

You Can Plant a Church in Another Culture or Ethnic Group

by
Duane L. Anderson



Serve and Equip
sveq.org

You Can Plant a Church in Another Culture or Ethnic Group

**A Manual for churches desiring to be obedient:
to the Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20
to the Great Commandment - Mathew 22:36-40
and the New Commandment - John 13:34-35**

You Can Plant a Church in Another Culture or Ethnic Group

Introduction	5
A. Some Biblical presuppositions	
B. Two types of learning	
C. The Biblical process of Making Disciples	
D. Biblical Church Development	
I. Recruiting the team to plant a church in another culture or ethnic group	9
A. Help people begin to see the other cultures around them	
B. Give people the opportunity to see your concern for other cultures	
C. Pray as a leadership team about reaching other cultures	
D. When possible add bicultural member (s) to the team	
E. Developing a steering committee	
II. Training the team to plant a church in another culture or ethnic group	17
A. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of their own fear	
B. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of making contacts	
C. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of understanding a different culture, religion or ethnic group	
D. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of another language	
III. Building relationships with another culture or ethnic group	25
A. Building relationships with the God fearers	
B. Building relationships with the devout	
C. Building relationships with idol worshippers	
D. Building relationships with the non-religious	
IV. Reaching people for Christ in another culture or ethnic group	29
A. Developing a prayer ministry for specific people in the culture	
B. Developing personal witness with individuals where you meet them	
C. Develop a foundation for evangelism through evangelistic Bible studies	
V. Developing new Christians in another culture or ethnic group	39
A. The importance of providing a spiritual parent	
B. The importance of developing a spiritual family	
C. The development of knowledge, character and ministry	

VI.	Beginning public meetings in another culture or ethnic group	54
	A. Developing the leadership of the steering committee	
	B. Determining an effective meeting place to begin public meetings	
	C. Begin public services with a ministry team	
VII.	Developing godly leadership in another culture or ethnic group	58
	A. Focus on the development of godly character, Biblical knowledge and effective ministry	
	B. Focus on developing a balanced team of equippers	
	C. Focus on developing a servant leadership team	
VIII.	Organizing the church in another culture or ethnic group	67
	A. Focus on Biblical qualifications for Biblical leadership	
	B. Focus on developing a church that functions as a body by helping each Christian discover his or her spiritual “SHAPE”	
IX.	Helping the new church become a healthy reproducing church in another culture or ethnic group	82
	A. Help the church develop reproducing disciples	
	B. Help the church develop additional godly leadership	
	C. Help the church develop a vision for other areas	
X.	Starting a church planting movement in another culture or ethnic group	89
	A. Help the church plant additional churches in its Jerusalem and Judea	
	B. Help the church learn to plant churches in its Samaria	
	C. Help the church learn to plant churches to the ends of the earth	
XI.	Developing the attitudes needed to reach out to other cultures and ethnic groups	97
	A. We need to ask the same two questions that Saul asked in Acts 9:1-6	
	B. We must be motivated by the love of Christ	
	C. We must see the world as Christ sees it	

Introduction

Some Biblical presuppositions

1. It is the plan of God for every church to focus on obedience to:
 - a. the Great Commission - Matthew 28:19-20
 - b. the Great Commandment - Matthew 22:36-40
 - c. the New Commandment - John 13:34-35
2. It is the plan of God for each disciple to Make Disciples so that the number of disciples changes from addition to multiplication - Acts 2:47, 6:1 and 7
3. It is the plan of God for each church to become a reproducing church so that the number of churches multiplies - Acts 9:31, 16:5
4. It is the plan of God for every Christian to be equipped to explain the Gospel clearly so that others will be drawn to Christ - John 6:44; 1 Peter 3:15
5. It is the plan of God for every Christian to be equipped to minister to one another in love - John 13:34-35, 15:12 and 17
6. It is the plan of God for every Christian to be equipped to teach others the Word of God and show others how to obey it - Matthew 28:20
7. It is the plan of God for the local church leadership team to take the responsibility to equip all Christians for each of these ministries - Ephesians 4:11-13
 - a. evangelists are to equip all saints to share the Gospel
 - b. pastors are to equip all saints to minister to one another
 - c. teachers are to equip all saints to teach the Word of God and show them how to obey the Word
8. It is the plan of God for every Christian to grow to spiritual maturity and become a functioning part of the body - Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
9. It is through the gifts of God that every church should have a leadership team that is able to equip all Christians for these ministries by showing them how to do these ministries both publicly and from house to house - Acts 2:46, 14:23, 20:20-21
10. It is the plan of God that we make disciples and plant churches among every culture and ethnic group - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Two Types of Learning

In the time of Christ, there were two major styles of teaching and learning

The first of these was the Greek model:

The Greek Model was to:
develop by *telling*

The second of these was the Hebrew model:

The Hebrew model was to:
develop by *showing*

Today, the Greek model has become the pattern for most of the educational systems in the world

In fact, the Greek model has become the pattern for most church teaching as well

The writer of this manual believes that churches and Christians:

should be Biblical in their theology
should also be Biblical in their methodology

The writer of this manual has also observed that most church planting and church growth books are based on methods that make them culturally specific

This manual is based on Biblical principles and Biblical methods that will make them effective in any culture or ethnic group

The diagrams on the following pages illustrate the:

The Biblical Process of Making Disciples
&
The Process of Biblical Church Development

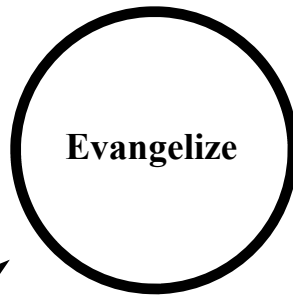
We will be obedient Christians as we follow a Biblical process of Making Disciples

