover, you know that I am a sinner. He told me all that I ever did I realized that he is the Messiah promised in the Scriptures.

The Samaritan Woman's Four Essentials

- a) **Immediate obedience to Christ** – As soon as she was convinced, she left her vessel at the well and went to the village and told everyone.
- b) **Her personal testimony** – The testimony of a believer could be the sharpest tool for evangelism.
- c) **Gospel presentation** – Presenting the Gospel has one purpose, and that is to bring people to a decision about Christ. In her case – (verse 29) – “Could this be the Christ?”
- d) **Introduction to Jesus** – Finally, we see the woman lead the people to the feet of Jesus (verse 30) (LEADING TO A COMMITMENT)

Preparing A Personal Testimony

a) What is Personal testimony?

A personal testimony is simply the Good News presented in terms of your own experience. It is sharing what God has done in your life in your own words. It must be a personal definite experience of your encounter with Jesus and how your life has been transformed. In other words, it is called the experiential Gospel.

I John 1: 1-3

That which we have heard which we have seen with our eyes which we touched with our hands concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the father and was made manifest to us, that which we have seen and heard we proclaim.

b) How do we prepare a personal testimony?

- Encourage and train every believer to write down their personal story in 2-3 minutes
- If they cannot write do an audio recording.
- If not, simply let them practice verbally the components of a personal testimony.

The content of the testimony

- Introduce who you are.
- What was your life before Christ?
- What is your life after you accepted Christ?
- How did it happen?
- How are you serving God today (if appropriate)?

What to do after writing the story?

- Practice sharing the testimony among co-believers
- Develop confidence to share your testimony.
- Modify based on suggestions.
- Avoid unnecessary details.
- Modify the testimony depending on your audience.

Oikos Evangelism Through Personal Testimony Among FRAN

We have already discussed earlier about the Oikos principle, sharing the Gospel with the family and extended family members. Many of you would have already written down the names your Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors and praying them.

How Do We Do Oikos Evangelism?

After preparing the field, we need to sow the seeds of the Gospel. As the Holy spirit leads, you look for opportunity or take initiative to share your testimony those people in your list.

You may do the following steps of OIKOS evangelism.

Select your FRAN, make a list and pray and prepare their hearts

- Listen to their story
- Take the next step of initiating a conversation with your FRAN.
- Be a patient listener to the story that she/he has to share. Often, the people we meet have passed through experience of grief, hurt, rejection, disappointment, shame, being unloved, guilt, sickness, fear, etc. We must be willing to listen to their story without being judgmental.

Share your story

- From what you have heard, you can share your own experience in similar situation. You may share how Jesus Christ has helped you to address similar situations.

Share Jesus story

Then you have the opportunity to share the story of God and Jesus who is a friend of the sinner, guilty, rejected, outcaste. Share about God's love which was demonstrated on the cross. You may use a related Bible story or Bible verses as appropriate.

- Help someone to start a new story
- By sharing your story, you can help someone to start a new story of their life.

Pray for the person whether they believe or not

Nothing works like prayer. Very people are there who have no personal needs or prayer requests. Pray that God would address their specific needs and will reveal Himself to your friend. If the problem is sickness, pray for God's intervention in healing. "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalms 126:6

"Sow abundantly, reap abundantly, Sow sparingly, reap sparingly"

Questions For Discussion

1. What do we learn about personal evangelism from the story of Andrew and friends and from the Samaritan women?
2. How do we help every believer in our church to develop their own personal story and sharing them with their 'Oikos'?

TEACH OTHERS (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach CHRISTIANS)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

2 Timothy 2:2 - "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."

Practical Application

1. Please write down your answers to the following questions.
2. Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.
3. What have I learnt?
4. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
5. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
6. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
7. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes



Lesson 10: Gospel Exposure: Objections To The Gospel

Objective

- To understand the common objections for the Gospel that the New Testament church faced
- To help the church to address lovingly the objections in your culture based on Biblical principles

Key Verses

I Pet 3: 14-17

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake you will be blessed. Have no fear of them nor be troubled ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect having a good conscience so that when you are slandered those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame.

Chapter Content

When you share Gospel with others, I am sure there will be several questions and objections.

What kind of questions do people ask?

Are we prepared to answer the questions?

Have you faced objections when you shared the Gospel? If so, what are they?

The Objection That The Apostles Faced

We see in the book of Acts that the apostles who presented the Gospel to Jews in in synagogues or gentiles faced several objections. We will discuss some of these here.

1 Cor. 1:18-25 ¹⁸ *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart. 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world did not know God through wisdom it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom 23 but we preach Christ crucified a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles 24 but to those who are called both Jews and Greeks Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

The Jewish Story Vs. Message Of The Cross

The Jewish Story of the first century was of a Messiah who would be the King and Saviour. They expected a political Messiah who would set them free from Roman rule. However, message of the Kingdom that Jesus preached was not of this world, but of a kingdom in the perspective of eternity. Jesus was a Messiah who was crucified and was raised from the dead.

The Gospel that Christ and the apostles preached was the Message of the Cross, which the Jewish leaders just could not accept.

Let us look at the types of Objections faced by the New Testament churches and how do we address them based on Biblical principles.

Intellectual Objections *Acts 17:18–32, Acts 4:10, Acts 17:31, Acts 2: 24*

“When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said We want to hear you again on this subject”. Made fun of the resurrection. Foolishness to the gentiles

- Is there a god? Can God who is immortal die as a criminal?
- How can we believe in resurrection?
- Is there life after death etc.?

For many the Gospel is – “untenable, unintelligible, inexplicable, incomprehensible”

How can He be the Only Way? Exclusiveness and uniqueness of Christ is a major objection that we face.

1 Cor. 8:4-6, 1 Tim 2:5

Religious Objections Or The Exclusiveness Of The Gospel

Paul’s message at Athens and people’s reaction there was typical for religious philosophers. (*Acts 17:18–32. Acts 4:12*)

“A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked What is this babbling trying to say?”

They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Look at the reaction of the religious people in the city of Athens full of idols. *Acts 17:16–22* “Idle babbling who preaches a foreign god. Acts 17:18”. Others remarked He seems to be advocating foreign gods.”. When Paul talked about resurrection, they made fun of him. (v.32)

The Gospel was a stumbling block to the Jews who could not accept a crucified Messiah. Cross was a symbol of shame. A crucified Messiah was a scandal. (*1 Cor. 1:22*). They were looking for a Messiah who will be the King.

Even in our own day, we face several religious objections, such as:

- Foreign religion
- Why another god when we have so many already.
- All ways lead to the same god etc.?

Personal Objection Or The Humbling Of Human Pride

(1 Cor 11:26–29)

Every man/woman wants to earn his/her own salvation. We want to do something to deserve it. righteousness of man. Earn your way to heaven or

moksha. Jesus did not call us based on anything that we possessed or earned. It is the hardest thing for man to accept that our salvation comes based on Jesus and the hideous shameful cross that he endured. This is foolishness to the world.

Moral Objection Or The Call To Repentance And Holiness.

(Rom 3: 23, Rom 5:8, John 1:29, 1 Joh 1:9, 1 Tim 1:15, Eph 1:7)

We know there is moral degradation of the world. Romans 1:18-21
Romans 1:21-32 describes man's rebellion against God and his moral condition.

Rom. 1:29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness evil greed and depravity. They are full of envy murder strife deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers God-haters insolent arrogant and boastful they invent ways of doing evil they disobey their parents they have no understanding no fidelity no love no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Sodom and Gomorrah repeated.

Corinth was the capital of all vices. They also were saying "We want to live like this. We enjoy the pleasure of sin We have suppressed the truth." This is true of our generation as well. We have not lived according to our own knowledge of God and truth.

- Morally speaking, People love their way of life.
- Do not want to be challenged or change

Social Objections

- New Testament churches had Jews, Romans, and Greeks
- Jews remained Jews.
- Greeks remained Greeks
- Romans remained Romans.

No one had to change their culture to become a follower of the Messiah though there was pressure from some Jewish Christians.

Even in our time, primary objection when someone decides to follow the Messiah is the social separation that a believer experience. Often, they are considered as social outcasts.

Political Objection Or The Lordship Of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:42,43; Rom 14:9

What were the charges against Jesus in the Roman court?

Sedition claiming to be the king Luke 23:1-2. one thing loyal Roman procurator never tolerated

What were the charges against Paul and his companions?

Philippi: advocating unlawful customs Acts 16:21

Thessalonica: defying Cesar's decrees Acts 17:7

In an empire where Caesar was known as the son of god, how can there be another Son of God? That was treason. For the followers of the Messiah, Jesus was a greater King than Caesar.

Failure of Believers to Live the Transformed Life

Bhimrao Ambedkar had written in his book that Christianity failed in India because Christians have failed to live what they preach. Even in our villages and towns when there are believers who do not live according to the Gospel, people will refuse to listen to the Gospel.

Some Examples And Questions From The New Testament Churches For Discussion And Further Study.

How do we deal with food offered as sacrifices in the temples ?

What were the questions that some Roman/Corinthian Christians had regarding food? (Read Romans 14 and also 1 Cor. 8) Often meat that is served in the market or in restaurants or in homes were from animals slaughtered as sacrifice in pagan temples.

How do we face challenges of living in a multicultural world?

The Jews unwilling to eat food with the Gentiles. Traditional Jewish Christians would never eat such meat nor would allow other gentile believers to eat since they belong to the same Messiah family.

What should be the stand of the church on this and other such matters?

Turn vegetarian? That is what many people did.?

How did they address the questions regarding food in the Roman/Corinthian Christians had regarding food? (Romans 14 and 1 Cor. 8)

Stop judging.

Romans 14: 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Bear with the weak

Rom. 15:1-2 “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.² Each of us should please our neighbours for their good to build them up.”

What are the principles that Paul gives us here about eating food in a multi-cultural world?

Since God is the creator, all meat is good and therefore in principle a Christian could eat without any restriction. However, if the conscience of a weaker believer is being hurt even a person with robust conscience about eating the food, she/he should abstain from eating food about which the weaker brother is not comfortable with.

What principles can we follow while living in a Multi-cultural World

- Do not compromise on the major. First identify whether the dispute is about a matter on which there is strong Biblical teaching. For example, sexual immorality is something which is forbidden in Old Testament and New Testament and cannot be a matter of conscience.
- Do not dispute on the minor but leave it to the conscience. On the other hand, dispute about eating food (E.g., Pork (Jewish/Muslim belief) or beef (cultural context) could be a matter of conscience.

What should be our response when Christians fight and Argue about Cultural Issues?

- Stop fighting on such issues and leave the judgement to the Lord's guidance. (v.10) Christ has called us from different background cultures traditions and through the Messiah forgiven our sins and transformed our lives. (Rom. 14:7-12)
- God loves and accepts us as we are. God has declared us to be His people irrespective of our background. So, let us live as responsible members of this new community respecting our diversity and differences in cultural practices.

How do we defend our faith?

- *Find answers from the Bible.*
As far as possible find answer from the Bible. For some objections we can find direct answers from the Bible.
- *Use Biblical principles.*
When we do not have a direct answer in the Bible find the principle that Bible gives. Apply those principles in your situations to defending the Gospel

Questions For Discussion

1. What are the objections to the Gospel that you have faced while sharing the Gospel?
2. You may classify them as follows.
 - a) Intellectual Objections
 - b) Religious objections or the Exclusiveness of the Gospel.
 - c) Personal Objection or the Humbling of Human Pride ▪
 - d) Social Objections
 - e) Customs and Traditions
 - f) Moral objections
 - g) Political Objection or the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - h) How will you defend your faith based on God's word and Biblical principles?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application:

Please write down your answers to the following questions. Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.
5. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic

Notes

Lesson 11: Gospel Response - Gospel Invitation:

Objective

- To understand the importance of giving Gospel invitation after Gospel proclamation
- To understand how people responded to the Gospel invitation
- To understand how to lead a person to the Lord and salvation experience

Key Verses

Romans 10:9 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

John 1:12 “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

Acts 2:38 “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.”

Acts 16:31 “They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

Chapter Content

What is Gospel invitation?

Gospel invitation is a call to respond to the Gospel message and to help someone to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. A Gospel presentation should always be followed by Gospel invitation. Gospel presentation without giving an opportunity to respond is like sowing without an intention to reap.

Why should we give a Gospel invitation?

Every listener of the Gospel must be given a chance to respond to the Gospel
The listeners may not know what to do after hearing the Gospel message
The Gospel invitation will give an opportunity for the listeners to take a decision to receive Christ.

How can we expect a positive response?

Gospel must be presented in a clear way that is easily be understood in their heart language.

- A natural and spontaneous response to Gospel is expected if the listener is prepared.
- A powerful and anointed Gospel presentation can often bring in spontaneous response.
- Holy Spirit convicts the hearts of the listener, and they respond to the Gospel.

Examples of spontaneous responses:

- Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost gave an anointed powerful Gospel message. Acts 2:14-42
- When they heard the message, they were cut to their heart and said to Peter and other apostles *"Brothers, what shall we do?"* Acts 2:37
- Peter then gives a clear and open Gospel invitation: *"Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sin."* Acts 2:38
- He also warned them and pleaded with them *"Save yourself from the corrupt generation."* Acts 2:40

What do we learn from the above story?

- Powerful anointed preaching of the Gospel
- Spontaneous response to the Gospel as Holy Spirit convicted the hearers
- Clear Gospel invitation
- Pleading and warning to save

Spontaneous response of the jailer and family: Read Acts 16:25-33

Paul and Silas were arrested and put in jail, but at midnight they were praying and singing hymns to God while others were listening. There was no evidence of preaching of the Gospel, but their life was their message, singing and praying amid adverse suffering. This was followed by the miraculous manifestation by the power of God in the form of earthquake, where foundation was shaken, doors were opened. The jailor was shaken and wanted to kill himself thinking that the prisoners have escaped. Paul's message to the jailer was only a message of comfort. Do not harm yourself. We are here.

Spontaneous Gospel response: What must I do to be saved?

