



Starting New Churches

Starting New Churches

2nd Edition

by Larry Pate

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

Developed in Cooperation with
Global University Staff

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THE GU CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the GU Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for the order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each.

Starting New Churches is Course 4 in Unit II. You will benefit greater by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your GU instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page near the front of the study guide.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Do you know that you can have an active part in accomplishing the building of Christ's church? Certainly this is implied in Jesus' statement of purpose in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my church." Ever since the church began on the Day of Pentecost the followers of Christ have been planting the church in all the world.

In this course you will learn the value of the direction of the Holy Spirit in planning strategy for the founding and development of new churches. The Bible gives principles and purposes which are a guide to planting the church among all cultures and peoples.

The New Testament describes the beginnings and the development of the church and how it spread through the known world at that time. From the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the early church you will learn principles and patterns that continue to the present time. You will consider how every Christian has a responsibility to work with other members of the body of Christ to plant new churches. You will examine methods of motivating other believers to become involved in church planting.

As you study this course, allow the Holy Spirit to show you His plan for your part in building the church of Jesus Christ. Let Him reveal to you the blessing and value of your local church within the larger, worldwide context of the body of Christ.

Course Description

Starting New Churches is a practical course of study which stresses the importance of establishing new churches as a means of evangelizing the world. It gives guidelines so that any local church can be involved in the task of planting churches, thereby becoming a multiplying church.

The course is designed to help a person in three ways: 1) It will help one understand the purpose and function of the church as described in the New Testament; 2) It will give one an understanding of the meaning and the importance of the concepts of self-government, self-propagation, and self-support; 3) It will help one see the methods by which the church can be planted and multiplied under all conditions and in all cultures.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Understand that planting churches is both the goal and the means of evangelism.
2. Understand and value the role of the local church in the outreach ministry of the church universal.
3. Explain the meaning of the multiplying church concept.
4. Describe good church planting strategies among specific groups of people.
5. Formulate and evaluate your plan for planting a church.

Textbooks

You will use *Starting New Churches: An Independent-Study Textbook* by Larry Pate as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible is the only other requirement.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions. Answers to each self-test are at the back of your textbook before the unit student reports.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help

you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
 - b)** 66 books.
 - c)** 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a)** 100 books.
 - (b)** 66 books.
 - c)** 27 books.
 - d)** 2 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a)** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c)** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| 1 | a . Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| 2 | b . Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| 2 | c . Marched around Jericho | |
| 1 | d . Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases a and d refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this GU course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although GU has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes

Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send each unit answer sheet to your instructor for his grading and suggestions regarding your work. Send one when you complete each unit.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your GU instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

About the Author

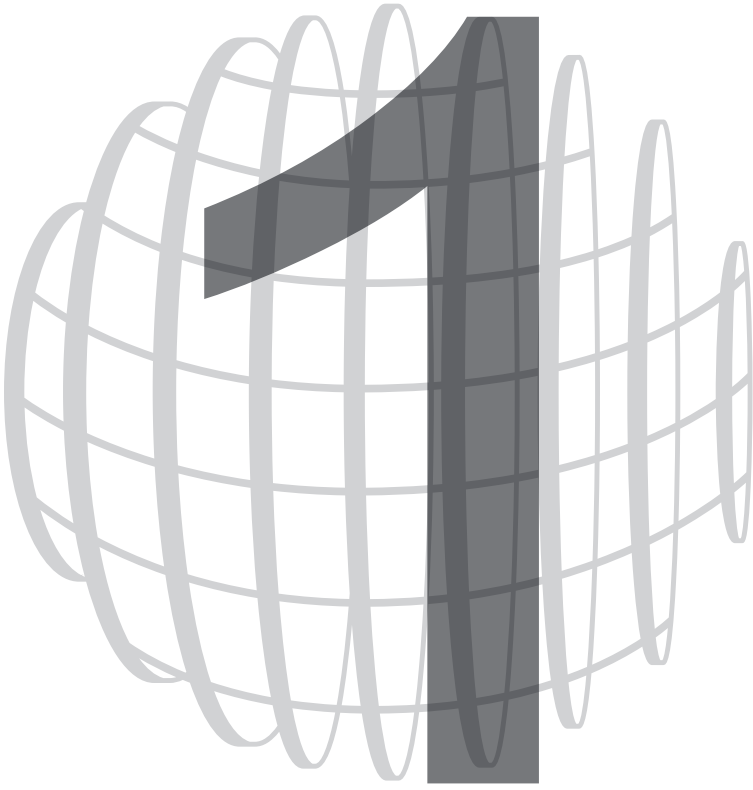
After searching for truth in several forms of religion, Larry Pate made a commitment to Jesus Christ just before entering the University of California, Davis. After studying for two years, he answered God's call to the ministry. He transferred his studies to Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz, California, receiving his B.S. degree.

Mr. Pate was active in the ministry as an evangelist, associate pastor, and pastor for eight years before entering missionary service in 1974. He has done graduate studies at the University of Santa Clara and the Assemblies of God Graduate School, receiving a master of science degree in missions science. He has done further graduate studies at the School of World Mission of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He served as a missionary to Bangladesh for six years and later was instructor of cross-cultural ministries at Southern California College, Costa Mesa, California. Mr. Pate and his family are now missionaries to Brazil.

Your GU instructor

Your GU instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you study *Starting New Churches*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.



The Model for Churches

Lessons

- 1 Churches in the New Testament
- 2 Churches and Their Mission

1 Churches in the New Testament

John and David were excited as they talked to their former teacher. “For the past two weeks we have preached in the square at Gane and 20 people have accepted the Lord as their Savior. Now we must start a church for the new believers. We want to be sure to do it right so we’ve come to discuss it with you.”

“Starting a new church is a wonderful responsibility,” Brother Eyo replied. “The church was planned in the mind of God, started by the Lord Jesus, and is directed by the Holy Spirit. Let’s talk about what your responsibility in starting a new church really means.”

Perhaps you have found yourself in a similar situation, or you know that soon you will want to start a new church. This course will help you follow the scriptural plan for starting new churches. The first lesson will give you God’s plan for the beginning of His church. It will help you understand more clearly God’s plan for the church, and appreciate fully the work of the Holy Spirit in the mission of the church.

lesson outline

The Pattern of the Church

The Ministry of the Church

The Planter of the Church

The Power of the Church

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Indicate the New Testament church's guide for establishing churches.
2. Describe how the ministry gifts relate to starting new churches.
3. Identify spiritual qualities of a church planter.
4. State basic elements of a church planter's message.
5. Describe the Holy Spirit's work in church planting.

learning activities

1. Carefully read the preliminary section in this independent-study guide and each Scripture as it is mentioned in the lesson.
2. Study the lesson outline and lesson objectives. These will help you identify the things you should learn.
3. Check the glossary at the end of the study guide for definitions of any key words you do not understand.
4. Read the lesson and do the exercises in the lesson development. Most of your responses can be made in this study guide. However, where longer responses are required, write your answers in a notebook. Check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson.
5. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers carefully with the answers given in the back of this textbook. Review any items you answer incorrectly.

key words

Understanding the key words listed at the beginning of each lesson will help you as you study. You will find them defined in alphabetical order in the glossary that is in the back of your study guide. If you are in doubt about the meaning of any of the words on the list, you may look them up now or when you come across them in your reading.

characteristic	fellowship	nurture
community	guidelines	pattern
culture	identify	principle
edify	integrate	role
empower	local	universal
evangelism	ministry	
evangelize	multiply	

lesson development

In the sight of God, all the people who believe in Christ are in one spiritual fellowship. The Bible calls this fellowship the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 27). The Bible uses the word “church” when referring to people who believe in Christ. The church is a fellowship of believers, those who have been born again, redeemed from their sins through Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross. They believe in the death of Jesus as the sacrifice for their salvation and live in obedience to God. In the New Testament the term “believers” and “church” used in the same context refer to followers of Christ (Acts 14:21–28; 15:2–3).

The word “church” is used to describe different elements of the body of Christ:

1. *The local church, or the church gathered.* This is a group of individual believers who meet to worship God and study the Bible (Acts 11:22; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Philemon 2). In one place it may be thousands of believers gathered. In another place believers may gather in small groups (Matthew 18:20). Both are examples of the church gathered.
2. *The church worldwide.* This is the fellowship of all believers around the world. Every true believer is part of this worldwide fellowship that is often called the church universal.

THE PATTERN OF THE CHURCH

Objective 1. *Indicate the New Testament church’s guide for establishing churches.*

The church we read about in the New Testament was the model for all future growth of the church. Paul wrote to the Ephesians that God’s people, the church, are “members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19–20). With this great foundation, what kind of church does God want us to build today? The beginning of the church teaches us several key principles for building the church in any culture, place, or time.

The Beginning of the Church

Following are six key principles which are found in studying the work of the New Testament church.

First, believers are responsible for taking the gospel to their own community. The disciples followed Jesus' command to begin in Jerusalem to preach the gospel. They not only preached the gospel but also witnessed the gospel by their manner of living. Read Acts 2:42–47. Let us study these verses of Scripture and notice how the testimony of the church was strengthened by the way the believers lived.

Verse 42 shows that the believers were strengthened in their faith by devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and were encouraged by the fellowship of eating and praying together. Also, they helped each other by sharing their goods and possessions with those who were in need (v. 45).

Everyone was filled with awe because of the wonders and miraculous signs done by the apostles through the power of God. These miracles must have been a testimony to all who saw them, and no doubt attracted many to become believers in Christ. We can assume that many unbelievers were attracted, too, by the joy and happiness of the believers. Verse 46 describes what the people of Jerusalem observed about the Christians: "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They . . . ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

The result of the believers' manner of living was that "the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (v. 47). Thus, a local body of believers was formed. And while they were an encouragement and strength to each other, they made a significant impact of witness in their community.

Individuals can witness the gospel in their community, but the most lasting and effective witness is through a body of believers living their new faith in love and joy in their community. A strong local group of believers was established in Jerusalem. Then the church began to grow quickly in the surrounding areas of Judea, and Samaria, and within a short time to the provinces beyond.

Second, the gospel was preached to the unsaved where they were. The apostles did not confine themselves to a building where they preached the message of salvation. They went out every day and met together in the temple courts (Acts 2:46) where the people were who needed to hear their message. Even after the apostles were jailed and flogged, they continued: “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 5:42). The principle expressed here is that they took the gospel to where the sinners were. They did not wait for the sinners to come to their local group. We should follow their example.

Third, the New Testament church identified and sent out those whom God called to take the gospel to other areas. While it is the responsibility of every believer to witness in his or her community, there are those who have the ability and call to go out to new areas. An example of this was shown by the church at Antioch in sending out Barnabas and Saul after they had been set apart by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1–3). Later in this course we will study the self-propagation of the church and discuss this principle in depth.

Fourth, New Testament evangelism was directed toward adults. The New Testament pattern was preaching to win family leaders who would bring their whole household to Christ. There are many examples of this principle in the New Testament: Peter preached to the house of Cornelius (Acts 10); Paul called on the Philippian jailer to believe on the Lord, then baptized him and all his family (Acts 16:31–33). In Philippi Paul preached to some businesswomen; among them was Lydia, who opened her heart and responded to Paul’s message. She and the members of her household were baptized (Acts 16:14–15). Other examples are the household of Stephanas (1 Corinthians 1:16), Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:16), and Philemon (Philemon 2). Often when adults are won to Christ, they bring their children to accept Him too. In this way whole families become believers.

Fifth, new believers were integrated into the life of the body of the local church. The apostles followed Christ’s command to “make disciples” and then “teach” the new disciples. Those who accepted the message of salvation through Christ were immediately identified with the body of Christ—the church

(Acts 2:41). Then, they were taught by the apostles and nurtured in prayer and fellowship with the other members of the body. In addition to being taught doctrine, the believers “devoted themselves . . . to the fellowship . . . and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

The New Testament does not give strict guidelines on how the teaching of the new believers and the development of the body fellowship took place. The methods used by Jesus, the apostles, or other believers, varied and were determined by the need. But we do know that there are many instructions about relationships with other believers and their relationship with God. These two relationships cannot be separated. God has designed that it is within the context of the church and through the experiences of relationships with other members of the body that the new believer can grow into a mature, responsible disciple for Jesus Christ.

Application

1 Circle the letter of the TRUE statements concerning the activities of the early church believers as described in Acts 2. If a statement is not true, rewrite it on the following line so it is true.

- a)** The disciples preached the gospel first to the people in Jerusalem.

The disciples preached the gospel

.....

- b)** After Pentecost the believers had to worship in secret because of the hostility of the Jews.

After Pentecost the believers

.....

- c)** Miraculous signs were done by the apostles. Their preaching and the joy of the new believers attracted others to be saved.

Miraculous signs were done by the apostles. Their preaching

..... and

- d)** New converts were baptized after a six-month waiting period.

New converts were baptized

.....



Sixth, the apostles preached salvation through faith in Christ, and not a system of religious beliefs or ceremonies. The believers of the early church were scattered around their known world and soon were preaching to many different peoples. The apostles preached salvation through belief in Jesus as the Savior. They did not preach to set forth a new system of beliefs. They preached with the demonstration of the power of God to meet the needs of people. When sinners saw miracles performed which helped people, they believed that Christ could meet their needs too. When they saw the power with which the gospel message was preached, they gained faith to believe for salvation (1 Corinthians 2:4).

The church everywhere continued to follow the example of the apostles. Other believers in the church began to develop ministries. In each case their ministries were like the apostles' (Acts 6:8; 8:4–8). Demons were cast out; cripples were healed; and there was great joy in the hearts of the people, because they were delivered from sin, diseases, and despair. This is what caused the churches to grow, and new believers were added daily.

The Holy Spirit guided the early church to provide fellowship to meet the needs of the new believers. This fellowship gave them a sense of belonging. As Jesus had prophesied, the church grew first in Jerusalem. Thousands became believers in a short time. Most of them were Jews. Even though they followed Jesus, they were still Jews; consequently, they believed they should continue to follow the ceremonial rules of Jewish worship (Acts 5:20; 24:18). But when non-Jewish people became believers, the Jewish believers wanted them to follow Jewish customs. This problem was discussed at a special meeting of the leaders of the church, and the Holy Spirit used the apostles to change the Jewish believers' minds (Acts 11:1–18; 15:1–20). If the non-Jewish believers had been required to follow Jewish ceremonial rules, they would have believed that salvation rested in part on the observance of religious rituals. It was God's plan, however, that salvation depend on no one but Christ (Acts 4:12), and that all believers are to be baptized into one body—whether Jew or non-Jew, slave or free (1 Corinthians 12:13).

This principle allowed the gospel to spread around the world and gave us the truth that it is only salvation that must be preached, not local ceremonies or customs. What the New Testament church taught was the same everywhere. People may express their faith in different ways. How people worshipped depended on their culture. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the same today; it is just as powerful in Africa or China as it is in Latin America or Europe.

Application

2 Circle the letter in front of the correct sentence completion. The decision of the church described in Acts 15:1–11 supports the truth that

- a)** salvation is only through the acceptance of the grace of Jesus Christ.
- b)** some ceremonies of other religions can blend with Christianity to make it more acceptable to all cultures.
- c)** cultural differences prevent peoples of different national groups from worshipping together.

3 Listed in the middle column are six principles observed by the early disciples. Match the principle with the verses which are a demonstration of the principle.

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| ... a | The gospel preached first in their own community | 1) Acts 13:1–3 |
| ... b | The gospel preached to the unsaved where they are | 2) Acts 5:12, 25, 42 |
| ... c | Those called to preach identified and sent out | 3) Acts 2:14–41;
4:1–2 |
| ... d | Salvation through faith in Christ without added religious ritual | 4) Acts 2:41–47 |
| ... e | Evangelism directed to adults | 5) Acts 10; 16:31–33 |
| ... f | New believers quickly brought into church fellowship | 6) Acts 15:1–20 |



The Purpose of the Church

Jesus commanded His disciples, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20).

Jesus’ command can be divided into two parts: 1) Go make disciples and 2) teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. These are the two primary ministry functions of the church: evangelism and teaching.

An example of how the early church obeyed this command is found in Acts 14:21–22.

They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.

In this example, the apostles Paul and Barnabas made many disciples in Derbe (evangelism). Later, on the same journey they returned and strengthened (teaching) the new disciples. This was in direct obedience to Christ’s command in Matthew 28:19–20.

These two functions explain the reason why God has placed the church in the world. What does God expect His people, the church, to do when they come in contact with the unbelieving world? The answer is, “make disciples.” What does God intend to happen to believers as they meet as members of the body of Christ? The answer is to edify or build up one another in faith.

Application

4 Opposite each Scripture below write 1) if it represents a function of evangelism and 2) if it represents a teaching function of the church.

... **a** Acts 3:6–7

... **b** Acts 8:36–38

... **c** Acts 15:24–29

... **d** Acts 16:28–31



The Importance of the Church

Jesus knew His death and resurrection would make salvation possible for everyone. He wanted the news of salvation to spread around the world, but He did not preach everywhere. He preached only in Palestine.

He knew God's plan for the salvation of the world. To help accomplish this, He did four things: 1) He chose a group of men to whom He revealed himself as Savior; 2) He gathered these disciples together in a group around Him; 3) He taught them concerning the kingdom of God; and 4) He instructed them to follow His example by teaching other disciples as He had taught them. As He left His disciples, He gave them the command in Matthew 28:19. Jesus knew His disciples could be effective in making new disciples only if He taught them. The best way for Him to do this was to gather them into a group. In this way He could instruct them together so they, in turn, could help and inspire one another. When the disciples began their ministry, they would continue this process of making disciples and gathering them together for teaching.

Today, we refer to groups of believers that meet together for these purposes as *local churches*. The functions of evangelism and teaching generally will be found in spiritually healthy local churches. The individual believer can evangelize, but usually evangelism is more effective when the believers who are trained in an established church collectively carry out this function. The

local church provides training and a place where new converts can be brought together for worship, instruction in the Bible, and Christian fellowship. Churches which provide adequate training for new disciples will prepare them for extending the church's ministry through evangelism and teaching.

Application

5 Circle the letter in front of TRUE statements describing the church's role in God's plan of evangelism.

- a)** The church is the place where the unsaved are brought to meet believers and observe a worship service.
 - b)** New believers come into the church where they learn about living the Christian life. Then they go out and win others to Christ.
 - c)** The primary role of the church is to conduct outdoor public evangelistic services.
 - d)** The church accomplishes its evangelism role through a continuing cycle of making and teaching new disciples.
-

THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Ministry Has Two Functions

Objective 2. *Describe how the ministry gifts relate to starting new churches.*

KINDS OF MINISTRY GIFTS

When Jesus left His earthly ministry, the Holy Spirit came. He gave gifts of ministry to the church, and these ministry gifts help the church to fulfill its God-given mission. But how does this happen? Who performs which tasks in the church's ministry? Read the following Scriptures which discuss the nature and purpose of the ministry gifts which were given to the church: Romans 12:5–8; 1 Corinthians 12:27–31; 1 Timothy 3:1–10; and Ephesians 4:11–12.

These Scriptures give examples of the kinds of gifts of ministry God gives to the church. We can classify these gifts according to the place where they are primarily used.

1. Ministry gifts used primarily in the church body: Prophets, pastors, teachers, elders, deacons, administrators, diverse tongues.
2. Ministry gifts used primarily outside the church: Apostles and evangelists.
3. Ministry gifts used inside and outside the church: Exhorting, miracles, giving, gifts of healing, showing mercy, helps.

Although this listing gives the primary use of these ministry gifts, all of them may be used inside the church body when needed, and all of them may be used outside the church body to meet whatever needs are present. For example, the evangelist may teach those within the church how to evangelize. The pastors may preach and witness to those outside the church as well as those within the church. The purpose of making a classification of ministries is to challenge us to see that every believer has a work to do, and that God equipped us to accomplish that task.

Application

6 Read the following verses in your Bible, then write the name of each gift mentioned in each verse.

- a)** Romans 12:6
- b)** Romans 12:7
- c)** 1 Corinthians 12:8–10
- d)** Ephesians 4:11
- e)** 1 Timothy 3:10
-

PURPOSE OF MINISTRY GIFTS

Paul lists five ministry gifts which are intended to provide leadership in the church. Do only certain believers possess ministry gifts to be used in performing the ministry of the church? No! All believers are to exercise gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 as part of the body; however, not all

believers will be called to leadership. Ephesians 4:11–12 explains the reason why: Jesus “gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” So God’s ministry gifts to the church are given to do two things: 1) prepare God’s people for works of service, and 2) build up the body of Christ. Notice that Christ gave ministry gifts to the church to help the church fulfill His own command in Matthew 28:19. This becomes clear when we compare the two verses of Scripture:

Ephesians 4:12	Matthew 28:19
“works of service” “the body of Christ may be built up”	“go and make disciples” “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”

So Ephesians 4:12 shows that Christ gave ministry gifts so the church could properly carry out His command in Matthew 28:19. Ephesians 4:12 also explains this process. These ministry gifts are given to strengthen the church.

Application

7 Read 1 Corinthians 12:6, 27 and Ephesians 4:11–12, and write short answers to the following questions.

a) To what part of the local church are the ministry gifts given?

.....
.....

b) For what two purposes are ministry gifts given to the church?

.....
.....

c) List three ways in which you have seen ministry gifts used in your church.

.....
.....

- 8** New churches are started as ministry gifts are used by the church
- a)** to evangelize, then to build up new believers, who then are able to evangelize and bring other new believers into the church.
 - b)** within the body of the church since the gifts are only for the benefit of the believers.
 - c)** through the primary gift of apostles, which is necessary for starting new churches.
-

For a more detailed study on ministry gifts in the church you may take the course Spiritual Gifts. This is part of the Christian Service series you are now studying.

THE PLANTER OF THE CHURCH

Objective 3. *Identify spiritual qualities of a church planter.*

When a farmer plants a seed he cannot make a plant grow. He can till the soil and water it, but the seed grows by itself. The farmer does not have to be there; he simply nurtures what he has planted and provides the best environment possible for it to develop. In much the same way, a believer can witness to a person but cannot make him or her a believer. He can use great skill in telling the gospel, but only God can make the seed of faith grow in the unbeliever's heart. Starting new churches is much like that.

We can gather new believers together into a group. We can teach and encourage them to become strong in their faith, but it is the Holy Spirit who gives them faith to become a strong multiplying church. The farmer must depend on the sun and rain to cause his seed to grow, but at the same time he must work hard and continue to till the soil and water it until the crops are ready for harvest. Those who start churches have the responsibility to nurture believers, praying with them, teaching them God's Word, and leading them to respond to the working of the Holy Spirit. In this way the church will grow and bear fruit. That is why starting new churches is called church planting.

Application

- 9** Starting new churches is spoken of as “planting” new churches because
- a)** the farmer need do nothing after the seed is planted but wait for it to grow. Even so, the church planter can do nothing to help a church bear fruit.
 - b)** the gospel must be preached and the believers nurtured and cared for in order for the church to grow and bear fruit. Similarly, seed must be planted and the crops watered and cared for if they are to produce.
 - c)** seeds will grow wherever they are planted; therefore, churches will spring up wherever the gospel is preached.
-

A Church Planter Sets a Good Example

Who can be a church planter? A church planter is a believer to whom God has given the opportunity to establish a church. Church planting is the result of a believer’s determination to present Christ to the lost, win converts, and then help form these converts into a local church.

What are the qualifications of a church planter? Study of the New Testament and of the lives of the early church leaders shows that the qualifications of a church planter are those required of anyone who wants to be used of God. God will lead us into certain tasks that are suitable for our personalities and talents, but a desire to be used of God is a basic requirement, whether it is to plant churches or any other phase of the work of God.

What are the qualities of one who desires to be used of God? First, and most importantly, a church planter is a servant (Philippians 2:4–7). Jesus assumed the role of a servant. He commanded all those who would be leaders to be servants (John 13:14–16). Paul became “a slave to everyone” (1 Corinthians 9:19).

A faithful servant does not base his actions on fulfilling his selfish needs. Rather, he is concerned more about the desires and welfare of those he serves. There is no need to feel competitive with other servants, since self pride and ambitions do not motivate the service rendered. The true servant finds joy in the pleasure of service.

Other qualities of the effective church planter are:

1. The church planter is a man or woman of God, who is born again and lives a Spirit-filled life (John 3:3, Acts 1:8). Paul stated that through the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit he preached the gospel. It was his ambition to preach where Christ was not known (Romans 15:18–20). These are some of the reasons Paul was a great church planter.
2. The church planter has a lifestyle of prayer. See Colossians 1:9–11 and Ephesians 3:14–19; 6:18. Prayer is an active involvement in bringing to pass the will of God. These verses of Scripture picture prayer as a vital function, an engagement, in spiritual warfare. Through effective, fervent prayer (James 5:16), the believer influences circumstances and situations involved in planting the church, and thus witnesses victory and blessings in places which might otherwise be failures. Paul serves as a good example. It is also true that prayer molds and fashions the individual so that he is yielded and useful in whatever circumstance God has placed him.
3. The church planter is moved by deep and continuing compassion for the lost (Romans 9:2–3). Jesus illustrated this concern for the lost in His parable of the lost son (Luke 15:11–32). He showed the necessity of self-denying devotion to the lost in His story of the shepherd searching for the lost sheep (Luke 15:3–7).
4. The church planter loves people and must be willing to give time and show concern for their problems (1 Thessalonians 2:7–8).
5. The church planter is an example of mature Christian character (1 Corinthians 11:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:6–8).


The work of God is accomplished because of the vision, love, sacrifice, and perseverance of individuals who gave themselves to the task to which God called them. One such man was working to develop an outstation church several miles from his own church. He walked there regularly to minister to the people. Often it rained at night as he walked home from the services. The hills were so slippery that he had to climb them on his hands and knees. Sometimes he would not reach home until 2:30 in the morning, and he would be covered with mud from head to foot. No one paid him to do this. He was compelled by his love for the people and the work of God. Eventually, he was able to organize the work into a church with one of his helpers as pastor. This man demonstrated the spirit of an effective church planter.

Application

10 Circle the letter of each description showing the characteristics of an effective church planter.

- a) Philip is a new Christian with a talent for public speaking. He feels he should use his talent for the Lord's work. He wants to preach because he feels that public ministry is more rewarding and important than other ministries.
- b) James has worked faithfully in his church since he was saved four years ago. He diligently studies his Bible and witnesses to the lost under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Frequently he spends Saturdays helping the unsaved and needy people of his town.
- c) The young people in John's neighborhood like to spend evenings in his home. Although it takes much of his time, he listens to their problems, prays with them, counsels them, and gives practical help to solve their problems.

11 In your notebook write the letter of each answer you circled in 10. After each one write the qualities of an effective church planter which are demonstrated by that person.



A Church Planter Brings God's Message

Objective 4. *State basic elements of a church planter's message.*

1. Bible-based message. New churches come into existence as a result of the unsaved hearing the message of the gospel and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. The new converts will have a firm foundation when that message is based on Scripture. The Scriptures are filled with divine authority. The Word of God is powerful; it convicts of sin and judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). Recognizing this power, the apostles referred to the Old Testament Scriptures many times when they preached and taught. They used the Scriptures to show that Christ was the Messiah.

When preaching is based on the Bible, it carries the authority of God and hearers recognize this authority. The unbelieving Jews acknowledged the authority of Jesus' teaching (Matthew 7:29) and were in awe of Him: "No one ever spoke the way this man does" (John 7:46). The power of His Word is available to us today as we preach Bible based-messages. Only a Bible-based message is effective in winning the lost and establishing them in Christ.

2. Christ-centered message. Christ is the center of the message that helps to multiply churches. The good news is that Christ is the Messiah, the One in whom all the ancient prophecies have been fulfilled. He is the One who gave His life on the Cross so people may gain eternal life and forgiveness from sin. The message about the Messiah—the crucified, risen Savior—is the message which helps to make disciples and multiply churches. A great part of the message of the gospel is simply explaining who Jesus is, what He did on earth, the importance of His death and resurrection, and what He is doing and willing to do for those who believe in Him. This message changes people's lives.

3. Need-centered message. The messenger who effectively starts new churches preaches messages that will show hearers that Christ can meet their needs. The person who does not know Jesus often feels alone with no one to turn to for help. Some people are full of fear. Such people feel a need for help from someone or something beyond themselves. This search for help causes them

to take part in all sorts of religious rituals, hoping they will find an answer to their needs. Some worship ancestors. Others seek protection from the spirit world. An example of preaching to meet the needs of such people would be a message that gives a simple explanation of how sin separates from God and how Christ's sacrifice allows people to be reunited in fellowship with God. Fellowship with God gives us the resources to meet all our needs.

An evangelist friend of mine preaches a simple Christ-centered message. Often people who are sick come to hear. He does not claim to be a healer, but he tells the people how Jesus healed the sick. He tells them Jesus still heals today, and will hear them if they pray to Him in faith. Hundreds have been healed and thousands have become believers through this brother's ministry. Many churches have been started because my friend preaches to meet the needs of the people.

The gospel is a message of hope which meets the needs of the human heart. The effective messenger will understand these needs and will show how Christ can meet those needs. A need-centered message reaches people. This is the first step in starting new churches.