Four Calls and A Commission

“Come and See”

John 1:39-46, Matthew 9:9-10, Mark 1:30-33

Reach



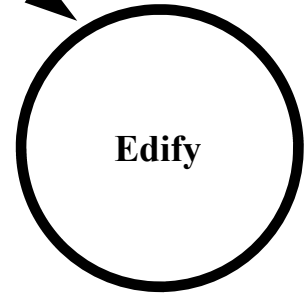
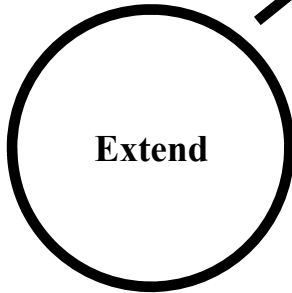
You do
I serve you as a bondservant
Mark 10:44

I do (I lead by love)
You observe
John 2:1-12

As you are going,
Make Disciples
Matthew 28:19-20
Send

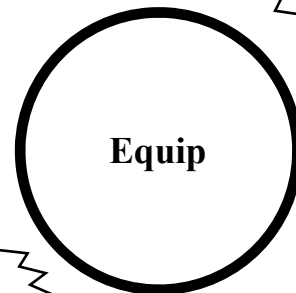
“Come and Grow”
Mark 1:16-20
Teach

The Process of Making Disciples



You do
I serve you in love
Mark 10:43

I do (I minister in love)
You participate
Mark 1:35-39



You do
I observe and encourage
Matt. 10:1-42, Mark 6:30-31

“Come and Shepherd”
John 21:15-17
Mobilize

“Come and Serve”
Mark 3:13-15
Train

World Model (Greek Model) - Develop by Telling
Biblical Model (Hebrew Model) - Develop by Showing

Four Calls and A Commission (page 1 of 1) - Updated: July 2023
Copyright © 1998, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Biblical Church Development

Each church in Acts had these five stages of development



As each new stage develops, the previous stages must continue for a church to remain healthy!

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Jerusalem	Acts 2:1-41	2:42-47	3:1-5:42	6:1-8	8:4, 14, 11:22
Antioch	Acts 11:19-21	11:22-25	11:26	13:1	13:2-4
Galatia	Acts 14:21a	14:21b	14:22	14:23	16:1-5
Corinth	Acts 18:1-6	18:7-8	18:9-11	18:12-18a	18:18b-19
Ephesus	Acts 18:24-19:7	19:8-9	19:10	19:11-21	19:22, 20:4

I. Recruiting the team to plant a church in another culture or ethnic group

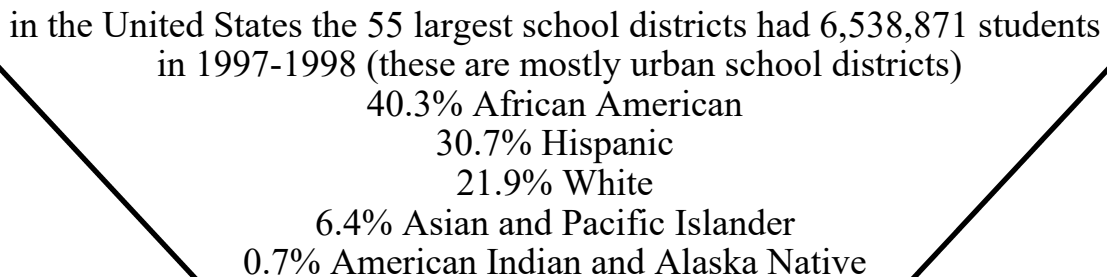
A. Help people begin to see the other cultures around them

1. Christ had to help the disciples become aware of other cultures

John 4:4

“But He needed to go through Samaria.”

Most Jews traveled around Samaria rather than passing through Samaria
(today, most people do the same by passing through the cities on the freeways)



in the United States the 55 largest school districts had 6,538,871 students
in 1997-1998 (these are mostly urban school districts)

- 40.3% African American
- 30.7% Hispanic
- 21.9% White
- 6.4% Asian and Pacific Islander
- 0.7% American Indian and Alaska Native

2. Christ had to help the disciples begin to see people needing Christ

John 4:27

“And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”

The disciples wondered why Christ would talk to a Samaritan woman
(today, many people do not see other cultures as people needing Christ)

When Christians depend on self, they are motivated by:



**Fear
Guilt
Shame**

Genesis 3:10

So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

When Christians yield to Christ, they are motivated by Love

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

3. Christ had to help the disciples take the focus off their own needs

John 4:31-32

“In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’ But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat of which you do not know.’”

The disciples were focused on physical food rather than spiritual need
(today many Christians see physical needs but fail to recognize spiritual needs)

The focus of the spiritual toddler
1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Hebrews 5:11-14

my needs, my problems

4. Christ had to help the disciples focus on the will of the Father

John 4:33-34

“Therefore the disciples said to one another, ‘Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.’”