- A clear Gospel invitation: Believe in Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved.
- Further Gospel Response: The jailor and his whole family believed and were baptized

How can we give a proper Gospel invitation?

A Gospel presentation should always be followed by an invitation. Gospel invitation is a call to respond and help someone to accept Jesus in their life. Gospel presentation without giving an opportunity to respond is sowing without intention to reap.

A clear presentation of the Gospel should be given in a way they can easily understand and respond in their heart language. It is the Holy Spirit who will convict people and our duty is to share the Gospel. We can expect a natural and spontaneous response to the Gospel on several occasions if the heart of the listeners were already prepared. If we do not get a natural response, we must give an opportunity for the listener to respond

Gospel invitation options

There are number of options for giving a Gospel invitation depending on the context. Let the Holy spirit be your guide you to ask the right question at the right time. Here are a few examples which you can use when it is apt.

- Would you like to receive Jesus into your life?
- Are you born again?
- Would you like to be saved?
- Would you like Jesus to forgive you your sin?
- If you were to die today, where will you spend your eternity?
- Do you want to make sure about your eternity?

What can be their response?

There can be only two response. Either **Yes** or **No**

- If the response is Yes, lead them to the prayer of confession immediately. If we delay, we do not know if the person will get another chance. The devil may take away the seed that has been sown and perhaps he may not come back due to external pressures.
- If the answer is No, do not give up. You can still offer to pray for their needs lovingly and keep praying till their heart is prepared for receiving the Gospel.

A simple Gospel response prayer

(You can modify the prayer in your own words).

Remember God honours simple prayers like the thief on the cross. Remember me.

"Dear Lord Jesus. I confess that I am a sinner. I know there is nothing that I can do to save myself. I believe that you came into the world lived and died for my sins. I believe that you were raised from the dead and I know you will come back. I believe you are my Saviour and, in your name, there forgiveness of sin and salvation. Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Lord and Saviour. Please forgive my sins. Come into my life. Wash me with your blood. From today I want to live for you. Thank you for hearing this prayer. Amen"

What should be done after helping someone to make a prayer of confession?

We must help them to begin their journey of faith and this is called immediate discipleship.

Given below are a few steps to begin the discipleship

- Give them the assurance of salvation
- Your sins are forgiven. 1 John 1:7
- You are a child of God. John 1:12
- You are born again. John 3:3
- Your name is written in the book of life. Rev 21:27

Start immediate discipleship:

- Encourage them to witness to their family and friends what Jesus has done
- Encourage them to pray simple prayer (The Lord's prayer as a model)
- Encourage them to read the Bible (A daily habit of reading the Bible)

Introduce to a Bible believing local church or disciple them to start a church

- Christian growth and maturity can happen only in the context of a local church
- Church is the place where they can have fellowship, breaking of bread, corporate prayer, teaching and experience a sharing and caring community.

Questions For Discussions

1. How will you help someone to receive Jesus into their life?
2. Share your story how you receive Jesus
3. Share your stories how you led others to Christ?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 12: Gospel Maturity: Discipleship (Part I)

Objective

- To understand the process of leading a new believer to spiritual maturity.
- To understand Immediate discipleship
- To understand short term discipleship
- To understand long term discipleship

Key Verses:

Mathew 28:19,20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Mathew 16:24 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

Colossians 1:28-29, *"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me."*

Chapter Content:

The goal of Great Commission is making disciples.

Who Is A Disciple?

- A Disciple is an obedient believer, obeying what Jesus commanded and Apostles taught.
- A disciple can also be defined as a follower or a student, one who listens to the master and obeys unconditionally. The key to discipleship is obedience and not intellectual knowledge.

What Is Discipleship?

Discipleship is a process of helping a believer to become a mature follower of Christ. This happens them by teaching them to obey everything that Jesus taught and what the Apostles practiced. The goal of Discipleship is to present everyone mature in Christ. (Col.1:29). Thus, it is the responsibility of mature followers of Christ to help new believers to become a mature follower of Jesus.

This involves, **"proclamation, warning and teaching everyone in all wisdom"**. We also see here that we cannot do this on our won strength. We need the power of God, the Holy Spirit to guide us and lead us to become mature in Christ.

Cost Of Discipleship

As in Mathew 16:24, there is also a cost associated with discipleship – "taking up the cross and following" which may vary from person to person. Everyone should be prepared and willing to count the cost of following Jesus. For some it may be heavy but for others it may be light.

Discipleship is a vast topic covering almost the entire New Testament. Since the focus of this course is Great Commission, we will only touch a few salient points here. These are discussed under:

Immediate Short Term And Long-Term Discipleship

- **Immediate Discipleship:**
What should the new believers be taught soon after making a confession of faith?
- **Short Term Discipleship:**
What should be the new believer be taught within a few weeks' time?
- **Long Term Discipleship:**
What should a believer be taught in the next few months / years?

In this chapter we will focus on Immediate and short-term discipleship and we will learn more about long term discipleship in the next lesson.

Immediate Discipleship

Who is responsible?

Primary responsibility of making disciples is that of the church. By the term immediate discipleship, we refer to the period between a person committing her/his life to follow Jesus and being part of a church.

Normally it would be the person who shares the Gospel, best suited to help the new believer to start his/her journey in the path of discipleship. If not, he/she may not have a chance to continue in faith. However, we must encourage every new believer to be part of a Bible believing church to grow into maturity.

Steps of Immediate Discipleship

What should we do immediately after a person receives Jesus into his life? The primary task is to help a new believer to begin living a New Life with Jesus. The following are some guidelines for this:

Assurance of Salvation

As soon as someone accepts the Lord, the person needs to give them assurance of salvation. Some of these verses could help in this.

- You are born again (John 3:3)
- If you have confessed and believed, you are now saved (Rom 10:9)
- Your name is written in the Book of Life (Rev 3:5, 21:27)
- If you have confessed your sins, God has forgiven you. (1 John 1:7-9)
- Since you have received Jesus, you are a child of God (John 1:12)
- Since you are in Christ you are no more guilty (Rom. 1:8)
- You have been adopted by the heavenly Father and we are the children of God (Rom. 8:15-16)

Teaching them to Pray (Mathew 6: 6-9)

Teach the new believer to pray like a child talking to the father .We are giving two simple steps on prayer. A good model prayer is the Lords' prayer. Jesus said pray then like this (you may modify this prayer in your own words to make it personal)

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever Amen.

A.C.T.S Prayer is a good model for the beginner to be taught.

- Adoration (Praise and worship)
- Confession (Acknowledging and confessing our sins)
- Thanksgiving (Thanking God for every day's blessings)
- Supplication (Prayer requests for our need and others)

Bible Study

Encourage the new believer to start reading the Bible. If she or he does not have a Bible, provide a Bible in their language.

How should they begin?

There is no specific standard formula to guide the new believers. Many churches begin with the Gospel of John while others may start with book of Mark. As they mature, they need to study the whole counsel of God both Old and New Testament.

Why should they read the Bible?

- Bible is like a road map for the traveller.
- Lamp to our feet and Light to our path.
- We hear God speaking through his word.

Psalms 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

Psalms 119:11 *I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

Start Witnessing

Encourage the new believer to start witnessing to their family and friends what Jesus has done in your life

The Story of the Samaritan Woman (John 4: 4-42)

- Immediately she left her jars
- Told people in the city
- Come and see Jesus

The story of the blind man (john 9:25) 9:25)

I was blind but now I see
Jesus healed me

Be a part of a lively Bible believing church

- First step is Baptism
- Fellowship
- Learn from the Word of God
- Grow in the Lord.

Short Term Discipleship

This phase of discipleship would normally happen in the context of the local church. The church leaders may encourage believers to grow in Christ by beginning to obey everything that Jesus commanded. We can consider this as two stages.

“Milk” Strategy

“What would you teach a new believer like milk to a newborn baby?”

What Jesus commanded.

What the Apostles taught (Apostolic Doctrines) and practiced. The elementary principles

What Jesus taught?

Although there are nearly 140 + commandment of Jesus in the New Testament all of them can be summarised as below under 7 commandments. This is a good way to begin the process of discipleship.

The 7 commandments of Jesus:

We can also use this as the initial evaluation tool for discipleship based on the obedience.

1. Repent and believe the Gospel. Mark 1:15
2. Be Baptized. Mark 16:16
3. Love God love your neighbour Mathew 22:37,39
4. Pray and read the Bible. John 15:7, Mathew 6:6-13
5. Take part in the Lord’s table Luke 22:19-20
6. Give to the Lord. Acts 20:35
7. Go and make disciples Mathew 28:19

What the Apostles Taught and Practiced?

The summary of the teachings of Apostles are termed in Greek as ‘Didache’. We read this in the book of Acts Chapter 2 but more in detail in the Epistles. Together this can be called as the Apostles Doctrine.

The following are the Apostolic Doctrines discussed in Acts 2: 42 to 47

1. Apostles’ doctrines
2. Fellowship and meeting regularly
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayer
5. Signs and Wonders
6. Sharing Community
7. Praising God – Worship

The Elementary Principles

The author of the book of Hebrew describes the elementary principles as discussed in Hebrews 6 :1 & 2

- Repentance from acts that lead to death
- Faith in God
- Instructions on Baptisms
- Laying on of hands (authority of the believers)
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal Judgement

Long Term Discipleship**Pauline Teachings based on Acts & Epistles**

Apostle Paul preached the Gospel and made disciples and strengthened by his teachings given face to face, through his letters. In fact, all the Pauline epistles were written for the purpose of long-term discipleship. The summary of the Pauline teachings can be summarised as below.

The Pauline teachings can be summarised under the Five Finger principle:

- **Personal Life**
- **Family Life**
- **Church Life**
- **Social Life**
- **Eternal life**

We will learn more about long term discipleship in detail in the next class.

Questions For Discussions

1. How will you define discipleship?
2. What will you teach the new believers to become a strong and mature disciple?
3. How will you evaluate the members of your church based on these discipleship principles?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 13: Gospel Maturity: Discipleship (Part-II)

Objectives

- To have a deeper understanding of discipleship
- To help the believers to begin a long-term, lifelong discipleship plan.
- To help the new believes to live out the Gospel leading to transformed lives

Key Verses

Hebrews 5:12-14: *In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

Chapter Content

The ongoing discipleship of a believer should happen in the context of the church. It is the church that help any believer to grow into deeper relationship with Christ. Therefore, every believer should be encouraged to be a part of a Bible believing Church for fellowship, prayer, ministry participation and teaching of the God's word.

Stages Of Discipleship

In the earlier chapter we discussed the stages of discipleship as immediate, short term and long-term discipleship. In this chapter we will look at it in a different angle and go deeper.

Three Stages Of Christian Growth:

The growth of a new believer can be divided under the following three stages although there is no clear way to draw a line between these stages.

- Basic steps of Discipleship
- Equipping New and young Christians
- Intermediate Steps of Discipleship
- Empowering The faithful lives for service
- Advanced Steps of Discipleship
- Envisioning His People for Ministry

Discipleship is like a plant growing from its budding stage to grow to the stage of bearing fruits. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (I Cor 3:6)

Stages of Discipleship शिष्यता का विभिन्न पड़ाव



Basic Steps Of Discipleship - Equipping New And Young Christians

The goal is to equip the new believers and young Christian to begin their journey of faith towards spiritual maturity. These are the initial steps or immediate discipleship (Milk for The New Believers) which we have already discussed and so not being repeated.

Intermediate Steps Of Discipleship - Empowering The Faithful Lives For Service By Further Establishing Them In Faith.

The goal of the intermediate steps aims to empower the faithful lives for service. We had described some of the steps under short term discipleship which we had described in the previous lesson. Let us go deeper into some of the lessons.

- Seven Commandments of Jesus. (Matthew 28:20)
- Apostles Doctrines/practices (Acts 2: 42-47)
- Elementary Principles (Hebrews 6:1-3)

Advanced Discipleship

Although we discussed some of the steps for intermediate discipleship earlier, we would like to add a few more suggestions. Apostle Paul primarily used letters to establish believers in faith, but he also believed that every believer should be taught the whole counsel of God including both Old and New Testament. (Acts 20:27). Advanced discipleship is an ongoing life-long process of growing in Christian maturity until we become Christ-like and be confirmed to his image.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17. We will discuss more about Pauline teaching as part of long-term discipleship later in this chapter.

Other Tools For Discipleship:

The use of Bible Stories in discipleship. About 70% of the world population are oral learners and Bible stories can be an excellent tool for discipleship not only for

the illiterate but also for the literate. However, every story should be discussed in the light of the big story of the Bible.

Selected Bible Verses

It may be good to introduce the new believers to memorize some of the important Bible verses. However, the new believers may be encouraged to interpret these Bible verses in the light of the big story of the Bible.

Basic Discipleship Manual

It is desirable that every church or church network prepares a basic discipleship manual to be used in their churches to help the new believers to grow in faith.

If your church does not have a Basic Discipleship Manual, you can use an existing one from other organizations or you can create one of your own. While preparing a basic discipleship manual for your church, consider what should a new believer learn and in what order? This will help you to decide what you will include in the Basic Discipleship Manual.

The above list is not sequentially arranged, and you can choose any of the above discipling steps to suit the needs of your community for the discipleship program.

Beginning To Study The Bible - Modified Sword Method Of Bible Study

We recommend the following simple steps to help the new believer to study Bible portions and Bible stories, both personally and in groups and try to answer the following questions. As they become mature, they should be able to interpret Bible passages on their own. Here are a few questions that they can discuss while studying a passage or a Bible story.

- How does this fit into the Big Story of the Bible?
- What does it say about God?
- Who are the people who are mentioned in this passage?
- Is there a commandment to obey?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- What else can I learn from this passage?

We recommend two important practical questions to be answered before the close of the Bible Study. Remember, the mark of maturity is the degree of obedience and not on the level of your depth of knowledge of the Bible. We need to create a culture of obedience for every new believer as soon as they learn God's word.

Write down the following:

1. What will I do? "I will....."
2. Whom will I tell? "I will"

How Do We Help The New Believers To Live Out The Gospel?