Application

12 Some of the topics of the following messages contain examples of qualities which are helpful in starting new churches. Match the quality (right) with the message described (left).

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------|
| ... a | Focuses on political problems and suggests solutions | 1) Need-centered |
| ... b | Speaks of God's power to heal the sick | 2) Bible-based |
| ... c | Explains Scriptures about God's love | 3) Christ-centered |
| ... d | Criticizes beliefs of other religions | 4) No spiritual quality |
| ... e | Explains salvation through Jesus Christ | |
-

THE POWER OF THE CHURCH

Objective 5. *Describe the Holy Spirit's work in church planting.*

The Holy Spirit Empowers Church Planters

A few years ago in the capital city of an African country, there was only one evangelical church. In a mountain region of that same country, a Christian man felt that God called him to preach the gospel. This brother had a government job with a high salary. When he quit the job to go to Bible school, his relatives were angry and persecuted him greatly. He had a wife and four small children. It was very difficult to provide for his family in the way he had before he began his studies. When he graduated from Bible school, he went to the capital city to start a new church. He started with only a few believers. Life was difficult for him and his family in the city where prices were high, but he remained faithful. Today the church is large enough to support him, and it is still growing. It is true that he receives only one-fifth of the salary he was receiving from the government, but he feels all the struggle was worthwhile because a new church was planted. Six years ago there was only one evangelical church in the capital city, but other people also followed the Lord's command and became church planters. Today that city has eighteen evangelical churches.

Why would a man leave a good job to start a church? Why would he be willing to suffer persecution from relatives? Because God has spoken to him by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers people to believe God for help in reaching unreached peoples and in starting new churches.

We cannot be effective church planters without the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power. Then they would be effective in His service (Acts 1:4–5, 8). In this course you are studying important methods and principles of church planting, but you will not be an effective church planter unless you are ministering the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Messages anointed by the Holy Spirit will be effective.

Application

13 Read Acts 1:4–5 and 8. Then write the answers to the following questions in your notebook.

- a)** What were the disciples to do first?
 - b)** What was promised?
 - c)** What would happen in a few days?
 - d)** What would this do for them?
 - e)** Where were they to go?
-

The Holy Spirit Gives Life to the Church

In addition to using good methods for church planting, it is most important to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in giving the local church spiritual power. With proper methods and divine power, local churches can effectively multiply themselves by planting other churches. Just as the Holy Spirit enables the individual to believe for salvation so the Holy Spirit gives living, active faith to the church. Powerful evangelism may occur, but good methods combined with the power of the Holy Spirit are necessary to conserve the results and provide the support necessary to promote spiritual vitality and healthy growth.

The following example demonstrates how the Holy Spirit will revitalize a church when the believers commit themselves to prayer and claim His power.

In a Latin American country, there were very few churches and the believers were jealous and suspicious of each other. They were not zealous to do the work of God. Several Christians who were concerned about the poor spiritual condition of the churches began to meet to pray. In one week, 75 believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, and within 18 months about 300 received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Within two years the number of believers and churches had almost doubled. The gospel was being preached in remote unreached areas of the country by believers who were full of the power of the Holy Spirit and zealous to work for God.

That is the combination of dedicated service and the power of the Holy Spirit we see in the New Testament. Mark observes, “Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it” (Mark 16:20).

Application

14 Read the following verses from the book of Acts. After each one write a brief description of what it shows about the Holy Spirit’s role in helping the apostles’ ministry.

a) Acts 2:14–41

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.....

b) Acts 4:7–10

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c) Acts 6:8

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d) Acts 8:30–31

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e) Acts 13:24

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As we work to obey Christ’s command to make disciples in all the world, we can learn from New Testament examples of the work of the early church. Like early Christians we must work in the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. Then we will build a thriving, dynamic church of the kind Jesus envisioned: “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades

will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18). May God richly encourage you and fill you with the power of the Holy Spirit as you continue to study methods of starting new churches.

self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. There is only one correct answer for each question. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 1** To apply an early church principle of church planting one could
- a)** go daily from town to town preaching to as many as possible.
 - b)** preach in an open air service, then gather new believers for teaching.
 - c)** direct most evangelism to children because they have unbiased minds.
 - d)** require new believers to adopt specific patterns of worship.
- 2** Events in the book of Acts show that preaching which helps to multiply churches is
- a)** scripturally based on divine authority.
 - b)** an argument against idolatry.
 - c)** based on requirements of the Mosaic law.
 - d)** used to condemn followers of other religions.
- 3** Which describes a person who allows the Holy Spirit to work in his or her life?
- a)** Joe preaches about the sins of idolatry to a group of people who have never heard the gospel.
 - b)** William is fearful to tell his father that he has become a Christian.
 - c)** John preaches at a village even after the heathen people have burned the new church building.
 - d)** Sarah hears the gospel several times, then decides to wait to decide about giving her life to Christ.
- 4** Pastors, elders, prophets, and administrators are ministry gifts used primarily
- a)** for evangelizing the lost.
 - b)** in the church body.
 - c)** outside the church as a witness.

5 Which pastor is encouraging the church as a body to develop the use of ministry gifts?

- a)** John allows every member to participate in church ministries according to his or her ability.
- b)** Samuel carefully selects those with leadership abilities to participate in ministry.

6 Faith which enables a person to believe for salvation is a result of

- a)** hearing the eloquent preaching of the church planter.
- b)** efficient planning of evangelistic services.
- c)** systematic memorizing of doctrine.
- d)** hearing the Word of God.

TRUE-FALSE. Write T in front of the TRUE statements, and F in front of those which are FALSE.

- ... **7** The primary purpose of the local church body is to hold evangelistic services to preach to unbelievers.
- ... **8** The main purpose for ministry gifts in the church is to enable all members to speak in tongues.
- ... **9** Ministry gifts are in the church to strengthen the believers in faith and knowledge of the Word.
- ... **10** To witness to unbelievers and make disciples is a special calling for only certain Christians.
- ... **11** Accounts in Acts indicate that winning adults to Christ helps to bring families to the Lord.
- ... **12** A church multiplies through the Holy Spirit's power to conserve the work of evangelism and promote spiritual growth.

answers to study questions

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so that you will not easily see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Try not to look ahead.

- 8 a)** to evangelize, then to build up new believers, who then are able to evangelize and bring other new believers into the church.
- 1 a)** True
- b)** False. After Pentecost the believers worshipped openly in the temple courts, in homes, and other public places.
- c)** True
- d)** False. New converts were baptized immediately after repentance. See Acts 2:41.
- 9 b)** the gospel must be preached and the believers nurtured and cared for in order for the church to grow and bear fruit. Similarly, seed must be planted and the crops watered and cared for if they are to produce.
- 2 a)** salvation is only through the acceptance of the grace of Jesus Christ.
- 10 b)** James has worked faithfully in his church since he was saved four years ago. He diligently studies his Bible and witnesses to the lost under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Frequently he spends Saturdays helping the unsaved and needy people of his town.
- c)** The young people in John's neighborhood like to spend evenings in his home. Although it takes much of his time, he listens to their problems, prays with them, counsels them, and gives practical help to solve their problems.
- 3 a)** 3) Acts 2:14–41; 4:1–2
- b)** 2) Acts 5:12, 25, 42
- c)** 1) Acts 13:1–3
- d)** 6) Acts 15:1–20
- e)** 5) Acts 10; 16:31–33
- f)** 4) Acts 2:41–47

- 11** In any order
- b)** Born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, servant, love and compassion for the lost, a mature Christian.
 - c)** Servant, love and compassion for people, man of prayer.
- 4 a)** 1) Evangelism
- b)** 2) Teaching
 - c)** 2) Teaching
 - d)** 1) Evangelism
- 12 a)** 4) No spiritual quality
- b)** 1) Need-centered
 - c)** 2) Bible-based
 - d)** 4) No spiritual quality
 - e)** 3) Christ-centered
- 5 b)** and **d)** are true.
- 13 a)** They were to wait in Jerusalem.
- b)** They would receive the gift of the Father.
 - c)** They would be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - d)** They would receive power and become witnesses.
 - e)** They were to go to Jerusalem, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.
- 6 a)** Prophecy
- b)** Serving, teaching
 - c)** Wisdom, knowledge, faith, miracles, healing, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, distinguishing of spirits
 - d)** Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
 - e)** Deacons, overseers
- 7 a)** To all believers, or all the body of Christ
- b)** To prepare for service, and build up the body of Christ
 - c)** Your answer. Examples could be teaching, edifying, or leadership

14 Your answer

- a)** The Holy Spirit helped Peter preach a message and many people repented and were baptized.
- b)** The Holy Spirit helped people through the disciples and helped the disciples when they were in trouble with the authorities.
- c)** He helped Stephen do miracles.
- d)** He helped Philip explain the gospel to the man in the chariot.
- e)** He directed people to become involved in special ministry.

LESSON

2 Churches and Their Mission

“It’s been a wonderful week,” David was very excited as he began to tell Brother Eyo about their experiences at Gane. “Several more people have been saved, two were marvelously healed, and a notorious drunkard accepted the Lord. All the town is amazed at his new life.

“And not only that,” John interrupted, “the new Christians meet together every evening and sing with such joy almost the whole town comes to listen. We’re amazed at how much the church is growing.”

“That is the purpose of the church in the world,” replied Brother Eyo, “to show people the power of Christ to meet their greatest needs. When they see this, they are eager to come to listen to your message.”

In this lesson you will learn how God used the apostles to establish the principles which guide the mission of the church. The New Testament provides good examples of these principles, and you will see how they can be applied today.

lesson outline

The Mission Defined

The Mission Begun

The Mission Continues

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Define the mission of the church.
2. Identify from the book of Acts events that stimulated church growth.
3. Identify principles of church organization that were followed by leaders of the New Testament church.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson development and answer the study questions according to the procedure given in Lesson 1.
2. Carefully read Acts 1–20.
3. Learn the meanings of key words that are new to you.
4. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson.
5. Review Lessons 1 and 2, then answer the questions in unit student report for Unit 1.

key words

administration	finances	ritual
Aramaic	flexible	sanctity
conversion	magnetic	spiritual
deacon	mission	strategic
delegate	organizational	supernatural
divisive	personality	systematic
doctrinal	phenomenal	Talmud

lesson development

THE MISSION DEFINED

Objective 1. *Define the mission of the church.*

The church in the New Testament established principles by which its mission was to be accomplished. Methods, of course, have changed and will change, but the mission that was established by the Holy Spirit at the birth of the church will remain.

What do we mean by the mission of the church? Mission may generally be defined as the carrying out of the redemptive purposes of God to all peoples. The church came into being because of God's redemptive purpose. The church is the body of Christ and therefore the instrument through which God's desires and purposes must be carried out (Ephesians 3:10–11). Jesus stated the means by which the purpose would be accomplished when He said to His disciples, “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus further defined the mission of the church in terms of where and how.

Jesus clearly stated where the mission of the church would be when He spoke the words we call the Great Commission: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). The mission of the church is to go everywhere with the gospel and make disciples in all nations.

Jesus wants His church to search for and rescue the lost everywhere. The Lord's parables emphasized finding. The woman did not merely search everywhere for her lost coin, but she searched until she found it (Luke 15:9). The shepherd searched for his lost sheep until he found it and joyfully brought it home (Luke 15:5). When the servant told the master of the feast that the invited guests would not come, the master told him to go and continue inviting until he found those who would come (Luke 14:21–23).

Jesus carefully instructed His disciples not to stay where the gospel was rejected, but to continue on to towns where the people would receive it (Matthew 10:14). The apostles followed His instructions (Acts 13:51). However, while the apostles did not continue with those who rejected the gospel, they did preach to persuade. Paul, while in Corinth, “every Sabbath . . . reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks” (Acts 18:4).

The mission of the church is to all cultures, and social and economic levels. Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost to Jews in Jerusalem. The church was formed among the believing Jews who then became the bridge to the Gentiles. From the Jew first, the church went out to all peoples.

How could human instruments carry out God’s purpose in the world? The mission of the church began in the power of the Holy Spirit. The apostles and the early church had to have inward power to propel them forward. They had become co-laborers with God to accomplish His purpose. Before Jesus commanded the disciples to go to the ends of the earth, He said, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8). The principle has always remained: The internal power of the Spirit must be in the church before the external mission can begin.

Application

1 In your own words define the term *mission* as related to the church.

.....
.....

2 What are three directives of presenting the gospel that we learn from these Scripture passages?

a) Matthew 28:19

b) Luke 15:5, 9

c) Matthew 10:14; Acts 13:51

3 Read Acts 1:8. Explain how the church was able to begin its great mission.

.....

.....

THE MISSION BEGUN

The Church Grew

Objective 2. *Identify from the book of Acts events that stimulated church growth.*

The church in New Testament grew rapidly as people became believers every day (Acts 2:41, 47). The church did not grow simply because people wanted to find something new to believe. In fact, many who did believe were thrown into prison, beaten, or even killed. Yet many thousands of people became believers, and the gospel spread throughout many areas in just a few years. Believers followed Christ because their needs were being met by His power. In a short time following its birth, the church had grown by thousands of new believers. Certain principles used by the apostles then still promote church growth today.

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

On the Day of Pentecost Peter preached the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He proclaimed to the Jews that all these events were in direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (Acts 2:21–31; 3:13). Stephen preached God’s plan for His people as detailed in known Old Testament events (Acts 7). At the house of Cornelius, Peter stated, “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43).

Through the power of the Word anointed by the Holy Spirit, “the people . . . were cut to the heart and said to Peter . . . ‘what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). They accepted his message and about three thousand believers were added to the church that

day (Acts 2:41). The purpose of the apostles' ministry was to cause people to believe in Christ as their Savior (Acts 2:37). They did not preach to set forth a new religion. They preached with the power of the Holy Spirit to prove that the prophecies of the Messiah pointed to Jesus Christ who was crucified, buried, and resurrected.

Application

4 Read the verses of Scripture listed, then mark 1) in front of those containing prophecy of Christ's messiahship, and 2) for those referring to His suffering or resurrection.

- ... **a** Psalm 2:1–2
- ... **b** Psalm 16:8–11
- ... **c** Psalm 22:1
- ... **d** Psalm 22:18
- ... **e** Psalm 110:1–2
- ... **f** Isaiah 9:6–7
- ... **g** Isaiah 53:4–5, 11
- ... **h** Micah 5:2
- ... **i** Zechariah 9:9

RELIANCE ON THE SUPERNATURAL

The next event recorded in Acts about the activities of the apostles after the Day of Pentecost is Peter and John going into the temple. At the gate called Beautiful they met a crippled beggar who was known to all the people. Peter took him by the hand and said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ . . . and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong” (Acts 3:6–7). As the people looked on in astonishment and the crippled man leaped and praised God, Peter took this opportunity to preach to the onlookers. Once again, he proclaimed Christ and forgiveness through His name (Acts 3:17–23).

When the people saw miracles of healing performed by the power of God and saw lives changed, they believed that Christ could also meet their needs. The church followed the example of the apostles. Other believers began to be used in ministry gifts. In each case their ministries were like the apostles' ministries (Acts 6:8; 8:4–8). Demons were cast out and cripples were healed (Acts 3:6–9). When the people saw the power with which the gospel message was preached, they gained faith to believe for salvation (1 Corinthians 2:4). There was great joy in the hearts of the people. The church grew, and new believers were added daily.

Application

5 The following passages of Scripture contain statements about people believing and the church growing. Read each passage carefully. Then in your notebook answer these two questions about the event described in each passage: 1) What happened to cause the people to believe and the church to grow? 2) Is this event an example of the principle of The Authority of Scripture or Reliance on the Supernatural that we have studied in this section? If so, state which one.

- a) Acts 2:14–35
- b) Acts 2:26–41
- c) Acts 2:46–47
- d) Acts 3:6–7
- e) Acts 8:6–7



The Church Spread

Let us examine two important reasons why the church can grow in any country or location.

THROUGH MULTIPLE LEADERSHIP

The church in Jerusalem was well established and growing. Then we read in Acts 5:17–41 that persecution of the church

began. After the death of Stephen “great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria” (Acts 8:1). The church was scattered, but it was not lost. Wherever the believers went new churches came into being. How could this happen? Because of the following principle: The church is not dependent on one person’s personality or authority. Philip went to Samaria (Acts 8:4–8), and Barnabas went to Antioch after other believers had gone there and formed a church body (Acts 11:19–23). Other disciples must have gone to Joppa, Ephesus, and other cities we read about later. There was always a variety of ministries and leaders according to the provision of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:5–8; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11).

BY FLEXIBLE APPROACH

As Jesus had prophesied, the church grew first in Jerusalem (Acts 1:8). Thousands became believers in a short time. Most of them had been Jews who were following the Jewish ceremonial laws. The Holy Spirit guided the new believers to understand that the law was a “teacher” to lead them to salvation by faith. When Gentiles became believers, they were accepted by the Jewish Christians on the basis of their faith in Christ. Both groups learned that the gospel does not require ritual or prescribed ceremony but is received by faith in Jesus Christ.

Application

6 Carlos is a new believer who had belonged to a very ritualistic religion. Now he worries that he is not a good Christian because he is not performing religious ceremonies. Circle the letter of the verses of Scripture you would use to help him.

- a)** Romans 1:17
- b)** Romans 3:9
- c)** Romans 3:24
- d)** Philippians 3:9
- e)** Titus 3:5
- f)** 2 Peter 3:3

7 Briefly state the central truth you want Carlos to know from these verses.

.....



When Paul spoke to the Athenians who had no knowledge of God or the Jewish law, he found a common ground on which to gain their attention (Acts 17:16–33). He saw their interest in philosophical discussions and in exploring new ideas. He used their interest in many different religions as an approach to preach to them about the true God. In Acts 17:32–34 Luke records some of the Athenians saying, “‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’ . . . A few men became followers . . . Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, . . . and a number of others.”

Only the truth of salvation, not ceremonies or customs, must be taught as the gospel is preached around the world to many different peoples. What the early church taught was the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ. How people worshipped depended on their own culture. The message of the gospel is not the rules, rituals, or ceremonies of a particular religion. It is a message of being brought into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Knowing that one’s sins are forgiven, and experiencing the joy of salvation—these have no barriers of race, language, culture, or country. That is the power of the gospel.

Application

- 8** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement that explains correctly why the church can grow among all people.
- a)** The gospel of Christ meets spiritual needs of people everywhere.
 - b)** Believers everywhere should follow the same ceremonies when they worship.
 - c)** Salvation through faith in Christ can be accepted by people of all cultures.
 - d)** The Christian church needs one strong man as leader whom all people can follow.
- 9** Read question 8 again. For each statement that is incorrect, write a short sentence in your notebook explaining why it is not correct.
-

THE MISSION CONTINUES

Organization Developed

Objective 3. *Identify principles of church organization that were followed by leaders of the New Testament church.*

At the time of the birth of the church in Jerusalem there was no prearranged structure of church organization. Jesus had already chosen the apostles who provided leadership for the new congregation. Let us examine some principles established by the apostles as the church was organized to accomplish its mission.

Organizational structure was developed to meet needs. The structure was not made just for the sake of organization; rather, it was provided as required by the needs of the church.

When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 people accepted Christ. Most of them were Grecian (Hellenic) Jews. These were people who lived throughout the Roman world, outside of Palestine. Although they were still Jews, they had adopted much of the Greek culture, and they spoke

the local languages of the region where they lived. There were many thousands of the Grecian Jews in the streets of Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost when Peter stood up to preach.

After the festival of Pentecost, the number of believers continued to grow. Soon the number of believers from Judea overtook the number of Greek-speaking believers. This caused the first administrative problem in the early church. The Greek-speaking believers (Acts 6:1) felt their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. The apostles realized the problem was deeper than simply having enough help to distribute the food. It was a leadership problem which called for new organizational structure.

The apostles told the Greek-speaking believers to “choose seven men from among you” (v. 3) whom they could put in charge of the distribution. All seven men were members of the Grecian group, as is shown by the fact that they had Grecian, rather than Aramaic names. These Greek-speaking leaders did not replace the authority of the apostles. They simply provided direct leadership for their group. This new organizational structure was approved by the apostles (Acts 6:6), and it provided for a clear line of authority and a smooth functioning in the church.

Local churches were first established in strategic population centers. While the Scripture gives us no evidence that the apostles sat down together and made an organizational plan for church planting, we do know that the Holy Spirit guided them in terms of where churches should be established. Some of the earliest congregations were founded in places such as Cyprus on the main sea route to the west, and in Antioch, a leading city in the north. At first they preached only to Jews, but soon after, believers traveled from Cyprus and Cyrene and won Greeks to Christ (Acts 11:19–20). Churches were also established in Derbe, Iconium, Lystra, and other centers in Asia Minor. To the west, churches were founded in Corinth and Berea, as well as other main cities in the provinces of Macedonia and Achaia. The cities and towns in which Paul planted churches were centers of Roman administration, of Greek civilization, of

Jewish influence, or of commercial importance. Many travelers passed through these cities. It is likely that people heard and accepted the gospel while there and then took the message to the surrounding areas.

Many experienced and successful church planters follow this same principle today. For instance, in Brazil the church has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years. There the church leaders plan evangelistic crusades in large cities. Many people come into these cities to find work. They have an opportunity to hear the gospel and accept the Lord. Later they may return to their towns and take the gospel message there. As a church is established in a center, it begins to spread out and establish churches in the surrounding areas.

Church finance was a part of worship. Giving offerings was a spontaneous act of worship for the early Christians. No organization can continue to function without planned and accountable financing. There were no pleas and demands for offerings, but believers gave from an inward desire of love and worship. “All the believers were together . . . Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need” (Acts 2:44–45). Paul wrote to the Corinthians that the churches in Macedonia: “Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity . . . they gave . . . even beyond their ability” (2 Corinthians 8:2–3).

When the Christians in Jerusalem were in need, Paul instructed the churches in Corinth and Galatia on a systematic method of giving and sending offerings. Paul made it clear that funds were to be handled in an accountable manner that would be above suspicion (1 Corinthians 16:1–4; 2 Corinthians 8:18–21).

Paul commented on the generosity of the believers and their spontaneous giving to those in the ministry (2 Corinthians 9:1–5). Those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel. The Scriptures reveal that those who receive the blessings of hearing God’s Word should help those who minister (1 Corinthians 9:7–12).

Application

10 Read 1 Corinthians 9:10. What is the significant issue of Paul's statement?

.....

.....

11 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement which describes an aspect of the organizational development of the church as described in the New Testament.

- a)** The New Testament church was developed on the organizational pattern of the synagogue.
- b)** Churches were first established in population centers and then spread from there to surrounding areas.
- c)** The apostles selected the leaders for the Grecian Jews.
- d)** The leaders of the Grecian Jews were responsible to the apostles.
- e)** Every believer was required to give a certain amount of money to support the church.
- f)** The Christian philosophy of giving is stated in 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- g)** The complexity of church organization depends on its needs.



The Church Threatened

When we read about the church in the New Testament we can become awed by the manifestations of power of the Holy Spirit, and the great dedication of the leaders. We may tend to think of that church as ideal and forget that the apostolic church had some very serious problems that threatened its existence. The Holy Spirit guided the apostles to record in Scripture the principles used to solve the problems which threatened the mission of the church.

ADMINISTRATION PROBLEMS

An administrative problem may cause much difficulty in a church today, and that was the first type of problem to threaten the unity of the early church. Their problem was two-fold, but it was overcome by a single solution.

The apostles were overworked and did not have time to see to the details of daily administration. They needed assistants to whom they could delegate responsibility for daily administration, so they could give themselves more fully to the ministry of the Word. This organizational problem was solved by setting up lines of authority and delegating responsibility. As we studied in the previous section, the seven men chosen to assist the apostles worked under their authority.

The second aspect of the administrative problem in Acts 6 concerns the needs of a cultural minority within the church. There was a large minority of Greek-speaking Jews in Jerusalem. They organized their own synagogues, usually according to the regions they lived in before they returned to live in Jerusalem. There were 480 such synagogues in Jerusalem at that time (according to Talmud). The Jews often considered the Grecian Jews to be too worldly because of their Greek style of living. They were often viewed as second class Jews. This prejudice was partly carried over into the early church. It was the Greek-speaking widows who were being neglected in the daily distribution, not entirely all the widows. So it was not just an organizational problem, it was also a cultural problem.

In solving this problem, certain administrative principles can be observed: 1) Leadership responsibility must be partly delegated, and clear lines of authority must be established; 2) Cultural minorities should be represented in the leadership of the church; 3) Leaders should be acceptable to those they lead.

As the church spread to other areas, a need to communicate arose between the apostles and the various groups of believers. When false teachers and dissensions began threatening the church, a central body was needed to make decisions and then

communicate the decisions to all the members of the body. We read in Acts 15 about the important actions of this central administrative council that gathered in Jerusalem. This council gave us a pattern of effective church administration by which the church members can deal with their problems as well as enjoy fellowship together.

What was the pattern of this council? Let us list the main points from Acts 15.


1. The council was headed by the church leaders (v. 6).
2. The council received delegates and reports from the local congregations (vv. 2, 7, 12).
3. The council discussed problems and came to a majority decision (vv. 13, 22).
4. The council sent authorized delegates with a written report of their decision to all the churches (vv. 22–28).
5. The work of the council brought unity (vv. 30–31).

Application

12 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Delegation of responsibility is usually a solution for overworked administrators.
- b)** The early churches' method for selecting delegates is an unsuitable method for churches today.
- c)** Minorities are small groups within a larger group; therefore, they do not always need representation.
- d)** Recognizing the needs of a minority group helped to unify the early church.
- e)** Delegation of responsibility requires clearly established lines of authority.
- f)** Minority groups are usually incapable of selecting their own leaders.

13 Is there a national church council (an administrative body) in your country? How is it similar to the New Testament pattern? How is it different? Write your responses in your notebook.



PERSONALITY DIVISIONS

Human beings seem to have a need for a hero or a dynamic leader to follow. This is why some political leaders, whether good or bad, can gain a large group of followers. Leaders have attracted many people because of their magnetic personalities.

One of the first problems Paul had to deal with when writing to the Corinthian church was the divisive spirit among the believers. The believers wanted to claim that they were disciples of different great Christian leaders. One of them said, “‘I follow Apollos’; another, ‘I follow Cephas’; still another, ‘I follow Christ’” (1 Corinthians 1:12). Paul asked them, “Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?” (1:13). Paul corrected the divisions by pointing out to them that this was a very immature attitude (3:1–5). But more importantly, he directed the believers to Christ and showed them that all disciples are co-laborers together for Christ (3:5–15). Paul’s message is clear: The true Christian leader directs people only to Christ, never to himself.

DOCTRINAL ERRORS AND WRONG PRACTICES

The apostles used their authority and gifts of teaching to correct many types of errors that came into the new church. In the letters to the churches new believers were not told that they were not true Christians; rather, they were told that they needed teaching. That is still the key today: New believers must have teaching from God’s Word. The weaknesses that were in the Corinthian and Galatian churches are representative of problems that must be dealt with today.

Paul’s teaching corrected wrong practices and established a high standard for Christian living. He gave instruction on the question of taking a brother to law, on the sanctity of the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6), and on dealing with problems related to marriage (7:1–15). In 1 Corinthians 12–14, he gives directions concerning the use (and abuse) of the spiritual gifts, particularly speaking in tongues and prophecy.

Wherever Paul taught to correct doctrinal errors, he emphasized the person and work of Christ. He did this to deal with divisions in the church, and especially to refute errors about the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12–28). A true knowledge and understanding of the doctrine of Christ was the very foundation of the church.

Application

14 What was the serious doctrinal error Paul was correcting in 1 Corinthians 15? Write your answer in your notebook.

15 According to 1 Corinthians 15:14, why was it so urgent that Christians understand the correct doctrine on this point? Use your notebook for your response.

IMMORALITY

In many societies today, sexual immorality is a serious problem that can threaten the effectiveness and purity of the church. It is impossible for the church to accomplish its mission of taking Christ to the world if at the same time it overlooks its own sin.

Paul had to deal severely with a case of gross immorality in the Corinthian church. He urged severe discipline for the benefit of the erring man, and taught the church that it is responsible to judge its own members (1 Corinthians 5:2, 4–5). It may seem harsh that Paul instructed the church to “expel the wicked man from among you” (5:13). He used the illustration that a little yeast can affect the whole batch of dough. In verse 7, he urged the believers to “get rid of the old yeast.” He showed the Corinthians that dealing severely with sin is a means of bringing the sinner to repentance (v. 5).

Later, he also tells them, “Now instead, you . . . forgive and comfort him . . . I urge you . . . to reaffirm your love for him” (2 Corinthians 2:7–8).

This is the other side of church discipline. The church must hate sin, but love the sinner. Sin must be dealt with, but those who do so must make a special effort to encourage and restore a repenting brother. “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

FALSE TEACHERS

One of the most difficult and divisive problems the early church faced was the opposition caused by false teachers. Most of these were Jews who were teaching that the Gentile converts must keep the Law of Moses and be circumcised in order to be Christians. Probably some of these people believed they were honoring God’s Word by keeping the Law of Moses. The most dangerous kind of false teachers is of this same type today. They teach a little bit of truth along with their false teaching and so deceive many.