The disciples had to learn to focus on the will of God
(today, many Christians have not yet learned to focus on the will of God)

Christ gave us a model because He
came to do the will of the Father
John 6:38; Luke 22:42

5. Christ had to help the disciples see the harvest field

John 4:35

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

The disciples had to learn to see other cultures
(today, many Christians only see their own culture)

we see other cultures when we lift up our eyes
we see other cultures when we look on the fields

6. Christ had to help the disciples see the rewards of sowing and reaping

John 4:36-38

“And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. “For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

The disciples had to have their focus changed to eternal rewards

(today, many Christians are focused on earthly rewards)

Christ promises wages to those who sow or reap

Christ says we gather fruit to eternal life

Christ says some sow and others reap

7. Christ had to help the disciples see that other cultures would respond to Him

John 4:39-42

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I *ever* did.” So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

The disciples had to learn that other cultures would respond to Christ

(today, many Christians are not sure others will be open or respond to Christ)

**many believed
because of the testimony of the woman**



**many more believed
when they heard the Word of Christ**

B. Give people the opportunity to see your concern for other cultures

Matthew 15:21-28

“Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.” But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us.” But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw *it* to the little dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”

The disciples saw Christ go to another country

(today, many Christians need to be exposed to other cultures)



The disciples saw Christ talk to a woman of Canaan

(today, many Christians need to see us lead the way in reaching other cultures)

The disciples told Christ to send the woman away

(today, many Christians need to develop compassion for other cultures)

The disciples learned that people of other cultures can have great faith

(today, many Christians have not recognized faith in other cultures)

C. Pray as a leadership team about reaching other cultures

Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

The Lord used persecution to move the church out of their own culture

the Lord had prepared some who were bicultural

the Lord gave a great harvest among the Greeks

The Lord led the church at Jerusalem to reach out to this culture

Acts 11:22-24

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”

the leaders at Jerusalem were seeking to please the Lord
the leaders sent Barnabas to encourage the new Christians
the leaders were rewarded for their spiritual vision

The Lord gave the church at Antioch a vision for other cultures

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

the church in Antioch developed a multicultural leadership team
the leadership team prayed and fasted about expanding their outreach
the leadership team responded to the leading of the Lord
the church sent out a team to plant churches in other cultures

D. When possible add bicultural member (s) to the team

1. Paul and Barnabas added Mark to their team

Acts 13:4-5

“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant.”

some teams will all be from the same culture
(but have grown up in different cultures)

2. Paul and Silas later added Timothy to their team

Acts 16:1-3

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.”

some teams are able to add a person who is from two cultures
(Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father)

3. Paul later added people of many cultures to the team

Acts 20:4

“ And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

Some teams represent many different cultures

Paul was from Tarsus in Cilicia
Sopater was from Berea in Macedonia
Aristarchus and Secundus were from Thessalonica
Gaius was from Derbe in Galatia
Timothy was from Galatia
Tychicus and Trophimus were from Asia



E. Developing a Steering Committee

1. The purpose of a Steering Committee

Titus 1:5

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—”

Just as Paul sent Titus to Crete to “set in order the things that are lacking”, a steering committee can do the same for a church being planted in another culture or ethnic group. That committee would have the following purposes:

- a. to serve as the leadership and administrative unit for the conduct of the local church program during the formative period of the new church.
- b. to furnish a means of training for future church leaders, who will be available when the church is ready for formal organization.
- c. to provide a working relationship between the Sponsoring Church, the Church Planting Team and the Congregation being planted.

2. The people on a Steering Committee

Acts 14:21-23

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

We notice in these verses that Paul and Barnabas did not appoint elders in the churches in their various cities until their return trip through the area. They realized the importance of allowing people to develop spiritual maturity before appointing them to positions of oversight. During the time that they were gone to Derbe, the developing churches in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch did not have elders leading the congregations. From the time a church is first planned until it is organized with its own leadership, a Steering Committee provides oversight of work and provides a training place for future elders. A possible Steering Committee could include:

**a representative of the sponsoring church (es)
the team leader of the church planting team
(as the work develops, 1 to 4 members from the church
plant, as this provides training for the future board)**

3. The Functions of a Steering Committee

Titus 1:5

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—”

to help the work progress in an orderly manner
to make the decisions for the development of the work
to develop potential board members for the future church
to train those potential board members for godly leadership

4. The Duties of a Steering Committee

(The Steering Committee takes the oversight of the church being planted from the initial idea to the appointment of elders and church organization)

Prior to the work becoming a Stage One work

the development of a vision to plant a church - Acts 13:1-2a
the recruitment of the church planting team - Acts 13:1-3
the training of the church planting team - Acts 16:1-5

During Stage One of the Work

provide oversight of evangelism - Acts 17:11-12
provide oversight of follow-up - Acts 17:4, 18:26

During Stage Two of the Work

provide oversight of group meetings - Acts 2:42
provide oversight of continued development - Acts 2:46-47

During Stage Three of the Work

provide oversight of continuing growth - Acts 11:22-26
provide oversight of leadership development - Acts 14:22

During Stage Four of the Work

ordain elders to take over the leadership - Acts 14:23

II. Training the team to plant a church in another culture or ethnic group

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Understanding our: Meaning of each of these areas for us today

Jerusalem	Jerusalem was the city where Christ spoke these words. Our Jerusalem is our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others that we know or have met.
Judea	Judea was the area surrounding Jerusalem and could be compared to our county or metropolitan area. Our Judea is the people of our culture in our county or metropolitan area that we do not know.
Samaria	Samaria was a nearby area and the people were from a different ethnic group, a different culture and had a different religion. Our Samaria is the people in our surrounding area who are of a different ethnic group, culture or religion.
end of the earth	The end of the earth involves all people who are not in one of the groups previously mentioned.