Apostle Paul wrote letters to the New Testament churches to establish them in faith and live out the Gospel that had saved them. The entire teaching of the Pauline epistles can be summarized under the Five Finger Principles.

Personal Life

Col 2:6,7 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.



The seven steps of personal growth.

1. Receive Jesus as the Lord (Romans 10:9)
2. Walking with Jesus (Gen. 5:21-24)
3. Rooted in Jesus (Col.2:6-7)
4. Built up in Him (Col 2:6-7)
5. Established in faith (Col 2:6-7)
6. Teaching and learning (2 Tim. 2:2)
7. Thanksgiving (Col. 2:6-7)

Demonstrating the Gospel in your personal life.

Apostle Paul describes in his epistles to “Put off and Put on” certain things. We need to examine our lives based on the following verses and cultivate Godly habits in our lives.

What must I put off? - Works of the FLESH

Colossians 3:9-10 *“Do not lie to one another seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”*

Ephesians 4: 22-24 *“So put off your old self which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”.*

1. Sexual Immorality
2. Impurity
3. Lust
4. Evil Desires
5. Greed
6. Anger Rage
7. Malice Slander
8. Filthy Language
9. Lies

What must I put on? - Fruits of the Spirit.

(Gal 5: 22,23) But the fruit of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*

Personal Life - Renewal Of Your Mind

(Roman 12:1,2) *I appeal to you therefore brothers by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Living a life – that is Holy and Blameless life in the midst of a wicked world.

Philippians 2:15 *“that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”*

The Goal Of Spiritual Maturity

- To be confirmed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29)
- To attain full stature of Jesus Christ (Eph. 4: 13-16)
- To be like Jesus (Phill. 2:5)

Family Life – An Ideal Christian Family

Read the following Scripture portions and discuss the role and responsibility of each member of the family. These verses are referred to as the primary household texts.

Ephesians 5:22 To 6:8

1 Pet 3: 1-7

Colossians 3: 18 to 4:1

Roles and Responsibilities in the Family

- Wife – Submit to Husbands
- Husbands – Love your wife
- Children – Obey Parents
- Fathers – Do not Provoke children
- Slaves – Obey Masters

Family as a place of Worship and as a Learning Center

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 *You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

God commanded the children of Israel to teach their children the Law of the Lord.

Family Life: The family must also be a place of worship

Church Life

Church is a family of families- (Ephesians 2: 19 Household of God)

Church is the place where disciples are made

- To GATHER as God's People
- To GROW in Faith
- To GO into the World as Jesus' Disciples

Church is the place manifesting the Wisdom of God

(Ephesians 3: 10) Therefore the church will teach us the wisdom of God “so that through The church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

Do Not Neglect the Church

(Hebrews 10:25) *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet-together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Community Or Social Life**Submit to rulers and authorities**

Romans 13:1 *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”*

Pay Taxes.

Romans 13:7 *“Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”*

Created in Christ unto good works

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*

Maintain good relationship in the community

Titus 3:1-2 *“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*

Learn to do good to others:

Proverbs 3:27 *“do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it*

Eternal Life:

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, we find teaching to Thessalonian church about the hope of resurrection and second coming of Christ. Main points are:

Life after death

- The dead in Christ will arise as Jesus rose again
- Jesus will come back
- The dead in Christ will rise first.
- Then we who are alive, caught up together with meet the Lord in the air,
- We will always be with the Lord.

Second coming of Christ

- Jesus will come back as promised. (Acts 1: 11)
- He is preparing a place for us (John 14:1-3)
- He will judge the world righteously. (Heb 10:27)

Advanced Steps Of Discipleship - Envisioning His People For Ministry

The goal is to envision and empower these people for ministry Eph 4:12

Let us look at the following verses to understand the growth from a babe in Christ to a mature believer Hebrews 5: 12-14

Remember, discipleship is a lifelong learning process.

The mark of Maturity is the ability to discern good and evil based on God's principles or Biblical principles. This can happen only by training, practice, and experience. We need to help every believer to become mature so that they will be able to take wise Godly decision in every situation based on Biblical principles in a way that will glorify God. This is referred to as hermeneutically trained judgement, ability to interpret the Bible and take wise decisions. This will also involve in helping them to develop a Biblical worldview in their cultural context and helping them to "fish" rather than "giving them fish".

Every mature believer must study and understand God's word by themselves and be able to teach others rather being always taught.

Marks Of Maturity

Babes in Christ	Mature in Christ
Feeds on Milk	Feeds on Solid Food
Immature	Mature
Minds Are Untrained	Minds Are Trained
Inexperienced	Experienced
Cannot Discern Good and Evil	Able to Discern Good and Evil
Still Learning	Are Able to Teach
Unskilled in The Word of Righteousness	Skilled in The Handling the Word of Righteousness
Knows Only Elementary Truths	Knows and Understands Deeper truths

The Goal Of Spiritual Maturity

- To be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ Romans 8:29
- To attain the full stature of Jesus Christ Ephesians 4:13-16
- To be like Jesus 2 Peter 1:4

The Role Of Church In Discipleship

The Church should take the responsibility to disciple the new believer and discipleship happens primarily in the context of the church where there is fellowship, prayer, breaking of bread and teaching and sharing. These elements are so essential for the

growth and maturity of a believer which can happen only in the context of a church. The church should take steps t

- To Care for the children/sheep like a shepherd
- To Carry them when they are weak
- To Guide them gently

Questions For Discussion

1. What are the characters of a transformed and mature believer?
2. How do we help the believers grow into spiritual maturity?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 14: Gospel Impact - Church Formation (Part-I)

Objective

To help the student to understand the significance of the church

To help the students understand the guidelines for planting new churches

Key Verse:

Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Ephesians 3: 10-11 *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Additional Scriptures: Luke 10: 1-6

Chapter Content

In this lesson, we will learn the following concepts:

Section A: Understanding The Church.

- What Is A Church?
- What Is Not A Church?
- Local Church Vs Universal Church
- Purpose of The Church
- Marks of a healthy church.

Section B: Understanding Church Planting.

- Why Should We Plant Churches?
- How Do We Make Disciples?
- Where Should We Plant Churches?
- Who All Should/Can Plant Churches?
- What Must Be the Qualification of Church Planter?
- What Models of Church Should We Plant?

Section A: Understanding The Church

What Is A Church? A group of believers gathering together for worship, fellowship and listening to the Word of God and serving him? The Greek term for “church” is ekklesia (found 114 times in the New Testament).

Ekklesia: The New Testament Church is a body of believers that has been called out from the world to live as his people and under the authority of Jesus Christ.

What is not a church?

A church is not a building, it is not an organization or a mission. We, the people of God, form the Church.

Local Church Vs Universal Church

The Bible uses the word “church” in two contexts – It could be a local church congregation or a universal church comprising of all believers everywhere.

Local Church: - *It is defined as a local assembly of believers or a congregation that meets together physically for worship, fellowship, breaking bread, teaching, prayer encouragement in faith and make disciples. A Local Church can also be a group of churches in one city like in the Book of Revelation Chapter 2 and 3.*

Universal Church: - *All believers in Jesus Christ are members of the Universal church and is made up of every single person who has exercised faith in Christ for salvation including members of every local church throughout the earth.*

Metaphors Used In Reference To A Church

The New Testament describes the church using several metaphors as given below, to describe various aspects of the church.

- Church - The Body of Christ– Eph 5:23, Rom 12:45, 1 Tim 3:15
- Church - The household of God - a family of families. Ephesians 2: 19
- Church - A Spiritual Building. 1 Pet 2:5; 1 Cor 3:16,17, Ephesians 5: 31,32
- Church - The Bride of Christ Rev 21:9; Rev 19:7; 2 Cor 11:12
- Church - A Garden A field. 1 Cor 3:6; 1 Cor 3:9

Mystery Of The Church - Jews And Gentiles As One Family. Eph 3:1-14

In the book of Ephesians, Apostle Paul talks of the mystery which refers to God’s secret plan to integrate Jew and Gentile into one body. The mystery was not that Gentiles could be saved because this was already known in Old Testament times (Genesis 12:3)—but that the two should become one new man (Ephesians 2:15).

This mystery is clearly defined in vs.6 that the mystery is that through the Gospel, Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members of one body and shares together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Thus, in the Church, God wants to see a united family with no difference between Jews and Gentiles, rich or poor, educated, or uneducated, and we are all one in Christ.

Purpose Of The Church: -

The purpose of the church can be summarized as follows:

- **UPWARDS** Ministering to God: - Worship, Prayer. Ephesians – 4:13
- **INWARDS** - Ministering to Believers: Fellowship, Breaking Of Bread And Teaching. Acts 2:47

- **OUTWARDS** - Ministering to The World: - Serving the World. The church reaches out through acts of love and service and sharing the Gospel message (Matthew 28: 19). Making disciples Is a mandate of The Great Commission. Jesus commanded this and apostles practiced it.

Section B: Understanding Church Planting

Why Should We Plant Churches?

We need to plant churches to fulfil the Great Commission mandate to make disciples. The Great Commission steps include the following which can only happen comprehensively in the context of the church.

- Go
- Preach the Gospel
- Baptize
- Make Disciples
- Teach them to Obey.

‘Church’ is God’s plan for the world to reveal his glory. Apostles practiced the Great Commission by planting churches wherever the Gospel was preached. The Church is a “factory” that produces Disciples. Where else can we make disciples if not in the church?

“Planting new churches is the most effective evangelism methodology known under heaven.” Peter Wagner

Where should we plant churches?

- The priority should be to plant churches where there are no churches. Romans 15:20
- Plant churches in People or Language Group, Community without churches
- Plant churches if the Existing Churches do not fulfil the mission of the churches

CAUTION: Take a Very Careful Decision

Consider the following quotes while choosing a field for church planting

"As Long as There Are Millions Destitute of The Word of God and Knowledge Of Jesus Christ It Will Be Impossible For Me To Devote Time And Energy To Those Who Have Both.

J. L. Ewen

"I Have but One Candle of Life to Burn And I Would Rather Burn It Out In A Land Filled With Darkness Than In A Land Flooded With Light"

Keith Falconer

Should we plant churches in a Christian country a huge number of churches?

Tim Keller from RCC says “For a Christian nation to remain Christian we must continue to plant churches.” In countries or regions where there are number of churches, church planting is needed to maintain it as a Christian nation, because many churches may lose their influence as time goes by. New churches will have more passion and influence than older churches. However, every church learns to balance, local missions and global missions. Explore ways as how you can be involved as a church in global missions.

Who should/can plant churches?

- Every Healthy Church Must Plant New Churches To Remain Healthy
- Every Believer – A Potential Church Planter
- Every Believer A Disciple
- Every Disciple A Disciple Maker
- Every Disciple’s Home - A Church
- Every Church A Training Centre

What must be the qualification of Church Planter?

The primary qualification of a church planter is that he/she must be a deeply committed disciple and disciple maker. All other qualifications are secondary. It is important that every church planter/ leader of the church be well equipped in God’s word to achieve spiritual maturity to disciple others and must also maintain a lifestyle worthy of a servant of God.

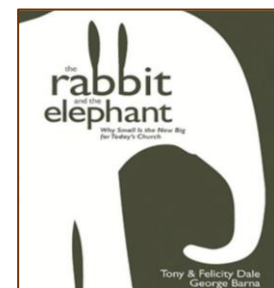
What Models of Churches should we plant?

God can bless and use all forms of church whether small or large. God has made each of us with different tastes, likes and dislikes. A single model of church cannot certainly cater to all people in the world. Whatever be the model, God wants each church to be strong, healthy, and multiply.

Models Of Churches In The Context Of Fulfilling The Great Commission Task.

In the context of finishing the Great Commission task, we need to decide what kinds of churches are we planting especially in pioneer areas.

Tony and Felicity Dale explains the model of Rabbit versus Elephant churches in his book. They talk about why small is big for today’s church. Let us compare the 3-year growth comparison of elephants and rabbits.



Elephant Model

An elephant starts reproducing at the age of 18 years.
 Fertile 4 times / year.
 22 months of gestation.
 Chance of a baby at the age of 20 or 21 years.
 One elephant is 5500 Kg.
 Total 3 elephants in 3 years = 16500 Kg.
 Total Meat available at the end of 3 years is 16500 kgs.



Rabbit Model

Rabbits mature at 4 months of age
 Are always fertile
 Average 7 babies / pregnancy
 One month of gestation.
 Can become pregnant immediately after giving birth.
 2 rabbits and their babies can produce 476 million rabbits in 3 years.
 With 1 Kg / rabbit = we will have 476 million Kgs of meat in 3 years.



What Kind Of Church Must We Prefer To Plant In The Light Of Fulfilment Of The Great Commission?

Rabbit Church, or Elephant Church? The choice is yours.

Elephant rearing is labor intensive, expensive to maintain, difficult to sustain and multiply very slowly, but rabbit rearing is cheap to establish and maintain, easy to sustain and sporadically multiplies. Each model has its strength and weakness. Let us not condemn any form of churches. However, the principle that we share is simply **‘Small Is Big’**.

Small groups have the advantage of closer fellowship, faster growth, and deeper discipleship while the larger churches have the advantage of availability of space, opportunity for ministry to specific groups, plurality of leadership with multiple talents, and greater participation in Global Missions. If you already have a large church, you can still decentralize the church into house churches or cell groups. This will help in the formation of smaller units with the potential to grow and multiply. As is with the rabbit model, these smaller units can be easy to maintain and multiply with more focused discipleship in smaller groups. God wants all churches to be reproducing, multiplying, and Disciple Making with the right DNA!

How Can We Promote Spontaneous Multiplication Of Churches?

True multiplication can only happen when every cell in every church has the DNA of multiplication in them. Only a church with the right DNA can multiply.

Let us look at the Star Fish Churches/Octopus model of Multiplying Churches



Star Fish

A good example of church multiplication can be made by comparing two sea creatures namely the Starfish and Octopus.

The Starfish has 5-8 arms. The specialty of the starfish is that if the arms of the starfish cut off, each arm of the starfish grows into a starfish. Every single arm of the starfish has the ability to reproduce itself into a whole starfish again.