The problem became so severe that it was taken before the council in Jerusalem, where the council made the decision recorded in Acts 15. Instead of the false teachers repenting and correcting their teaching, they went their own way and continued to oppose the church. Paul called these people “savage wolves” who will not spare the flock (Acts 20:29). The church in Galatia was especially affected, so Paul wrote to them to re-establish their faith in the grace of God (Galatians 3:1–4, 19–20). Once again Paul admonished the church that the answer to problems was teaching in the church and a firm faith in Christ (Galatians 5:1). Then he reassured them, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Galatians 5:6).

Application

16 Have you heard of some false teachers in your area? How do they use partial truth to deceive people? Use your notebook.

17 How can you protect yourself and fellow Christians against such teachers? Write your answer in your notebook.

18 Match the type of problem (right) with the scriptural teaching (left) that gives guidance for its solution. You may find the verses in the Bible and read the entire portions for more understanding.

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| ... a | “Choose seven men . . . full of the Spirit . . . We will turn this responsibility over to them.” Acts 6:3–4 | 1) Immorality
2) Personality divisions |
| ... b | “Is Christ divided?” “We are fellow workers.” 1 Corinthians 1:13; 3–9 | 3) Wrong practices
4) Administration problems |
| ... c | “If you have disputes . . . appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!” 1 Corinthians 6:4 | 5) False teachers
6) Doctrinal errors |
| ... d | “You must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler.” 1 Corinthians 5:11 | |
| ... e | “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.” 1 Corinthians 15:12 | |
| ... f | “Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit . . . honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 | |
| ... g | “Be shepherds of the church of God, . . . be on your guard!” Acts 20:28, 31. “Christ has set us free. Stand firm.” Galatians 5:1. | |

In many ways, the New Testament church was unique. However, we know that many principles for planting the church were developed then and should be followed by the church in every age. If we could summarize briefly two key factors that guided the church then and should guide it now, they are: 1) the importance of teaching the Word of God, and 2) a constant focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer to each question.

- 1** The mission of the church is defined as
 - a)** sending missionaries to every country.
 - b)** proclaiming the redemptive purposes of God to all peoples.
 - c)** building the church of Jesus Christ in my community.
 - d)** training leaders for the church in all countries.

- 2** The apostles were able to build the church rapidly in their time because
 - a)** the Jews were ready to receive Jesus as Messiah.
 - b)** they were already powerful leaders in the synagogue.
 - c)** they received the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - d)** they were respected by government officials.

- 3** The growth of the early church was stimulated by the apostles' practice of
 - a)** quoting the Law of Moses and proving that Jesus followed the law.
 - b)** proclaiming that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus were in direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
 - c)** condemning the Jews for their rejection of Jesus and demanding their repentance.
 - d)** preaching a system of ceremonial worship which appealed to all cultures.

- 4** The church leaders' reliance on the power of God is proved in Scripture by
 - a)** miracles of healing, such as the crippled man healed at the temple gate.
 - b)** Philip's casting evil spirits out of many in Samaria.
 - c)** the ability of the apostles to speak and understand all the languages of the countries where they preached.
 - d)** the statements in **a)** and **c)**.
 - e)** the statements in **a)** and **b)**.

5 People of all cultures and classes accepted the gospel because

- a)** the apostles did not reject anyone for his background, but presented salvation only by faith in Christ.
- b)** the church can adapt all forms of religious worship by giving them Christian meanings.
- c)** accepting Christ does not require a declaration of belief.
- d)** Christianity never involves personal suffering.

6 Which is NOT a principle of church organization that was followed by the New Testament church?

- a)** The organizational structure was provided according to the needs of the church.
- b)** The church was financed by spontaneous, worshipful giving.
- c)** All church functions were planned and directed by the head apostle, Peter.
- d)** Churches were started first in principal cities.

7 The description in Acts 6 of selecting the first assistant leaders demonstrates that leaders must be fitted to the task and be

- a)** of the same economic status as those they lead.
- b)** appointed by someone outside the group to avoid prejudice.
- c)** acceptable to those they lead.
- d)** able to work independently of their superiors.

8 The first church council described in Acts 15 set a pattern of administration which includes: those in authority as the head of the council; delegates and reports brought to the council; problems and policies discussed; and

- a)** decision taken to hold a council every two years.
- b)** authorized delegates reported to the churches, or written reports sent to them concerning decisions made.
- c)** method established of electing officials.
- d)** ordination granted to pastors.

- 9** Paul wrote to the Corinthians to teach them Christian standards relating to certain practices. Which is NOT a statement of Paul's teaching?
- a)** A Christian must not take a brother before a heathen court.
 - b)** The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it must be kept pure.
 - c)** A man should divorce his unbelieving wife.
 - d)** Church members should judge and discipline sin within the church.

10 Church leaders can prevent personality divisions in the church by

- a)** frequently changing leadership positions.
- b)** calling everyone "brother" and no one "leader."
- c)** quoting John the Baptist, "He must become greater, I must become less."
- d)** demonstrating that all disciples are co-laborers together for Christ.

11 Teachers of false doctrine are more likely to deceive inquirers when they

- a)** have a large amount of financial support.
- b)** combine partial scriptural truth with false teaching.
- c)** are attractive and have appealing personalities.
- d)** have the authority of the government behind them.

12 The purpose of the letters to the churches (such as Galatians and Corinthians) was to refute false doctrine by giving teaching to the church and

- a)** building a firm faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- b)** making believers fear the false teachings as "savage wolves."
- c)** requiring believers to memorize a standard of faith.
- d)** preparing believers for church membership.

Before you continue your study with Lesson 3, be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit 1 and return the answer sheet to your instructor.

answers to study questions

- 10** Paul is saying that those who preach the gospel should receive some material benefits from their work.
- 1** Your answer. It should include: mission is to share the good news of God's redemptive purpose to all peoples, or, is what God desires.
- 11 b), d), f), and g)** are true.
- 2 a)** The church is to go to all nations and make disciples.
b) The church must search and find the lost and bring them to God.
c) Do not remain long among those who refuse the gospel, but continue on to those you find who will accept.
- 12 a), d), and e)** are true.
- 3** The church began its mission by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 13** Your answer
- 4 a)** 1) Messiahship
b) 2) Suffering or resurrection
c) 1) Messiahship
d) 2) Suffering or resurrection
e) 1) Messiahship
f) 1) Messiahship
g) 2) Suffering or resurrection
h) 1) Messiahship
i) 1) Messiahship
- 14** He was correcting the false teaching that there was no resurrection, and that Christ had not been raised from the dead.

- 5** Your answer should be similar to the following:
- a** 1) From Old Testament prophecy, Peter preached Christ as the Messiah.
2) An example of The Authority of Scripture.
 - b** 1) Peter's preaching made the people realize their sin and need for repentance.
2) An example of The Authority of Scripture.
 - c** 1) The believers' attracted others to believe.
2) Not an example of either
 - d** 1) The crippled man was healed.
2) An example of Reliance on the Supernatural
 - e** 1) Philip did miraculous signs of healing the sick and casting out demons.
2) An example of Reliance on the supernatural

15 If Christ has not been resurrected, then our preaching is useless and faith is in vain. We would be false witnesses about God, since apart from Him there is no salvation.

- 6 a)** Romans 1:17
- c)** Romans 3:24
- d)** Philippians 3:9
- e)** Titus 3:5

16 Your answer. Perhaps they are persons who have magnetic personalities, or they speak very convincingly and deceive people. Or possibly they speak a mixture of truth and lies.

7 Your answer. We cannot earn righteousness. It is received only by faith in accepting Christ's forgiveness and righteousness.

17 Your answer. Perhaps you answered by faithful study of God's Word, by regularly listening to teachers or a pastor who teaches from the Bible and exalts Jesus Christ as Savior, and by seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

8 a) and **c)** are true.

- 18 a** 4) Administrative problems
 - b** 2) Personality divisions
 - c** 3) Wrong practices
 - 4) Administrative problems
 - d** 1) Immorality
 - 3) Wrong practices
 - e** 6) Doctrinal errors
 - f** 1) Immorality
 - g** 5) False teachers
- 9** Your answer should contain these thoughts.
- b)** Salvation is based on one's faith in Christ, not on formal ceremonies.
 - c)** The church has many Holy Spirit anointed leaders with Christ as the true Head.



The Method for Churches

Lessons

- 3 Churches That Govern Themselves**
- 4 Churches That Start New Churches**
- 5 Churches That Support Themselves**

LESSON 3 Churches That Govern Themselves

David and John were happy to talk about the results of their work at Gane. “Brother Eyo,” David began, “We have eighteen new believers, but we are not sure what to do now. We have been leading all the meetings, and the people always want us to make all the plans. We think it is time the people begin to make plans about doing the work of God. What do you think?”

“I think God is giving you both good counsel concerning the new believers at Gane,” said Brother Eyo. “Let us discuss some important things about good local church government.”

When a group of people has responded to the gospel and become believers in Christ, the next important step is to bring them into the body of Christ in the form of a local church. This lesson will discuss the principles of forming a local church that is able to govern itself and continue to grow and fulfill its ministry of evangelism and teaching.

lesson outline

The Importance of Self-Government

The Activities of Self-Government

The Responsibilities of Self-Government

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Explain why self-government should be developed in a local church from its beginning.
2. Identify steps that will enable new believers to prepare themselves for the self-government of their local church.
3. Identify purposes of various business functions as suggested for a self-governing church.
4. State biblical principles regarding corrective discipline in the church body.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson following the procedure given in Lesson 1. Be sure to read all Scripture texts given in the lesson, and answer each study question before checking the answer.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers.

key words

advisory	discipline	recognition
blatant	elder	responsibility
by-laws	leadership	self-governing
commitment	management	self-propagating
conduct	maturity	self-supporting
constitution	minutes	suspend
decision	parliamentary rules	

lesson development

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Objective 1. *Explain why self-government should be developed in a local church from its beginning.*

When a new church is planted, there are three basic goals which will help the church planter establish a new church. The new church should work to be self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting. If any one of these goals is neglected, the church may not grow successfully. In some areas, churches that achieve these goals are called self-reliant or indigenous churches.

The First Step

Even though the goal of self-government may be the most difficult to achieve, it is very important. The long-term life of the church really depends on it. The spiritual responsibility that is necessary to accomplish the goals of self-propagation and self-support will not be possible without the foundation of self-government. If new converts do not develop a sense of responsibility for self-government, there may be little or no spiritual growth. The new church probably will welcome the church planter's leadership in the beginning, but like a growing child, so it will want and need independence.

It is wise for the church planter to recognize and work with the need with right timing, or discontentment may come into the church. This and divisions in the church can be prevented if plans for self-government are made from the beginning and implemented as soon as possible.

In an area where the Christian message is new to the culture, the church planter may assume that the new believers are not capable of governing their own church. He may feel he must continue to supervise the growing church. However, in every society, no matter how primitive, people have a form of local government and can understand levels of authority. Even without the benefit of formal education, people have the common sense to realize some form of leadership is needed

and useful. How much more, then, will believers who have the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be able to administer the work of their church.

How a new church begins is the way it may tend to continue. If the first believers are allowed to depend heavily upon the church planter to make decisions about the church, the new believers may continue to depend upon the one who led them to the Lord. The new Christians will need help and guidance, but it must be guidance in making their own decisions in relation to the governing of their church.

Self-Governing Churches Gain Maturity

How did the apostle Paul establish churches? He did not go out merely to bring sinners to conversion. Paul did not establish “outstations” or “missions.” He went out to establish churches that could continue to carry the gospel message throughout their region. He founded the church in centers where local leaders continued the work. We read in Acts that in places where the apostles preached they were followed by many others that taught and preached the Word of the Lord (Acts 15:35). When Paul returned to visit the churches he had founded, “the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers” (Acts 16:5).

The Scriptures do not give details on how these churches were governed or the procedures used to establish a church organization. In this lesson we will discuss those teachings given in Scripture about the offices and responsibilities in the church. How government has been developed in the church will be discussed from the experience of those who have successfully planted churches in various parts of the world. Their suggestions can give you guidelines for adapting methods that can be useful in your area.

Just as a child matures more adequately if given responsibility, so will a new church. A wise church planter teaches the new group about the functions and purpose of the church. He teaches from the Word about the blessing and necessity of meeting and worshipping together, about the importance of studying God’s Word, and what it means to be part of the body of Christ. Careful and patient teaching will give direction to the new believers on

decisions that can best be made by them. There are many which can be made best by the believers because they know their own community. For instance, where, when, and how often should the new believers meet together? How many of these meetings should be for prayer and worship? How many should be for teaching? What time of the day or evening should the meetings be? In many communities the church has a worship service on Sunday morning and Sunday evening. In some cities however, the only time the believers can meet is on Sunday afternoon. All these decisions can be made by the new believers themselves. Making these decisions will help to develop their growing sense of responsibility. They will become active in those meetings which they have decided are the most necessary. The role of the church planter is to teach related portions of Scripture that will give guidance in helping the new church make decisions.

By making their own decisions, new believers learn to value the opinions and spiritual maturity of certain ones in their own group. As these leaders mature in their abilities, the local church is better able to govern itself. Having confidence in their own leaders can help promote unity within the body of believers. By making its own decisions, the church has an opportunity to assume responsibility in handling its own affairs, and believers can determine how they can best serve God.

Application

1 Certain tasks are involved in the early development of self-government in the church. Write 1) in front of those that may best be done by the new believers, and 2) if by the church planter.

- ... **a** Select the meeting place
- ... **b** Decide on the hours for services
- ... **c** Teach the necessity of worship and Bible study
- ... **d** Decide the frequency and type of services
- ... **e** Explain the significance of the body of Christ
- ... **f** Conduct the first Bible studies

- 2** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement of why self-government is needed in a local church from its beginning.
- a)** Self-government is a necessary part of the foundation for self-propagation and self-support.
 - b)** Taking the responsibilities of self-government aids in developing the spiritual maturity of the believers.
 - c)** Self-government is primarily needed to prevent foreign cultural influences.
 - d)** Early self-government may help to prevent discontent among able local leaders.
 - e)** The first purpose of self-government is to eliminate unqualified leaders.
 - f)** Relying on the ability of leaders from within their own group can promote unity in the church.
-

THE ACTIVITIES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Acceptance of Standards

Objective 2. *Identify steps that will enable new believers to prepare themselves for the self-government of their local church.*

As he gathers a group of new converts together, the church planter becomes a teacher to instruct the new believers in the doctrines of the Christian faith. One of the purposes of the teaching is to help the believers form themselves into a local church. What steps can the church planter follow that will help the group become an established, self-governing local church?

First, the converts need teaching that will bring them to an understanding that the Christian faith is founded on the Scripture. The teaching in 1 Peter 3:15 points out the importance of believers having their faith founded in God's Word: "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." As the believers understand the doctrines and apply the teaching, they can begin to work together to fulfill the purpose of the church.

Furthermore, it is especially important that biblical standards become the believers' own standards for conduct and beliefs. It is not sufficient that they learn a statement of doctrine with a list of Scripture references, or a set of rules. New believers need patient teaching so that they will understand scriptural requirements and apply the teaching. The teaching may require considerable time, depending on their needs, until the standards become their own convictions. If it is to be their church, it must be their standards.

As the believers can express their own convictions of Christian belief, they have a basis for fellowship in the church. For a true church to be formed, there needs to be a standard of doctrine and conduct accepted in common by the believers.

Everywhere in the world today there are false teachers; so it is not enough to say that the basis for our fellowship is the Bible alone. Many false cults make the same claim. To be able to work together as part of the body of Christ, the church needs to be in agreement on certain fundamental standards of fellowship (1 Corinthians 1:10). For instance, it usually is a normal requirement that a person be born again before he or she can become a member. And the believer must live in a way that indicates a new life in Christ. Depending on the cultural background of the area, the believers may come to other agreements based on their guidance from Scripture.

As the church planter is helping the new believers to form their church, there may be certain cultural problems that confront them. Many of these can be serious problems which may require long discussions and patient teaching to help the believers agree on biblical standards of handling the problems. For example, in some societies are marriage customs that do not conform to Christian teaching; in other places such things as cheating on taxes, stealing, and bribery are socially acceptable practices. In other countries there are legal or social restrictions against Christianity. Dealing with such difficult problems requires sincere prayer and faithful seeking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When the believers themselves know the leading of the Holy Spirit in these difficult matters, they are better able to uphold their standards of belief and conduct.

Application

3 From the foregoing discussion we learn that new converts can be helped to form a self-governing church as they are brought to

- a)** an understanding that Christian life is based on Scripture.
- b)** acceptance of scriptural standards as their own concept of conduct and belief.
- c)** agreement on points of fundamental doctrine as a basis of fellowship in the church body.
- d)** all of the above.

4 (Circle the letter in front of the correct completions.)

Agreement on standards is necessary for a new church because the agreement will

- a)** form a basis of church government and fellowship.
- b)** give the church planter rules for discipline.
- c)** be a help to understand Scripture and prevent error.
- d)** help the believers relate doctrine to their daily lives.

5 The church planter can assist the church to build a firm foundation for self-government by

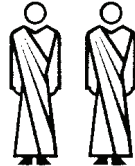
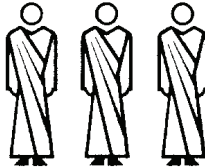
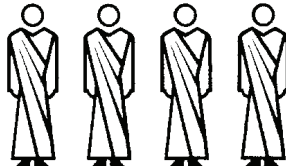
- a)** guiding believers to an understanding of scriptural teachings which will become their own standards for Christian life.
- b)** having believers memorize scriptural standards which teach the rules of the church.



Organizing the Church

In the book of Acts and in Paul's letters to the churches, we are not given specific details regarding the organization of church government. Paul's letters give the requirements and responsibilities for leadership positions in the church, referring to them as elders, overseers (bishops), and deacons. Elder was a title used in the Jewish temple (Acts 4:23), so it was a position of authority familiar to the Jewish Christians. This title was frequently used to indicate Christian leaders in the book of Acts. It is apparent that the elders had pastoral and administrative positions. The elders worked with the apostles in the important decisions made at the Jerusalem council

(Acts 15). Paul reminded Timothy to “not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you” (1 Timothy 4:14). Another position mentioned, that of overseer, seemed to include a number of the same responsibilities as an elder, and in some references the titles seem to be used interchangeably. Acts 20:17 says that Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus, and in his farewell to them he admonished them to guard themselves and their flock (v. 28). To Titus Paul wrote, “an overseer is entrusted with God’s work” (Titus 1:7), and “must hold firmly to the trustworthy message . . . so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine” (v. 9). Deacons apparently had a helping ministry, perhaps as assistants to the elders and overseers (Acts 6:1–4). Paul addressed his letter to the Philippians to “the saints . . . together with the overseers and deacons” (Philippians 1:1) indicating that while these were separate positions, the various offices worked together. Deacons were required to be men of mature spiritual quality (1 Timothy 3:8). We will discuss more about the qualifications and responsibilities of church leaders in Lesson 6.

**APOSTLES****ELDERS OR OVERSEERS****DEACONS**

LEADERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The qualities required of those responsible for the government of the church are stated in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1–8; Titus 1:6–9), but how the work was to be done is not specifically given. Perhaps from this we can learn that the Holy Spirit intended that as the church grew throughout the various cultures, qualified people would lead in matters of church government according to the needs and circumstances of their time and culture.

In the following discussion we will consider some of the organizational responsibilities of self-government that has been, and is being, done in evangelical churches in various countries. These are suggestions that may guide you and may be adapted to meet the particular needs of your area.

Decisions on Membership

The strength of each local church is in its membership. Faithful, well instructed believers will normally produce an active, faithful, growing local church. As the church planter teaches believers the principles of Christian living, he can expect that they will show the fruit of a Christian life. One of the first tasks of organizing the church usually is that the church decides the requirements for water baptism and membership.

Some church planters have followed the practice that if a church is planted in an area new to the Christian faith, they ask an experienced pastor from a neighboring area to assist them in examining the first several candidates for baptism. They feel that this prevents new believers from having the impression that the church planter is solely responsible for such decisions. Then, as soon as a sufficient number is qualified for membership, a committee of at least three members is selected to serve with the church planter as an examining committee to approve candidates for water baptism and membership of other new believers. It is helpful that this committee be formed as soon as the first members are accepted into the new church. Those serving on the committee usually know the lives of those applying for baptism and membership; consequently, their

decisions are more acceptable to the new converts than if the church planter tried to make the decision alone.

Preparing Leaders in the Church

Can a new church produce qualified leaders to work within the church? If it is to be truly self-governing, obviously the leadership must come from among the body of believers. The church planter's goal is to build a self-governing church. So from the first group of converts he is alert to recognize those who show leadership qualities. He can begin a plan of training for them, and usually people who are potential leaders are eager to accept responsibility. The process and methods of training leaders for work in the church will be discussed further in Lesson 6.

From the record in Acts we see that it was Paul's method to train leaders in the local area. He ministered for an extended period of time in the strategic centers, leaving trained leaders to continue to minister in an established church. Then he went on to minister in another place. He visited the churches in the province again after an interval of a few months and in some cases it was three years before his next visit. The record of Acts 16:4–5 tells us that, "they traveled from town to town . . . the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers." In his letter to Timothy, Paul admonishes, "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2). The letters Paul wrote were to established, self-governing churches.

Selecting a Pastor

Once there is a group of members in the new church, the next step is to select a pastor. If the church planter has made his home where the church is located, usually the members want him to be the pastor. Since it may be already assumed that the church planter should be the pastor, some may question why it is necessary to select him as pastor. Sometime in the future the church will need to select a new pastor; therefore, it

is helpful for the new church to have the opportunity to learn the process by selecting their first pastor. How the believers go about deciding on a pastor will probably depend on the local customs of selecting leadership. In some churches, members meet together and come to a mutual agreement that they will invite a given person to be their pastor. Other groups prefer to vote, and the majority makes the decision. However it is done, the important matter is that the believers agree to work together with their pastor to accomplish God's purpose for the church.

Boards and Committees

As the church grows and its members become more mature in the matters of conducting the church, they may find it helpful to choose different boards and committees to direct the ministries of the church. In this way, many groups have found that responsibilities of the church can be shared among the members. We have already discussed the membership committee. There are two other administrative groups that many churches have found to be helpful in the church.

1. Advisory committee: This group may be called by other titles in different areas. Some groups have found that in the beginning the new church may not have enough qualified people to form a board of deacons or elders. In such cases, they select a committee to work with the pastor in the church. There may be times when the pastor has to be away from the church, or in some cases, one person may have to pastor more than one church in an area of rapid growth. The advisory committee serves to assist the pastor so the new works are not left without leadership.

2. The church board: The qualifications for elders and deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3:1–13 and in Titus 1:5–9. By whatever title the church leaders are called, these verses list their qualifications. Many churches refer to the leaders who assist the pastor as deacons, although in this present time, their work is more like that of the New Testament elders. They usually have some spiritual ministry as well as assisting with the general business of the church. In some places, it is

the practice to elect three deacons when the church board is first organized, then add another deacon for every fifty new members up to the number of nine board members. Usually the pastor serves as chairman of the board, and the whole group works together as a church council. If the pastor has to be away, the senior board member may be in charge of the church activities. There may be a second and third deacon appointed who also may be in charge if necessary. With this sort of plan, there is no question about leadership, and the ministry of the church can continue smoothly in the absence of the pastor.

How the church is governed usually depends on the type of government the people are familiar with in their culture. Some work best with a system in which all have a voice. In that case, decisions are made by voting or some other form of gaining agreement among the members. Others are accustomed to have one leader they recognize. They trust him to select those who will work with him. One precedent we can learn from Scripture, however, is that “one man rule” is not the biblical pattern. Acts 15 records a church council where important decisions were made. The apostles were the early church leaders, but they worked together with elders of the churches (Acts 15:6, 22). Proverbs 15:22 advises, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Obviously, a large church with thousands of members will need more committees, boards, or councils, than a small, new church of 50 or 100 members. Whatever the number, or by whatever name the group is called, we must keep the main purpose in mind. That is, groups work together with the pastor to accomplish the work of the church. They meet to discuss problems confronting the church, to handle business and financial matters, to pray, to counsel one another, to make plans for expansion and future ministries of the church. Their underlying purpose is to do whatever they can to guide the church to win the lost and advance the kingdom of God.

Application

6 Match the self-government activity (left) with the person or group primarily responsible (right).

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ... a Prepares church leaders | 1) The membership committee |
| ... b Selects the pastor | 2) The church planter |
| ... c Serves the church, assists the pastor with the work of the church | 3) The church body |
| ... d Approves candidates for church membership | 4) The advisory committee |
| ... e Plans for expansion and future ministries | 5) The church body |
| ... f Assists church planter with church activities early in its development | |

7 Based on our discussion of church organization, complete the following statements.

- a)** Scripture tells us the spiritual requirements of those responsible for church government, but not how to govern. We can assume the reason is
- b)** It is a wise practice that local believers serve with the church planter on a membership committee because
- c)** How the church selects who shall be the pastor usually depends on
- d)** To be called a self-governing church, the leadership comes from
- e)** The main purpose of a church board (or council) is to



THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT

Business Sessions

Objective 3. *Identify purposes of various business functions as suggested for a self-governing church.*

To carry out the responsibilities of self-government, most churches find it necessary to hold church business meetings. If the idea of business meetings is new to the people, the congregation may need some instruction on parliamentary procedure. If it is completely new to the congregation, the pastor, or church planter, need not be insistent on following all the rules; however, he should give some basic guides. By his teaching and example he can show the church body that following certain procedures can help accomplish business, aid unity, and prevent angry expressions and useless discussions.

Church Board Meetings

Many church boards follow the practice of having a meeting once a month and calling special meetings whenever necessary. They hold a regular monthly meeting and if there is no business to discuss they use the time to together, have fellowship or have a short Bible study together. This helps them maintain a good working relationship.

To ensure that the board meeting goes more efficiently, it is helpful that the pastor, as chairman of the board, bring a prepared agenda. Any of the board members can feel free to add any items they wish. Most boards find it useful to appoint one member to record all decisions and to keep the minutes with the church records. The usual purpose of board meetings is to discuss and plan management of church finances, plans for building, or gathering information and making plans for changes or expansion of the church ministries. They can prepare reports that give the needs or the accomplishments of the various ministries and present these reports to the church body. The board facilitates the ministry of the church when some new project or ministry is planned. The board can decide how to go about gathering information and making plans and decisions, which then can be presented to the church body for approval.

Church Business Meetings

As a church grows and expands its ministries, it usually is necessary to have a church business meeting at least once a year, or whenever the church decides a meeting is needed. This is a meeting for all the members to attend, and all can participate in the meeting. This is usually a time when the church body hears financial reports and reports about the ministries of the church. It may be a time to receive new members, to hear plans or decisions made by the board, and to express approval or disapproval of such plans and decisions. Some churches hold a business meeting to elect or confirm a new pastor. These meetings are important to a church and to each of its members. They give the church body an opportunity to be informed about the church to participate in decisions, in ministry, and to take responsibility. This promotes a feeling of responsibility for the ministries and a bond of unity in the church.

Adopting a Church Constitution

Sometimes a church body decides that it would like to have its agreements on how the church is to be governed and its decisions regulating standards of fellowship documented in written form. This is usually done in the form of a church constitution. The constitution states the church's understanding on important biblical doctrines and outlines the qualifications for water baptism and church membership. It can include whatever the church members feel needs to be kept in written form. In some countries the national government requires the church to adopt a constitution before it can be officially recognized. This may be important in some areas to allow marriages to be performed in the church or to allow the church to have some representation to the government in case it should ever be necessary.

If there is a national church organization, often it will recommend a model constitution for new churches to follow. The main purpose for a constitution is to provide a basis for fellowship and to promote unity in the work of God. Having

a written standard of doctrine and conduct can help to prevent errors in doctrine that may arise at a later time, as well as strengthening the church in having a unified purpose.

Official Recognition

If there is a national church organization, the new church can be officially recognized as part of the fellowship. Usually this is a joy and blessing to a new congregation—to experience the blessing of being part of a larger fellowship. In many areas, especially rural, a highlight of the year is when many churches of an area gather for an annual convention. The believers have opportunities for wider ministry and know the joy of working together with other congregations to spread the gospel. Many new believers have been greatly encouraged to learn that they are not alone, but part of the worldwide church.

Application

8 The business functions of the church are needed to accomplish certain purposes. Based on our discussion, match the function (right) with its purpose (left).

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ... a Provides opportunity for wider ministry and experience of fellowship in a larger body | 1) Church business meeting |
| ... b Enables the church body to be informed of ministries, encourages responsibility, promotes unity | 2) Board meetings |
| ... c Plans and facilitates ministry of church, records and reports finances, does expansion planning | 3) Official recognition |
| ... d Provides a statement of doctrine, a standard for membership, helps prevent doctrinal error | 4) Adopting a constitution |



The Responsibility of Discipline

Objective 4. *State biblical principles regarding corrective discipline in the church body.*

One of the most difficult and unpleasant tasks facing church leaders is that of properly administering corrective discipline. When an individual identifies himself as a Christian brother, then there is a certain expectation by the church that his behavior will be conformed to the biblical standards of Christian living. Knowing how and when to confront a church member in a disciplinary way requires wisdom and the proper attitude and motive on the part of the leadership of the church.