Barriers which we cross to reach out to the people in each of these areas

Jerusalem	the barrier of our own fear
Judea	the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers
Samaria	the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion
end of the earth	the barrier of learning another language or going to another part of the world

Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 1 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
 Adapted from page 2 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
 Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
 Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
 ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

A. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of their own fear

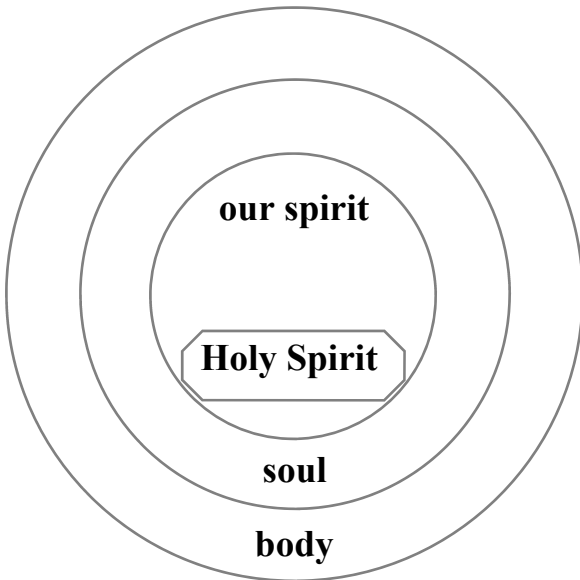
- 1. Recognize that we have no power to witness on our own
Luke 24:46-49**

**the disciples were reminded of the Promise of the Father
the disciples were to wait until they received that Promise
the disciples were promised that they would be clothed with:**

Power from on high

**Understand the source of our power is the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8**

- a. we were given the Holy Spirit as a gift at the moment of salvation -
Acts 2:38; Romans 8:14-16**
- b. we will accomplish nothing if we try to witness in our own strength -
John 15:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30-32**
- c. we will witness with boldness if we witness in the power of the Holy Spirit
2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31**



**when we depend on our own strength,
we quench and grieve the Holy Spirit**



**when we are filled with the Spirit,
we speak the Word of God boldly**

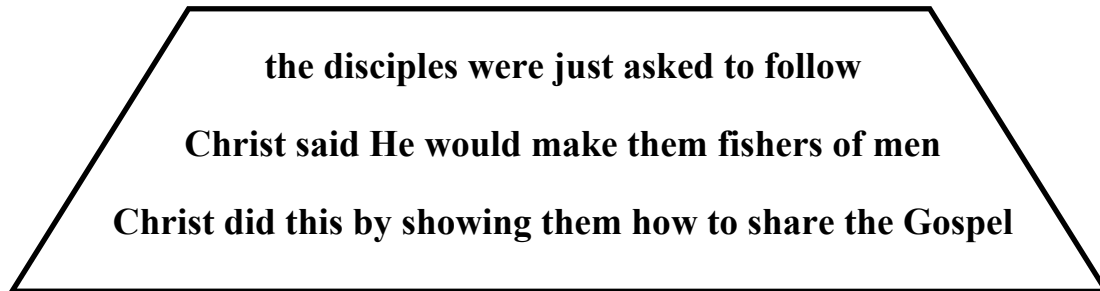
Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 2 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
Adapted from pages 3-4 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

2. Realize how Christ taught the disciples to cross the barrier of their own fear

a. Christ focused on showing the disciples how to share the Gospel

Matthew 4:18-19

“And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”



b. Christ showed them how to share the Gospel in their home town first

Mark 1:21, 29, 33

“Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught... Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John...And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

c. Christ showed them how to share the Gospel in their own region next

Matthew 4:23

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

d. Christ showed them what to teach - Matthew 5:1-7:29

Matthew 5:1-2, 7:28-29

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:...And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

e. Christ showed them the need to depend on Him

Matthew 8:25-26

“Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’ But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.”

B. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of making contacts

1. We must be motivated to get acquainted with strangers by the love of Christ 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.



2. We will get acquainted with strangers as we are moved with compassion Matthew 9:36-38

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Do we see people as Christ saw people?

3. We will get acquainted with strangers as we let the Holy Spirit lead us Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
Acts 11:19

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

Acts 16:6-9

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

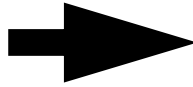
Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 3 of 7) - Updated: July 2022
Adapted from page 5 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, AIBI; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

C. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of understanding a different culture, religion or ethnic group

1. We must lift up our eyes and see these other groups

John 4:35

the sin of prejudice kept the disciples from even seeing the spiritual needs of the Samaritans



prejudice and lack of love will keep us from seeing the spiritual needs of other cultures around us

2. We must take the initiative to make the first contact

John 4:5-7

we go where we can meet people who need Christ

we choose to make contacts with those people

3. We must accept their hostility without feeling personally rejected

John 4:9

many people feel that they have been rejected because of their ethnic group

many people feel that they have been rejected because of their culture

many people feel that they have been rejected because of their religion

many people feel they have been rejected because of their lifestyle

as a result, we must be prepared to accept their hostility and show love as Christ showed love

4. We must be prepared to share the gift of God

John 4:10-14

**develop curiosity
be prepared to answer questions
compare physical and spiritual life
offer eternal life**

Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 4 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
Adapted from pages 6-7 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

**5. We must be prepared for defensiveness about sin
John 4:15-18**

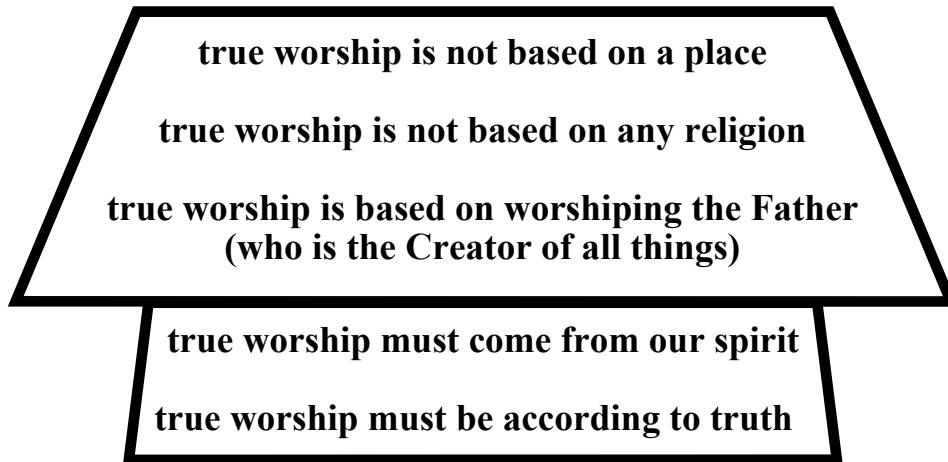
focus on reaching the family, especially the husband, in evangelism