But on the other hand, the Octopus has 8 arms but if one of the arms is cut off, then the Octopus can regrow its arm, but the arm that has been cut off does not possess the ability to grow into an octopus. The New Testament church was like the Starfish Church. The scattered believers proclaimed the Gospel and planted churches wherever they went.



How does your church compare with these two creatures?

- Are your churches like the starfish or like the octopus? if one of the church members move away from the church, does he continue to grow into a church like the starfish's arm or does he die away like the octopus' arm.
- Does the moving away of the church member result in the beginning of the new church or does the church continue to live without a new member?

What Are The Steps To Plan A New Church?

We have already learnt the four fields analogy on the Great Commission and each step that we have discussed so far are part of the Church formation strategy. Let us summarize them: -

- Choose empty fields and develop a vision for your empty field.
- Survey and prepare the field
- Prayer and prayer walking or choose any other entry strategy
- Identify man of peace
- Choose and implement appropriate Gospel presentation plan
- Gospel response –Lead people to salvation
- Start discipleship and aim for whole family.
- Plant a church with the right DNA of multiplication
- Encourage the man of peace towards leadership of house church
- Make the church to be a disciple training center

Questions For Discussion

1. What have you learnt about churches from this lesson?
2. How will you design a church planting strategy for yourselves and your church?
3. Discuss your story if you have planted a church?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

1. Please write down your answers to the following questions.
2. Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.
3. What have I learnt?
4. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
5. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
6. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic.
7. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes



Lesson 15: Gospel Impact: Church Formation (Part-II)

Objective

- To help the learner understand how to establish a strong, healthy, community impacting churches.
- To understand how the church can impact a community.

Key Verses

Acts 2:42-47 *"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together and had all things common. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

Acts 13: 1-3 *"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."*

Mathew 5:14-16 *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Chapter Content

In this chapter we will discuss two basic questions.

How will you establish a healthy church which will impact your community?

It is not enough to plant a church, but also to make it strong, healthy, and reproducible. A strong healthy church should also be impacting the community where it exists. Let us look at the characteristic of a healthy church.

How can a church impact the community?

A healthy church must be a blessing to the community as salt and light in the earth.

What will a healthy church look like?

Let us look at a few passages of the Bible to understand the characteristics of a healthy church.

Building a healthy church- Jerusalem church model. Acts 2:42-47

We have discussed this portion several times in the earlier lessons but let us try to look at the characteristic of a healthy church based on the Jerusalem church model.

Based on Acts 2:42-47, we see the following characteristics of a healthy church: -

- A church with Apostle's teaching
- A church having fellowship with one another
- A church breaking of bread and Holy Communion
- A church who prays
- A church with signs and wonders
- A church who shares what they had with others
- A church meeting regularly – House to House and temple courts
- A church who worships – Praising God
- A church who enjoys the favor of ALL people
- A church that is growing, multiplying church (Act 9:31, 16:5)

Based on Acts 13:1-3, we see the following characteristics of the healthy church!

- A church led by Godly leaders, prophets, and teachers
- A worshipping church
- A church lead by the Holy Spirit
- A church that fasts and prays.
- A sending church,

Other marks of a healthy church: -

- A Disciple making Churches. (Acts 6:7)
- A giving church (Macedonian Church- 2 Cor 8:1-3)
- A Caring Church (Ephesians 6:21-24)

What will a healthy church look like? *(Please discuss in groups)*

- Make a comprehensive list of the qualities of a healthy church based on the above passages.
- What other features will you add?
- How healthy is your church based on the above parameters?
- How will you measure the health of your church?
- How can you make your church strong and healthy?

How should a church service look like? A Participative Church.

New Testament Church is a participative church. 1 Corinthians 14:26

"What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up."

How often must a Church meet?

- As often as possible.
- Meeting at homes – Daily Assemblies.
- Celebration Worship
 - Meeting at churches or facilities
 - Solomon's Porch Temple Courts

How many people should be there in a church to call it a church??

Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together unto My name there am I in their midst."*
Matthew 18:2

Every child begins his life as a small set of two cells and then begin multiplying and growing. Though the beginning may be small and simple, the end outcome is a complex organism that is self-reliant, reproductive, and inherently intelligent. So, though the beginning of a house church may be small, it always possesses the potential to grow and develop into a strong well attended church. It all depends upon the nurturing and the care that it receives in its infancy.

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, (Zech 4:10).

Some of us may plant, others may water, but it is the Lord that gives the growth.

"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" (1 Cor 3:6-8)

It is not the size that matters, not what happens in the church is more important.

Pouch Church

The Chinese house church movement is often described as a **POUCH** church

Participative

Obedience based

Unpaid leadership

Cell groups (small)

House churches.



The Leadership In The Church

- Pastor – Shepherd - lead flocks to pastures (Eph 4:11), (1 Peter 5:2-3)
- Elder (Titus 1:5-6)
- Overseer (Titus 1:7)
- Deacon (Philippians 1:1) – servant of the church. (Acts 6:3-4)
- Treasurer – keeps track of the finances of the church

Active And Passive Churches: - Lizard Church – Frog Church.

A lizard is a creature that is agile, adaptable, and most importantly seeks out its prey. It ventures to go into every possible place to seek prey and does not lazily wait for its prey to come to it. It is more of a **GO** animal than a 'come to me' animal.

Lizard Church



Frog Church



But a frog is not so. It sluggish, lazy, bulky, and never goes in search of its food. It waits for a prey to come its way and then it catches it. In a contrast to a lizard, the frog is more of a **“COME TO ME”** animal.

What Kind Of A Church Do We Need?

The Lizard church or the Frog Church.

The Great Commission is clear on the steps towards making disciples and that is GO!

How Can A Church Impact A Community?

Around AD 30, Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and was raised from the dead. Within 50 days when His followers were praying and waiting, the Holy Spirit came on them, they spoke in unknown languages. Peter gave a sermon and 3000 people decided to follow Jesus who has just been proclaimed as the Messiah. Within next 70 years this message about the Messiah reached every part of the Roman empire.

What Impact Did These Messiah Followers Have In The Roman Empire?

So, the accusation that was brought against Paul and Silas was “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also... saying that there is another king, Jesus.” Acts 17:6-7 (ESV). Why were they termed as “men who have turned the world upside down”? They had made such an impact in the society against the prevailing world views and practices.

What Impact Did Jesus Expect The Church To Make In The Society?

- Jerusalem Church and its Impact
- Ephesus Rome
- Example of Philemon and Onesimus
- Example of Antioch/Galatian Church.

Jesus' Teaching on Impact in the Culture.

Two metaphors used by Jesus for God's people were salt and light.

Salt Of The Earth : Matthew 5:13

Every disciple of Jesus is called out to be as the 'salt of the earth' Are you still salty? How salty are you and your church? What is the impact of "salt" in a "Curry"? In comparison to the quantity of "Curry" and water, the quantity of salt is very negligible, but still without that small amount, the dal becomes tasteless. That is the impact that Jesus expected from his followers. We may be small in numbers, when compared to those around us, but our presence must make a positive impact in the society that we live in.

Light Of The World: Matthew 5:14

Every disciple of Jesus is called out 'to shine as light' in the midst of spiritual darkness. Are we doing what is expected out of a light? What is the impact of even a small lamp in a dark room? In a dark room, even the smallest light can be a cause of hope, assurance, and safety. It also helps in finding out the way! As disciples, are we fulfilling our responsibility that Jesus Christ has given us? He has placed us as lamps of light in this world. Is your lamp still burning? How bright is your light? Are we shedding the light of the love of God into the hearts of those who are still lost in the darkness of sin?

The Difference In A Disciple's Life.

Our life and character should reflect our Master. 1 Peter 2:1: We are "sojourners and exiles". We do not "belong" here. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles (ethnos - nations) honorable so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Peter urges the believers "to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against our soul." We also need to keep our conduct as pristine and honorable as possible among the unbelievers so that "so that when they speak against you as evildoers they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" How will the world glorify God? How can we make an impact?

We are called to pristine and honorable conduct among unbelievers. Our good deeds should be so evident, so that even the evil doers would glorify God.

Examples Of Community Impact Of Churches.

What happened in Jerusalem Church- Lifestyle of Messiah Followers?

Acts 2:42-47 & Acts 4:32-34 The church we see in the book of Acts was quite different from anything that anyone had ever seen. It was Unified sharing church who were witnessing powerfully

The Church at Rome –

Transformed Lifestyle by the Renewal of the Mind - Rom. 12:1-20

Apostle Paul instructed the church in Rome (Rom. 12-13) to live in the light of the Gospel in any culture that honors God. Any church that wishes to make an impact on the society must heed these instructions and follow them as people who have been transformed by the renewal of the mind. (12:1-2).

The Church at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9

The church in Thessalonica has a very significant impact on the community and so they were called the men who turned the world upside down

The Church at Ephesus - Acts 19:19, 23

The impact of the Church was so much on the city of Ephesus that the very existence of the city of their goddess Artemis was in question.

Gospel Results In Personal Transformation And Restoration Of Relationship.**Story of Philemon and Onesimus**

Paul is in prison and Philemon was a householder and businessman in Colossae who had been converted under Paul's ministry probably in Ephesus. During his imprisonment, Paul meets Onesimus and then tells him about Jesus Christ and leads him to Christ. Paul then writes a letter to Philemon to accept Onesimus. Reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus was not just liberation. Philemon 1:16. "no longer a slave but better than a slave as a dear brother. both a fellow man and fellow brother".

Major impact of Church in the World

All over the world, the church has made such a great impact. Major impact has been in the following areas.

- Education – Schools Colleges Health care.
- Education of girls.
- Social transformation and grammar development.
- Language Grammar in many languages.
- Healthcare and medical education, especially nursing care.
- Care for orphans and widow
- Justice and reconciliation

Questions For Discussion

1. What are the marks of a healthy church? Evaluate your church based on the above lesson.
2. How do we live as "salt and light" in this world as "minority" people of the Messiah?
3. What has changed in your community or village as a result of the church?
4. What can you do to increase the impact of your church?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

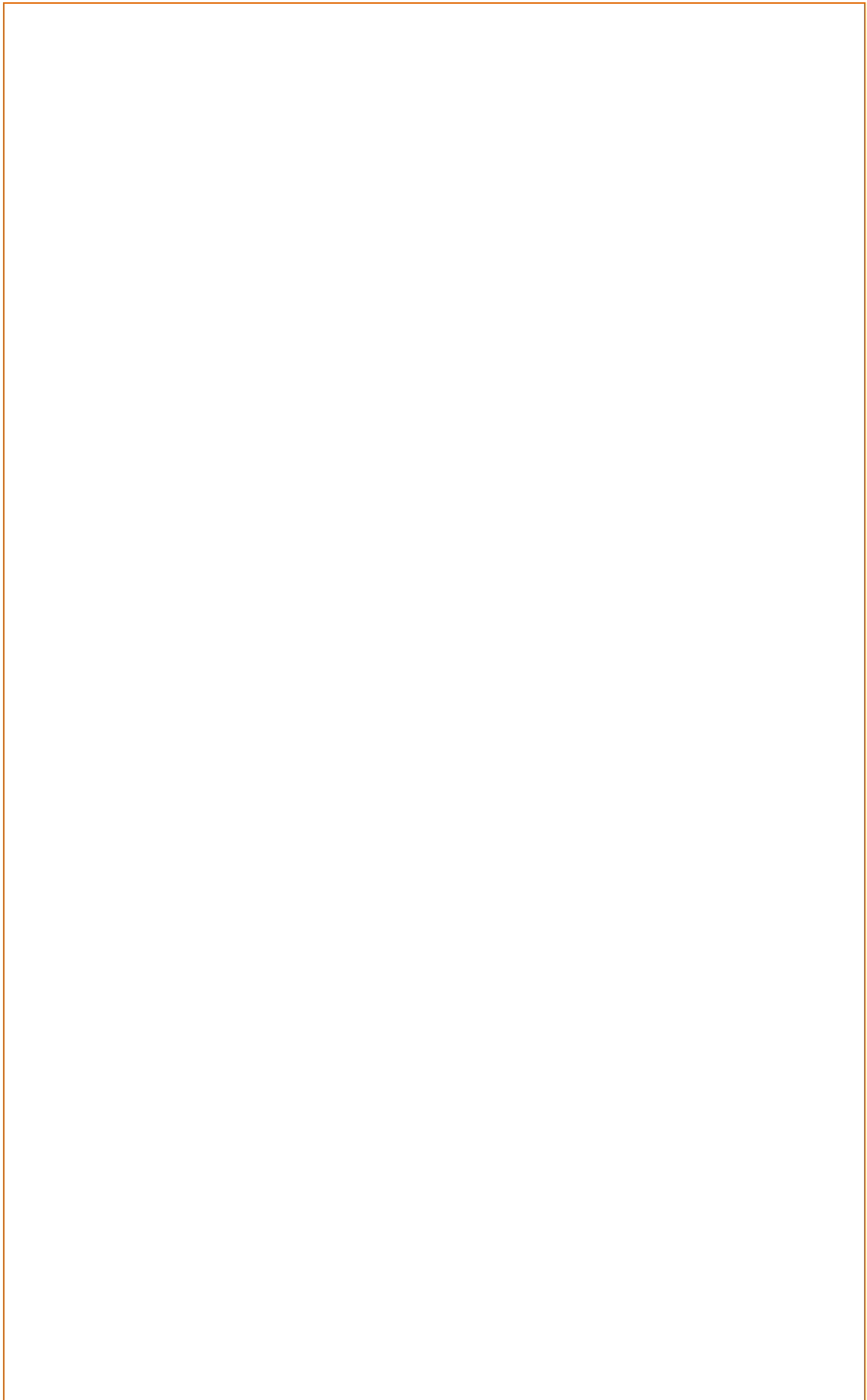
Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes



Lesson 16: Gospel Multiplication: Leadership Development (Part-1)

Objective

- To understand the Jesus' model of training leaders,
- To understand different types of leadership models.
- To understand how to develop and mentor next generation leaders using Biblical principles.