The proper attitude and motivation for discipline is one of genuine care and concern for the offending party and for the church fellowship as a whole. Leaders cannot effectively lead erring members to repentance if they act critically or project the idea that they do not have the brother's true interests at heart. The goal of discipline is restoration through repentance. Anything which does not effectively lead toward that goal should be avoided.

Discipline should have a solid biblical basis for determining right and wrong behaviors. The seriousness of the offense is a factor in knowing how to deal with the problem. Paul was faced with the issue of blatant immorality in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 5) and directed the church to show an open rejection of that sinful act since it was hurting the entire church reputation. The sinning man was to be expelled from the congregation, turned over to Satan for his sinful nature to be confronted, and eventually brought back into fellowship with the church after repentance (2 Corinthians 2:5–11).

However, Paul had to deal with other issues of discipline which were not considered to be of such moral harm to either the offending parties or to the church body. The church leaders in Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 3:6–13) asked Paul how to discipline people who would not work in order to earn their own livelihood and had become troublesome gossips and busybodies. Rather than expel them from the congregation, Paul urged that they be

confronted with their irresponsible behavior and requested to settle down and find a job, rather than become an undue burden on others.

Discipline is an issue for the church and not only for the pastor. There may be minor issues that a loving pastoral visit can resolve; however, the pastor must be wise to restore the individual. Issues which involve the entire church may not be handled as privately as the pastoral visit. In this case the pastor needs the open support of other leaders and the congregation. Upon thoroughly investigating the charges against a church member, if it is found by the pastor that the charges are true, then collectively the pastor and church leaders should confront the offending party to resolve the issue (Matthew 18:15–17). The offending brother or sister should be able to see clearly from the Scripture that he or she is sinning against God, and that the church leaders are concerned with keeping that person in fellowship with God through obedience. These issues include such things as people who spread false doctrines, troublemakers, and those involved in immoral practices (Titus 1:10–13).

The primary motive behind discipline is to restore the offending brother after sincere repentance. Discipline need not be destructive; rather, with the proper attitude on the part of the leaders, discipline can be a very positive part of the growth and development of the individual and the group. When someone has repented of a sin which is of public concern to the church, it may be necessary for the repentant member to show the others the sincere nature of that repentance. A brief, but sufficient, time of proving one's self to the others that he has truly changed inwardly and seeks to be restored to fellowship may be required of that brother. The offending, but repentant, brother should find a loving and caring attitude being expressed to him from the church leaders and other members of the church. Galatians 6:1–2 teaches, "If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently . . . Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Jesus confronted Peter after Peter lied about knowing Jesus (John 18:15–27; 21:15–19). Peter had failed his Lord, his group, and himself. Jesus waited for the right moment before approaching Peter about the issue. With great wisdom, He gently began to restore Peter by questioning him about his love

and commitment. In the end, Jesus resolved the issue, restored Peter's dignity, and let him know that he had an important role in the ministry of the church.

Jesus' example teaches the important issues of discipline. There needs to be proper understanding of the offense. With the right attitude and motive, Jesus waited for the right time to approach Peter. Jesus allowed the failure to speak to Peter rather than bringing up all the charges. The questions Jesus asked forced Peter to examine his love for the person of his Lord rather than explain why he had failed. Jesus tenderly gave Peter his self-esteem back by assigning him a role which let Peter know he was important and needed.

Application

- 9** Circle the letter of each TRUE statement of biblical principles regarding corrective discipline in the church body.
- a)** The primary motive for corrective discipline must be love and concern for the offending one and for the church as a whole.
 - b)** Expectations of Christian behavior must be based clearly on scriptural teachings.
 - c)** According to the Corinthian letter, the only method of discipline for the sinning member was expulsion from the congregation.
 - d)** The primary goal of corrective discipline is to cause repentance and bring restoration to Christ and fellowship in the body of Christ.
 - e)** The church body as a whole has a responsibility to deal with sin in the church in order to correct the problem and its cause.
 - f)** When a member has repented and is restored to the church body, he should not be given spiritual ministry since he may fail again.
 - g)** Helping the offending member clearly understand from Scripture that he has sinned against God is a step toward restoration.
 - h)** Discipline with the right attitude promotes spiritual maturity in the individual disciplined and the church as a whole.

10 Read John 21:15–19 again. In these verses Jesus shows an attitude of love and care in corrective discipline. What is the most important goal of corrective discipline demonstrated when Jesus said, “Feed my lambs . . . Take care of my sheep . . . Feed my sheep”?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Growth in Spiritual Maturity

We have discussed previously in this lesson that a church that is able to assume the responsibilities of self-government is becoming spiritually mature. The church that is gaining spiritual maturity is blessed as a whole, and also each member is blessed by the opportunity to grow spiritually.

Those members who take the responsibility to be teachers, or serve on committees, or as board members can share the blessing of working together in the work of God. At first, they will probably need guidance and teaching from the pastor on the importance of prayer and seeking God’s guidance in the work they have to do. There may be some who need help in learning to work cooperatively. As they form habits of seeking God’s guidance in church work, they have the opportunity to learn to pray about all phases of their lives. Learning the importance of waiting on God in prayer is an important step in spiritual growth.

A self-governing church is able to develop a pattern of leadership from within the congregation. When the church has elders or deacons from within its own membership, the members can have the assurance of a continuity of leadership. If the pastor is called away or must leave unexpectedly, the church will not be left to flounder without a leader. The work of the church can continue while awaiting the return of a pastor.

When a new believer experiences the joy of salvation, usually his first reaction is to tell others. The wise church planter or

pastor will channel this joyful zeal with Bible teaching and help the new believers learn to teach and witness to others. As the believers take the responsibility of teaching in the church and witnessing to those around them, they need to learn the value of studying the Word of God. As they are properly taught, their love for the Word will grow. They will learn the necessity and blessing of regular Bible study. Members who are well grounded in Bible teaching help one another and contribute much to the spiritual maturity of the church.

Maturing churches, like individual maturing Christians, are not only concerned with themselves but also with developing a loving concern for the souls of the lost around them. The result is a desire to share the good news with those who have not heard the gospel. The church planter's aim is not only a self-governing church just for the sake of building a self-reliant church, but also to establish a body of maturing Christians who are able to carry out the purpose of the church in evangelism and building up the body of Christ.

Application

11 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement concerning benefits a self-governing church may provide to individual members.

- a)** A member who feels responsible for the functioning of the church (such as a board member) is likely to become more involved in prayer and intercession for God's guidance.
 - b)** Those involved in leadership functions will devote themselves only to the Lord and will withdraw from contact with people.
 - c)** Members who feel responsible for teaching and witnessing recognize the need for and blessing of regular Bible study.
 - d)** Promotion of individuals with natural leadership is the primary purpose of self-government.
 - e)** Self-government responsibilities help to assure the congregation of continuity in church leadership.
-

self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter in front of the best answer to each question.

- 1** The goal of church self-government is to
 - a)** prevent foreign influence.
 - b)** promote national pride.
 - c)** establish the church for future growth.
 - d)** preserve self-identity.

- 2** Church self-government is the foundation needed
 - a)** to build a self-supporting, self-propagating church.
 - b)** to develop national church leaders.
 - c)** for cooperation of the church body.
 - d)** to recognize the ability of the local people.

- 3** Paul's method of establishing self-governing churches was to
 - a)** send well-trained leaders from Jerusalem.
 - b)** train local leaders, leave them in charge, then make occasional visits.
 - c)** train local leaders and ask them to send him frequent reports.

- 4** A church needs self-government early in its development primarily to
 - a)** promote growth of spiritual ministries and respect for its own leaders.
 - b)** prevent discontent among those who want to be leaders.
 - c)** allow the church planter to go to work in another area.
 - d)** be separate from another church.

- 5** Having agreement of standards of doctrine will enable the church to
 - a)** become part of an organized fellowship.
 - b)** have a basis of fellowship and prevent doctrinal error or controversy.
 - c)** function as a center for evangelism.
 - d)** prevent divisions in leadership.

6 Disciplining a member who has sinned is effective if the result is to

- a)** protect the testimony of the church.
- b)** allow the church to demonstrate its righteousness.
- c)** restore the member to a right relationship with God.
- d)** prevent disagreements in the church.

7 Which is NOT a good practice for the deacon board to follow?

- a)** It has a regular monthly meeting time.
- b)** The pastor has a prepared list of discussion items.
- c)** The pastor does not vary from his or her discussion list.
- d)** A written record is kept of all board decisions.

8 It is important that the church members agree on a standard of Christian conduct for the following reasons EXCEPT to

- a)** teach biblical standards of Christian living.
- b)** prevent unworthy persons from becoming members.
- c)** demonstrate the Christian testimony of the church.
- d)** help believers relate biblical teaching to their daily lives.

TRUE-FALSE. Write T in the blank space if the statement is TRUE, and write F if the statement is FALSE.

... **9** The deacons of the church have the primary responsibility to assist the pastor in serving the church.

... **10** If all members of the deacon board agree on a decision it is not necessary to write it in the minutes.

... **11** An effective standard of doctrine is for a church to state that it believes all of the Bible.

... **12** The church planter should help the church in its beginning by making the members' difficult decisions for them.

... **13** A church with good self-government will be better prepared to be a self-supporting church.

... **14** Evidence that self-government promotes spiritual maturity is shown by the church members' desire to participate in the ministries and financial support of the church.

- . . . **15** Paul's method demonstrates that a primary leadership responsibility of the church planter is to train others for leadership.
- . . . **16** The responsibility of the membership committee is to present a list of membership applicants to the church planter for approval.

answers to study questions

- 6 a** 2) The church planter
b 3) The church body
c 5) The church board
d 1) The membership committee
e 5) The church board
f 4) The advisory committee
- 1 a** 1) New believers
b 1) New believers
c 2) Church planter
d 1) New believers
e 2) Church planter
f 2) Church planter
- 7** Your answers may be similar to these thoughts:
- a)** that the Holy Spirit intended that qualified men would seek His guidance for their time and culture.
 - b)** they know their local people; their decisions would be more acceptable than those of the church planter alone.
 - c)** their customary methods of selecting leaders.
 - d)** within the local body of believers.
 - e)** work with the pastor to accomplish the work of the church. Or you may have said: They meet to discuss problems, pray, counsel, plan expansion, or do all they can to guide the church to win the lost and advance the kingdom of God.
- 2 a), b), d), and f)** are true.
- 8 a** 3) Official recognition
b 1) Church business meeting
c 2) Board meetings
d 4) Adopting a constitution
- 3 d)** all of the above.
- 9 a), b), d), e), g), and h)** are true.
- 4 a)** form a basis of church government and fellowship.
c) be a help to understand Scripture and prevent error.
d) help the believers relate doctrine to their daily lives.

10 Peter knew he was fully restored to fellowship with his Lord and among his brothers. Jesus was giving him his place in the work of God. He was entrusted with work to do for the Lord.

5 a) guiding believers to an understanding of scriptural teachings which will become their own standards for Christian living.

11 a), c), and e) are true.

LESSON

4 Churches That Start New Churches

“Praise God, Brother Eyo! God is helping us to organize a strong church, and more people are becoming believers every week,” said David as he and John brought their monthly report. “So many are coming we can hardly meet in the same room. Brother Lanka is helping us prepare the believers for membership and water baptism.”

“It sounds like God is building His church in Gane,” replied Brother Eyo. “It is time now that you teach the church its responsibility of witnessing and starting other churches. The people are witnessing in their community, but not far from Gane there are towns that need churches also. The Lord wants each new church to start other new churches.”

When a group has been formed into a self-governing local church, its responsibility does not stop there. As part of the body of Christ, the church must learn that its mission is to plant other churches. This lesson will guide you in the steps that will teach new believers how they themselves can have a part in starting new churches.

lesson outline

Self-Propagation Required

Self-Propagation Planned

Self-Propagation Continued

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Identify characteristics of a self-propagating church.
2. Discuss methods of evangelism and planning steps required to start a new church.
3. State the steps in planting a church.
4. Indicate goals of the new local church.
5. Discuss the benefits to the local church in the propagation of the church worldwide.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson following the procedure given at the beginning of Lesson 1. Read all the Scripture texts and answer each study question before checking your answer.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers.

key words

campaign	intercessory
fervor	outreach
goal	prejudice
interact	propagate

lesson development

SELF-PROPAGATION REQUIRED

Objective 1. *Identify characteristics of a self-propagating church.*

Do you remember from Lesson 1 the two basic functions of the local church? They are evangelism and teaching. Also, the Lord gave ministry gifts to the church to help it carry out His command. Ephesians 4:12 shows that ministry gifts are given “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

It is not enough that a church be able to govern itself and make decisions regarding its ministries. To fulfill its scriptural purpose, the church must also be self-propagating. A self-propagating church is one that helps to plant new churches. It is one that brings the lost to Christ (evangelism) and prepares God’s people for works of service (teaching). It has the characteristics described in Matthew 28:19–20 and Ephesians 4:12. As believers are prepared for service, they will win others to Christ. The result is that the body of Christ is built up, new believers are added, and other new churches are started. Thus, the church propagates other local churches. This is the method by which the church has been extended throughout the world.

Just as a plant has to be living and growing to re-propagate itself, so must a local church have life. What are the evidences that a church is spiritually alive and therefore self-propagating? In a church that has spiritual vitality, the members have an active love and concern for those around them. They pray for guidance of the Holy Spirit and look for ways to win the lost. Classes are held to prepare members for personal evangelism and to teach new believers. Plans for evangelism are carried out. Bible study classes are held regularly. Preaching of the Word, prayer, and praise are prominent in the church. New believers are continually added (Acts 2:47, 5:14), and the church looks for areas where new local churches may be planted. As we continue this lesson we will discuss some methods that may help in the task of planting new churches.

Application

- 1 In your own words define a self-propagating church. Use your notebook for your response.
 - 2 Circle the letter in front of the statement that most clearly expresses the characteristics of a self-propagating church.
 - a) A self-propagating church has an efficient planning program which attracts unbelievers to participate in worship services.
 - b) The first purpose of a self-propagating church should be to protect the church body from sinful influences.
 - c) A self-propagating church endeavors to take the gospel to sinners, prepares believers for Christian service, and extends and builds up the body of Christ.
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Methods for Planting Churches

Objective 2. *Discuss methods of evangelism and planning steps required to start a new church.*

As the believers in the New Testament church were scattered out from Jerusalem, they preached the gospel wherever they went (Acts 8:4). As they went from place to place they used different methods of evangelism. Today, just as then, no single method will work equally well everywhere.

We will talk about four of the methods used by church planters with good success in various parts of the world. As you study these various methods, think about how each could be used in your area.

SMALL GROUP EVANGELISM AND HOUSE CHURCHES

The meeting of small groups is often used as the major method of making new disciples and gathering them into local churches. The believers in the New Testament, of course, did not have church buildings but met for fellowship and evangelism in people's homes (Acts 5:42). In some parts of the world, especially in politically or socially restricted countries where believers cannot meet publicly, the church has begun in private homes and multiplied greatly. Even in areas where there is no political restriction, there may be some

people who are not willing to go to a church; generally they will attend a gathering in a home. Believers and unbelievers alike are invited to share in prayer and reading and discussing God's Word. This is also an effective method in areas where believers can meet together in church buildings. In some very large churches in big cities it is very difficult for people to travel to a central meeting place on weekdays, so they meet in "cell groups" in various homes throughout the city. The spiritual fellowship helps believers and attracts unbelievers to Christ. Many people have been won to Christ by this method.

Application

- 3** Use your notebook in answering the following items:
- a)** List three advantages of small group or house church evangelism.
 - b)** How could this method be used in your area?
-

PERSONAL WORK

Personal work describes the work of an individual who talks to another person, usually on a one-to-one basis, about salvation through Christ. It may also be called personal witnessing, that is, telling about your own experience of salvation. Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). To witness is to give proof, and personal proof is a powerful testimony. If people see that Christ has done something good for you, they are likely to be interested in what you have to say.

Churches can be started because at least one person becomes burdened to make disciples by personal contact in a certain place. A Christian who studies and applies God's Word, whether a new convert or mature Christian, may be led by the Spirit to do personal witnessing for Christ. The witnessing may be to co-workers at a job or students at a university. A believer may feel called to go to another village or nearby town to stay there and win souls by personal contact. It is important to encourage new believers to do personal witnessing because they will have many friends who are still unbelievers. It will help them grow in

faith rapidly and the joy of their newly-found salvation will be effective in helping others accept Christ also. Those who respond and accept Christ's salvation are gathered together to become the beginning group of a new local church. Since the person works alone, at first, this type of church planting can be very difficult. The person who is led by the Spirit to do personal work, like Philip (Acts 8:26–34), may never know the end result of his witnessing. The important fact is that he obeyed God.

Application

4 Read the following verses from your Bible. In front of each write the number of the method of evangelism being used. Write 1) for personal work and 2) for the small group or house church method.

... **a** Acts 8:26–37

... **b** Acts 10:24–33

... **c** Acts 16:13–15

... **d** Philemon 1–3

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS

In many parts of the world, evangelistic campaigns are used effectively to start new churches. The campaigns may be door-to-door witnessing, preaching meetings in a church, a rented auditorium, a tent, a stadium, or simply an open field. Meetings in public areas hold many advantages. For instance, people who are prejudiced against entering a place of worship will listen in the open air or public building. A method used effectively in some places is to bring a group of Christians from other areas who give their personal testimony to Christ's power to change lives. Usually a group of people will gather to listen to someone tell about personal experiences. On occasions such as this, there can be opportunities for preaching simple gospel messages to present the way of salvation. Romans 10:14 asks, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Pray and

trust the Holy Spirit to lead you to use the right methods at the right time to reach the lost.

Whatever method we use to present the gospel, it must first be under the anointing and direction of the Holy Spirit. This means making a habit of seeking the Lord in prayer, and then making plans and preparations for whatever way we can most effectively follow His guidance. The Holy Spirit will anoint those who desire to work for the Lord and He will give faith to the hearers to believe. But it is our responsibility to study God's Word, devote ourselves to prayer, and be prepared as best we can to do God's work.

If you would like to study methods of evangelism in greater detail, you may take the course *Sharing the Good News*, which is also part of the *Christian Services* series you are now studying.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER CHURCH PLANTING

The mother-daughter church planting method can be likened to the system by which strawberry plants grow. Strawberries are plants which grow close to the ground. They spread by sending out runners (or shoots) in different directions. As these stems grow outward from the central mother plant, they send down roots at a point away from the mother plant. A new set of leaves sprouts from the new roots. Eventually the stem dries up and the new plant gets its strength only from the new roots. The new plant then sends out runners, becoming a mother plant itself. This continual process of mother-daughter plants causes strawberry plants to spread quickly over a large area.

A church that is established and growing usually has some people who live farther from the church than others. The members may be living in an area that is growing in population but has no church. The established church then decides to become a "mother" and start a "daughter" church in the new area. The mother church will organize a team of church planters to witness and preach. Those who live in the area will be leaders and helpers in the effort. Their homes may be used for meetings. If the local law permits, preaching and singing in open air meetings may be used to win new believers. As new believers are

gathered, the people from the mother church who live in the area join with them to organize the new church. During this process, other groups from the mother church come to sing, witness, and help in the effort. The mother church may also help pay for the preaching campaign in the area. As soon as the new group is strong enough, it can be organized into a self-governing church. Then it is the responsibility of the new church to teach believers to develop their ability to “mother” new churches in other areas.

Application

5 Match the evangelism method that could best be used by the Christians in each situation.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| ... a John is the only Christian at his army station. | 1) Evangelism campaign |
| ... b Sue’s neighbors like to chat and have coffee at her house. | 2) Personal work |
| ... c Many unsaved people will be coming to the football match in the city. | 3) Mother-daughter church |
| ... d Sam travels one hour to and from work by train. | 4) Small groups |
| ... e Twelve kilometers from Central Church a new population center is growing. | |

SELF-PROPAGATION PLANNED

Objective 3. *State the steps in planting a church.*

Steps to Church Planting

Along with selecting the most appropriate method of evangelism for your area, much planning is needed to accomplish the goal of planting new churches. Recall the two-fold purpose of

the local church: 1) to have ministries that teach believers and build up their faith, and 2) to make disciples and teach them to witness and bring others to Christ. This is the self-propagating principle that keeps churches multiplying.

All believers may have a part in witnessing and winning people to Christ. They do not have to be experienced and mature believers. According to his or her ability and talent, each believer can have a part in taking the gospel to the lost. We should not think that only those who can preach or witness in public are the ones who can evangelize. There are many other tasks that need to be done in order to take the gospel to those who have not heard. There may be some who have the talent to teach other believers how to use the Scripture to lead a person to Christ. When a public meeting is planned, someone is needed to prepare posters or take care of advertising. There may be others who have the skills to build a platform or benches, if needed, for an outdoor meeting. And some can devote themselves to further intercessory prayer. All believers can have a part in the planning steps of starting the new church, and each one needs to feel that his part is important. The following steps will help you in the ministry of starting new churches. These steps can apply also for the individual church planter who may have to work alone to take the gospel to a new area.

STEP 1: PRAYER

The first thing believers should do as they make plans for starting a new church is to plan prayer into all the work schedule. Church planters need the power of God to combat “the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil” (Ephesians 6:12). This is not possible in human strength alone. Pray in faith, not in fear. We preach the gospel by the command of Christ and in His power (Matthew 28:19–20; 2 Timothy 4:1–2). He wants His laborers to gather, the fruit of the harvest He has promised (Luke 10:2) and to do so in triumph (Colossians 2:15; 1 John 4:4).

As well as having private times of prayer, one may find it beneficial to meet together as a body at regularly announced times to pray. As the church prays together, the Holy Spirit will give guidance in the plans.

STEP 2: STUDY THE LOCAL POPULATION

Once you have determined the group of people you feel God wants you to reach, you may find it helpful to study that group carefully. You may already know the people well. You may have been just like them before you accepted Christ.

First, define how the people are different from the people of your own group. Even if they are of the same group, becoming a believer has made you different in your attitudes and behaviors than you were as an unbeliever. You see the world and people differently than before. Second, you need to define how the people are the same as your own group. What things may be important to them which are still important to you even after you have accepted the Lord? Finally, it is important to become acquainted with social customs or legal requirements that may affect your presentation of the gospel.

Application

6 Think of the group of people where you want to start a church. Copy this chart in your notebook, leaving plenty of space to write your answers. Then fill in as much as you can learn about the people.

Subject	How the Group is Different From Our Group	How the Group is Like Our Group
1. Language		
2. Kind of work		
3. Where they live		
4. Education		
5. Religion		
6. Social customs and rules		

After you have filled in the chart, study it to learn what special problems you may face in trying to start a church among the target people. Write these problems in a list on one side of a piece of paper. Then as you pray or meet with the other workers to pray, take

these problems to God in prayer. Seek to find a spiritual solution to spiritual problems, and practical solutions to practical problems. As you agree together on the solutions to overcome problems, write your plans on the other side of the paper. Trust in God for the solutions and prepare to be successful as you implement your plans.

STEP 3: DETERMINE THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Every person has spiritual needs. Many people may not recognize that the needs they feel are an indication of spiritual need. They may feel lonely, unhappy, or futile. Some may have fears, but they may not be able to explain the cause of these fears. They may fear death, wars, or financial failure. In some places people feel they are bound by obligations to follow customs that have been practiced by their families for generations, and these customs may be oppressive to them. Some people have no concept about God, and others may have concepts that are different from Christian teaching.

When you plan to take the gospel to a new area, learn everything you can about the spiritual attitudes of the people. Even if the people know a lot about the gospel, try to record all you can about their spiritual concept. This will help you plan better how to present Christ to them as the Savior, the one who can help them meet their needs.

Application

7 Think about the people in the area where you might want to plant a church. In your notebook answer as many of the following questions as you can about these people.

- a)** What is the religion of most of the people?
- b)** What do the people believe about:
 - 1)** Jesus Christ?
 - 2)** Sin: Is man's nature sinful? If man sins, whom does he wrong—God? Man? or both?
 - 3)** Heaven, hell, and eternity?
 - 4)** God and His creation?
 - 5)** Satan and evil spirits?
- c)** Do they have fears about their ancestors?



Now notice how many questions you could not answer for sure. It would be better to find the answer to these questions before you try to witness among these people.

If you were able to answer all the questions, you probably know the people quite well. Perhaps they believe what you did before you became a follower of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will help you use this knowledge to determine the most successful way to preach the gospel to them. In Hebrews 4–10 this is illustrated. The writer used the knowledge the Jews had of the Law of Moses to show them that Christ was the “once for all” sacrifice for sin and that He is the great high priest of the new covenant. Also, Paul appealed to the Athenians’ desire for knowledge about new ideas as a means to teach them about the true God (Acts 17:21–23).

STEP 4: REVISE PLANS AS NEEDED

Occasionally things do not work out exactly as planned; therefore, a good plan needs to be flexible. It may be that part of the plan works well up to a certain time, but then it must be changed to meet special needs. The leaders must be aware that this often happens, and they must be willing to change any part of the plan as the work continues.

Application

8 In your notebook, write in a column at the left of the page a list of the four steps that can help in starting a new church, as discussed in the text. Leave three or four lines between each step. After each step, briefly state what you may expect to be accomplished that will help in starting a new church.

Goals of the Church

Objective 4. *Indicate goals of the new local church.*

Depending on the times, the culture, and the location, there may be different methods used to win the lost and gather them into a church body. But wherever and whenever a church is

planted, there are certain goals to work toward which will help to give a church a good beginning. Working to accomplish these goals from the start will help a church attain the purpose which God has intended. These goals are five basic functions of the church:

1. Make disciples. When Jesus gave His disciples the command recorded in Matthew 28:19, He did not say that they should go preach. Rather, He said, “Go and make disciples.” A disciple does much more than just listen to his master or teacher. A disciple accepts and believes the teaching of a master, and then assists in spreading the teachings to others. A disciple becomes identified with, or is like, the master. The ultimate nature of Jesus’ teaching is love, so Jesus said to His disciples, “All men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

Bringing others to Christ is another way in which His disciples identified with the Lord. Jesus said, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:8). To bring others to be disciples of our Lord requires sincere commitment on the part of those who preach and witness the gospel. As Paul expressed in Romans 9:3, he was willing to lose all to bring his Jewish brothers to the Lord. Paul’s whole life was centered on doing God’s will, and he encouraged those to whom he wrote to follow his example (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:14, 17). The biblical teaching for the church is not only to sow the seed of God’s Word but also to bring hearers to confess Christ, to identify with Him as their Lord. Romans 10:9 teaches, “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ . . . you will be saved.”

2. Gather believers together. An experienced church planter once told about a group of Christians who wanted to give the Christian witness to all the earth. They felt they should carry out Jesus’ command to preach the gospel to all nations. They hurried from place to place but did not stay long enough in any place to form the converts into a church or give them any teaching necessary to carry on church life. As a result, after years of work very little permanent results remained.

These people had failed to realize that though evangelism is important, the goal of evangelism is to establish the church of Jesus Christ. New believers need spiritual fellowship and training (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 10:25). Plans should include the where, when, and how of bringing the believers together regularly.

3. Interact with the community. New believers should be encouraged to maintain contact with the unbelievers of their community. Planning may include ways to show Christian testimony and, as much as possible, maintain the influence of the new believers in their community (Matthew 5:13–17; John 17:11, 15, 18). This will help the new believers to witness to others for Christ and also lessen any persecution that may result from their decision to follow Christ (Acts 2:47).

4. Organize the believers. According to the principles we learned in Lesson 3, a group of believers organized as a self-governing church can more effectively accomplish the purpose and ministries of the church. The local church is the means God has chosen to build up believers (Ephesians 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16), teach them doctrine, and teach them how to give and how to serve God in the fellowship of the body of Christ. Each group of believers can select the form of organization which suits its needs. The purpose of organization is to help the local church have a plan for teaching, witnessing, training workers, and to do whatever is needed to enable the body to work together in ministry for Christ.

5. Teach outreach. As the new believers see the purpose of the church planters in trying to make disciples in their own community, they too can have a part in the work and joy of bringing others to Christ. These new believers should be trained and invited to join the different teams of church planters. This will provide practical training, which is important in continuing the outreach of the church (Luke 10:1; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2). Also, it can help to develop leaders among the new believers and help the church to grow faster.

As you are making plans to start a new church, perhaps you may find that another method, besides the four we discussed at the beginning of the lesson, will be better for your area. As you pray and seek God's guidance, trust the Holy Spirit to lead you in the plans that will be best for you.

Application

9 Read over what you have written for questions 6 and 7. In your notebook start a list of possible plans you would make for starting a new church. In another paragraph list the goals for the church. Compare the plans and goals. Write ideas about how you think they will work among the people where you wish to start a church. Think of any unique or unusual circumstances that may occur. Also, you may like to start a list of specific needs for prayer.

10 According to the discussion in the lesson text, circle the letter of each TRUE statement of an action which can help attain biblical goals for a new church.