be prepared to accept the fact that the person may have a sinful past

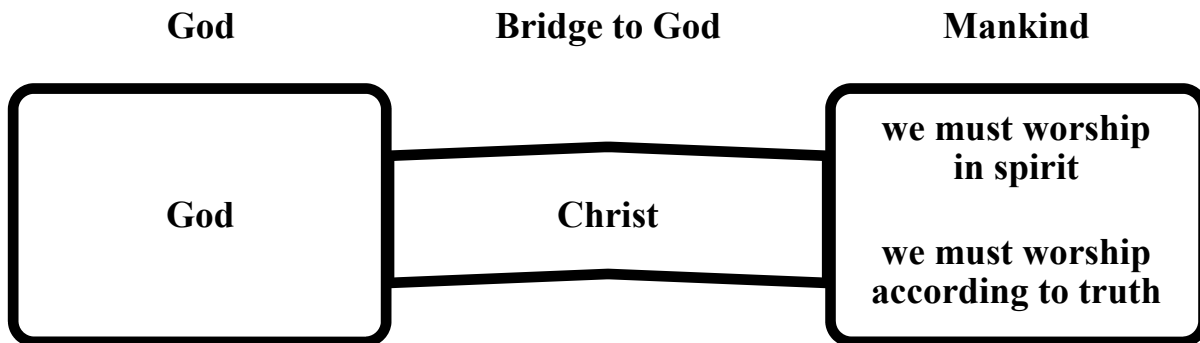
compliment the person for telling the truth

**6. We must distinguish between where we worship and who we worship
John 4:19-24**

**Many people will question what religion is right
We must carefully show that:**



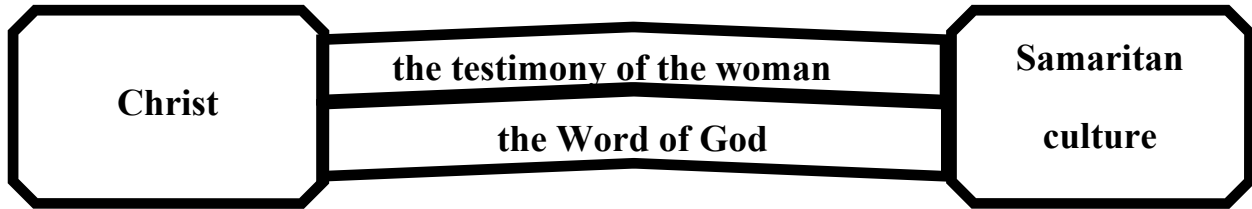
**7. We must remember that our purpose is to introduce people to Christ
John 4:24-26**



Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 5 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
Adapted from pages 8-9 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute;; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

8. We must allow time for the person of another culture to discuss Christ with their family, friends and community
John 4:28-30, 39-42

The bridges to bring Christ to another culture

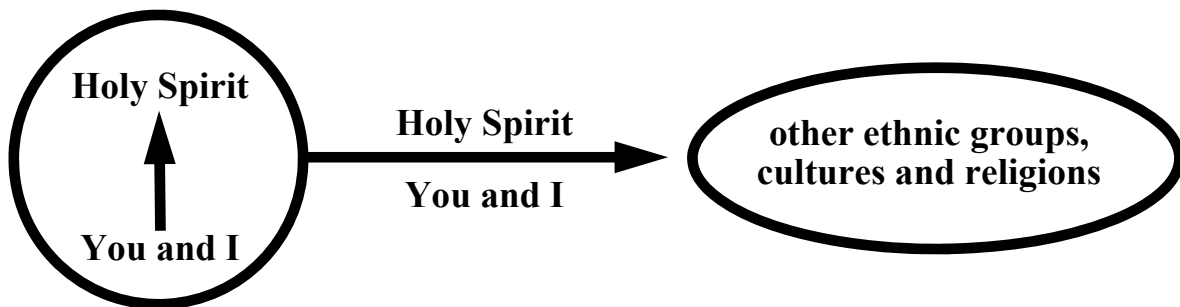


9. We must depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to a different ethnic group, culture or religion

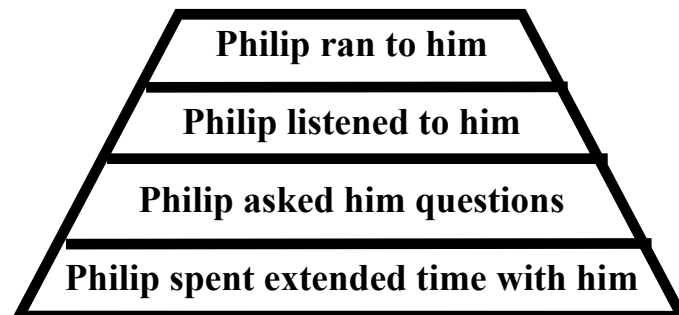
Philip was led by the Spirit as he went to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:4-5, 8:29

We yield to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit leads us to people of other ethnic groups, cultures and religions