Key Verses

Luke 6:12,13: *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, he **called** unto him his **Disciples**; and of them he **chose** twelve, whom also he named **Apostles**.*

Eph. 4:11-13 *And he gave some, **Apostles**; and some, **Prophets**; and some, **Evangelists**; and some, **Pastors** and **Teachers**; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Additional Scriptures: 2 Tim. 2:1-7

Chapter Content

How does development of mature leaders lead to multiplication of the Gospel?

The key to the rapid multiplication of the Gospel in the first century was 'Trained Leaders'. In this chapter we will learn more about different leadership models and focus on how Jesus developed, trained, and equipped his leaders.

The key qualities of those leaders were: -

- Commitment to the Great Commission
- Total obedience
- Preaching boldly and planting churches
- Strengthening the churches through teaching
- Training, developing, and appointing and leaders (Acts 14:21-23)

Most of these elements have already been covered in the earlier lessons.

The main questions that we will study are:

- What is leadership and what are the model of leadership?
- How did Jesus select and train leaders?
- What are the Biblical models for leadership development? (We will discuss in the next lesson)

What is leadership and what are the model of leadership?

In simple terms leadership is influence. We can classify leaders based on their level of influence. In his study of India leadership, David Bennet classified leadership under 5 categories

Type One Leader:

Typically, a Type One leader will be influencing / mentoring a group of 5 to 10 people. This could be a house church leader or Sunday school teacher, or a leader of a women's fellowship or a cell group. These leaders are usually by bi-vocational.

Type Two leader:

Typically, a Type Two leader will influence two or more Type one leaders, each of them influencing and mentoring 5 to 10 people under them also. These leaders are also usually bi-vocational.

Type Three leader:

Is usually a full-time leader in the context of a church. He may be a Pastor or elder in the church who has influence on multiple Type Two and Type One leaders.

Type Four leader:

Is usually a Regional Coordinator or Regional Overseer who has influence on multiple Type Three leaders who will in turn have influence on multiple Type Two and Type One leaders.

Type Five leader

is a leader with national or international influence. He will have influence over all the other types of leaders as discussed above.

The growth potential of a non-believer can be summarized as follows: -

Note: Every believer has the potential to become a leader and an influencer. Encourage the leadership potential in every believer in your church by teaching, training, and mentoring them to be disciple makers and leaders.

- Every Christian leader was a non-believer in the past, but then, he becomes a believer through the Gospel by accepting Jesus (Kerygma).
- A believer grows to become a disciple by learning and obeying the commandments of Jesus (Didache)
- A disciple then grows to become a disciple maker by obeying the Great Commission and Apostolic teaching.
- A disciple maker gathers a group of people for training and mentoring and becomes a Type -One leader.
- The influence gradually grows, and he climbs the leadership ladder.

Models Of Leadership

Biblical Model of Leadership vs Secular Leadership Model



Banyan Tree Leadership Model



Palm Tree Leadership Model

Banyan Tree Model of Leadership: -

The banyan tree grows tall and wide but hardly any tree can grow under the banyan tree. This is usually the secular model of leadership.

The Palm Tree Model of Leadership: -

In this model, every tree has the potential to grow as high as they can without restrictions. This is a parallel or flat leadership model. New Testament model is a flat leadership model.

The 5C Model Of Leadership: -

Malcom Webber, (from Leader source) describes the 5 'C' model based on the following Bible verses

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Christ | Love God | (Matt 22:37-39), |
| • Community | Love your neighbor | (Matt 22:37-39) |
| • Call | God called David | (Psalms 78:70-72) |
| • Character | He shepherded with integrity of heart | (Psalms 78:70-72) |
| • Competence | He guided them with skillful hands | (Psalms 78:70-72) |

The 4 Dimensions Of Learning

Instructional: Usually followed in a classroom setting where a teacher or a professor gives a lecture. It is unidirectional where the expert is teaching with very little interaction with the students. However, Jesus taught in the right context and instructed them with the right content.

Relational: learning in the context of a community of learners. In this model the students actively participate using a dialogue model which is often referred to as the Socratic method. In this context, teacher is a facilitator rather than taking full control over the teaching. This method is highly student centric and not teacher centred. Jesus model of training was through a relational web, involving relationship with a mature leader (Himself), and relationships with others (the community of the disciples).

Experiential: In the experiential model, students are asked to learn by doing. This involves challenging assignments, pressure, and diversified learning opportunities.

Spiritual: It is not enough to have good content in training but help them to develop a strong relationship through prayer and worship. Jesus trained his disciples in a spiritual environment which involved strong relationship with God (with Himself, as well as with the Father through prayer).

How Did Jesus Select And Train Leaders (Jesus Model)

Some of the features of Jesus training model are as below:

He selected his disciples very carefully. (Luke 6:12,13)

- Jesus had a wide circle of disciples.
- Jesus spent an entire night in prayer before he chose the twelve apostles.

He made the mission clear.

- Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. (Mark 1:17)
- The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few (Matt (9:37)
- Go and make disciples (Matt 28:19)

He invested necessary time. (Mark 3:14)

- He stayed with them,
- He ate with them,
- He had intimate time of fellowship with the disciples.

He loved them unconditionally. (John 13:1)

He taught practically.

- He taught them to pray (Luke 11:1)
- He demonstrated 'servant-leadership' by washing their feet (John 13:1-7)
- MODEL -ASSIST- WATCH – LEAVE ('MAWL' Principle)
- He modelled how to cast out demons and heal the sick.
- He assisted them when they could not do it themselves
- He watched them from near and far.
- Finally, he sent them with his authority.



He corrected them as needed. (Matt 17:14-20)

- He transformed the imperfect disciples into men of faith.
- He admonished them for their desire to be great in his kingdom.

He empowered them freely (Luke 9:1)

He sent them out boldly (Matt 10:1,5&6, Luke 10:1)

He commissioned them with ‘power’ (Matt 28:19, Mark 16:15)

Jesus Method Of Teaching?

- Used of stories and parables (Matthew 13:3)
- Teaching with authority (Luke 4:32, Mark 1:22)
- Using object lessons: Visual learning. (Matthew 17:24–27).
- Use of repetition and emphasis “Verily, Verily I say unto you” (John 8:58, John 1:51)
- Jesus taught from what the audience already knew (quoting Old Testaments stories.)
- Interactive learning with questions. He always prompted the listener and the learner into thinking by asking questions after questions. (Luke 10, Matthew 7:4)
- Experiential Learning: He sent them out (Matt 28:19)

Questions For Discussion

1. What are the leadership lessons that you have learnt from Jesus model of developing leaders?
2. How will you choose faithful men and women who can be part of the ministry team?
3. How would you train them to be leaders?
4. What is your role in the church? How faithfully are you performing those roles?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.
5. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic

Notes

Lesson 17: Gospel Multiplication: Leadership Development (Part II)

Objective

- To understand the leadership training models of the New Testament church
- To understand Paul and Timothy model of training leaders
- To understand other models of leadership training in the Old Testament and New Testaments

Key Verses

2 Tim. 2:2 *And what you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.*

2 Tim. 2:15 *Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.*

Ephesians 4:11-14 *And he himself gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God—a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature. So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.*

Additional Scriptures: Acts 6:3-6, Deut 6:-6-7

Chapter Content

What are the Types of Leaders in the Church?

The Five-Fold Ministry

The New Testament presents certain church leaders as gifted individuals, because they were endowed with the “gifts of the Spirit.” This group included apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors/teachers (1 Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:11).

Ephesians 4:11-13 *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

Biblical Leadership Roles:

The Fivefold ministry roles

- APOSTLES : One who is sent out with a message
- PROPHETS : Uniquely gifted to reveal God's heart for his people
- TEACHERS : Uniquely gifted to Teaching the word of God
- PASTORS : Uniquely gifted to be Shepherds
- EVANGELISTS : Uniquely Gifted to share the Gospel.

The purpose of the fivefold ministry in the church is **“Equipping Leaders For The Work Of The Ministry”**

This will result in

- Building up the body of Christ
- Unity of Faith
- Knowledge of Son of God
- Mature manhood
- Attain the full stature of Christ

New Testament Church Leadership - Shepherding Role

- Pastor – Shepherd - lead flocks to pastures (Eph 4:11), (1 Peter 5:2-3)
- Elder (Titus 1:5-6)
- Overseer (Titus 1:7)

New Testament Church Leadership -Administrative Role

Deacons : Apostles focused on Prayer and ministry of the Word (Acts 2:42, 6:4) However they selected and commissioned additional leaders as deacons “full of the Holy Spirit” for other services. (Acts 6:3-6). However, these men also were part of the preaching and teaching (Stephen, Philip).

Treasurer: The idea of treasurer in the Old testament temple is described in the Old Testament.

Nehemiah 13:13: *I put Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and a Levite named Pedaiah in charge of the storerooms and made Hanan son of Zakkur, the son of Mattaniah, their assistant, because they were considered trustworthy. They were made responsible for distributing the supplies to their fellow Levites.*

The New Testament does not mention specifically the role of a treasurer. However, since it is administrative role, we can presume that one or more deacons would have been given the role. As in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, such persons must be trustworthy and men of integrity. Every church should have good system of accounting of all finances as per the law of the land.

The Role Of Benefactors In New Testament

1/3rd of the people mentioned in Pauline epistles were benefactors or financial supporters

Role Of Women In New Testament Leadership

Jesus had women also disciples. 1/3rd of the disciples was woman. A few prominent names are given below.

- Disciples of Jesus: (Luke 8:1-3 Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susana, and many other women)
- Disciples in the book of Acts: Tabitha (Acts 9:36), Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2), Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3, Rom 16:3-5), Junia (Rom. 16:7)

Role Of Women In Old Testament Leadership: (Judges 4:4).

- Deborah,
 - A Prophetess,
 - The Wife of Lappidoth,
 - Was Judging Israel at That Time” (
 - Bold Leader (Judges 4:8)
 - Wins The Battle (Judges 4:6-9)

Council Of Apostles, Elders And Deacons

All were part of a team and not one-man leadership

Council Of Apostle Council Of Elders

And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders. (Acts 11:29-30)

The Qualification of Elders and Deacons

- **Social Qualifications:** ‘not aggressive’ (1 Tim. 3:3); ‘hospitable’ (1 Tim. 3:2) Aptitudes: ‘apt to teach’ (1 Tim. 3:2); ‘able to exhort ... and refute’ (Titus 1:9)
- **Experiential Qualifications:** ‘not a new convert’ (1 Tim. 3:6); maturity implied in term ‘elder,’ though no specific age, Able to Teach (1 Tim. 3:2) Able to exhort And Refute (Titus 1:9)
- **Motivational Qualifications:** ‘willing’ (1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2); not motivated by monetary gain (1 Peter 5:2); not for the power which the office affords (1 Peter 5:3)
- **Domestic Qualifications:** ‘the husband of one wife’ (1 Tim. 3:2); ‘managing his own household well’ (1 Tim. 3:4)

Pauline Model Of Training Leaders:**How did Apostle Paul train leaders?**

- It was always in the context of the local church
- Mentoring relationship with selected leaders
- A team of leaders travelling and training

Models of leadership training in the New Testament church

It was in the context of practical ministry and not in the context of a classroom.

- Paul and Barnabas at Antioch (1 years). Acts 11:26. Acts 13:1
- Paul and Silas at Ephesus. Acts 19:9,10
- School of Tyrannus – Ephesus (Acts 19:9)
- Paul and Silas at Corinth (18 months) Acts 18
- Berean Church (Acts 17:11) Examine the scriptures through discussion.

Paul – Timothy –Model

YOUNG MAN

APPRENTICE

MASTER CRAFTSMAN

The background:

Timothy was taught from childhood by his mother and grandmother. Paul then adopted him as his son when Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him on his second missionary journey. (Acts 16:1-3). Timothy was a young man at that time, probably around 17 or 18, yet he had already proven to be faithful, since he was highly spoken of by at least two churches - Derbe and Lystra. The elders agreed for him to join Paul's team. He served Paul like a son serving a father (Phil. 2:19-23), and yet, at many times, Paul referred to him as a co-worker. (1 Thess. 3:2-6).

Assignments:

After being trained by Paul for some time, Paul sent him to encourage and teach churches and to deliver his letters. (Thessalonica, Philippi). Paul regularly taught him, answered his questions, gave him ministry assignments for several years. Finally, in 2 Timothy, Paul hands over the baton to Timothy to continue the ministry that he himself was doing. After grooming him for almost 20 years, in 2 Timothy Paul declares that he is ready to take over from him.

Passing the baton:

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



The key is in 2:2. Timothy was to train others the way Paul had trained him. Leaders are to entrust all that they have learnt to other faithful leaders. This is the best way to develop multi-generational leaders. This has to be in the context of the ministry itself. This model that Paul demonstrated is something that need to be followed by all churches. This process involves the following:

Paul And Timothy Model

(2 Tim 2:15) "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth"

Paul & Titus-Model

What was his background?

A Greek, from Antioch, who is said to have served as Paul's secretary and interpreter. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas from Antioch to Jerusalem. A son of faith as addressed by Paul.

How did Paul train him?

- A travelling companion of Paul Co-prisoner in Rome
- Titus serves the church of Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:6, 16-17)
- Assigned to tackle leadership issues of church in Crete and appoint elders (Titus 1:5)
- Missionary to Dalmatia (Yugoslavia and is now called Serbia and Montenegro) (2 Tim 4:10)

Old Testament Commandments To Teach

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - *"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up"*

Ezra 7:10 - *For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.*

Elijah And Elisha Discipleship Relationships 1 Kings 19:12-21

Elijah -Elisha: They had a mentoring relationship and at the end Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of the spirit (2 Ki 1:1-2:25)

Moses & Joshua Model

- Joshua was selected (Exodus 17:8-16)
- Joshua learned a lesson about humility from Moses (Numbers 11:24-30)
- Joshua proved himself to have courage despite the fears of the majority (Numbers 13-14)
- Joshua showed love and dedication to the Lord and tabernacle of the Lord (Exodus 33:9-12)
- Joshua was given the opportunity (Exodus 24:12-14).
- Moses prepared Joshua to receive the baton of leadership (Numbers 27:12-23).
- Joshua took over the leadership from Moses and led people of Israel to the land of Canaan.