- a)** As many people as possible must hear the gospel at least once.
 - b)** Those who accept the gospel are encouraged to declare publicly their acceptance of Christ.
 - c)** New believers are gathered in groups for regular teaching and fellowship.
 - d)** New believers will have to isolate themselves from the non-Christian community.
 - e)** New believers are given practical training to take the gospel to their own community.
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SELF-PROPAGATION CONTINUED

Objective 5. *Discuss the benefits to the local church in the propagation of the church worldwide.*

Care of the Sending Church

When a local church is engaged in “mothering” a new local church, it is also important to balance the responsibilities for

the work in both places. The members of the sending church have an interest in the new church, either through prayer, giving, or by some direct ministry to the new church; however, not everyone can give all his or her time to the new church. Obviously, some people must continue the ministries of the sending church. The leaders of the sending church may decide to meet together and determine a suitable plan for delegating responsibility for the new church. As workers are sent out to new churches, others in the sending church will have an opportunity to develop their ministries and provide new leadership. Thus, the sending church continues to grow and be strengthened.

Build the Church Worldwide

Each new believer becomes part of a great fellowship of believers all over the world. Each local church is a building block of a fellowship of churches that is sometimes called the universal church or the church worldwide. The apostle Paul calls this fellowship the “body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:12–27).

Where it is possible to do so, local churches can be blessed and strengthened by working together in the ministry of the gospel. In the New Testament, the churches in Asia Minor and the churches of Judea worked together as area-wide groups of churches. They helped in missionary work and joined to make decisions (Acts 15:1–21). They recognized the need to join with other local churches to carry on the work of God together (1 Corinthians 16:1–4; 2 Corinthians 8:1–15).

Application

11 In your own words describe benefits a mother church receives by delegating some of its members to lead a new church.

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.....

12 Write some benefits local churches may receive by working together.

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13 How do you feel, as an individual believer, that you can be blessed by being part of a self-propagating church.

.....

.....



The unity with other brothers and sisters in Christ, and with other local churches, is very important to the church because it is very important to our Lord (John 17:20–21). The unity is in fellowship and service to God. Each local church, as part of the body of Christ, shares the same “precious” faith (2 Peter 1:1) and is joined in a fellowship that blesses and strengthens it. The Holy Spirit gives power and guidance to the church, enabling it to fulfill the command of Christ to make new disciples and build them up in faith. As this command is obeyed, the church plants the gospel seed that continually reproduces itself in multiplying churches all around the world.

Application

14 State three ways in which the local church will be blessed as it propagates new churches.

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self-test

TRUE-FALSE. Write T in front of the TRUE statements, and F in front of those that are FALSE.

- ... **1** A self-propagating church is one that helps to produce other local churches.
- ... **2** All churches are commanded to evangelize but only selected ones are called to teach.
- ... **3** The believers in New Testament times preached openly in public as well as from house to house.
- ... **4** For a successful evangelistic campaign, the first step is to write a detailed plan of activities.
- ... **5** It is best to use only mature Christians in personal evangelism so the unbeliever will not be offended.
- ... **6** “Cell groups” or house churches are an evangelism concept originated by the 1st century church.
- ... **7** Outdoor evangelistic preaching should be used only where there is social prejudice against Christians.
- ... **8** Planning for evangelism is very important; therefore, once plans are made they should be rigidly followed.

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 9** The first step for starting a new church is to
- a)** witness to a group who is ready to hear the gospel.
 - b)** witness to those having a similar religion.
 - c)** plan prayer into all the work schedule.
 - d)** understand the needs of the local population.
- 10** In obedience to Christ’s command to make disciples one must
- a)** preach the gospel to many people in many places.
 - b)** bring hearers to a decision to confess Christ as their Savior.
 - c)** require hearers to become church members.

11 The goals that will produce a self-propagating church require

- a)** believers who are committed to Christ and brought together as a body for teaching and fellowship.
- b)** well-trained workers with special public speaking ability.
- c)** leaders who are experienced church planters.
- d)** complete separation from unbelievers to insure spiritual purity.

12 The church that plants other churches is strengthened through its

- a)** good reputation as a mother church.
- b)** enlarged ministry and fellowship in the body of Christ.
- c)** popularity as a church with many members.
- d)** recognition by the local government.

answers to study questions

8 Suggested answers to:

Prayer Helps believers claim the power of God, gives faith to proclaim the gospel fearlessly and clearly with the help of the Holy Spirit. Also, prayer helps prepare the church planter to be open to God's will.

Study the local population Helps to understand attitudes of the people and become acquainted with customs and laws. Helps to learn about their work, language, and religion.

Determine the spiritual needs Helps to understand their concept about God, to know what their fears and problems are. Will help to know how to show that Christ will meet their needs.

Revise plans as needed Flexible plans can be changed to meet special unforeseen needs.

1 Your answer. A self-propagating church is one in which the members win the lost to Christ. The believers are taught the Word, and they in turn win others. As the church grows and is built up in Christ, it is able to start other new churches.

9 Your answer

2 c) A self-propagating church endeavors to take the gospel to sinners, prepares believers for Christian service, and extends and builds up the body of Christ.

10 a False

b True

c True

d False

e True

3 a Any three of the following:

1) In politically or socially restricted areas.

2) People are more willing to come to a home, rather than a formal place of worship.

3) It's a more social atmosphere.

4) It may be easier in a large city, rather than travel long distances.

b Your answer

- 11** Your answer. Others in the mother church can develop their ministries and leadership abilities. More members participate, thus helping the church to grow and be strengthened.
- 4 a** 1) Personal work
b 2) Small group or house church
c 2) Small group or house church
d 2) Small group or house church
- 12** Your answer. The churches enjoy fellowship together. They can help each other in ministry or decisions that affect the work of the church. Together they can make a stronger effort to extend the work of God.
- 5 a** 2) Personal work
b 4) Small groups
c 1) Evangelism campaign
d 2) Personal work
e 3) Mother-daughter church
- 13** Your answer. Some things I would mention are: knowing my church is helping to extend the body of Christ where others may have not heard the gospel, and the joy of being part of the church worldwide.
- 6** Your answer.
- 14** Any three of the following: The church will be blessed by the unity of brothers and sisters in Christ; being joined in fellowship and service to God for the work in their area; having a part in fulfilling the command of Christ to make disciples; being strengthened by the fellowship in the body of Christ, the universal church.
- 7** Your answer

LESSON 5 Churches That Support Themselves

David and John were happy as they made their report to Brother Eyo. “God has given us three more families and five more young people this month. We now have a church committee. We took committee members with us when we visited the homes. They are well respected by everyone, and actually they did more to witness and win new believers than we did. They visited the new converts during the week when we couldn’t be there.”

“Praise God,” said Brother Eyo. “Gane is becoming a well established church. Have you begun teaching the people about supporting their church?”

“No,” said David, “if we start talking about giving so soon I’m afraid it might scare the people away.”

“Not at all,” replied Brother Eyo, “they will be glad you taught them about giving to their church. It will open the way to greater growth and spiritual blessing.”

This next lesson will help you understand the concept of self-support and the blessing associated with giving to the work of the Lord.

lesson outline

The Principles of Self-Support

The Practicality of Self-Support

The Necessity to Teach Self-Support

The Power of Self-Support

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Identify New Testament principles of church finance as shown in Paul's teaching.
2. State practical reasons for churches to support themselves.
3. Explain four scriptural principles related to giving.
4. Describe the advantages for growth that a self-supporting church will experience.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson according to the procedure given in Lesson 1. Be sure to read all Scriptures given and answer all study questions.
2. Check the glossary at the back of this study guide for definitions of key words you do not understand.
3. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers carefully. Review any items you answer incorrectly.
4. Carefully review Unit 2 (Lessons 3–5), then complete the unit student report for Unit 2 and send it to your instructor.

key words

emergency

stewardship

logical

tithe

practical

lesson development

THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-SUPPORT

Objective 1. *Identify New Testament principles of church finance as shown in Paul's teaching.*

It may seem that church finances should be a matter of the business organization of the church, rather than part of the spiritual ministry. But as we read the New Testament, particularly Paul's letters to the churches, we see it was of spiritual importance then, and therefore it is important to the church today. As we study these Scriptures we learn that the manner in which finances are handled can have an important effect on church planting. It is not so important how the finances are arranged, but rather how the arrangement affects believers and whether it promotes the spread of the gospel. Paul's writings on finances related to the ministry were never for any personal concern, rather the importance lay in how the subject might affect those to whom he preached.

Consider three principles that guided Paul's practice:

1. *The preaching of the gospel is not for monetary gain.* When Paul was preaching to unbelievers, or in his early contacts with the church, he was careful to avoid the appearance that he was preaching the gospel to make money. In his society at that time there were many traveling philosophers and magicians who made their living by collecting money for their exhibitions (Acts 8:9; 16:16). Paul did not want the gospel to be classed as a similar trade. While Paul did not take money from hearers for himself, he argued that those who made their living by preaching had a right to do so (1 Corinthians 9:7–12). The teachings of Jesus and the Jewish law made it clear that the minister had a right to receive support (Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7). But Paul wanted all to understand that his preaching of the gospel was not motivated by greed. He did not want to hinder the work of the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:12). He wanted to show fatherly concern for the new believers by not being a burden to them (1 Thessalonians 2:7–8). Paul

wanted to set an example of orderly work and never give the appearance of covetousness (Acts 20:33–34; 1 Thessalonians 2:5; 2 Thessalonians 3:7–8).

Paul did receive gifts, but it appears he allowed only the more mature believers in the churches to send offerings for his needs (Philippians 4:14–17). He told the Corinthians that he “robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you” (2 Corinthians 11:7–9). Paul set an example for those who minister.

2. *Each local church supported its own ministry.* There is no indication in Scripture that one local church was financially dependent on another. The Galatians were advised to support their own teachers (Galatians 6:6). Paul gave Timothy instructions on teaching each church to care for its own poor and widows (1 Timothy 5:3–10). There is the exception of the churches sending offerings to the believers in Judea at the time of a famine (Acts 11:29). However, this was an exceptional need. It was the loving response of Christians to the need of others in the body of Christ, and it was not a matter of regular financial support of a local church. Providing for emergency needs of others is a ministry of the church. Such offerings demonstrate the unity and love that maintains the body of Christ.

3. *The local church administered its own funds.* First Corinthians 16:1–4 indicates that each church was responsible for its own funds. In this context, Paul told the Corinthians that he would be there at a certain time to take the offering they collected as a gift to the church at Jerusalem. He had already done the same at the Galatian church. Each church received and set aside the amount it determined to give. Paul was merely the envoy, with other men whom the church designated, to carry the gift to Jerusalem. Paul was careful to make it clear that he was acting primarily as a messenger of the churches and took no responsibility for administering the gift. Moreover, he took precautions to be sure the churches were represented in taking the gift to Jerusalem (vv. 3–4).

These three principles demonstrated by Paul’s teaching are guidelines that can help us today. Of course, there are circumstances that cause exception, but the basic principle

the New Testament teaches is that the local church, like the individual Christian, is meant to develop in spiritual maturity and responsibility. Holding either in a state of dependency does not promote the maturity necessary to fulfill the mission of the church.

Application

1 Match the principle of church finance taught by Paul (right) with the reference demonstrating it (left).

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| ... a | Galatians 6:6 | 1) Preaching the gospel is not for monetary gain. |
| ... b | 2 Thessalonians 3:7–8 | 2) The local church supports its own ministries. |
| ... c | 1 Timothy 5:3, 7, 17–18 | 3) The local church administers its own funds. |
| ... d | 1 Corinthians 16:1–4 | |
| ... e | Acts 20:34–35 | |

2 Read the first principle again. Circle the letter of each TRUE statement that shows how Paul demonstrated this principle.

- a)** He avoided being classed with traders.
- b)** He said he was never in financial need.
- c)** He wished to show fatherly concern for the church.
- d)** He avoided an appearance of greed.
- e)** He obeyed the biblical rule that those who preach are not paid.
- f)** He set an example of orderly work.



THE PRACTICALITY OF SELF-SUPPORT

Objective 2. *State practical reasons for churches to support themselves.*

The plans and methods that God's Word gives for building His church are practical and logical. The biblical method for supporting the church and the work of spreading the gospel is that the expense is to be shared by all members of the body of Christ. Here are two practical reasons for the local church to become self-supporting:

1. It develops a sense of responsibility. Each group of believers should feel responsible to each other and to the

work of God. In Lessons 1 and 3 we referred to Ephesians 4:12, as telling us the purpose of the church. Let us continue on to verse 13 and read an expected result of that purpose: “until we all reach unity in the faith and . . . become mature.” Assuming responsibility is a means of attaining maturity. What do you think might happen if the money to support the local church came from an outside organization or another church? How would the believers’ lives be affected? It is possible for believers who are dependent on others for their support to become resentful of their benefactors. Believers may resent having to wait for someone else to recognize and provide their needs. Such dependency can also cause the loss of dignity and self-worth. A local church in this position may feel that it is incapable of fulfilling the purpose of the church. Also, the people of the church may be inclined to wait for direction from the source that is providing the church support.

What may happen if the pastor is supported by money coming from outside the local church? He may feel less responsibility to the local believers than to those who provide his salary. When the people of the church are supporting their own church and pastor, they have a sense of belonging and responsibility to the church and pastor. They will have a greater interest in the pastor’s ministry and feel a greater responsibility to be involved in the ministries of the church. In the same way the pastor who is being supported by those close to him each day will feel the responsibility of being well disciplined and prepared in his ministry to the church. There will be a better sense of being co-laborers with Christ in the ministry of the church.

2. *Self-support builds maturity.* The sense of responsibility that grows in a self-supporting church creates spiritual maturity in believers. Joyous giving in gratitude to God not only helps the work of God, but also brings blessing and increased faith to the giver (2 Corinthians 9:7–13). If the people sacrifice to prepare a place for worship, they will cherish it as their house of God.

Self-support teaches the believers to trust God for meeting financial needs. As a result, they will learn to trust Him for

other needs, such as the salvation of others, healing for the sick, and for increased ministry in other areas.

Church leaders must be careful not to rob the believers in a new church of the chance to learn the blessings of giving to the work of God. This is illustrated by the story of a preacher who saw a butterfly struggling to free itself from its cocoon. He watched impatiently as the butterfly struggled. Finally the preacher could not bear it any longer. With his knife, he cut the remaining threads of the cocoon. The struggling stopped, and the insect burst out—weak, helpless, and able to live only a moment. A rule of life had been broken! If the butterfly had been left to itself, after much struggling, a well-formed, strong, and beautifully colored creature would have come forth.

Sometimes it is hard for church leaders to watch a new group of believers struggle to become established. But each new church should have the opportunity to mature in its own faith and follow God's plan of support for the church. By being able to manage their own financial support, the believers will be more likely to have faith and confidence to step out in more efforts to expand the ministries of the church.

Application

- 3** Which are TRUE statements concerning practical reasons for a church to be self-supporting?
- a)** It is not important where support comes from since everything we have comes from God.
 - b)** The believers who support their church feel a personal responsibility to the church.
 - c)** A church should provide its own support so it need not have anything to do with or be concerned about other churches.
 - d)** The pastor and the believers will share a greater ministry in the church.
 - e)** The church learns to have faith in God for other needs as it learns to trust Him for financial needs.



THE NECESSITY TO TEACH SELF-SUPPORT

Teach Systematic Giving

Objective 3. *Explain four scriptural principles related to giving.*

Sometimes church planters or the pastors of a new group of believers are reluctant to teach about financial responsibility to God's work. They may fear that the people will become discouraged, or they may think the pastor is greedy. This is a mistake. Church planters should be students of God's Word in order to understand the biblical aspects of financial responsibility. Then they are prepared to ask the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom to apply the scriptural principles in their teaching of the new believers.

If self-support is to be attained, the foundation must be right from the beginning. New believers should be taught the responsibilities of stewardship as it applies to their obligations for membership in the local church. The apostle Paul taught the churches to give regularly in proportion to their income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2). Many Christians operate on the principle of giving at least ten percent of their income—a principle that was taught in the Old Testament and is perhaps the best systematic plan for giving to God's work.

Many new Christians need guidance on knowing how to give because they never had the experience of giving to God's work. Scriptural teaching is that giving is to be in proportion to one's income; therefore, most Christians accept the tithe as a minimum standard. In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul points out several principles concerning giving that can help us understand what the believer's attitude should be. First, the Macedonian churches did not give because they had plenty. They gave out of extreme poverty. Second, in spite of the most severe trial, they experienced overflowing joy which welled up in rich generosity (vv. 1–2). Third, on their own initiative, they pleaded for the privilege of sharing with the other saints (v. 4). Paul says they were able to do this because they gave themselves first to the Lord (v. 5). Following are other Scriptures that teach the principles of giving:

1. Giving is to be done cheerfully. “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly . . . for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). “Their overflowing joy . . . welled up in rich generosity” (2 Corinthians 8:2).
2. God promises blessings to those who give. “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse . . . and see if I will not . . . pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it” (Malachi 3:10). “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure . . . For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38). “Whoever sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6). These promises contain the condition that giving is to be done cheerfully and generously, never greedily or with the hope of getting something in return.
3. Giving is an expression of love. “In your love . . . see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7).
4. Giving now assures eternal treasures in heaven. “Give to the poor . . . provide . . . for yourselves . . . a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted” (Luke 12:33).

Teaching by example is always a good method. Wise and effective teachers are those who conscientiously realize their obligation before God. They realize their personal need to follow the Scripture, and in doing so set an example to others. Those who do not live by their teachings are poor examples. They will not be able to train strong converts because people will see the inconsistencies in their lives.

Application

4 Suppose you are teaching a group of new believers about the scriptural principles of giving. How would you explain the following verses? Write your response in your notebook.

- a) 2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:7
- b) Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38
- c) 2 Corinthians 8:7
- d) Luke 12:33



Teach Stewardship

A steward is a person who has the job of taking care of the possessions of an owner. He is the manager of his employer's property. The stewardship of a Christian is two-fold: 1) the Christian is responsible to God for the use of all that God allows him to use, and 2) Christians are responsible to each other for offerings given to God's work.

Jesus taught several parables concerning the work of a manager. In Luke 16:1–2, the manager was called to give an account of his management and found unworthy to continue his position. The teaching in Matthew 25:14–30 implies that we own nothing at all. All that we have is given by God, and we are accountable to Him for its use. What the manager earns and gives back to the owner is not a gift but a requirement. All we can really offer back to God is the proper use of the blessings He has given us and the assurance they are of profitable use to God's kingdom. Our responsibility to God includes not only material things but also other blessings He has given us. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

Our concern in this lesson is primarily the correct use of funds given for God's work. The pastor must be careful to establish confidence in the church through the handling of church money. The new church should be taught to manage its funds faithfully from the first day it begins to receive gifts for the work of God. In some parts of the world people bring part of their harvest to God. In other places people bring part of the money they have earned. It is all an offering to God.

Here is a suggested plan to follow for the good management of church offerings.

1. All offerings should be received and accounted for by at least two members of the church.
2. Accurate records should be kept, detailing the amounts of all the offerings received.

3. All persons counting the offerings should sign their names indicating that they verify the amount received and recorded.
4. A finance committee of at least three members should be responsible for overseeing the disbursements of the offerings. In addition to the members, the church planter or pastor should be part of this committee and act as the chairperson.
5. A treasurer should be appointed from the membership to keep careful record of all church funds.
6. The treasurer should keep the church money in a safe place for future use.
7. Offerings that are given for a specific purpose should be used for only that purpose.
8. Annual financial reports should be made available to all members.

If the outlined procedures above are followed, the church will have a basis for demonstrating its accountability for the offerings received. This will enable believers to avoid any suspicion of how the funds have been used. This accountability is further enhanced by developing a committee of members to oversee the financial ministry of the church. This group may be called the financial committee and would include church officers, especially the church leaders such as the pastor or the church planter.

The finance committee should make a list of the financial needs that are important. As money becomes available, it should be spent according to the priorities on this list. Each financial committee will have to determine the priorities for its particular church. Depending on the location and circumstances of the church, the priorities may vary.

Some of the needs that may have to be considered first are:

1. Pastor's support
2. Rent for a meeting place

- 3. Lights, heat, and water
- 4. Building maintenance
- 5. Educational materials

In most cases the first priority the church should try to meet is to provide support for a pastor. Church members need the leadership of a full-time pastor who is responsible to work with them, teach them, and lead them. Having an adequate place to gather for worship is also a priority. If the church must rent a place to meet, that would probably be the next priority. However, in many places the church can meet in a believer's home or on property provided by a believer. The priority for each need should be determined by the committee on the basis of what is most urgently needed to accomplish the task of evangelism and discipleship.

When a major use of funds is being discussed, the whole group of believers should be invited to discuss it with the committee. This faithfulness in managing the church money will create confidence in the church. The annual financial report that is given to all the members must be understood by everyone so the people know how the money is being used for the work of God. As they learn to give, they will give joyfully, knowing that all the gifts are being used to help further the work of the Lord.

Application

5 What is usually the first need a church should try to meet?

.....

6 List two ways in which the entire church body should be included in the financial matters of the church.

a)

b)

7 In your notebook write a short sentence outline of the procedures a church should adopt so that it can be a good steward of God's money.

THE POWER OF SELF-SUPPORT

Objective 4. *Describe the advantages for growth that a self-supporting church will experience.*

Churches that take the responsibility of supporting their own work for God tend to multiply faster than others. There are three main reasons for this. Faith is encouraged to grow in both the pastor and the believers. Faith is a gift of God (Romans 12:3; 2 Peter 1:1). But any gift, to be of value, must be taken from the giver and used. First Peter 1:6–7 tells us about faith: “Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold . . . may be proved genuine.” When a new church is beginning, it may be a test of faith for a pastor to rely on God to take care of him and his family while he devotes to helping the new church develop. As the pastor studies the Word and claims God's promises, his faith grows. The pastor can help the new believers learn to trust God and claim the promises from His Word. It may be a test of faith for new believers to take the responsibility of supporting the work of God while it is small and struggling. The testing can help to develop faith to attempt more work for God. It is evident from Scripture that faith must be active. “Faith without deeds is dead” (James 2:26). A church that is self-supporting may have its faith tested, but what can be a result of that testing? James 1:3–4 says, “The testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature.” Churches which sacrifice and give generously to God's work will experience growth in faith. This faith helps to give the church spiritual perseverance to reach out in ministry to other areas.

Self-supporting churches have a stronger influence on the unbelievers of the community. If the church planter is supported by funds from outside the church for a long period of time, nonbelievers in the local community may have reason to view the new church as something foreign to their area. This is especially true if the source of funds comes from outside the country. They may call the church a “foreign religion” and assume that believers are trying to gain worldly benefit, instead of spiritual help. They may think of the church planter as a hired agent of a foreign government. What will this do to the church? It will certainly hinder its growth. If the church is to grow, new believers must be won from among the people around the new church. The church that is supported by members of its own community can have a greater sense of belonging to that community, and is not divided in its loyalties to an outside source. A church that belongs to the people can have greater influence on those around it.

Self-supporting churches provide for unlimited growth. This is an important reason why a church should be self-supporting. Funds which come from an outside or foreign source are always limited, and there is the possibility that they may be cut off at any time. If the church does not support itself it will reach a certain stage of development where its limited funds can maintain only the present work. Since funds are limited, there is no way to start new works in the area or send out workers to evangelize. But in a church where people are taught to give, the funds will continue to grow as new believers are won to the Lord. There needs to be no limit on what the church can attempt to do for God’s work. Consider the experiences of two churches in Latin America.

Felipe and Carlos were church planters who started churches in towns near their homes. Both men were dedicated and worked hard. Felipe was supported by a church in another city. Carlos did not receive any outside help.

After Felipe had won about twenty people to the Lord, the house where they were meeting was too small. He wrote to his supporters and they sent money to build a church building. The

people of the community opposed the new church. They did not want a “foreign church” in their town. The church was built, but after so much trouble few dared to come. Those who stayed in the church did not want to maintain it. They said, “the building is not ours. Let those who built it take care of it.” Felipe stayed on as pastor because he was still receiving his salary from the other church. The new church remained small and was able to do little for God.

This is an example of a church built on an attitude of dependency. Since the people depended on someone else to pay the expenses, they would probably depend on the outside source to make their decisions. They would never develop in their own abilities to fulfill the ministries that are intended for a church. When difficulties come, they would have the attitude that those who pay the bills should take care of the problems. The believers of such a church would not have the opportunity to develop self-worth as mature Christians. They would be afraid to attempt new projects in God’s work because they are dependent on an outside source to sustain the work.

Meanwhile, Carlos worked every day at his job. Most evenings and every Sunday he rode the bus to meet with a new group of believers he had won to the Lord. When the group grew to include several families, the people asked Carlos to accept their help to pay his bus fare. He began to teach them the blessing of giving to God. Soon there were enough believers to rent a room where they met for services. The people continued to give and Carlos was able to quit his job and give full time to the church. A few years later the congregation had built its own building. Hundreds of people attended this church. They have been able to start about a dozen new churches in the surrounding areas.

This self-supporting church was never limited by depending on money from someone else. The people knew that they themselves were the only source of income, and they learned early to worship the Lord by giving to His work. The believers in the church pastored by Carlos had the opportunity to develop spiritual maturity. They gained self-worth and recognized their

responsibilities to the church. They never expected anyone else to do anything for them; consequently, they knew it was their task to evangelize in their area and accomplish the ministries of the church. Felipe may have been able eventually to help his church become self-supporting also. But because of a faulty beginning, it would have been a difficult task.

Although financial support is necessary, more importantly, it is the spiritual condition of the church that influences all else. The blessing of God and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit stir the church to attempt greater work for the Lord. If a church is at a low spiritual place, it is not the time to talk about finances, but rather pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual life of the church is the first concern; methods are secondary.

Application

8 List three problems a church may have if it is supported by funds from an outside source.

.....
.....
.....

9 If the pastor of a neighboring church told you that his church was not self-supporting because the people were too poor, based on the lesson discussion, how would you answer him? Use your notebook for your answer.

10 How does self-support help the church in each of these aspects? Use your notebook for your response.

- a)** Developing faith
- b)** Community influence
- c)** Unlimited growth



self-test

TRUE-FALSE. Write T in front of the TRUE statements, and F in front of those which are FALSE.

- ... **1** It was a New Testament practice to administer funds to all the churches from a central office in Jerusalem.
- ... **2** Paul's motive for working at tent-making was so he could be financially independent.
- ... **3** The New Testament teaches that a Christian should not try to earn profits.
- ... **4** The concept of a self-supporting church is practical for a developing country.
- ... **5** It is a biblical teaching that to give cheerfully to God's work assures one of treasures in heaven.
- ... **6** A pastor should not expect a very poor person to regularly give offerings to the church.
- ... **7** In a small church it is practical that the pastor and one member be the finance committee.
- ... **8** All the church members should receive the annual finance report of the church.
- ... **9** The obligations of stewardship should be taught equally to new believers as well as to mature Christians.

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter in front of the best answer to each question.

- 10** The giving of a tithe may be described as
- a)** the only amount we should give to God's work.
 - b)** a teaching contrary to the New Testament.
 - c)** a guide for systematic giving to God's work.

- 11** Good management of church funds means that
- a)** the pastor, as the church leader, makes the decisions on the use of the money.
 - b)** a finance committee oversees the use and safe keeping, the recording and correct reporting of the use of church funds.
 - c)** the church treasurer tries to keep a secret surplus of funds in the bank in case the church has an emergency need.

12 Which person is showing an attitude of Christian stewardship toward money and possessions?

- a)** Stephen says everything belongs to God so there is no need for him to give offerings to the church.
- b)** Mary is happy to give regular offerings even though her income is small.
- c)** Rhoda gives offerings only because she believes God will prosper her for doing so.
- d)** Bill is unemployed and has very little. He decides he need not share with anyone.

13 A self-supporting church has a greater advantage for

- a)** unlimited growth since it does not depend on outside resources.
- b)** more ministry because it spends little time on financial reports.
- c)** soliciting funds from various sources.

14 Self-support benefits a church for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- a)** by giving members an increased sense of responsibility.
- b)** as an encouragement to spiritual maturity.
- c)** to promote the pastor's and members' mutual concern for the ministry.
- d)** to give greater skill in fund raising.

Before you continue your study with Lesson 6, complete your student report for Unit 2 and return Answer Sheet 2 to your GU instructor.

answers to study questions

- 6 a** All members should be included in discussions about major expenditures.
- b** All members should receive an annual financial report.
- 1 a** 2) The local church supports its own ministries.
- b** 1) Preaching the gospel is not for monetary gain.
- c** 2) The local church supports its own ministries.
- d** 3) The local church administers its own funds.
- e** 1) Preaching the gospel is not for monetary gain.
- 7** Your answer
- 2 a** True
- b** False
- c** True
- d** True
- e** False
- f** True
- 8** Any three of the following:
- 1) The church may be viewed as “foreign.”
 - 2) It may be accused of being “money hungry.”
 - 3) The pastor may be considered a foreign agent.
 - 4) Church growth may be hindered.
- 3 a** False
- b** True
- c** False
- d** True
- e** True
- 9** Your answer. Some suggested replies are: The believers in the early church gave out of poverty, not wealth. The New Testament teaches that giving should be in proportion to one’s income. Small offerings accumulated together would be a beginning toward self-support. God has promised to bless those who give. The people will experience joy if they give with love to God.