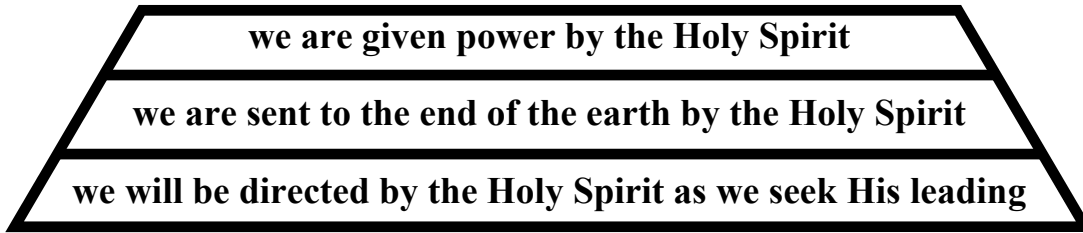
We let the Holy Spirit guide our contacts and lead in building bridges
Acts 8:30-34



Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 6 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
 Adapted from page 9-10 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
 Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
 Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

D. Help the team learn to cross the barrier of another

- 1. We must remember that we are sent and given power by the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8, 13:1-3**



- 2. We may meet three different groups of people in another part of the world
Acts 17:16-17**

the three groups	their beliefs	where we meet them
Jews	believe in the Old Testament	in the synagogue
Gentile worshipers	believe in the true God	in a place of worship
everyone else who happens to be there	believe in their own gods and philosophies	in the marketplace, their homes or any other place

- 3. We need to understand the backgrounds of the people in the marketplace
Acts 17:18**

the various people	the various ideas of these people
The Epicureans	this group had given up on finding truth and were just living for pleasure
The Stoics	this group said that they could be self-sufficient and lived a very disciplined life
Those who called Paul a babblers	the group that called Paul a babblers were those who mocked and made fun
Those who called Paul a proclaimer of foreign gods	this group was those who had a fear of evil spirits or were involved in various forms of idol worship (the word "foreign gods" is "demons" in all other uses)

Adapted from: **Crossing Barriers for Evangelism** (page 7 of 7) - Updated: July 2023
 Adapted from page 12 of the manual "New Life Through the Family of Christ"
 Copyright © 1995 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
 Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
 ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

III. Building relationships with another culture or ethnic group

A. Building relationships with the God fearers (understanding what is meant by the God fearers)

1. The God fearers in the house of Cornelius

Acts 10:34-35

“Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. “But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”

**God does not show partiality
God has people in every nation who fear Him
God makes it possible for these to learn about true righteousness**

2. The God fearers in Antioch

Acts 11:19-21

“Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

**God used the bicultural Jews as the bridge to the God fearers
God led these bicultural Jews to share the Gospel of Christ
God was the One who was working in these God fearers
God led a great number to believe in the message of salvation
God led a great number to turn to the Lord for salvation**

3. The God fearers in Antioch of Pisidia

Acts 13:42, 48-49

“So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath...Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.”

**Christ has prepared people who want to hear the Gospel
Christ will lead us to these prepared people as we pray
Christ will bring these that He has prepared to salvation
Christ will use them to help us spread the Gospel to others**

**B. Building relationships with the devout
(Understanding what is meant by the devout)**

1. The devout in Antioch of Pisidia

Acts 13:43

“Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.”

the devout proselytes were converts to Judaism who had been circumcised

2. The devout woman in Philippi

Acts 16:14

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

Lydia had joined a Jewish prayer meeting to learn about God

Lydia worshipped God but had probably not accepted Judaism

Lydia had her heart opened by the Lord as Paul shared the Gospel

3. The devout in Thessalonica

Acts 17:4

“And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.”

there were many devout Greeks in Thessalonica

these devout Greeks attended the synagogue to learn about God

these devout Greeks turned to Christ when they heard the Gospel

4. The devout in Athens

Acts 17:17

“Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”

**the devout in Athens came to the Jewish synagogue
the devout in Athens reasoned with Paul in the synagogue**

C. Building relationships with the idol worshippers (Understanding what is meant by the idol worshippers)

1. The idol worshippers at Lystra Acts 14:11-13

“Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.”

idol worshippers are often very superstitious

idol worshippers want to identify their gods

idol worshippers want to sacrifice to their gods

2. The idol worshippers at Athens Acts 17:16-18, 22-23

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,’ because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection...Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.’”

idol worshippers will have objects they worship

idol worshippers may have philosophies they follow

idol worshippers are very religious people

idol worshippers do not know who they worship

D. Building relationships with the non-religious

1. The non-religious are described by Christ

Luke 12:16-21

“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

the non-religious are very self-centered

the non-religious are seeking their own pleasure

the non-religious feel they have a long time to satisfy self

**the non-religious are called fools by God
(Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1)**

the non-religious leave God out of their thinking

2. The non-religious are illustrated by Gallio

Acts 18:14-16

“And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, ‘If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*.’ And he drove them from the judgment seat.”

Gallio had no time for the religious

Gallio saw religion as just words and names

Gallio saw religion as the laws of various cultures

Gallio said such matters were of no concern to him

Gallio did not want to be bothered with religion

IV. Reaching people for Christ in another culture or ethnic group

A. Developing a prayer ministry for specific people in another culture

1. Pray that God would open a door for the Word

Colossians 4:2-4

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

**pray continually and earnestly
pray that God would open a door for the Word
pray for opportunities to share the Word**

2. Pray that God would give boldness to share the Word

Ephesians 6:6:19-20

“And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

**pray for opportunities to share the Gospel
pray for boldness to share the Gospel**

3. Pray for specific people in the other culture

Acts 16:14-15

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’...”