Nehemiah – Model:

We find several leadership qualities in Nehemiah which is worth noting as we train leaders for the church.

- Nehemiah was a Man of Prayer
- Nehemiah was a man of Passion
- Nehemiah was a Man of Initiative
- Nehemiah was a Organizer
- Nehemiah was a Strategy Planner
- Nehemiah was a Mobilizer
- Nehemiah was a Committed to Finish the Task
- Nehemiah was Committed to the Scriptures

Questions For Discussion

1. How would you train others to be leaders?
2. How can you be a faithful and trustworthy leader, willing to learn from a senior leader?
3. What is your role in the church? How faithfully are you performing those roles?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - “For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.”

2 Timothy 2:2 - “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.”

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 18: Gospel Movements: Movements Of Movements (Part – I)

Objective:

- To understand the Biblical models of Gospel multiplication movements in the New Testament church
- Understand the factors resulting in the rapid multiplication of churches in the New Testament.

Key Verses

Genesis 1:12 1:28 *“and God blessed them. and God said to them “be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it”.*

Exodus 1:3 *“but the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong so that the land was filled with them.”*

Acts 12: 24 *“But the word of God increased and multiplied.”*

Acts 16:5 *“So, the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.”*

Chapter Content

New Testament started on the day of Pentecost and multiplied rapidly since the day of its birth. In the last lesson, we saw how the church multiplied throughout the nations in such a short time, empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit. This was a Gospel multiplication movement led by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the idea of a Gospel multiplication movement is not new but in fact it is a first century model.

By 300 AD, before the Emperor Constantine had thrown his support behind the Christian faith, there were 5-9 million followers of Jesus in the Roman Empire, around 10 percent of the population. But the big question is, is it possible to see such a Gospel multiplication in the 21st century?

Let's look at some of the models of rapid multiplication happening in different parts of the world. The purpose of learning this model is to help us design a multiplication model that would result in movements of movements for a people group or a region or a nation. Note these additional verses about the multiplication movements in the New Testament.

- “But the word of God increased and multiplied.” Acts 12:24
- “And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.” Acts 13:49
- “So, the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.” Acts 19:20

The Principle of Multiplication in mankind

When God created Adam and Eve, he blessed them and said to be fruitful and multiply. We also see the same principle of multiplication in the People of Israel in Exodus 1:3

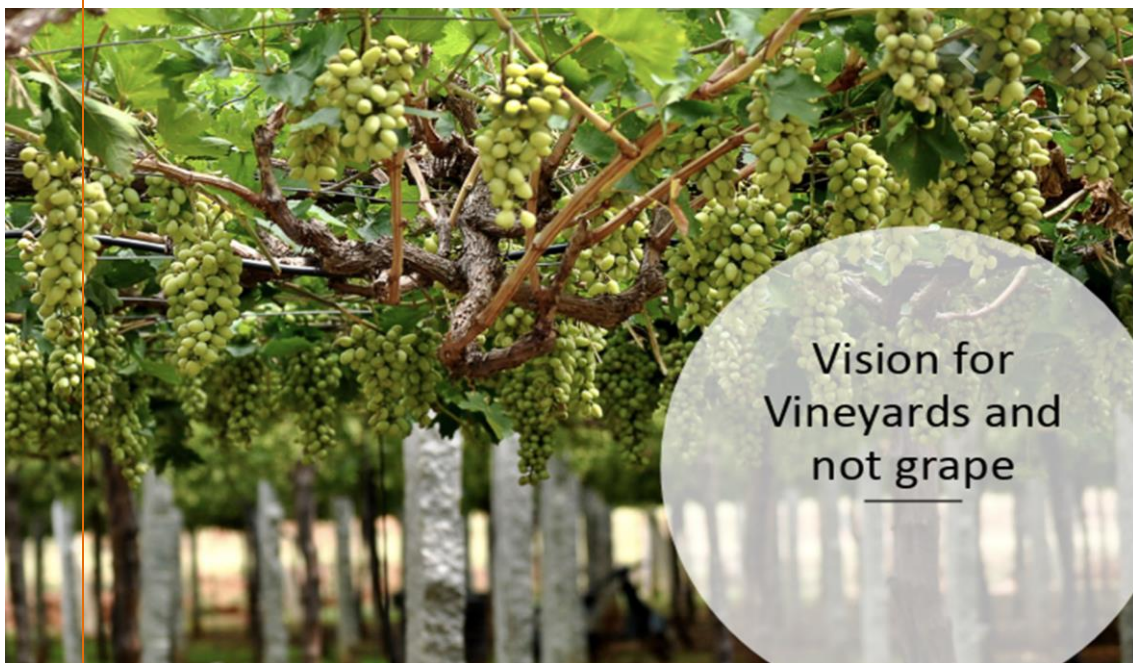
Principles of Multiplication in nature

We also see the principle of multiplication in nature. As you can see a seed has so much potential in itself for multiplication.

- How many seeds in an orange?
- How many oranges in an orange seed?



Our goal is to see a vineyard and not just grapes where there is spontaneous multiplication.



Principles of Church Multiplication in the New Testament

- What was the genius of the early church (or DNA of the New Testament churches) which resulted in massive expansion of the Gospel in the book of Acts?
- Why did the church expand so successfully in the first 300 years of the early church?

A Story Of Spontaneous Expansion Acts 1 – 12

Story of strategic Gospel multiplication Acts 13-28

Movement of God in Luke and Acts

- God sends Jesus from outside to the world as a small baby (Luke 1:5 -4:13)
- Jesus impacts Galilee of the gentiles first (Luke 4:14-9:50)
- Jesus impacts Samaria and Judea (Luke 9:51-19: 27)
- Jesus impacts Jerusalem at the Passover (Luke 9:28-22:46)
- The crucifixion of Christ and the resurrection (Luke 22:47-Acts 1:11)
- The Holy Spirit impacts Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:12-7:60)
- The Holy Spirit impacts Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1-40)
- The Holy Spirit impacts nations (Acts 9:1-28:31)
- The Holy Spirit takes the world from the inside out to the body of Christ

The impact of Pentecost

The Book of Acts is also called the Acts of The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

The Book of Acts records the earliest example of church expansion. The initial expansion strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission was because of the power of the “unprecedented outpouring” of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles who “received strength” and “became witnesses first in Jerusalem and in Judaea, in Samaria and to the utter most parts of the earth” This resulted in 3000 souls being added to the church at one go. This was not something that the Apostles planned and executed.

Expansion of the Church in chapter 1-12 was spontaneous and then through a vision (Peter in Acts 10), scattered believers (11:19-20), exile Jews who were at the Pentecost sermon. Then in Acts 13, the Antioch church catches the vision and sends missionaries to take the Gospel to “the ends of the earth”.

The Story Of Spontaneous Expansion.

The entire book of Acts deals with the formation and multiplication of the New Testament churches, that was ignited of the Holy Spirit and spurred by the Great Commission, the Apostles and the early disciples diligently involved themselves as well as encouraged others to strive to fulfil the task of the Great Commission. The Book of Acts can be divided into three accounts about the fulfilment of the promise of our Lord which is recorded in Acts 1:8: -

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

The Story Of Strategic Gospel Multiplication Acts In Jerusalem. Acts 1-7

The first church was established on the day of Pentecost when according to the instruction given by Jesus, all the disciples were gathered together in one accord. According to his promise, the Savior sent the Comforter, and the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost and they began speaking the wonderful works of God in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Then through Peter’s first public sermon, 3000 souls were added to the “CHURCH”. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and emboldened by the first response, the disciples then began earnestly preaching the Gospel of Jesus fervently in Jerusalem.

A small Aramaic speaking, Jews only community spontaneously multiplied into hundreds of such communities extending “to the ends of the earth”, covering every part of the Roman empire, within a span of about 30 years.

The Effect Of Pentecost

THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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- Aramaic speaking Jewish church in Jerusalem spread to Hellenistic Jews – speaking Greek, Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria
- Radical obedience of spirit filled disciples who rightly understood the Great Commission.
- Bold witnessing by counting the cost
- Signs and wonders and miracles.

The factors that resulted in Gospel multiplication.

- Radical Obedience of spirit filled disciples who rightly understood the Great Commission.
- Bold witnessing by counting the cost
- Signs and wonders and miracles
- Strategic mission trips of Pauline teams
- Leadership multiplication through training and mentoring
- Multiplication through church network

Spread of the Gospel (Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth)

The Gospel spread from Jerusalem from the church that was born on the day of Pentecost and it began to spread from day one.

- Jews to the Gentiles

- Scattered believers to Diaspora
- Strategic cities to towns and villages

Acts 8-12 – The Expansion beyond Jerusalem, to Judaea and Samaria.

The Greek disciples were the first to be persecuted in the Roman Empire. They got scattered from Jerusalem to the surrounding areas of Judaea and Samaria and they

Acts 13-28 – The pattern of New Testament church and its growth to the ends of the earth.

Multiplication Through Pauline Teams

Strategic missionary trips of Pauline teams proved to be the most effective means of evangelization in the early centuries. Paul and his teams visited strategic cities and spent time there, preaching, debating, and convincing the local community about the truth of the Gospel. Once a breakthrough was achieved and a local church was formed in any of the cities, they appointed elders, cast the vision, committed the task, and then proceeded to the next decided location for doing the same. Special emphasis was given to Leadership multiplication through training and mentoring of indigenous leaders. These leaders then disciplined many more such worthy disciples resulting in a spontaneous growth of local churches.

The multiplication through the network of churches

- From Jews to gentiles
- Scattered believers to the diaspora
- From Antioch to Asia and Europe
- Strategic cities to the surrounding towns and villages

The impact of teaching/training – Antioch church model

Acts 11:25-26. *So, Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.*

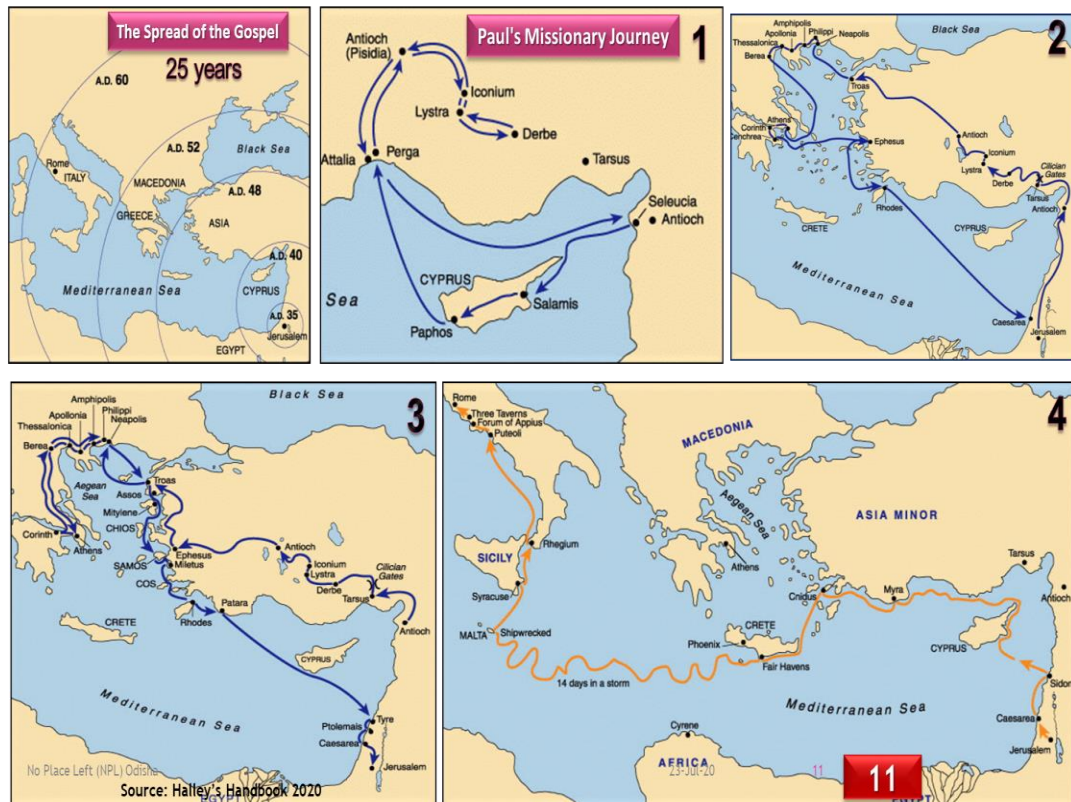
What was the result?

Acts 13:1-3 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

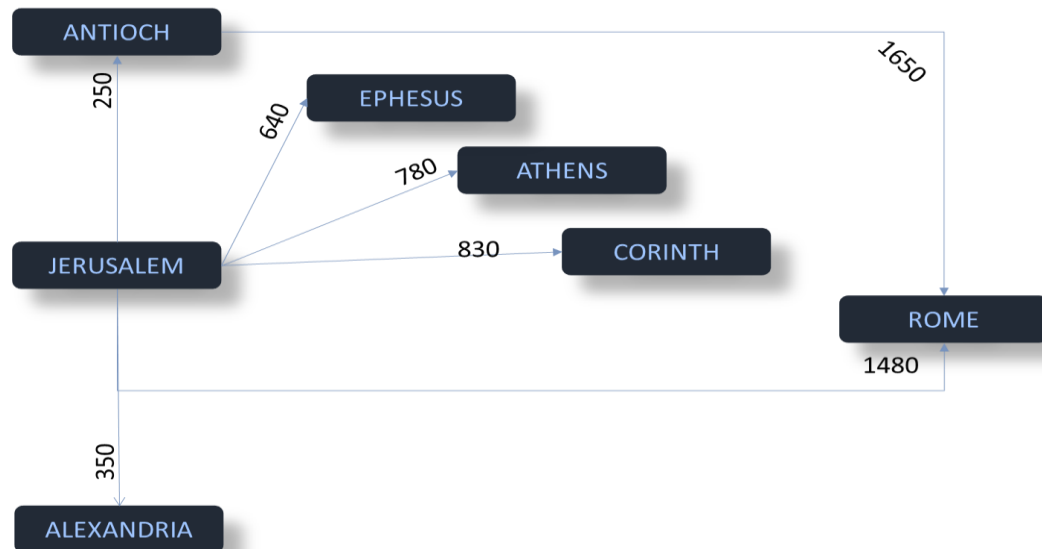
Keys To Multiplication

Pauline or the Apostolic team: Barnabas, Timothy, Titus, Silas, Luke, Apollos.