- 4** Your answers should be similar to the following:
- a** Giving is to be done cheerfully, with joy and generosity.
 - b** Giving that is done cheerfully and generously will be blessed by God.
 - c** Giving is an expression of love to others and to God.
 - d** Giving in this life assures eternal treasures in heaven.
- 10 a** As the members learn to trust God, their faith becomes stronger for all needs.
- b** The community accepts the church and as it becomes part of the community, the church will have more influence.
 - c** The church will continue to grow as new members come in.
- 5** The support of the pastor



Multiplication of Churches

Lessons

- 6 Churches Train Leaders
- 7 Practical Advice on Church Planting
- 8 A Plan for Multiplication

LESSON

6 Churches Train Leaders

David and John are discouraged as they visit Brother Eyo. “I’m sorry to say that the church at Gane is not growing as fast as it was in the beginning,” said David. “We have three more young people, but no other families have joined us this month. The new believers need more of our time, and we cannot find much time to win new people as we did before.”

“I think the answer to your problems can be said in one word, leadership,” said Brother Eyo. “We have talked about how to organize the church and develop a self-governing church. No church can depend on one or two leaders only. Now is the time you must train believers for responsibilities of leadership within the church. As you teach them to help people in the church, they will also learn how to reach people outside the church. This will help to keep the church growing.”

If you are now working with a growing church or plan to in the future, this lesson will help you understand methods of developing leaders who can take responsibilities in the church. You will study principles from Scripture that will be a guide for the selection and training of leaders in the local church.

lesson outline

Reasons for Leaders

Qualifications for Leaders

Preparation for Leaders

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Explain the value of training leaders within the church.
2. Identify the New Testament standard for the selection of church leaders.
3. Identify Christian qualities necessary for effective church leadership.
4. Identify methods by which effective leaders may be developed.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson outline and lesson objectives. Read all Scripture texts given in the lesson and answer all study questions. Check your answer to each question after you have written your answer.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers.

key words

extension class	short-term school
resident school	temperate
seminar	

lesson development

REASONS FOR LEADERS

Objective 1. *Explain the value of training leaders within the church.*

Scriptural Reasons

After a church is established, the church planter may move on to plant new churches in other areas. For the church to continue to grow and expand its ministries, the leadership must be in the hands of local people within the church body. Examples of this principle are clear in Scripture.

During the years of Jesus' earthly ministry, He preached to thousands of people and healed many hundreds, but He chose and trained only a few disciples (the Twelve) to lead the new church and to train others to become leaders. Jesus cared greatly for the crowds of people. He wept with compassion for them (Luke 19:41). While He wanted to win them, He would reach the multitudes best with a few correctly trained disciples. Those same disciples, together with those they brought to the Lord, did reach the multitudes. Their influence was felt "all over the world" (Acts 17:6).

When Jesus gave His final instructions to His disciples, He did not tell them to find great crowds to whom they should preach. He told them to make disciples. This was the key that would enable them to take the gospel to the whole world (Matthew 28:19–20).

The apostle Paul understood this principle well. In 2 Timothy 2:2 he wrote, "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 early church leaders dedicated themselves to the task of training faithful men to continue the process by teaching others also. By training faithful workers the church planter can multiply the results of the work more effectively.

Application

- 1** (Choose the better answer.) According to the teaching in 2 Timothy 2:2, how may a church planter help a church to grow and expand its ministry?
- a)** He will systematically teach God's Word and pray for the church.
 - b)** He will train leaders in the local church, being sure they learn how to teach others.
-

Practical Reasons

That leaders must come from within the church body is evident for both natural and spiritual reasons. People in the church usually respond better to a person who is familiar with their way of life. People who live in a small village, for example, may find it hard to accept a person from a large, cosmopolitan city as their leader.

Spiritually, a church has a great problem if it must always depend on leadership from an outside source. This does not mean that workers within a local church may not leave their area, but that one of the important ministries of the church is to produce local leaders. The development of leaders within the church is a result of responsible self-government. The church is assuming responsibility for its own stability and the obligation to take the gospel to the surrounding community. Usually, this will naturally result in spiritual and numerical growth.

It is a blessing to all the church when a pastor has the vision, as Paul did in training Timothy and Titus, to develop leaders within the church. Such pastors know how to inspire others and delegate responsibility without fear of losing their own authority. These pastors know that members put to work will produce a united, happy, healthy church. A pastor who tries to do everything and keep everything under his control will have to struggle to prevent discontent. He will also stifle the growth of the church. He needs to allow other qualified believers to take responsibility so that they, too, can build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

Application

- 2** In your notebook list three practical reasons why leaders should be developed in the local church.
- 3** Which of these are TRUE statements concerning the necessity of developing leaders in the local church?
- a)** A community can be evangelized better when the responsibility for the task is in the hands of local leaders.
 - b)** Because the early church was immature and unprepared, Paul took on himself all the responsibility for teaching new believers.
 - c)** A pastor strengthens his ministry when he delegates leadership tasks to others in the church.
 - d)** Developing leaders within the local church is part of obeying the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations.
-

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERS

Objective 2. *Identify the New Testament standard for the selection of church leaders.*

In Lesson 3 we studied about church government and the need for certain leaders and committees in the church. These are needed for the stability and effective service of the church. There are certain leaders who will be chosen for the official board of the church. These will assist the pastor in the work of the church. They do not rule the church or the pastor; their function is to serve the church with the pastor.

Scriptural Standards

First Timothy 3:1 reads, "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task." The qualifications for an overseer and deacon are in 1 Timothy 3:2–10 and Titus 1:5–9).

1. He must be above reproach; that is, no one can find a reason to accuse him of improper behavior.

2. He must be the husband of one wife. This was an important statement in a society where men frequently lived with more than one woman. Paul made it clear that the Christian marriage standard was this: Each man was to have one wife, and he was to be faithful to her.
3. He is to be temperate. He is not to be extreme in any activity. He practices self-control and moderation in each area of life.
4. He is to be self-controlled. He is not quick-tempered, does not give in to excessive appetites, nor is in bondage to himself.
5. He is to be respectable. He has an orderly life. His acquaintances respect him.
6. He is to be hospitable; that is, he will share his home and time with others.
7. He is able to teach. He must be able to tell others the good news and to exhort them concerning Christian living.
8. He is not to be given to much wine.
9. He is to be gentle and not quarrelsome.
10. He is not to be a lover of money.
11. He manages his own house and family well. He keeps his children under control with dignity.
12. He is not to be a new convert.
13. He has a good reputation with those outside of the church.
14. He must not be quick-tempered or violent.
15. He must love what is good.
16. He must encourage others with sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Application

4 Read 1 Timothy 3:2–7 again. What is the emphasis in this list of qualifications?

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The requirements for leadership in the New Testament church stress qualities, not deeds. This is true not only in the verses we have just read but also in other incidents where spiritual leadership is being chosen. When Paul needed a traveling companion, he chose Timothy who was a man of whom “the brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well” (Acts 16:2). The Men selected for the task of serving tables in Jerusalem were men “known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3). When Paul wrote his instructions to Timothy and Titus about leaders in the local churches, he emphasized qualities, not tasks.

Paul knew that tasks would change from culture to culture. He knew that a man who could manage his family well could encourage and direct the church family. In every culture and time people need to be prayed for, taught, and encouraged. Having the ability for these ministries was more important than saying how the tasks should be performed.

Paul did not give rigid patterns for leadership. In Ephesus and Philippi he talked about overseers (bishops) and deacons; to Titus he mentioned overseers (or elders) but not deacons. Perhaps he did this to ensure creativity. He knew that different times and different cultures would need a variety of methods to accomplish the same spiritual purpose.

One fact was clear in the New Testament church: There was always a plurality of leadership. No individual served alone, although some had more responsibility than others. Paul points out that “the elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17).

6 Read 1 Timothy 3:2–6 and Titus 1:7–9. Beside each description write the quality of character it describes.

	Quality
John works regularly at his job, spends time in recreation, and eats a balanced, moderate amount of food.	
William has been married to Sarah, his only wife, for ten years. He is faithful and loving to her.	
Hiram is pleased to invite needy people for a meal or to stay in his home.	
Matthew gives offerings regularly, earns enough money to care for his family, and does not take part in “quick money” schemes.	
James was accused falsely by his neighbor, but he answered kindly and was not angry.	
When there was a theft at David’s workplace, his employer knew David was not guilty.	
Robert has been faithful to church for five years, and is a good Bible teacher.	
Peter’s children come to him for counsel and spiritual advice. They regularly attend church with him.	

7 Put an X beside those qualities of character that need to be developed more in your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help attain these qualities.



Identify Recognized Leaders

Objective 3. *Identify Christian qualities necessary for effective church leadership.*

In every village, town, or city are leaders who may be rich, poor, or in-between. But they are recognized leaders because the people respect their opinions and value their judgment. In the event of a local argument, the people expect these leaders to settle it. When a representative is needed to speak to officials the recognized leader will be asked to speak for the people.

The apostle Paul knew that recognized leaders usually make the best spiritual leaders. He knew that these leaders, if truly converted and consecrated to the Lord, could influence people in their whole area to become believers. That is why Paul used every opportunity to witness to such leaders as the chief of Malta, the governors Felix and Festus, King Agrippa, and even to the household of the Emperor of Rome (Acts 24–26, 28; Philippians 4:22).

The church planter is advised to use the same principle that Paul used. He should be bold to proclaim the gospel to all, but be sure that local leaders in each community are given an opportunity to become believers. When there is a group of believers in one place, the church planter should be careful to find the recognized leaders among the new believers. The new believers will respect and follow their leadership. Non-believers will also have more respect for the gospel because they see that these recognized leaders have become believers.

When Paul left his disciple, Titus, to work on the island of Crete, he told him to ordain “elders” in every church. These were to be mature believers with high moral qualifications (Titus 1:5–9). Paul told Titus there were to be such leaders “in every town” (v. 5). The church planter must be careful not to neglect anyone who is a potential leader just because the person may be older or younger than himself. A mature believer may be young in years and an older person may not be spiritually mature. The important fact is this: A potential leader should be respected by the community and mature in his or her spiritual life and conduct.

Application

8 Which are TRUE statements concerning the characteristics of recognized leaders which show they have potential as spiritual leaders?

- a) The community people respect their opinions and advice.
 - b) They are usually the rich people of the town.
 - c) They are influential for the good of the community.
 - d) The community people feel they judge problems fairly.
 - e) They must be the older men of the community.
 - f) They are respected for their high moral standards.
-

PREPARATION FOR LEADERS

The New Testament Approach

Objective 4. *Identify methods by which effective leaders may be developed.*

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

To meet the challenge of evangelizing the lost we can learn from New Testament methods. The book of Acts shows that the methods of evangelism and training church leaders were flexible. This tells us that the New Testament church leaders were open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This also indicates that the emphasis in training leaders to continue the work of the church was first on spiritual preparation rather than intellectual preparation. The apostles trusted the Holy Spirit to guide the new leaders.

Jesus' first preparation for His disciples was that they would "be with Him" (Mark 3:14), and after that they would go out to preach and to heal the sick. Frequently Jesus spent time alone with His disciples to give them spiritual teaching (Mark 4:10; 6:31; Luke 11:1–13; and John 3:22). Spiritual preparation was so important to the disciples' training that even after they had been with Jesus throughout His ministry, in Gethsemane, and

at Calvary, He told them to wait in Jerusalem to be “baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5).

Spiritual preparation comes from studying God’s Word, and learning how to intercede in prayer. With study and prayer that is not superficial, one learns to be taught and led by the Holy Spirit. This learning begins when one’s life is committed to Christ and continues throughout the Christian experience.

PREPARATION BY EXPERIENCE

Jesus helped His disciples learn the work of the ministry by doing the tasks of the ministry. His approach could be called on-the-job training. The church planter or pastor should train leaders like Jesus did. Give workers the opportunity to minister in the church. They can lead evangelism groups, visit and pray for the sick, teach Bible study classes, and lead prayer meetings. We read in Matthew 17:17–20 that the disciples failed in the healing of the epileptic son, but Jesus took them aside and gave them further teaching. Paul had teaching discussions in a hall in Ephesus for two years (Acts 19:9–10), but these were not just lectures. Many workers went out from that class to minister, because in those two years “all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10). This was no small task. Obviously Paul did not visit many places in person. There is evidence that other workers established the church in Colossae, Hierapolis and Laodicea (Colossians 2:1; 4:13). The province was so completely evangelized that it became a center of Christianity for many years.

MANY WORKERS INVOLVED

Jesus sent out twelve disciples for preaching, then He “appointed seventy-two others” (Luke 10:1). These workers went out preaching what they had learned from Jesus and they returned with joy (10:17). Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (10:2). The great harvest requires many workers, and every believer should have a part in the work of the harvest. Not all are called to be preachers and teachers, but the whole body of Christ is part of the team

of witnesses that has a responsibility to take the gospel. A new convert can witness to the unsaved, a seasoned convert can help the new, the pastor can teach the deacons, and the deacons can become lay workers who may start daughter churches. In the New Testament after the death of Stephen, persecution scattered the believers throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1). Only the apostles stayed in Jerusalem, but the scattered believers preached the Word wherever they went (8:4). The same principle operates today. As more lay workers are involved, the expansion of the church will be greater.

Application

9 In your own words list three principles that were followed for training workers in the early church. Use your notebook for your answer.

Train Leaders by Example

SHOW A DESIRE TO SERVE

Jesus said, “No servant is greater than his master” (John 13:16). The church planter cannot expect those he trains to develop greater dedication, vision, and spiritual maturity than he demonstrates by his life. The people will see his example more than they will hear his words. Peter advised, “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2–3).

Our great example of desiring to serve is the Lord Jesus himself. The apostle Paul sums this up very well: “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, . . . made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, . . . he humbled himself and became obedient to death” (Philippians 2:5–8). In Luke 22:14–30 is an incident that describes a wrong attitude of the disciples. John 13:1–17

records the happenings of the same evening and tells how Jesus taught the disciples by His example. Read these passages of Scripture thoughtfully and prayerfully. If a church planter follows the principle of serving those he is leading, then people will follow his leadership.

Application

10 Review Luke 22:14–30 and John 13:4–17. What incident prompted Jesus’ action in John 13:4–5?

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.....

11 Briefly explain Jesus’ teaching in John 13:12–17.

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12 Why is the teaching in these Scriptures so important to us today?

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.....



BE AN EXAMPLE IN FAITHFULNESS AND FAITH

Jesus taught His disciples, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much” (Luke 16:10). For a Christian who is doing the Lord’s work, especially the church planter or pastor, no job is unimportant. We demonstrate our faithfulness by our attention to the small details of work. Do not promise to be at a meeting unless you can be there and be there on time. If you promise to do a task by a certain time, do it. If you are faithful in the little things, those you are leading will have confidence in you. They will learn by your example what it means to be faithful.

The great importance of faith is taught in Hebrews 11:6, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” If there is a key

to success in service to God, it is faith. One person can look at an area where there are no believers and say it is impossible to start a church there. Another will see it as a great opportunity for a church. Faith in God's power means we believe we can accomplish work that appears humanly impossible. Demonstrating faith in the midst of problems and difficulties is the best way to help others learn to exercise faith in God's power.

Application

13 Circle the letter of each TRUE statement below.

- a) Jesus showed the meaning of ministry by washing the disciples' feet.
 - b) Jesus said that one who rules is the same as one who serves.
 - c) Teaching the truth of being willing to serve is the most important task of the church planter.
 - d) Sweeping the church is a useful ministry to the church.
 - e) A pastor who shepherds a church mainly because he feels he must has the right attitude.
 - f) Faith in God's power can best be learned by trusting God in very difficult situations.
-

Advanced Training

Occasionally there are pastors who make the mistake of wanting to keep good leaders tied to their local churches too long. It is true that the local church is where the development of leaders begins and is nourished. However, the ultimate goal of training leaders in the local church is to produce not only local leaders, but also leaders for every ministry of the church worldwide. Evangelists, teachers, pastors, and executives for the church organization must be developed. God has given the ministry of gifts of governing, the word of knowledge, and the word of wisdom to various believers in the church (Romans 12:8; 1 Corinthians 12:28). For new churches to be planted and expanded, pastors must recognize and encourage those whom the Lord is calling to full time ministry.

The apostle Paul recognized the sincere faith and gift of God that was in Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5–6). It is evident that Timothy was with Paul in the ministry for a short time, perhaps only a few months (Acts 16:2–4). Then Timothy was sent to Ephesus and other churches to fulfill his work as a pastor-teacher. Titus, Tychicus, Artemas, and others had contact with the apostles, but they were sent out to their own ministries in the various churches of Asia. Paul refers to them in Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians not as “apprentices” but as “fellow ministers.”

Short-term or extension Bible schools are useful present-day systems that train believers in centers at or near their local churches. These schools may have courses that run from one week to several months. The classes may meet in intensive weekend seminars or at night for many weeks. This process enables those who have church or job responsibilities to have the advantage of advanced Bible training without having to leave their daily work. The schools may use materials from a resident Bible school. Some schools are taught by experienced teachers or pastors using Global University courses in a seminar method. These schools are effective middle-level systems of Bible training because they allow for many more people to receive training. This increases the ministry of the local church.

Resident Bible colleges provide an excellent place for the training of future teachers, pastors, and national church executives who are needed to provide leadership for the advancement of the church. These schools are for those who have already proved themselves as leaders and show evidence of God’s call on their lives.

The years in a Bible institute or college expose a student to a variety of ministries from qualified, experienced teachers. It is valuable for full-time study in God’s Word, further development of a strong devotional life, and benefit from the experience of working and ministering with others who are called to the ministry of the gospel.

Application

14 Circle the letters of the TRUE statements which express correct ideas related to the purpose and method of training church leaders.

- a) The local church is a good place for a person who desires to be a pastor to prove his ministry and leadership potential.
 - b) Paul's method of training leaders shows that potential leaders should serve many years as apprentices.
 - c) The flexibility of short-term or extension Bible schools allows more people to study Bible courses than a regular resident school program.
 - d) Resident Bible colleges are the best places to identify possible church leaders.
 - e) Bible college provides the advantage of exposure to teaching by qualified, experienced teachers.
-

Each local church should be like a seedbed. After the plants sprout in a seedbed and begin to grow tall, there is no more space for them in the bed. The farmer carefully transplants them to the fields where they will have room to grow and produce good crop.

A good church planter will train people in the new churches. As they grow spiritually and become good leaders, he will not try to keep them all working in the same local church. Spiritual leaders bear much more fruit out in the field than they do in the seedbed. There are still many places in the world today where “the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Luke 10:2). A wise leader will help new leaders develop and then send them out to new places in the harvest field.

self-test

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- 1** Leaders are needed within the membership of the local church
- a)** to give members a sense of belonging.
 - b)** to insure the stability, continuity, and expansion of the ministry of the church.
 - c)** for the encouragement of the members.
 - d)** because this is the principle taught by the apostle Paul.
- 2** A church planter who tries to do all the work of the church himself
- a)** will be sure that the work is done correctly.
 - b)** will teach the new believers by his example.
 - c)** will cause discontent and limit the growth of a church.
 - d)** should bring in an assistant from a neighboring established church.
- 3** The qualifications for church leaders
- a)** will vary according to the needs and standards of the local community.
 - b)** are specifically stated in Scripture and are applicable to all times and cultures.
 - c)** are too difficult for new Christians to attain.
 - d)** are specifically stated in Scripture as well as how each task should be performed.
- 4** On-the-job training for the ministry may be described as
- a)** workers who learn by doing the task.
 - b)** observing experienced preachers as they minister.
 - c)** reading books about effective soul-winning.
 - d)** the method suitable only for those without formal schooling.
- 5** Which of these statements best describes the responsibility of the body of Christ to take the gospel to the world?
- a)** Every believer has a part in taking the gospel of Christ to the lost.
 - b)** Certain believers are called to witness to the lost.

- 6** In the New Testament the first principle of training church leaders was
- a)** intellectual preparation.
 - b)** extensive practice in preaching.
 - c)** training in church administration.
 - d)** spiritual preparation.
- 7** The significant point of Jesus teaching that whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much is that
- a)** few people can be trusted with much.
 - b)** faithfulness is a quality of character seen under all circumstances.
 - c)** a person may appear righteous but be untrustworthy.
- 8** The apostle Paul's method of training church leaders was to give them
- a)** detailed directions and personal oversight at all times.
 - b)** encouragement to exercise their gift of ministry and opportunities to do so.
 - c)** extensive periods of close supervision and frequent letters giving instructions.
- 9** All of the following are correct statements regarding the advantages of short-term Bible schools EXCEPT:
- a)** People with work responsibilities can more easily attend classes at short-term schools.
 - b)** They are less costly than most residence schools.
 - c)** One can receive a Bible degree in less time at a short-term school.
 - d)** Such schools make it possible for more people to take Bible training courses.

10 Match the qualities required of a deacon (right) with the evidence of the quality (left).

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| ... a | His employer leaves him in charge of the shop. | 1) Self-controlled |
| ... b | He continues teaching a study class in spite of unjust criticism. | 2) Hospitable |
| ... c | He returns a kind answer to an angry accusation. | 3) Not greedy |
| ... d | He is contented when not thanked for his work at church. | 4) Of good reputation |
| ... e | Even when busy or tired, he invites lonely people to his home. | 5) Mature Christian |
| ... f | He is happy to deny himself so he can give extra offerings. | |

answers to study questions

- 8 a** True
b False
c True
d True
e False
f True
- 1 b)** He will train leaders in the local church, being sure they learn how to teach others.
- 9** Your answer should include: 1) the workers were given spiritual preparation, 2) preparation by experience, and 3) many workers were trained.
- 2** Any three of the following or similar answer:
1) A local leader is more acceptable to the church.
2) Producing leaders is a ministry of the church.
3) It is a means of strengthening the church.
4) The church will be happy and united when members are working together.
- 10** In Luke 22:24 the disciples were disputing about which of them was the greatest.
- 3 a** True
b False
c True
d True
- 11** The disciples had been wanting to exalt themselves. Jesus showed them that to minister or teach they must take the role of a servant.
- 4** The emphasis is on what the man is, rather than on what he does. This emphasizes that if he has the qualities of Christian character, then his actions will be Christ-like.
- 12** If we are to reach people successfully, we must be like Jesus. If we are to minister and lead, we must serve in love.

5 Your answer. For example, you know a man has a good reputation and is respected because the people of the town come to him for advice. Obviously they will trust him to take care of the offerings they give to the church.

13 a True

b True

c False. Being a servant is most important.

d True

e False. He should serve as pastor because he is willing.

f True

6 Your answer may be similar to these:

Temperate

Husband of one wife

Hospitable

Not a lover of money

Not quarrelsome, self-controlled

A good reputation

Not a new convert

Manages his home and family well, is respected

14 a True

b False

c True

d False. The local church is the best place.

e True

7 Your answer

LESSON 7 Practical Advice on Church Planting

After discussing the biblical mandate and theory of church planting, it is time to ask the question, “OK, now what do I do?” In this lesson we will discuss the practical matters of church planting. Under examination are various models for church planting as well as the practical considerations and steps necessary to start a new church.

lesson outline

Has God Called Me To Be A Church Planter?

What Should I Know Before I Begin?

How Have Others Done It?

Steps To Follow

The Role of Media

Other Helpful Materials

lesson objectives

When you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

1. Determine whether or not God is calling you to start a church.
2. Articulate what the new church will be like.
3. Discuss the various methodologies available to plant a new church.
4. Indicate the practical process of starting a new church.
5. Describe the use of media in modern ministry.

learning activities

1. Read the lesson and do the exercises in the lesson development. Check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson.
2. Take the self-test at the end of the lesson and check your answers carefully with the answers given in the back of this textbook. Review any items you answer incorrectly.

lesson development

HAS GOD CALLED ME TO BE A CHURCH PLANTER?

Objective 1. *Determine whether or not God is calling you to start a church.*

Some people set out on the process of church planting without much planning or forethought, and often the result is failure. This is discouraging to the Christian worker and is a poor testimony to the community.

Before beginning any project of this nature it is necessary to ask ourselves some fundamental questions: Has God called me to do this? Do I have the giftings necessary to be a church planter? We as believers are expected to serve with excellence. The scriptures tell us that “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). This should especially apply to the concept of starting new churches.

The planting of a new church is a sophisticated process and not one for the faint of heart. It is commonly thought that a church is started by holding public services when in fact this is the end of a lengthy, well-thought-out process.

The scriptures offer practical wisdom by admonishing us to consider the cost before we begin building (Luke 14:28). Before beginning the process of starting a new church it is necessary to go through serious soul searching.

Application

1 In your notebook, write the following questions and prayerfully answer each one. If you are married include your spouse in this process.

Self-Evaluation Survey

- a)** Do I have definite call to pastoral ministry?
- b)** Is my call to this specific community?
- c)** Do I have the gift of evangelism?

- d)** What actual, verifiable spiritual gifts do I possess, which will enable me to reach this community?
- e)** Do I have a support system for starting a new church?
- f)** Can I build a church planting team, and if so, how?
- g)** Do wise and knowledgeable persons verify that I am gifted for church planting?
- h)** Does my spouse share the sense of call to plant this church, and have we discussed the financial pressures and spiritual strength necessary to endure difficulty in this task?
- i)** Will I ask others to help support me for a time or will I be self-supporting?
- j)** If others are to support me, why should they support me?
- k)** Will this new church relate strongly to a denomination or organization?
- l)** Do I understand the needs of the community?
- m)** Do I know what style of worship music is most acceptable to the target group?
- n)** Do I have a strategy for property, first facilities and staff?
- o)** How much will property cost to purchase or rent in the area?
- p)** How much will the first building cost?
- q)** Have I estimated salaries, benefits, rent, utilities, materials, special events, printing, advertising, and mission contributions for the first three years?
- r)** Do I have a backup strategy should my first strategy not succeed? (Cheyney 2005)

2 Having answered these questions, how do you feel about your decision to plant a church?

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Advice on Calling

Confirm your call. If you aren't sure that God's calling you to this, don't do it. Yes, it's hard

work, but spiritually it is work at the “pointy end” of God’s Kingdom and you will encounter difficulty, hardship, opposition. That stuff can either shape you and mold you in to someone more fruitful or it will kill you. I would definitely recommend getting your call to plant confirmed by more seasoned and wise men— via a network or denomination or the like— before you launch out. (Chant 2007)

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW BEFORE I BEGIN?

Objective 2. *Articulate what the new church will be like.*

Philosophy of Ministry

A biblical philosophy of ministry is a set of non-negotiable, biblical principles that guides all the choices and decisions in your ministry. Your philosophy of ministry should be drawn from a careful investigation of both the explicit teaching of Scripture and any implicit methodologies which can be gleaned from seeing how ministry occurred in the early church. (Philosophy of Ministry)

It is a misguided perception of church planting to hold public meetings without first knowing where the church is supposed to be headed. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest. Each church is to be a unique expression of the bride of Christ. If you simply take off headlong into the future without forethought of what this new church’s role is to be in the Kingdom, you will never live up to the potential that the Lord has given you. As a result, the church will not fulfill its role.

God has a plan already laid out for the church you are going to start. He knows where they will meet, what segment of the population it is to reach, the types of ministries it is to offer, etc. You must first hear from God in prayer concerning the who, what, when, where, and how. Then you must do the hard work of thinking things through. He who goes off in all directions


ends up nowhere. Believers often erroneously think that being spiritual and being philosophical are opposing concepts. But God expects His children to do their best at everything.

Before the church is officially started, the church planting team should have a good picture of what the new congregation will be like. The church planter and or church planting team should have clearly defined their target group, the style of ministry and worship the church will use to minister to its people, and the purpose of this particular church. They should have a clearly defined statement of theological beliefs upon which the church will be built, and the values that the church will embrace from the pastor all the way to the newest believer.

You must know what you are all about. If not, those who come in will determine what the church believes and becomes, how it operates and who it reaches. Most of all, it is imperative that we are faithful to the scriptures. While it is true that methods do change with generations and cultures, some core principles will never change. We must build our ministries around those values.

Application

3 In your notebook, write a paragraph describing what group of people you wish to reach. Include what style of ministry and worship would be appropriate for this people group.



The Purpose of the Church

Each church has its own purpose. This may sound a bit odd but think about it for a moment. Of course, all churches are to win the lost and make disciples but God also has a unique role for each local assembly to fulfill as well.

Ask yourself: What is it that God is saying to my heart? What is to be the driving force of the church? What is that one thing that everyone should rally around? Why does God want this church started?

Too many churches wander from philosophy to philosophy without any clear sense of where they are going. This will take the church nowhere and cause the people to lose confidence in their leader. It is hard to build a fruitful church if the people do not have a singular sense of why they are there and what this particular local body's God-given purpose is.