**pray for specific people that God would open their hearts
pray for responders who will become bridges to their household
(this includes the entire extended family of a person)
pray that responders will become a bridge to their relatives,
friends, co-workers, neighbors and other acquaintances**

**The following two pages can be used to help responders begin to pray for others
(Then also provide contacts for you to go with them to share the Gospel)**

Driven by Fear or Led by Love

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When we are driven by fear:

1. We are experiencing the results of Adam's fall - Genesis 3:7-13
2. We will fear people instead of fearing God - Romans 3:18
3. We will focus on the law (or man's rules - Romans 3:19-20) when we are no longer under the law - Galatians 3:24-25
4. We will serve out of fear instead of love - 2 Timothy 1:7

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

When we are led by love:

1. We no longer live for ourselves - 2 Corinthians 5:15
 2. We no longer regard people according to the flesh - 2 Corinthians 5:16
 3. We realize that we are new creations - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 4. We realize that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:18
 5. We realize we have been given the word of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:19
 6. We realize that we are ambassadors for Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:20
 7. We realize that we have received the righteousness of God in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 8. We pray for boldness to speak the Word of God - Acts 4:13, 29-31; Ephesians 6:19-20; Philippians 1:20
- I. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our relatives
He first found his own brother...and he brought him to Jesus. - John 1:41-42

Started Praying for: Prayer Answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Love Motivates (page 1 of 2) Updated: July 2023

Copyright © 1999, Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022, DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

II. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our friends

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.”...Philip said to him, “Come and see.” - John 1:45-46

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

III. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our co-workers

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow me.” ...Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. - Matthew 9:9-10

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IV. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our neighbors

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John...And the whole city was gathered together at the door. - Mark 1:29-33

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

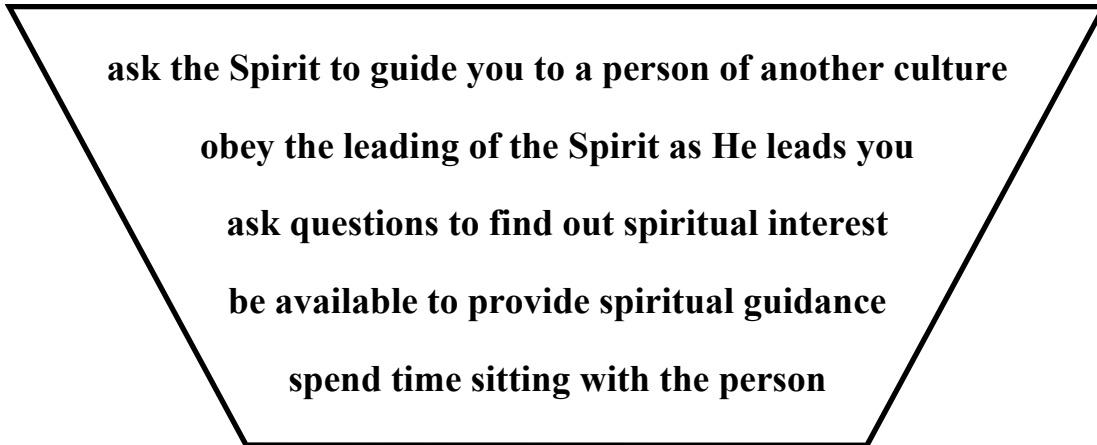
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

B. Developing personal witness with people where you meet them

1. Pray for the Spirit to lead you to a person of another culture

Acts 8:29-31

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.”

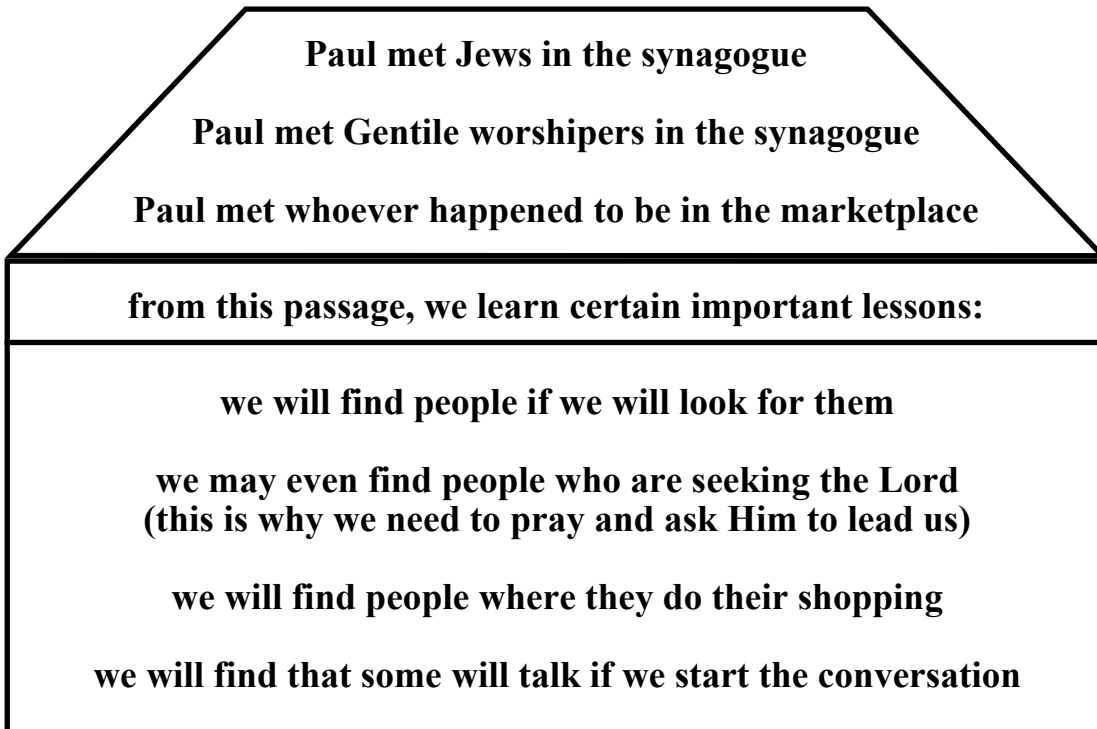


2. Go to people where they live, work and spend their free time

a. Paul met people both in the synagogue and the marketplace

Acts 17:17

“Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”



b. Paul met people down by the riverside

Acts 16:13

“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*.”