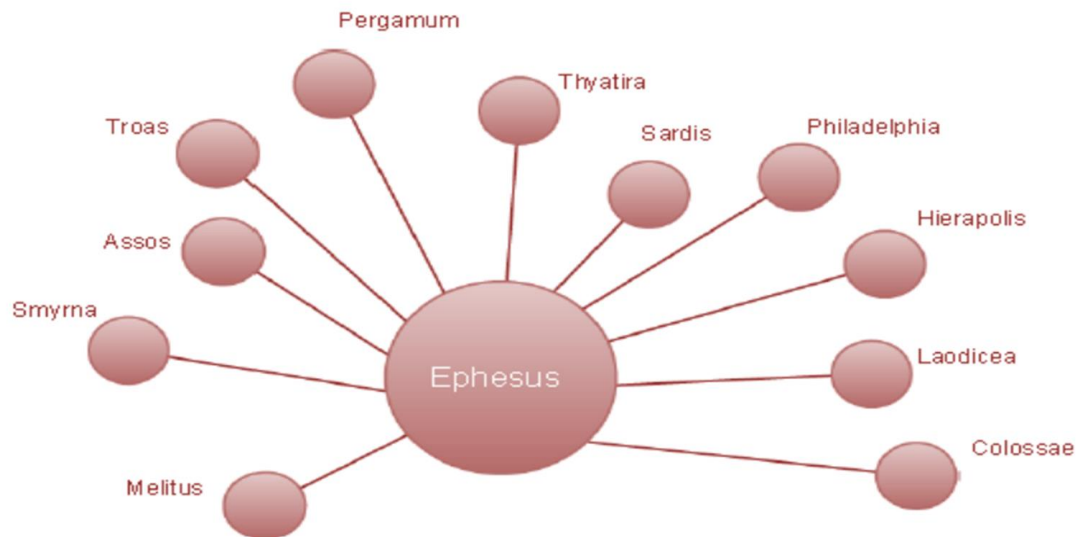
- A network of teams as the Gospel progressed.
- A network of churches who understood the mission and participated fully
- A team of elders based in every church or church clusters.



City Based Church Clusters and Hubs



Ephesus as a Hub/Connector



City Based Church Clusters And Hubs

(Jerusalem, Alexandria, Athens, Antioch, Corinth, Rome, Ephesus)

Ephesus hub - a hub of missions' network of New Testament churches

Churches From Peter's Network

1 Pet 1:1 *"An apostle of Jesus Christ to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus Galatia Cappadocia Asia and Bithynia"*

Questions For Discussion

1. What do we learn from the Gospel movements in the New Testament which we can apply in today's context?
2. How much was it spontaneous and how much was it strategic?
3. How will you design a church planting movement for a people group or region based on New Testament principles?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

2 Timothy 2:2 - "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."

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

- What have I learnt?
- What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
- Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
- Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
- Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes

Lesson 19: Gospel Movements: Movements Of Movements (Part - II)

Objective

To understand models of rapid multiplication of churches in different parts of the world. To help participants design their own models for rapid multiplication of churches for their people group or region or nation

Key Verses

Mathew 13:8 : *Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

Acts 2:47 : *"praising God and having favor with all the people. and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved"*

Acts 9:31 : *"so the church throughout all Judea and so the church throughout all Judea and galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it multiplied."*

Acts 6:7 : *"And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith."*

Acts 16:5: *"so the churches were strengthened in the faith and they increased in numbers daily."*

Chapter Content

In the last chapter we learnt about the principles of spontaneous and strategic expansion of the Gospel in the New Testament church. In this lesson we will look at some of the current models of church planting movement resulting in significant acceleration of the Gospel. We are presenting some of these models to see if you can incorporate some of the principles in your church planting movement.

1. Movements Metaphors

The following are some of the metaphors used in the Bible to describe the potential of a movement.

- Fire (James 3:16): - it is not about the size of your fire; it is about the number of fires you start!
- Water (Habakkuk 2:14) Raindrops become streams and streams become rivers that flow through natural channels!
- Seed (Mathew 13:8) Jesus said that good seeds in good soil yield 30 60 100-fold, and each of these seeds has the potential to produce 30 60 100-fold more.

2. Models Of Rapid Church - Multiplications Movements

Let us talk about two models that are well known in 21st century in different parts of the world. Each of them has got overlapping ideas and concepts. Both these movements are witnessing rapid multiplication of the Gospel. Several people have also adapted and are using these principles with encouraging results.

- Church Planting Movements CPM
- Training for Trainers T4T
- Disciple Making Movements DMM
- Discovery Bible Study DBS

What Is A Church Planting Movement?

A Church planting movement (CPM) is a rapid and multiplicative increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a given people group or population segment. David Garrison). You can download the book at https://www.call2all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Church_Planting_Movements_Garrison.pdf or order it online.

Three Key Points To Note On CPM:

- It is rapid – things happen quickly and appear out of control.
- It is multiplicative – not growth by addition.
- It is indigenous – the church planting does not occur because of outsiders but local indigenous people are starting churches.

The Story of Ying and Grace Kai as an example of church planting movement in Asia:

In 2001, an Asia-based Church Planting Movement, began to show a rapid multiplication of new church starts, that exceeded anything that had been witnessed before. It all started when Ying Kai and his wife Grace a missionary couple in Hongkong was wrestling with the idea of one church in 10 years to one church every year.

One day when Ying Kai was praying, the Holy Spirit seems to tell him “What is better than planting a church?” Then he heard the voice “Training others to plant churches (was the whisper of the Holy Spirit)”. The second question was “What is better than training others to plant churches? Ying Kai was lost. Then the Holy Spirit whispered, “Training others to train others to plant churches.” He caught hold of this vision and developed a T4T training program.



The key strategical slogans that they adopted in their church planting training methods can be summarized as follows:

- “Go” not “Come”
- Everyone not just some
- Make every believer a disciple and not just a church member
- Tell your own story (Personal testimony)
- Train others to obey what Jesus commanded
- Obey and not just listen
- Saturated with prayer
- Majoring on practical ministry

- Cooperating with God to see a CPM
- Development of a CPM plan

T4t Training Model:

T4T Training model was based on God's vision for a movement majoring on practical ministry. The following are the cardinal features of the training which was completely obedient based. When they gathered together, they practice the follow pattern.

Look Back

- Pastoral Care. "How Are You Doing?"
- Informal Worship. It Could Be Prayer or Singing
- Accountability. What Did You Obey?
- Whom Did You Witness?
- Vision Casting - Trainees are reminded what God has designed them to become and what he plans to do through them?

Look Up

- Trainees receive enough Biblical content to obey and pass on to others.
- Learn a series of six basic discipleship lessons
- Participants learn how to do inductive Bible study by asking the following questions:
 - What does it say?
 - What can I obey?
 - What will I share with others?
 - Whom will I share?

Look Forward

- **Practice.** Trainees spend time practicing what they have learned gaining confidence and competence to pass it on to others.
- **Goals and prayer.** Trainees set goals for how to obey the lesson and to take the next steps in witnessing and training others.
- **Recommissioning.** Then they recommission each other through prayer.

What Is A Disciple Making Movement? (DMM)

Disciple Making Movements (DMM) form Discovery Bible Study (DBS) groups with their oikos or with people of peace. They believe in the principle of belonging before believing. The discovery Bible Study books are not primarily meant for believers but for non-believers. As they go through the process of DBS, they understand the Gospel and respond to it which results in disciple making movements.

DMM Pattern: Opening Questions When They Gather Together.

- What are you thankful for this week?
(This question helps teach seekers or those new to Christ how to worship and pray.)

- What is a challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?
(*This guide people into caring community.*)

DMM Practice - Bible Discovery Questions

- What does it say?
- How would I say that?
(*Each person tells or writes the message or story in their own words.*)
- What must I do to obey what I have learned?
- I will.....
(*Fill up what you are going to do next week, these are your I will decision*)

Optional questions if you have time

- What does the passage say about humanity?
- What does this passage say about God?

Outreach Questions

- With whom will you share what you learned this week?
(*Each person considers who they will talk to about what they learned. Perhaps they will encourage a coworker with this new knowledge or talk to their brother about the passage.*)
- Accountability questions. These questions follow up from the previous week.
- With whom did you share what you learned last week?
- How did it go with your "I will" statements?

Strength And Weaknesses Of The Models

Both the models have its own strength and weakness.

Strength:

- T4T focuses on training for believers to evangelize the lost through their oikos
- DMM movement focuses on disciples to engage the lost through discovery Bible studies.
- Both produces significant rapid Gospel multiplication
- Both the movement emphasis on on-the-job training.
- Both are movements of faith, if practiced will result in significant growth.
- Both on rely on authorities of the word of God and fervent prayer.

Weaknesses:

Unless intentional, large-scale church planting movements may focus only on growth and expansion rather than depths. While many church planting movements have seen significant growth around the world, there are also a number of stories where church planting movements has resulted in shallow depths, often referred to as 'a mile wide, an inch deep'.

Every effort must be taken to not only grow and expand but also ground the new believers, churches, and their leaders through strong Biblical foundations.

There is also a danger that while the new believers are left to interpret the Bible themselves without the guidance of a matured leader, it may lead to wrong interpretation of the scriptures and eventually leading to heresies and false teachings.

The solution is strong teaching of God's word to the believers, new churches and training of leaders which should all go parallel.

Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. (Isa. 37:31)

Questions For Discussion

What lessons do we learn from the CPM and DMM movements?

How will you design to start a church planting movement in your region?

What Biblical lessons will guide us in this process?

Teach Others (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach Christians)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

2 Timothy 2:2 - "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."

Practical Application

Please write down your answers to the following questions.

Share and discuss the answers and plans to one or more trainees and your trainer.

1. What have I learnt?
2. What should I obey, based on what I have learnt today?
3. Whom will I teach? (List the names of people whom you will disciple)
4. Choose a Biblical story or an illustration related to this topic
5. Draw a picture or an illustration on what you have learnt.

Notes



Lesson 20: Gospel Conclusion: Great Conclusion Of The Great Commission

OBJECTIVE

To understand the picture of the conclusion of the Great Commission
 To understand what it will look like when the task is completed.
 To understand what it will take to complete the Great Commission task

KEY VERSES

Daniel 7:14 : *To him was given ruling authority, honor, and sovereignty. All peoples, nations, and language groups were serving him. His authority is eternal and will not pass away. His kingdom will not be destroyed.*

Matthew 24:14 : *And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all the nations,[a] and then the end will come.*

Rev 5:9 : *They were singing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation.*

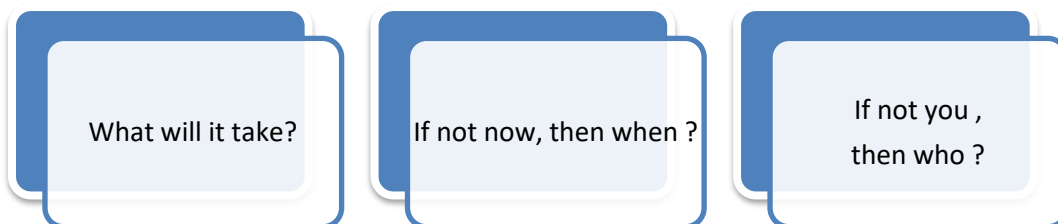
Rev 7:9 : *After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands.*

CHAPTER CONTENTS

1. The Great Commission is about ALL and EVERY and not SOME.

We need to reach "All Nations" (Mathew 28:19) "All World" (Mark 16: 15)
 Every People, Every Language, Every Tribe (Rev 7:9)
 For this: He has given us "All Authority" (Mathew 28:18)
 For this he has promised his presence "All Days (Mathew 28:20)
 For this we must teach "All Things" (Mathew 28:20)

Let us ask these questions to ourselves and ponder over it before we dive deeper:-



Thus, as disciples of the great Master, can we say "WE are prepared to DO IT NOW and ready to GIVE ALL THAT WE HAVE even our lives to see the task of the Great Commission fulfilled in our generation."

2. What will it look like when the task of the Great Commission is completed?

Read the following Bible verses and imagine what will it look like when the task of the Great Commission is complete.

- Mathew 24:14
- Revelations 5:9
- Revelations 7:9
- Daniel 7:9

The net result could include the following ideally: -

- The whole world would have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matt 24:14)
- There will be people worshiping the Lord from every people, language, tribe, and nation (Rev 5:9)
- There will be gathering of believers in every neighborhood, Rev 7:9).
- People from all languages and nations would worship Him (Dan 7:14)

3. What will it take to complete the Great Commission task?

- In A Nation?
- In your District?
- In Your Block / Sub district?
- In your City / town?
- In Your Village / neighborhood?
- In Your People Group / language group?

Complete the task formula

- **P**eople Groups
- **L**anguage Groups
- **U**rban areas
- **G**eographic locations

- **P**rayer
- **R**esearch
- **E**quipping
- **M**obilization



a) THE PLUG FORMULA:

A South Asian country uses the **PLUG** approach to define the finishing the task. In other words, when the task is completed in a nation, every people, language, urban areas and geographical units (villages) will be reached with the Gospel and people disciplined.

P – People Group

L – Language Group

U – Urban Areas (Cities & towns)

G – Geographical units (Villages)



B) People Group Approach In Completing The Task:

In 1976, Ralph Winter introduced the concept of People group in 1974. In 1989, Dr. Luis Bush introduced the concept of 10-40 window as a geographical region where 95% of the unreached people group live.