Before starting something and asking God to bless our efforts we need to take the time to find out what God desires to do and follow His lead. For the pastor, the leaders, and the congregation to have a good grasp on what this new church will be about, time should be spent putting on paper the vision, the values, and the beliefs that the new congregation will embrace. This is not a quick and easy process but one that requires much prayer, discussion, and writing to craft a clear, concise document. This effectively places a picture of the future church on paper. This will place the leadership and core group of believers on the same track and serve as a good foundation for the new church.

The writing of this document will save much time, money, and effort because it empowers the leadership to say no and to avoid distractions that are outside of the vision, core values, and doctrine of the church.

It may help you to see what other churches have written as their purpose statement. You can find many purpose statements by going online and typing in "church purpose statement" in a search engine window.

Application

4 Considering the church you wish to plant, describe what particular purpose or role this new church is to play in the body of Christ of your community.

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The Beliefs of the Church

If the core biblical beliefs of the church are not properly processed, written out, and agreed upon from the beginning, people who join your fellowship may seek to impose their own values and doctrines on others. This can bring confusion and disharmony. A written statement of doctrine read and signed by all members will allow for unity and biblical discipline if and when necessary.

Stetzer (2006) wrote, “Our beliefs are those primary issues of theology that define what we believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, man, sin, the Bible, the role of the Church, and salvation.” To construct a belief statement you may observe the work of other churches by searching online under “church doctrinal statements.”

Application

5 Create a brief doctrinal statement that will guide the life of the newly-planted church.

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HOW HAVE OTHERS DONE IT?

Objective 3. *Discuss the various methodologies available to plant a new church.*

While in some parts of the world inviting people to a public crusade can easily launch a new church, this is not the norm in most places today. When planting a new church, gathering a core group of believers to serve as workers, musicians, teachers, prayer partners, and financial supporters is of utmost importance. To do this you must build relationships with the community at large. We will examine just a few ways in which this can be done.

1. **HIVING OFF:** If the new church plant is part of the mission strategy of an existing church, members with the blessing of the mother congregation can be sent with the church planter to serve as a nucleus of the new church. This can propel the church forward much more quickly. One drawback is that some old traditions also come with believers from an established church which could inhibit a creative new approach of ministry as well as the potential for the church to be inward focused from its inception.

2. **HOME BIBLE STUDIES:** Another good way to begin ministering in a new area is to invite neighbors and other interested persons to an individual's home for informal weekly Bible studies. In this way a nucleus can be formed with no financial outlay and no need for rented facilities. This informal setting allows for personal interaction, giving the seeker the opportunity to ask questions and be discipled.

3. **DOOR-TO-DOOR PRAYER:** The team goes from door to door in the target area meeting people and asking if there is anything they can pray with them about. This method of gathering a core group is simple and effective as people are eager to share their anxieties and troubles with someone who has a sympathetic heart. Sometimes people will share their life story with a team member. As time goes along and people's prayers are answered, opportunities to share Christ and bring them to the Lord will naturally arise. These people over time become part of the core of the newly forming church.

4. **CHILDREN'S EVENTS:** Vacation Bible Schools and Sidewalk Sunday Schools are great ways to win children to Jesus Christ. Touch a child and you touch a family. Parents are moved when someone loves and blesses their children. Special events geared toward ministering to children are a great way to build relationships and a sense of community. As people are exposed to your ministry to know the team and appreciate the newly forming church's love for the community they will begin to trust you.

5. SPECIAL EVENTS: Find out what the needs of your community are and create events to meet those needs in order to meet people and pray with them. This creates friendships and trust, which are valuable commodities for a newly forming church (Wagner 1990).

One church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma (USA) holds an annual “Day of Hope.” The people who come register by giving their name and contact information, and they receive free clothing and food. Also available to the public are health screenings and haircuts, all at no cost. As people are guided through the process, they are struck by the love and care shown to them. Attendees have the opportunity to have believers pray with them, and they are given a complimentary Bible as a parting gift. This event created a great sense of appreciation and trust from the local community.

When considering the process of church planting, one must keep in mind that there are many ways in which it can be approached. God is creative, so must His servants be. Because one method worked in a certain area does not mean that it will work in yours. Cultures differ from region to region and sometimes from town to town. The planter would also do well to remember that just because church planting has always been done one way in your area does not mean that a different approach will not work just as well or even better. Culture is living and as time passes cultures change and so must our methods in order to remain relevant and effective.

The following are church planting strategies suggested by www.newchurches.com:

1. Parachute: A planter and his or her family move into a new location to start a church from scratch. This is perhaps the most common method and one which most people think of when they think of church planting.

2. Sponsoring Church or Organization/Mother Church: “An existing church or church planting organization provides the initial leadership and resources (dollars and/or people) to get a new church started including the selection of the church

planter. Often the church planter is selected from within the organization and has already bought into the vision, values and beliefs of the sponsoring organization.”

This is an excellent method of church planting widely used around the world. This method allows the new church planter to have an experienced pastor mentoring him or her as well as the financial and prayer support of an established congregation. Often the church board of the mother church will function as the board of the new church until such time as deacons can be raised up from within the new congregation, providing seasoned leadership and accountability from the start.

3. Collaborative Network/Partnership: “This is a rapidly growing trend where an organization (or many organizations) committed to church planting work together to plant churches.” This is a great way for small churches to be involved in the process of church planting. Through sharing the load with other churches to mother new congregations several small churches working together can accomplish what they never could have working alone.

4. Satellite/Campus/Multi-site: “An existing church opens new locations. The idea is for one church to have many meeting locations.” Utilizing this method an existing church can start a new church without having to find, train, or pay new pastors or staff. One ministry team can minister in multiple locations over the course of a weekend (New Churches).

Think outside of tradition regarding the time and location of meetings. Sunday is the ideal for weekly services, but as one reaches out to a particular group of people the planter may discover that for unforeseen reasons such as work schedules or other obstacles, the target group can meet only at a time other than Sundays. Keep in mind as well that services do not necessarily have to happen in a “church” building to be effective. The church is not a building; it is the people.

In establishing a congregation among Filipino immigrants in Moscow, Russia, one group discovered that many of the Filipinos were unable to attend services on Sundays. The only

time during the week they could meet was late on Friday nights at their place of employment. Upon securing permission from the employer, a ministry to Filipinos was started at 9:00 on Friday nights at their place of employment. This group quickly grew because the church was designed to meet their needs.

It is imperative that the new church be built around the target culture instead of the culture having to adapt to religious tradition. As the planter strives to birth new churches one must keep in mind that the object of one's ministry efforts is unchurched people. We are striving to impart the Gospel not church tradition.

Advice on Flexibility

Things will not go the way you think they will go. That's ok. God is up to something. He'll let you in on it when He's ready. Pray every day for the strength to handle whatever situations might come up. (Payne)

The International Church Concept

Another effective church planting concept is that of a multi-congregational multilingual church. All around the world communities are becoming increasingly diverse due to ease of transportation, the globalization of economies, educational opportunities, and so forth.

In larger cities pockets of immigrants tend to find each other and form sub-communities within the larger context maintaining their distinct language and culture. This essentially isolates these people groups from the Gospel witness available to the community at large. It is vital that Christian workers have a clear understanding of this trend and address it with their church planting efforts.

In the multicultural or international church model an existing church intentionally seeks to connect with and minister to other ethnic and language groups located within their city. As these people come into the mother congregation, the church will

provide translation of services into their language and over time a new congregation is birthed to facilitate this growing language group. Leaders are then trained to pastor the new congregation who either moves to a new location of their own or continues to be a part of the mother church. With this concept it is possible on a weekend to have many services between Friday evening and Sunday evening. The pastor of the mother congregation serves as the Senior Pastor for the entire multi-congregational church and the pastors of the individual groups serve as associate pastors. The official Board of deacons is comprised of members from each of the congregations, and expenses and responsibilities are divided among the groups depending on their ability.

Application

6 Make a list of three church planting methods you think might work in your area. Describe how you would adapt one of these methods to make it work in your culture.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

Objective 4. *Indicate the practical process of starting a new church.*

Tom Cheyney, J. David Putman, and Van Sanders of the North American Mission Board outlined seven steps to follow in the church planting process.

1. Receive a Vision from God

Sometimes we ministers think of a vision for ministry as our own. However, as Christians we should seek to find and fulfill God's will, not our own. Starting a church is not our idea but God's. Have you ever thought that God wants to incorporate you in His project, not the other way around? Seek God in prayer, and allow Him to give you His vision. He is already at work. Your responsibility is to find out what He is up to and participate with that vision. If you do you will be a success.

ADVICE ON VISION

“Don’t compromise your vision. If you believe you have a vision for a church from God, hold on to it and don’t compromise it for short term gain. What I mean is this, in the early days you will have some Christian folk come across your path who will want in, but they will want in on their terms or with their agenda. The issues might not be huge, but I can’t tell you how important it is to ensure you are absolutely clear and upfront with everyone on where you stand. If it means a smaller core, or you wait longer before commencing a ministry or filling a position—WAIT. We all want things done yesterday, but unless they are fully on board with the vision it is a false economy.” (Chant 2007)

2. Define Church Planting Focus Group

Just as it is important to define the purpose and beliefs of the new church before beginning so it is also of great importance to discover just who God wants you to reach. Often our communities are segmented by race, religion, socio-economics, lifestyles, etc. It is wise for the church planter to realize that he or she cannot reach everyone with one style of ministry. So it is necessary to focus on a particular group of people, whether it is one particular neighborhood, people group, language group, or else.

ADVICE ON CONTEXTUALIZATION

“Know your Target. Buy the demographic data and live in the area. Determine who you will best reach and develop a basic plan to reach them. Don’t over-program! Spend significant time hanging around them. Join the groups they have joined. Love them, don’t treat them as a project. Pray for them every single day!” (Payne).

3. Develop a Church Planting Team

“In order for the project to be successful the church planter must recruit others to aid in the work. There are a myriad of jobs to be performed each week and one person simply cannot accomplish it all. It is imperative therefore to develop a church planting team in order to carry this out. The team can be made up of people from a mother church assisting in the church plant, new believers who have joined the core, family, friends, and ministry colleagues who have come along side to help.”

The size of a church planting team will vary greatly from situation to situation. Sometimes the team consists of as few as the new pastor and his family or as many as one or two hundred people who are sent from a mother church to serve as the core for a new church. In any case it is important that the church planter have as many people helping as possible.

Divide your workers into teams based on skills and interests. Everyone can do something. Divide the work, and invest time and knowledge into your workers.

If at all possible the church planter should bring on the team a music/worship leader and a spiritual development pastor. Music is a critical part of the life of the church. As you begin the process of planning, pray specifically for the Lord to send you people who can fill these critical roles.

ADVICE ON GOING IT ALONE

“Surround yourself with wise counselors. Take to heart the following two passages from Proverbs: “For by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory” (24:6) and “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment” (18:1). You need to surround yourself with counselors. You need to seek out both “fathers” and “brothers.” A father is an older counselor that has been through the fire and can pastor you with his wisdom.

A brother is a person close to you in age and maturity who can relate to your struggle in the “now sense” and can challenge/encourage you in the battle. You should seek counselors from within your network/denomination and without.” (Foster 2007)

4. Identify Resources

In the early planning stages the church planting team should think through realistically what start up costs are going to be involved. Costs depend on what type of church model you use, how many tithe-paying believers you already have in your core, etc.

Set up a budget which includes everything you can think of. Search online to see what others have included in their church planting budgets. Some financial considerations for the first year are: salary for the church planter, rent of a suitable facility, cost of utilities for the facility, musical and sound equipment, promotional costs of literature, special events, etc.

5. Evangelize Unreached People

The purpose of a new church is to bring the lost to Christ, not to attract believers from other churches.

6. Launch Public Ministry

It is advisable not to begin public services until you have a core group that is committed to Christ and to the new church plant.

During the planning stages as you consider who you will be ministering to, what kinds of ministry you will be providing, etc. consider what kind of facilities the church is going to use. When we think about facilities for the church to meet in we tend to think of buying land and constructing a new church building on the site. If funds are available this method is, of course, preferable, but there are many other types of locations in which the church can meet. Schools, hotel conference rooms, shopping center store fronts, theaters,

community centers, hotels, etc. all make good meeting places. These alternate locations can offer unforeseen advantages that traditional church buildings lack because they force the church to be in the market place of society much more than a traditional “religious” building. Churches tend to become more internally focused and isolated from society the older they get. Remember, the reason the church is being planted is to infiltrate society with the gospel and illustrate biblical life to our culture. The fewer barriers we put between us and society at large the better for them to experience the gospel and for us to be pushed into sharing it.


When considering facilities your church will use, visualize how you want your church to interact with society. Since you are going to be a church planter, you need to see yourself as an innovator. You are going to create something that has never existed before. Why use your creativity and innovation to create a traditional church where the lost are forced to come to the church. Take the church to the lost.

7. Mobilize and Multiply Ministry

If the new church is to grow and be healthy, systems must be set in place for the church to focus continually on evangelism and discipleship. There must be a system of leadership training in place to move members into ministry and leadership. There is a tendency once the church is several years old for the members to sit back while the staff and a very small portion of the members are involved in ministry. Once this mentality begins the church is on a downhill slide from which it is difficult to recover (Seven Steps 2003).

Application

7 If you were to begin a church plant today, who would you have on your team? In your notebook, write the names of people who could be a part of your church planting team and what role each of them would play.



THE ROLE OF MEDIA

Objective 5. *Describe the use of media in modern ministry.*

Ipods, cell phones, television, movies, and the internet are major driving forces in the modern world. The learning style of most cultures of our day is less oral and much more visual.

One very effective way of getting the Gospel out is the internet. Even if people do not own a computer, internet cafes have made them accessible in most places. Creating a website, blogging, or using social networking sites such as FaceBook and MySpace are all great ways to get out information. There are a number of websites where you can set up a blog absolutely free.

These tools allow you to communicate and interact with the public. You can post pictures, mp3 sound files, and videos on the internet for free. Many people who might not come to a church will go to an internet site and read, watch and listen to the gospel presented by your team. With a simple email address on your site you can correspond with the viewers in a non-threatening way, witnessing to and discipling them.

Because media is such a huge part of modern culture we would be remiss if we did not include it as part of the modern worship service. Using PowerPoint presentations, videos, and object lessons will greatly increase the interest and learning of your people. Jesus was a master of illustrated lessons.

As with all material you study, the methods delineated in this lesson should be adapted to your local context. Some things will not work in your local situation because of certain restrictions or cultural barriers. However, many of these concepts can be contextualized and implemented. Ask the Lord how to proceed. He already has a plan. Your job is to discover that plan and follow His leading.

OTHER HELPFUL MATERIALS

Below are resources you may be interested in obtaining if you are serious about church planting. Read at least one book a month and continue to be a learner and innovator your whole ministerial life. Prayerfully seek the Lord about the ideas you discover in your readings. He may prompt you to implement some of them. Or God may want you to modify some of the ideas to better fit your context. Never be satisfied with yesterday's results. Believe God for great things!

Suggested Books

- Collins, James, and Jerry Porras. 1994. *Built to Last*. New York: Harper Business.
- Collins, Jim. 2001. *From Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't*. New York: Harper Collins.
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- Rainer, Thom. 2003. *The Unchurched Next Door*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- . 2001. *Surprising Insights From the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Russell, Bob and Rusty. 2000. *When God Builds a Church: 10 Principles for Growing a Dynamic Church*. West Monroe,

- LA: Howard Publishing Co.
- Stetzer, Ed. 2006. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman.
- Wagner, Peter. 1998. *The New Apostolic Churches*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books.
- . 1990. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books.
- Warren, Rick. 1995. *The Purpose Driven Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Suggested Websites

www.churchplantingvillage.com

www.newchurches.com

<http://churchplanting4me.com/churchplantingresources.htm>

self-test

- 1** A person needs a specific calling to plant a church.
 - a)** True
 - b)** False

- 2** Philosophy of Ministry is defined as
 - a)** a set of unchangeable principles that guide the life of the church.
 - b)** the way the church planters feel about church life.
 - c)** a blend of philosophy and theology.

- 3** Why do the biblical beliefs of the church need to be written out from the beginning?
 - a)** To keep accurate church records
 - b)** So you will not forget your doctrine.
 - c)** If the leadership team does not define what the church believes, someone else will.

- 4** When considering the process of church planting there are many ways in which it can be approached.
 - a)** True
 - b)** False

- 5** The methods we use must change depending on where we are planting a church.
 - a)** True
 - b)** False

- 6** In order to fulfill the vision for the new church
 - a)** we must plan and think of what our personal vision should be.
 - b)** we should get advice and ideas from several trusted people.
 - c)** we should seek God to find His will and participate in that.

- 7** It is important to know who you are going to minister to before you start a church.
 - a)** True
 - b)** False

8 As a general rule, an effective church planter should start public services

- a)** at the very beginning of the church planting process.
- b)** as soon as the planter has defined his or her ministry philosophy.
- c)** after the planter has formed a core group of believers.

9 Developing a system of leadership training to move members into ministry should be planned for several years later.

- a)** True
- b)** False

10 Using media in ministry

- a)** compromises the church by making us worldly.
- b)** is effective as more cultures today are visual and technological.
- c)** shifts focus away from the Word of God.

8 A Plan for 8 Multiplication

“Brother Eyo, you know how thrilled we’ve been about what God has been doing at Gane. Last week we shared our feelings with James, the pastor at Bentu. However, he just listened in silence and reacted strangely to our report. What did we do wrong? Should we not have shared what God is doing at Gane?”

Brother Eyo responded, “You were not wrong to share the victories God has given at Gane, but you must remember that not all churches have been established on the same, healthy, biblical principles that you used at Gane.”

Sometimes churches that have been established apart from the three “self” principles struggle for years before new leadership, new vision, and a fresh move of the Holy Spirit make it possible to break out of the old mold and experience life, health, and spiritual vitality.

Some of you reading this lesson may be pastoring or will pastor churches that are not growing and multiplying. Although it may be easier to build a good church from the beginning, it is also true that God wants every local church to be alive and working to win souls to Christ, and He has a plan that will make this possible. As you study this lesson let the Holy Spirit help you discover His plan for you to use so that your church may become a multiplying church.

lesson outline

Determining the Problem

Recognizing Spiritual Need

Planning for Change

Implementing Change

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

1. Explain why a church may not be multiplying.
2. Identify the characteristics that are necessary to bring about spiritual renewal.
3. Identify the basic principles for changing a non-multiplying local church into a growing body of believers.
4. List four scriptural principles of evangelism today.

learning activities

1. Study the lesson in the same manner as you have done for previous lessons. Be sure to read all Scripture texts given, for they are important to a full understanding of the lesson. Answer all study questions and check your answers with those we have given.
2. Take the self-test and check your answer.
3. Answer the questions in Unit Student Report 3, then submit your answer sheet to your GU instructor.

key words

clue

persist

revival

corporate

renewal

violation

implement

resource

lesson development

DETERMINING THE PROBLEM

Objective 1. *Explain why a church may not be multiplying.*

If a church is not multiplying, the first step in seeking a solution is to find the cause. There may be various causes, but usually the basic reason is that the church was not founded on, or is not following, the self concepts. The concepts of self-government, self-support, and self-propagation are the important foundational principles you studied in Unit 2 of this course. There are several reasons why these principles may have been ignored or violated.

1. Reasons for no self-government. Perhaps without realizing it, the church planter may have an attitude that hinders the church's progress in becoming a multiplying church. Because he wants to help the church grow and be strong, he takes too much responsibility on himself and thus delays the church in the development of self government. The church planter may not wish to give up his authority as church leader. It may not be because he thinks he is important, but because he sincerely believes the church needs his help and he believes he can do the work much better than anyone else.

2. Reasons for no self-support. The church planter or mother church may continue to help the new church even though it could become self-supporting. As you studied in Lesson 5, there are dangers if the new church depends on financial help and workers from outside sources. Although the development may be slower, the church will be more permanently established and have a greater ministry when the resources are from within the church body.

3. Reasons for no self-propagation. The believers may not have learned their responsibility as the church body. Some people have the mistaken idea that evangelism, teaching, and prayer is the work of the pastor or a few church leaders. Part of this problem may be that the church planter is too impatient.

He wants to see the church grow. He wants quick results and does not have the patience to teach new believers. He must be willing to allow the new Christians to learn and develop at their own pace.

Application

- 1** Which reasons may hinder a church in becoming a multiplying church?
 - a)** The church planter is reluctant to give authority and responsibility to members of the church body.
 - b)** The mother church allows the daughter church to rely on its own resources as soon as possible.
 - c)** The church members believe it is the pastor's responsibility to evangelize the surrounding communities.
 - d)** Because he is more experienced, the church planter makes all decisions regarding the finances and governing of the church.
 - e)** The church planter does not fear slow growth if it allows the church body to assume its responsibilities, and the church does continue to grow.
-

RECOGNIZING SPIRITUAL NEED

Objective 2. *Identify the characteristics that are necessary to bring about spiritual renewal.*

Unless a local church is growing, it is not fulfilling its purpose. In Lesson 1 you studied that the purpose of the church is to evangelize and teach. Obedience to this purpose results in continual growth.


As the church joins in prayer, the Holy Spirit will impress upon the people's hearts the need for spiritual renewal. Certain common characteristics must be seen in a church when it comes to realize the need to change into a multiplying church. We see an example of the characteristics of spiritual renewal in the nation of ancient Israel. Second Kings 22–23, 2 Chronicles 29–31, 34, and 35 give accounts of revivals during the

reigns of Hezekiah and Josiah. In each case are five common characteristics as the people sought to please God:

1. The people felt a need to change. They recognized their disobedience to God. They realized their need to repent in order to serve Him. They desired greater blessing from God.
2. They sought to learn and to obey God's Word. The people listened to God's Word and began to understand what they should be doing in obedience to God.
3. The people repented for their unfaithfulness. They were truly sorry for their past failures and dedicated themselves to greater service to God in the future.
4. The people sacrificed to do the work of God. They sacrificed their time and money in obedient service to God.
5. The people were unified in spirit, worship, and service. They felt a duty to God and to each other. They experienced joy and God's blessing as a result of their unified efforts.

These same five characteristics will be a part of the change when a local church moves toward becoming a multiplying church.

Application

- 2** Which statements are TRUE concerning the characteristics of spiritual renewal?
- a)** A result of spiritual renewal is willingness to sacrifice to do God's work.
 - b)** Preaching that condemns sin is all that is needed to bring spiritual renewal.
 - c)** Accepting the truth of God's Word brings recognition of one's unfaithfulness to His commands.
 - d)** The church body experiences joy in unity and worship as a result of spiritual renewal.
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PLANNING FOR CHANGE

Objective 3. *Identify the basic principles for changing a non-multiplying local church into a growing body of believers.*

Each church has different needs and different problems, but there are basic principles to follow that will guide you into the Holy Spirit's plan for your church.

MAKE A PRAYER PLAN

No change for the better in a local church can be brought about by human ability alone. The Holy Spirit will guide you in each step toward making your church a growing, multiplying group of believers. Prayer is absolutely necessary to bring about any positive spiritual change in a church.

Jesus Christ is the head of every local church (Colossians 1:18). His agent for leading the church is the Holy Spirit. In prayer the Holy Spirit will teach you all you need to know for your service to the Lord (John 14:26). Empty yourself and your desires to the Lord in prayer. He alone can give you the details of a plan for a multiplying church. Persist faithfully in prayer, even though at first you may be praying alone. Others will join you in prayer as your life radiates the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray specifically. Teach the believers to pray for specific needs. Pray for guidance to the areas that need new churches. Pray specifically about the number of new churches your church can start. Set regular times for the body of believers to come together for prayer. Usually when great church growth has occurred it has been preceded by believers joining in hours of daily fervent prayer.

SET GOALS

Pastors who lead multiplying churches know that along with prayer, setting goals is important. Specific prayer requires specific goals. Scripture supports the concept of setting goals. Jesus approached His goal, the Cross, step by step. He said that He must do the will of the One who sent Him (John 4:34). His

goal was always before Him because He “‘came to seek and to save what was lost’” (Luke 19:10). The apostle Paul was goal-directed. He wrote to the Philippians, “‘But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me’” (Philippians 3:13–14).

Application

3 Write a brief statement explaining the relationship of specific prayer and setting goals. Use your notebook for your answer.

Goals which are set before the church body will demonstrate needs and stimulate enthusiasm for the work of God. For goals to be useful to the believers, they must be stated so that everyone knows what the aim is and what must happen for the goal to be accomplished. A goal such as “preach the gospel to the lost” is too indefinite and lacks direction. The following are examples of goals set by churches that have grown and multiplied:

— Within the next two months, survey the surrounding communities to determine where new churches are needed.

— Start a new church within walking distance of every person in Soon Chum province.

— Start a new church every eight or ten miles in every direction half way to the neighboring churches.

— Every six weeks train a new group of leaders to help in new churches.

These churches reached their goals because they knew what their aim was and they knew when it was attained.

SHARE THE VISION WITH KEY LEADERS


As you continue to pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit in changing your church, share your concerns with key leaders who also feel a need for the church to move forward. At first,

do not share everything you want the church to become. Just share with them about a single need, asking them to pray about the matter. The first change needed may simply be that the people learn to love one another more. Or it may be a new area that is asking you to send lay leaders. Let these key leaders join you in regular prayer for this one area of need. Soon others will join in the prayer meetings. Encourage them, but concentrate on the key leaders and help their faith develop.

As faith increases the leaders will want to help meet the need and inspire others to do so too. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead them. Even if their ideas are different from yours, follow any plan they all agree upon, if possible. Be involved in the plan, but encourage them to take the responsibilities for leadership in the plan.

Application

4 In your notebook list three steps that will help a church to become a multiplying church and briefly explain the importance of each step.



IMPLEMENTING CHANGE

A church that is not multiplying needs spiritual renewal. How can we bring change where it is needed and do it in a biblical way? Change and spiritual renewal must be accomplished in such a way that the majority of the church body can agree on what needs to be done. This is the only way a church can go forward in unity as a body with Christ as the head. The problem in many non-multiplying churches is that the Christians really do not understand what the Bible teaches about the church. For a church to function as God intended, its members must be taught what the Bible teaches concerning the responsibilities of the church. Let us look again at the responsibilities, the church, and the New Testament principles that should be followed in carrying them out.

Evangelize the Unsaved

Objective 4. *List four scriptural principles of evangelism today.*

In Lesson 1 you studied the principles and purposes followed by the church as it was founded. The pattern the Holy Spirit gave the early church must be understood and practiced by the local church today. The principles the body of believers should follow in evangelism may be summarized as:

1. Every body of believers is responsible first to evangelize its own community (Acts 1:8). Teach the Christians from the Word to know the purpose of the apostles and to follow their example. As they understand the directives of the New Testament these purposes will become their purposes.

2. Believers need to evangelize the unsaved where they are in the world. Jesus' parables regarding the Kingdom commanded His disciples to "go to the street corners" (Matthew 22:9). The apostles preached where the believers were gathered (Acts 2:14, 46; 5:25, 42; 17:17). Christians must act on the knowledge that their responsibility does not end with inviting the unsaved to church.

3. The primary goal of evangelism in the community must be to win adults and therefore households. When adults are won there will be steady growth with a strong foundation (Acts 10; 16:31–33; 16:14–15; 1 Corinthians 1:16).

4. New believers must be quickly integrated into the church body. New Christians need to find their place within the family of believers (John 13:35; Acts 2:42; 9:31). And they need to be edified, which brings us to the next purpose of the church (Ephesians 4:12).

Application

5 In your notebook list from memory the four principles carried out by the church in evangelizing the unsaved. Read this section again if you need to refresh your memory.

6 Read your list again. Put an X in front of the principles that are being followed by your church.

Edify the Believers

You will remember from Lesson 1 that another purpose of the local church is to edify, or build up, the body of believers in spiritual knowledge and strength. A local church must learn from God's Word its responsibility for edification of the local body as well as the church universal. The responsibility to the church universal is a primary motivation for the church to become a multiplying church. What must the body of believers learn about edification?

1. Edification is brought about first by a basic knowledge and then by an in-depth knowledge of the Word of God. Without the means of modern communications how did the early church multiply at such a phenomenal rate? We have clues throughout the book of Acts. We see over and over again that the believers were taught the message of God. Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra to encourage the disciples in their faith. Paul spent a whole year teaching in Antioch, a year and six months in Corinth (Acts 18:11), and three years in Ephesus (Acts 20:31).

The Word of God is a requirement for spiritual growth. It is by learning Bible doctrines that we begin the edifying process. Peter said, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

The apostles taught the converts face to face. Following this the young churches were taught further by means of the epistles. These letters were written to lead believers into deep knowledge of God's truth. The instruction in written form was permanent. It could be studied again and again and circulated among many churches. Ultimately, these divinely inspired letters provided us with the Word of God, which we can use today in the same way it was used in the early church.

Application

- 7** (Select the best completion.) The primary purpose of edification is that
- a)** believers may enjoy fellowship with one another.
 - b)** the church may be built up in spiritual strength and the knowledge of God.
 - c)** believers may be able to build a better building and attract more people.
-

2. Believers must have experiences that will lead them beyond the knowledge level, and they must be spiritually equipped for Christian service. There is a danger that Christians will learn the great truths of God's Word but never move on to an active ministry that shows spiritual wisdom, awareness, and sensitivity to their position in Christ. How can Christians go beyond the knowledge level? Becoming Christian witnesses and being involved in evangelism ministry will take them to the application level. For Christians must not merely receive the truth; they must also have opportunities to minister to others and to win unbelievers to Christ.