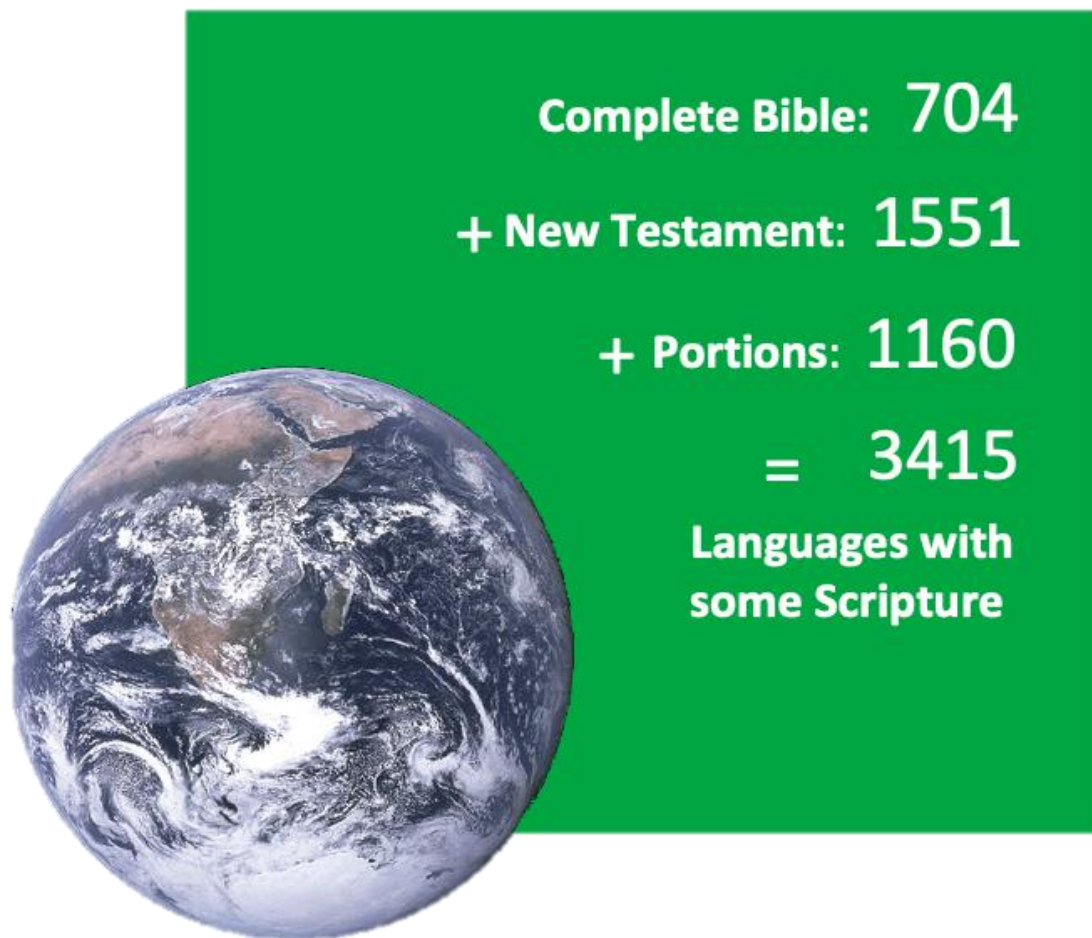
Joshua Project lists 17,442 people groups of which 7,413 are Unreached, meaning they have less than 2% evangelical Christians.

In 2000, a new movement called the Finishing the Task emerged, with special focus on unreached unengaged people group. Today, there are very few Unreached Unengaged people groups in the world.

C) Finishing The Task By Language Groups

Complete the task by Language groups? (<https://www.wycliffe.net/resources/scripture-access-statistics/>)

Total Population	7.8 billion
Total languages	7360
With Full Bible	704
Without Full Bible	6656
With New Testaments	1551
Without New Testaments	5809
With only some Scripture Portions	1160
With some Scripture Portions	3415
Without any Scripture Portions	3945



D) Finishing The Task Geographically:

Discipling A Whole Nation movement (DAWN):

DAWN introduced the concept of saturation church planting in Philippines as early as 1974 which gradually spread to 155 countries in the world over the next 20 years.



NO Place Left Movement (NPL):

NPL Movement is based on Romans 15:23 principle where Apostle Paul says, *"Now there is No (more) Place Left for me to preach the Gospel in this region"*.

None Should Perish Movement (NSP):

NSP Movement is based on, on 2 Pet 3:9 in which Apostle Peter says

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
 2 Peter 3:9

"God wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" 1 Timothy 2:3,4

From the above two verses it is clear that God wants all men to be saved and does not want anyone to perish. If that is God's desire, how will we fulfil God's desire through our life and ministry.

We need to begin somewhere to accomplish this goal.

- Encourage FRAN prayer in your churches
- Encourage every believer to share the Gospel to 5 or more people every week
- Encourage every church to write the names of the people in their community or village or neighborhood.
- Mobilize prayer for everyone in your community through your church.
- Sharing the Gospel abundantly till everyone gets the chance to hear the Gospel

FRAN Prayer Card

My commitment for prayer					Name: _____
#	F RIENDS	R ELATIVES	A SSOCIATES	N EIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

#	F RIENDS	R ELATIVES	A SSOCIATES	N EIGHBOURS	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

FRAN PRAYER	BLESS PRAYER	OPEN PRAYER
F RIENDS	B ODY	O PEN HEART
R ELATIVES	L ABOUR	E YES
A SSOCIATES	E MOTIONS	E ARS
N EIGHBOURS	S Ocial NEEDS	D OOR
	S PIRITUAL NEEDS	H EAVEN

5

PEOPLES
MINUTES
DAYS
WEEKS

How do people measure finishing the task?

Here are a few examples:

Global Church Network

Global Church Network is a network of churches and church network around the world and have a passion to complete the task of the Great Commission by 2030, the 2000th Anniversary of the death of Jesus.

They use the following acronym FINISH – (<https://finish2030.com>)

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Find | - What Is the Unfinished Task? Joshua 13:1-2 |
| Intercede | - Passionate Prayer Psalms 2:8 |
| Network | - Come and Help - Luke 5:7 5:7 |
| Invest | - Time Talents Resources (Matt 6:19-21) |
| Send | - Every Church A Sending Church. Acts 13:1-3. |
| Harvest | - Plant Churches: Matthew 9:37 |

Global Church Network

- F**ind - What Is the Unfinished Task? Joshua 13:1-2
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- H**arvest - Plant Churches: Matthew 9:37

[HTTPS://FINISH2030.COM](https://finish2030.com)

Count Zero Movement (<https://issacharinitiative.org/>)

They believe, the task of the Great Commission is completed, there would be zero people group without churches, zero languages without scriptures, zero neighborhood without churches, and zero oral learner without oral Bible and finally zero people who have not heard the Gospel.

ZERO People Groups Without Churches
Languages Without Scriptures
Neighbourhoods Without Churches
Oral Learners Without Oral Bible

Finishing the Task movement:

Their slogan is the 3B-3P model of evangelization

'Preach - Believer,

Plant - Body

Provide - Bible'.



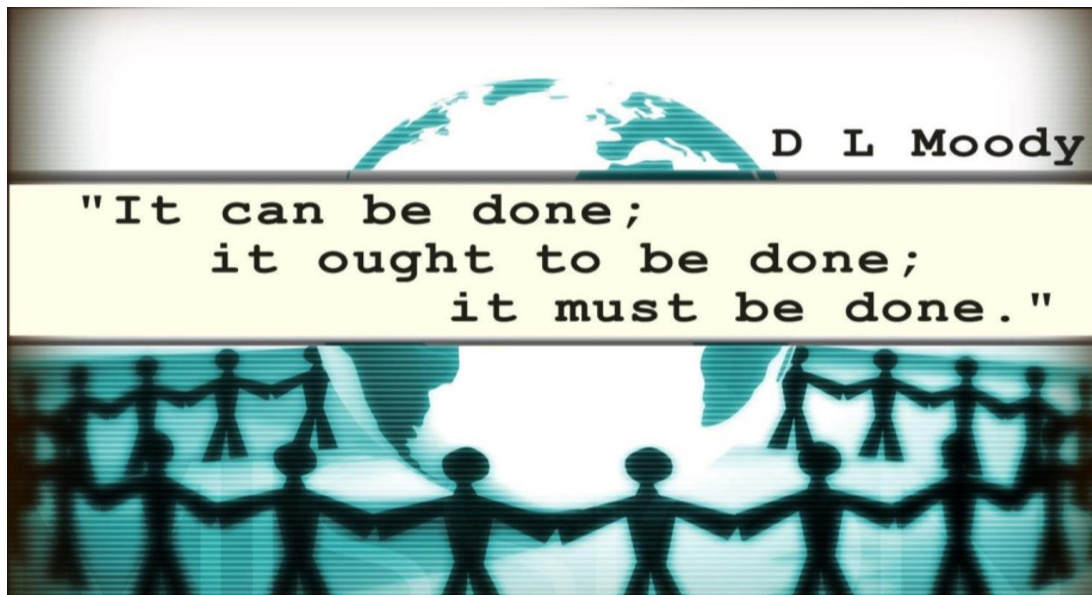
To have a believer they promote evangelism, to have a body they promote church planting, to have a Bible they promote Bible translation.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

1. How will you define completion of the Great Commission task in your country or region?
2. How will you design a program to see the task of the Great Commission finish in a nation?
3. What Commitments Have You Made during the School of Great Commission?

CONCLUSION: BELONGING TO THE GENERATION OF FINISHERS THAN BEGINNERS

In the school of Great Commission, we have discussed 9 steps for vision to completion. Each step is important in the process of fulfilling the Great Commission task. As D.L. Moody stated more than 130 year ago about completion of Great Commission task, can we also say



May the Lord help us to be the generation of finishers of the Great Commission task and hasten the coming of the Lord Jesus returning back as he promised!

TEACH OTHERS (H.O.T – Hear, Obey, Teach CHRISTIANS)

We also recommend that each trainee practice the following principle by training others to obey and train others.

(Ezra 7:10) - Study, Obey and Teach - "For Ezra has set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

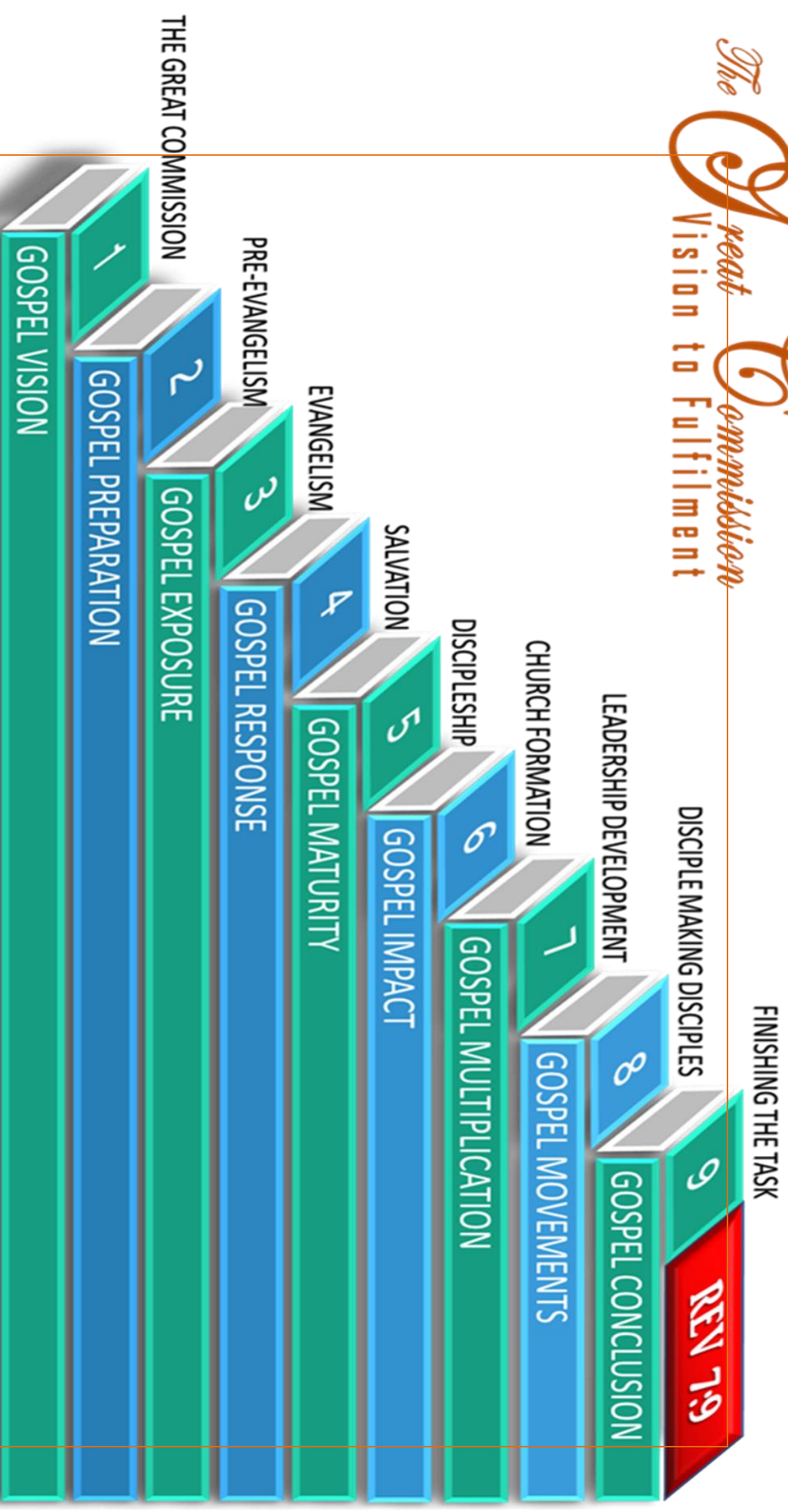
2 Timothy 2:2 - "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."







The Great Commission Vision to Fulfillment



Matthew 28:19-20

Go! Baptize!! Teach !!