Read again Christ's purpose for the church:

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

What is the purpose of teaching and preaching? To prepare God's people for works of service. Why? To build up the body of Christ. This body is not just one local church. The body of Christ is made up of local churches throughout the world. Therefore, the natural result of building up one church will be

the building of other churches. A church that is filled with the fervent love of God, love for His Word, and knowledge of His Word should also be zealous to take the message of His love to the lost world.

Application

- 8** Circle the statements that are TRUE regarding edification.
- a)** Edification of believers takes place primarily within the church.
 - b)** To be edified a Christian must go away from home and attend Bible school.
 - c)** Only years of memorizing Bible doctrines will bring about edification.
 - d)** A purpose of edification within the church is to enable believers to evangelize the lost.
 - e)** A person who is saved is also completely edified at the same time.
 - f)** Believers are edified through biblical teaching and a thorough study of Scripture.
-

Believe for a Multiplying Church

In this lesson you have studied principles to help your church become a multiplying church. Although there is no set of rules that will work everywhere, you have learned common characteristics of churches which have become multiplying churches. Only the Holy Spirit can teach you what actual steps will make your church multiply. The time you spend in prayer to discover the Holy Spirit's plan for your church will help you become the kind of pastor who can lead a growing church.

Just as the Holy Spirit has a plan to overcome problems in other churches, He has a plan for your church too. As you go to the Lord in prayer, remember that the church belongs to Christ; therefore there are certain promises in His Word that you can claim for yourself and the church.

1. He promises to be with us always as we preach the gospel (Matthew 28:20).
2. He promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18).
3. He promised to be where believers gather (Matthew 18:20).
4. He will answer prayer (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24).
5. Prayer is powerful and effective (James 5:16).
6. He loves and cares for the church (Ephesians 2:21–22; 5:25, 29).
7. The Holy Spirit will guide and teach (John 14:26).

If there is a key that will unlock the Holy Spirit’s plan for your church, it is your own willingness to claim God’s promises in prayer and to obey the voice of the Spirit as He leads you. Whenever and wherever great churches are founded and believers are planting new churches, there is great emphasis on private and corporate prayer.

Application

9 Read the following verses of Scripture and identify the promise you can claim for the church in each.

- a)** Matthew 21:22
- b)** Matthew 28:20
- c)** James 5:16
- d)** Matthew 16:18
- e)** John 14:26
- f)** Ephesians 5:25, 29



If you are a leader in a church that is not multiplying, then I am praying for you. I am asking God to help you believe that your church can become strong and that the Holy Spirit will reveal His plan to help your church grow and multiply.

self-test

In this self-test we will describe a church that is not multiplying. Apply the principles of this lesson to see how it can be helped.

PART ONE

The small town of Joya had one church that had been there for 20 years. It usually had an attendance of 50–80 people. The people used their poverty as an excuse for not giving to God’s work. They elected John to be their pastor and were happy that he was supported by a foreign organization. The church had a Sunday school but no other outreach evangelism. The members were not faithful teachers, so John taught the adult class and his wife taught the children. John dismissed the church board soon after he became pastor, because members were disinterested and he could do the work more efficiently.

SHORT ANSWER. Answer the following questions based on the scenario above.

1 The principle of self-support was violated in what two ways?

.....
.....

2 A self-government principle was violated when

.....

3 How do we know the self-propagation principles were not followed?

.....
.....

4 At least two of the responsibilities to the church body that the believers had not learned were

.....
.....

PART TWO

John preached against the sin of selfishness, but the people resented his preaching. John began to preach about the joys of giving and God's blessings on those who gave. They resented this even more. In desperation, John rose early to pray. After a while several concerned members joined him. John was faithful in prayer and preaching. Then during one service the people heard about a man who had starved in order to save food for his family. The people began to weep. The Holy Spirit swept over all the church, convicting the people of sin and they repented. They wanted to learn and to obey God's Word. They began to give sacrificially to God's work.

MULTIPLE CHOICE. Circle the letter of the correct answer based on Part Two of the scenario.

- 5** The Joya people began to experience spiritual renewal when they
- a)** elected a new pastor.
 - b)** realized their need to change and to repent for unfaithfulness.
 - c)** could not persuade more people to attend church.
- 6** The people will show their repentance in all of the following ways EXCEPT by
- a)** desiring to learn and to obey God's Word.
 - b)** sacrificing to do God's work.
 - c)** sending members to other towns to collect money for the poor.
 - d)** showing a spirit of unity, worship, and service.
- 7** To help believers become a multiplying church the pastor will
- a)** tell the people they should pray and go into all the world and preach the gospel.
 - b)** lead them in specific prayer plans to attain measurable goals agreed upon by the church.

TRUE-FALSE. Place a T in the blank space if the statement is TRUE. Write F if it is FALSE.

- ... **8** The first responsibility of a local church is to take the gospel to its own community.
- ... **9** The best way for believers to win the lost is to urge them to come to church to hear the gospel.
- ... **10** The evangelism of a community will have a stronger foundation if the emphasis is on winning adults to Christ.
- ... **11** The primary function of edification is to attract sinners to the church.
- ... **12** God's people are edified by Christ-centered preaching and a thorough study of Scripture.
- ... **13** The purpose of edification is to prepare believers for united service.
- ... **14** Reviewing and claiming God's promises is one way we can help the church to multiply.

Be sure to complete your unit student report for Unit 3 and return Answer Sheet 3 to your GU instructor.

answers to study questions

- 5 1) Every body of believers is responsible first to evangelize its own community.
- 2 Believers should take the gospel to the unsaved wherever they are and not wait for the unsaved to come to church meetings.
- 3 A primary goal of evangelism must be to win adults.
- 4 New believers must be quickly integrated into the church body.
- 1
 - a) The church planter is reluctant to give authority and responsibility to members of the church body.
 - c) The church members believe it is the pastor's responsibility to evangelize the surrounding communities.
 - d) Because he is more experienced, the church planter makes all decisions regarding the finances and governing of the church.
- 6 Your answer
- 2
 - a True
 - b False
 - c True
 - d True
- 7
 - b) the church may be built up in spiritual strength and the knowledge of God.
- 3 Your answer should be similar to this: Setting specific goals will enable us to pray specifically.
- 8
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) False
 - d) True
 - e) False
 - f) True

- 4** Your answer should include in any order: a) Make a prayer plan. Through prayer the Holy Spirit will guide and bring spiritual change in the church. b) Set goals. One must have goals in order to know what to pray for, what to work for, and to know when the task has been accomplished. c) Share the vision with key leaders. The leaders of the church must work and pray together. Also, the vision helps leaders to see the need for change.
- 9** a) Jesus promised that prayers will be answered.
b) He promised to be with us always.
c) That prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
d) Jesus promised to build His church.
e) The Holy Spirit will teach and guide.
f) The Lord loves and cares for the church.

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Glossary

The right-hand column lists the lesson in the study guide in which the word is first used.

		<i>Lesson</i>
administration	— the acts of management or supervision	2
advisory	— giving counsel, information, or warning	3
Aramaic	— a Semitic dialect closely related to Hebrew	2
blatant	— in an immoral or offensive manner	3
by-laws	— rules adopted by an organization for the regulation of its members or the organization of its affairs	3
campaign	— an effort or series of meetings designed to bring about a particular result	4
characteristic	— reveals a certain quality	1
clue	— an indication of reliable information	8
commitment	— act of pledging or assigning a particular action or trust	3
community	— a group of people living in a particular area usually having one or more common interests; also may refer to the area	1

conduct	— a standard of personal behavior	3
constitution	— a written document stating the rules and agreements of an organization	3
conversion	— the experience of changing from unbelief to faith	2
corporate	— relating to a unified body of individuals	8
culture	— the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group	1
<hr/>		
deacon	— a layman selected by a local church to serve in worship, assist in pastoral care, or on administrative committees	2
decision	— the act or process of coming to a choice or judgment	3
delegate	— to assign responsibility; a person acting for another	2
discipline	— to train or develop by instruction; to bring about prescribed behavior	3
divisive	— creating disunity or dissension	2
doctrinal	— relating to fundamental principles, teachings, and policies of a particular system of belief	2
<hr/>		
edify	— to instruct or improve spiritually or in religious knowledge	1
elder	— one having authority by virtue of age and/or experience	3
emergency	— unforeseen combination of events that call for immediate action	5

empower	—	to give official authority or power	1
evangelism	—	the winning of personal commitments to Christ	1
evangelize	—	to preach the gospel with the purpose of winning people to Christ	
extension class	—	a class in a separate geographical location from the school offering the course	6
fellowship	—	a quality or state of being comradely	1
fervor	—	a steady intensity of feeling	4
finances	—	the money or resources of a person or group; the system of using the resources	2
flexible	—	ability to change to new situations	2
goal	—	the end toward which an effort is made; purpose	4
guideline	—	an indication or outline of policy or conduct	1
identify	—	to be or cause to be essentially the same; to recognize by a characteristic	1
implement	—	to carry out plans; to insure actual fulfillment	8
integrate	—	to form or blend what was separate into a whole	1
interact	—	to act upon one another; to have communication	4

intercessory prayer	—	prayer in which one pleads for another, entreaty in favor of another	4
leadership	—	the position, quality, or capability of guiding or directing people and activities	3
local	—	a particular limited area	1
logical	—	in accordance with orderly reason	5
magnetic	—	the ability to attract or charm	2
management	—	the act of supervising or directing	3
maturity	—	a quality or state of attaining growth and development	3
ministry	—	the act of serving; caring; refers to collective ministries of believers	1
minutes	—	of official written record of the proceedings of a meeting	3
mission	—	a specific task to which a person or a group is charged	2
multiply	—	to increase in number greatly by each unit adding upon itself	1
nurture	—	to further the development by care, attention, or education	1
organizational	—	relating to the manner in which groups are structured for a specific purpose	2
outreach	—	to reach out beyond one's usual limits	4

parliamentary rules	— the rules and precedents governing the proceedings of a business meeting	3
pattern	— a model proposed for imitation	1
persist	— to go on stubbornly or resolutely in spite of opposition or warning	8
personality	— an individual's distinguishing character traits, attitudes, and habits	2
practical	— proven useful; proved effective in use	5
prejudice	— an adverse judgment or opinion without just grounds or sufficient knowledge	4
principle	— a fundamental truth, doctrine, or law upon which others are based	1
propagate	— to cause to spread out; to increase in greater numbers	4
recognition	— the acknowledgment of having certain rights or the right to be heard	3
renewal	— the act of making new spiritually	8
reproduce	— to cause to make again; to make others like itself	2
resident school	— a school which provides a period of study for students in which the students live on the premises or nearby while attending classes	6
resource	— a source of supply or support	8

responsibility	—	the quality of being able to answer for one's conduct and obligations; the ability to choose between right and wrong	3
revival	—	the act of giving new life or vigor	8
ritual	—	the established form or prescribed words of a ceremony	2
role	—	an expected behavior pattern determined by an individual's status	1
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sanctity	—	to set apart for sacred purposes; to be free from sin	2
self-governing	—	to administer one's own policy; to control or rule oneself	3
self-propagating	—	to produce or make products like or similar to oneself	3
self-supporting	—	meeting one's own needs by one's own efforts	3
seminar	—	a group of students studying a specific subject under a teacher, usually involving discussion and exchanging reports	6
short-term school	—	a school occurring over a short period of time to meet special needs	6
spiritual	—	related to the God-conscious element in the human being	2
stewardship	—	the office or the responsibility to manage another's property	5
strategic	—	important for the accomplishment of a planned effect	2

supernatural	— relating to God; that which is beyond the laws of nature	2
suspend	— to set aside temporarily from an office, a function, or a privilege	3
systematic	— a methodical procedure or a plan marked by thoroughness and regularity	2
<hr/>		
Talmud	— the written authority of Jewish laws and traditions	2
temperate	— moderate, not extreme or excessive	6
tithe	— a one-tenth part of something	5
<hr/>		
universal	— present or occurring everywhere	1
<hr/>		
violation	— the act of breaking laws or established rules	8

Answers to Self-Tests

Lesson 1

- 1 b)** preach in open air services, then gather new believers for teaching.
- 2 a)** scripturally based on divine authority.
- 3 c)** John preaches at a village even after the heathen people have burned the new church building.
- 4 b)** in the church body.
- 5 a)** John allows every member to participate in church ministries according to his ability.
- 6 d)** hearing the Word of God.
- 7** False
- 8** False
- 9** True
- 10** False
- 11** True
- 12** True

Lesson 2

- 1 b)** proclaiming the redemptive purposes of God to all peoples.
- 2 c)** they received the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3 b)** proclaiming that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus were in direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.
- 4 e)** the statements in a) and b).
- 5 a)** the apostles did not reject anyone for his background, but presented salvation only by faith in Christ.
- 6 c)** All church functions were planned and directed by the head apostle, Peter.

- 7 c)** acceptable to those they lead.
- 8 b)** authorized delegates reported to the churches, or written reports sent to them concerning decisions made.
- 9 c)** A man should divorce his unbelieving wife.
- 10 d)** demonstrating that all disciples are co-laborers together for Christ.
- 11 b)** combine partial scriptural truth with false teaching.
- 12 a)** building a firm faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3

- 1 c)** establish the church for future growth.
- 2 a)** to build a self-supporting, self-propagating church.
- 3 b)** train local leaders, leave them in charge, then make occasional visits.
- 4 a)** promote growth of spiritual ministries and respect for its own leaders.
- 5 b)** have a basis of fellowship and prevent doctrinal error or controversy.
- 6 c)** restore the member to a right relationship with God.
- 7 c)** The pastor does not vary from his discussion list.
- 8 b)** prevent unworthy persons from becoming members.
- 9** True
- 10** False
- 11** False
- 12** False
- 13** True
- 14** True
- 15** True
- 16** False

Lesson 4

- 1** True
- 2** False. All are commanded to evangelize and teach.
- 3** True
- 4** False. The first step is prayer.
- 5** False. All Christians should be involved.
- 6** True
- 7** False. Outdoor evangelism can be effective wherever it can be used.
- 8** False. Plans should be flexible.
- 9 c)** Plan prayer into all the work schedule.
- 10 b)** bring hearers to a decision to confess Christ as their savior.
- 11 a)** believers who are committed to Christ and brought together as a body for teaching and fellowship.
- 12 b)** enlarged ministry and fellowship in the body of Christ

Lesson 5

- 1** False
- 2** False
- 3** False
- 4** True
- 5** True
- 6** False
- 7** False
- 8** True

9 True

- 10 c)** a guide for systematic giving to God's work.
- 11 b)** a finance committee oversees the use and safe keeping, the recording and correct reporting of the use of church funds.
- 12 b)** Mary is happy to give regular offerings even though her income is small.
- 13 a)** unlimited growth since it does not depend on outside resources.
- 14 d)** to give greater skill in fund raising.

Lesson 6

- 1 b)** to insure the stability, continuity and expansion of the ministry of the church.
- 2 c)** will cause discontent and limit the growth of the church.
- 3 b)** are specifically stated in Scripture and are applicable to all times and culture.
- 4 a)** workers who learn by doing the task.
- 5 a)** Every believer has a part in taking the gospel of Christ to the lost.
- 6 d)** spiritual preparation.
- 7 b)** faithfulness is a quality of character seen under all circumstances.
- 8 b)** encouragement to exercise their gift of ministry and opportunities to do so.
- 9 c)** One can receive a Bible degree in less time at a short-term school.
- 10 a)** 4) Of good reputation
- b)** 5) Mature Christian
- c)** 1) Self-controlled
- d)** 5) Mature Christian
- e)** 2) Hospitable
- f)** 3) Not greedy

Lesson 7

- 1** True
- 2 a)** a set of unchangeable principles that guide the life of the church.
- 3 c)** If the leadership team does not define what the church believes, someone else will.
- 4** True
- 5** True
- 6 c)** we should seek God to find His will and participate in that.
- 7** True
- 8 c)** after the planter has formed a core group of believers.
- 9** False
- 10 b)** is effective as more cultures today are visual and technological.

Lesson 8

- 1** The people did not give tithes and offerings to the church. The pastor was supported only by outside funds.
- 2** John dismissed the church board.
- 3** The church had not grown in 20 years, and there was no outreach evangelism.
- 4** To give offerings to support the church; to take leadership in the church either in teaching or as board members.
- 5 b)** realized their need to change and to repent for unfaithfulness.
- 6 c)** sending members to other towns to collect money for the poor.
- 7 b)** lead them in specific prayer plans to attain measurable goals agreed upon by the church.
- 8** True

9 False

10 True

11 False

12 True

13 True

14 True

Starting New Churches

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS



DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the unit student report answer sheet for that unit. The following are directions how to indicate your answer to each question. There are two kinds of questions: TRUE-FALSE and MULTIPLE-CHOICE.

TRUE-FALSE QUESTION EXAMPLE

The following statement is either true or false. If the statement is

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

1 The Bible is God's message for us.

The above statement, *The Bible is God's message for us*, is TRUE, so you would blacken space A like this:

1 B C D

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION EXAMPLE

There is one best answer for the following question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 2** To be born again means to
- a)** be young in age.
 - b)** accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c)** start a new year.
 - d)** find a different church.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*; so you would blacken space B like this:

2 A B C D

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit One. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.

PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit One.
- 2** Christians should take the gospel to their own community first.
- 3** Evangelistic services to reach the unsaved is the primary purpose of the local church body.
- 4** Churches multiply under preaching based on divine authority.
- 5** The gospel must be taken to unbelievers out in the world where they live.
- 6** Preaching against idolatry is the biblical way to win the lost.
- 7** Ministry gifts of healing are used only within the church body.
- 8** Teaching is a ministry gift used primarily within the church.

PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.

- 9** Preaching the gospel in spite of persecution is a result of
 - a)** a strong personality.
 - b)** the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
 - c)** not following God's leading.
 - d)** an indication to preach elsewhere.

- 10** The church planter's message must be Bible-based and
- a)** socially acceptable.
 - b)** Christ-centered.
 - c)** authoritative.
 - d)** forceful.
- 11** The primary mission of the church may be defined as
- a)** starting a church in my community.
 - b)** sending Christian workers to every nation.
 - c)** establishing Bible schools to train pastors.
 - d)** proclaiming the redemptive purposes of God to the world.
- 12** Ministry gifts are given to all members of the body of Christ
- a)** but only certain leaders may actively use the gifts.
 - b)** to attract unbelievers by the working of miracles.
 - c)** to build up the body of Christ and prepare members for service.
 - d)** primarily for prophetic preaching.
- 13** Faith received by hearing the Word is one aspect of the
- a)** work of the Holy Spirit in church planting.
 - b)** planning of the church planter.
 - c)** work of the pastor in a new church.
 - d)** church planter's responsibility in evangelism.
- 14** Organizational structure of a church should be developed
- a)** when the church has a board of deacons.
 - b)** according to a pattern established by a neighboring church.
 - c)** to meet the needs of the church.
 - d)** as evidence that the pastor is an effective leader.
- 15** The New Testament pattern of church financing is that
- a)** regular giving is an act of worship and love.
 - b)** every member gives ten percent of his income to the church.
 - c)** a finance committee agrees on a budget for the church.
 - d)** the pastor describes the needs and asks for offerings.

- 16** Churches usually multiply more quickly when planted
- a) among people of a similar religion.
 - b) in a small, friendly town.
 - c) near large schools.
 - d) in strategic cities.
- 17** The primary purpose of an administrative church council is to
- a) establish the rules and policies of the church.
 - b) promote unity of the church body.
 - c) grant ordination to pastors.
 - d) control the election of church officials.
- 18** To prevent personality divisions in church leadership it is wise to
- a) limit pastoral ministry to two years at one church.
 - b) avoid designating any one person as a leader.
 - c) demonstrate that all believers are co-laborers with Christ.
 - d) pray for humility.
- 19** Believers are protected from false teachers when they
- a) study God's Word and have a firm faith in Christ.
 - b) hear various opinions and make their own decisions.
 - c) memorize a statement of faith.
 - d) listen to the teaching of only one pastor.
- 20** A purpose of the letters to the Galatians and the Corinthians is to refute false doctrine and
- a) warn the believers to fear other teachers.
 - b) build understanding and faith in the person and work of Christ.
 - c) require believers to follow Paul's teaching.
 - d) prepare young pastors for ordination.

END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT ONE. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area, then begin your study of Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit Two. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.

PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit Two.
- 2** Self-governing churches' main goal is to recognize the ability of the local church members.
- 3** Self-government is needed early in the life of the church.
- 4** A church naturally becomes smaller as it self-propagates.
- 5** Open air evangelism is a method useful only in large cities.
- 6** A self-propagating church is one that plants new churches.
- 7** New Testament teaching indicates that all churches can be self-supporting.
- 8** Church financial reports need to be given only to the pastor.

PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.

- 9** Self-government is the foundation needed for
 - a)** a self-propagating, self-supporting church.
 - b)** the development of community leadership.
 - c)** a cooperative fellowship.
 - d)** recognition by civil authorities.

- 10** Paul established self-governing churches by
- calling trained leaders from Jerusalem.
 - requiring monthly reports from each new church.
 - training and giving responsibility to local leaders.
 - appointing a board of deacons in every church.
- 11** Early self-government is needed primarily to
- prevent friction among candidate leaders.
 - promote local leadership and spiritual growth.
 - free the church planter for other ministries.
 - encourage leadership talents in local members.
- 12** Agreement on doctrinal standards is a first step in self-government needed for
- cooperation with other churches.
 - the appointment of the best leadership in the new church.
 - effective evangelistic work for surrounding areas.
 - the prevention of doctrinal error and promotion of unity.
- 13** Self-government must include discipline of members in order to
- protect the reputation of the church.
 - prevent sin in the church.
 - establish a standard of conduct for the church members.
 - restore an erring member to a right relationship with God.
- 14** A self-propagating church will have as its primary goal the
- teaching of a body of believers who are committed to Christ.
 - bringing of many people to hear the gospel.
 - evangelism of all the surrounding communities.
 - establishment of a standard of faith.
- 15** The primary benefit realized by a self-propagating church is
- the increased fellowship of many members.
 - being a good example to daughter churches.
 - its spiritual strengthening in ministry and fellowship.
 - its enlarged vision for the needs of the world.

- 16** To plant new churches the mother church must first
- a)** determine the best locations for new churches.
 - b)** find people who are ready to receive the gospel.
 - c)** schedule prayer into all the planning.
 - d)** train teams of reliable workers.
- 17** Self-support gives a church the advantage of
- a)** independence from accounting to others.
 - b)** freedom from dependency and limitations of growth.
 - c)** demonstration of fund raising ability.
 - d)** no foreign influence.
- 18** Correct management of church finances includes
- a)** the sole authority of the pastor to spend the money.
 - b)** a finance committee who oversees safekeeping, recording, and reporting of funds.
 - c)** a bank account with emergency funds.
 - d)** regular fund raising programs.
- 19** New believers should be taught
- a)** to give exactly ten percent of their income to the church.
 - b)** not to be concerned about financial needs.
 - c)** the responsibility, joy, and blessing of giving to God's work.
 - d)** to share their possessions with other believers.
- 20** A self-supporting church will have greater growth for the following reasons. Which one is NOT true?
- a)** Donors in other areas will want to assist the church.
 - b)** The members feel a greater responsibility to the church.
 - c)** The pastor and members feel a mutual concern for the ministry.
 - d)** There is growth in spiritual maturity.

END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT TWO. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area, then begin your study of Unit Three.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT THREE

Answer all questions on Answer Sheet for Unit Three. See the examples on the DIRECTIONS page which show you how to mark your answers.

PART 1—TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

The following statements are either true or false. If the statement is

TRUE, blacken space A.

FALSE, blacken space B.

- 1** I have carefully read all of the lessons in Unit Three.
- 2** Leaders within the church promote stability and continuity.
- 3** Jesus used on-the-job training methods.
- 4** Qualifications for church leaders vary according to abilities.
- 5** A good leader will teach others to lead.
- 6** The church planting team should have a clearly defined target group.
- 7** Church planters must not build relationships with the community.
- 8** The only purpose of edification is to attract the unsaved.

PART 2—MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

There is one best answer for each of the following questions. Blacken the space on your answer sheet for the answer you have chosen.

- 9** A church planter trains local leaders by
 - a)** doing all the work himself to set a good example.
 - b)** showing the work of well-trained leaders from another church.
 - c)** helping the members develop their abilities.
 - d)** giving responsibility to the person of greatest ability.

- 10** Qualifications for church leaders
- a)** will depend on local cultural standards.
 - b)** are too rigid for all but very mature Christians.
 - c)** are stated in Scripture and apply to all cultures.
 - d)** will vary according to educational level of the people.
- 11** The first requirement for training church leaders is
- a)** intellectual preparation.
 - b)** practical experience.
 - c)** administrative preparation.
 - d)** spiritual preparation.
- 12** The qualities required of a deacon can be measured by
- a)** the number of hours he works at his job.
 - b)** his reactions to daily life situations.
 - c)** the regularity of his church attendance.
 - d)** his faithfulness in paying tithes.
- 13** Does a believer need to be specifically called to plant a church or is the need the call?
- a)** The believer must be specifically called by God to plant a church.
 - b)** The need is the call.
 - c)** Anyone can plant a new church.
- 14** A philosophy of ministry is
- a)** a blend of philosophy and theology.
 - b)** the way the church planters feel about church life.
 - c)** a set of unchangeable principles that guide the life of the church.
- 15** Because the process of church planting is so complex the author recommends that
- a)** church planters work alone.
 - b)** church planters form a team.
 - c)** new churches be started only by experienced church planters.

- 16** What is the first step in the church planting process?
- a) Receive a ministry vision from God
 - b) Rent a building in which to hold services
 - c) Raise money for the project
- 17** A multiplying church will practice the concepts of
- a) self-identity, self-government, and self-education.
 - b) self-government, self-satisfaction, and self-discipline.
 - c) self-propagation, self-support, and self-identity.
 - d) self-government, self-propagation, and self-support.
- 18** Church self-government is evidenced by
- a) the submission of the members and the pastor.
 - b) the responsible participation of the members in ministries.
 - c) adequate offerings to support the pastor.
 - d) an active church board.
- 19** A non-multiplying church can experience spiritual renewal by
- a) learning and obeying God's purpose for the church.
 - b) studying books on effective church growth.
 - c) remorse over their failure to obey the Scripture.
 - d) listening more faithfully to the pastor's teaching.
- 20** Which of the following is a hindrance to church growth?
- a) the church planter gives responsibility to the members.
 - b) a daughter church relies on its own resources.
 - c) The pastor makes all the difficult decisions.
 - d) New believers participate in evangelism.

END OF REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIT THREE. Follow the remaining instructions on your answer sheet and return it to your GU instructor or office in your area. This completes your study of this course. Ask your instructor to recommend another course of study for you.

CS4241 STARTING NEW CHURCHES

*Congratulations on finishing your study of the lessons in Unit 1!
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Are you married? How many members are in your family? ..

How many years have you studied in school?

Are you a member of a church?

If so, what is the name of the church?

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone?

In a group?

What other GU courses have you studied?

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ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item. For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

1	A	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	D	15	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D	9	A	B	C	D	16	A	B	C	D
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4	A	B	C	D	11	A	B	C	D	18	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D	12	A	B	C	D	19	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D	13	A	B	C	D	20	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D	14	A	B	C	D					

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

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CS4241 **STARTING NEW CHURCHES**

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ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item. For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

1	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	8	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	15	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
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ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT THREE

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2	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	9	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	16	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
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4	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	11	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	18	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The GU office in your area will be happy to send you information about other GU courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

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INVITATION TO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR

Becoming a Christian and receiving the gift of eternal life is a choice you make. God has done everything possible to open the door to heaven for you. Jesus suffered a cruel death on the Cross, taking the punishment we rightfully deserved, so that the very worst of sinners can now be fully forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life.

To receive this gift, you need to admit that you are a sinner and ask God to forgive you of all the evil deeds you have done. You need to trust in and take Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior.

If you are ready to receive Jesus, say this prayer now and mean it from your heart:

Dear Father in heaven, I recognize today that I have sinned against you, and it is my desire to turn away from my sins from this day forward. Please forgive me. I also believe You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die in my place on the cross and that He rose from the dead on the third day. I receive Him today as my Lord and Savior by faith and will live for Him the rest of my life. Please change my life and make your presence known in me. I ask this in Jesus' holy name, Amen.

CS4241 STARTING NEW CHURCHES
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1. *Were you a Christian, having understood God's plan of salvation and accepted Jesus as your Savior, before starting this course?*
2. *Did you accept Jesus Christ as a result of studying these lessons?*
3. *Do you belong to a local church? If so, what church?*
4. *Would you like to have an address of a local church in your area?*
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Congratulations on having finished this Christian Service course. Send this sheet to your national Global University office if indicated or local church study center or Global University's international headquarters in Springfield, MO, USA (address shown on the back cover).

May God bless you as you love and serve Him.

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We will send them Lesson 1 of our evangelism booklet
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