Paul looked for places where people met
Paul sat down and talked with the people there
Paul shared the Gospel with those he met

from this passage, we learn certain important lessons:

**go where people of other cultures gather
(parks, malls, soccer fields, etc.)**

find people who are just sitting

begin a conversation with them

ask the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation

c. Paul turned problems into opportunities

Acts 16:25

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Paul knew there were other people who could hear
Paul and Silas prayed while others listened
Paul and Silas sang hymns of praise to God
Paul knew the prisoners were listening

from this passage, we learn certain important lessons:

see every situation as an opportunity to share the Gospel
see every person as one who needs to hear about Christ
see problems as opportunities to share the Gospel
share the Gospel by singing when you cannot speak

3. Pray for boldness to share the Gospel

Ephesians 6:18-20

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

pray and ask the Lord for the words to speak

pray and ask the Lord for the boldness to speak

pray that the Lord will help you to make the Gospel clear

realize that we are always ambassadors for Christ

realize that we have a duty to share the Gospel

4. Respond to negative responses with love

John 4:7-10

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give Me a drink,” you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’”

ask the Holy Spirit to give you words to start a conversation

accept a negative or critical spirit if that is the first response

offer to share about the gift of God

arouse curiosity with your responses

5. Listen to the questions of the person from another culture

John 4:11-12

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?’”

Be a good listener!

6. Use physical life to explain spiritual life

John 4:13-15

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.’”

Christ pointed out that physical water only meets a temporary need

Christ pointed out spiritual water meets an eternal need

Christ offered to give that spiritual water

Christ saw the woman only understood physical water

7. Focus on reaching entire families

John 4:16-18

“Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come here.’ The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, “I have no husband,” for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.’”

Christ focused on reaching families

Christ also revealed that there were family conflicts

Christ complimented the woman twice for telling the truth

8. Be prepared for efforts to change the subject

John 4:19-20

The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’”

**the woman immediately changed the subject
(most people are not ready to talk about
conflicts on the first contact)**

**the woman asked the question,
where is the right place to worship?
(today people ask, which church is right?)**

9. Be prepared to explain the meaning of true worship

John 4:21-24

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’”

Christ focused on the fact that it is not where we worship

Christ focused on the fact that we should know what we worship

Christ focused on the fact that true worship involves salvation

**Christ focused on the fact that true worship must come from the spirit
(this will only happen when the Holy Spirit has come into our spirit)**

**Christ focused on the fact that true worship is according to truth
(this will only happen as we learn the Word of God)**

Christ focused on the nature of God

Christ said that worship of God is in spirit and truth

10. Be prepared to introduce people to Christ

John 4:25-26

“The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When He comes, He will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am *He*.’”

the woman said that she knew about Christ

the woman learned that she was talking to Christ

our purpose is to introduce people to Christ

**our purpose is to help people get to know Christ
(this only happens as we share the Word of God)**

our purpose is to let Christ change the lives of others

11. Realize that Christ will change the priorities of a person

John 4:28-30

“The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”

the woman was no longer concerned about physical water

the woman developed an immediate concern for others

the woman immediately began to talk to others

the woman shared what she knew

the woman brought others to meet Christ

12. Realize the impact as others meet Christ for themselves

John 4:39-42

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I *ever* did.’ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”

the woman had an impact on many people

**the woman said that Christ knew all about her life
(this meant that He knew and still forgave)**

**the Samaritans urged Christ to stay with them
(because Christ showed acceptance, the Samaritans showed acceptance)**

the Samaritan were open and listened as Christ shared the Gospel

the Samaritans believed because they heard Christ

the Samaritans did not base their belief on the woman’s testimony

**the Samaritans based their belief on the Word of Christ
(they recognized that He is the Savior of the world)**

C. Develop a foundation for evangelism through evangelistic Bible studies

1. Many people of other cultures are open to Bible studies

Acts 17:11

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.”

many people are open if we will reach out to them
many cultures are open to receive the Word of God
many people are more eager to learn than we are to share
many people are very willing to have Bible studies
many people are willing to search the Scriptures
many people want to find out if what they hear is right

2. Many cultures will believe as they study the Word of God

Acts 17:12

“Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

God promises that His Word will not return to Him empty
God works in the hearts of people as they study the Word
God works in the hearts of people of various cultures
God works in the hearts of both men and women

A practical observation

through the years, most of those who stayed in a Bible study for the first six weeks eventually became Christians even though in several cases it was several years later after the Bible study had stopped and restarted two or three times.

God works through His Word!

V. Developing new Christians in another culture or ethnic group

A. The importance of providing a spiritual parent

Paul, Silas and Timothy model the ministry of spiritual parents

1. Spiritual parents provide the care of a nursing mother

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”

a nursing mother is gentle

a nursing mother cherishes her children

a nursing mother has a strong longing for her children

a nursing mother shares her life with her children

a nursing mother is willing to labor until exhausted for her children

a nursing mother is not a burden to her children

2. Spiritual parents provide the example of a godly father

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

“You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

a godly father provides a devout (holy) example

a godly father provides a just (upright) example

a godly father provides a blameless example

a godly father provides exhortation (encouragement)

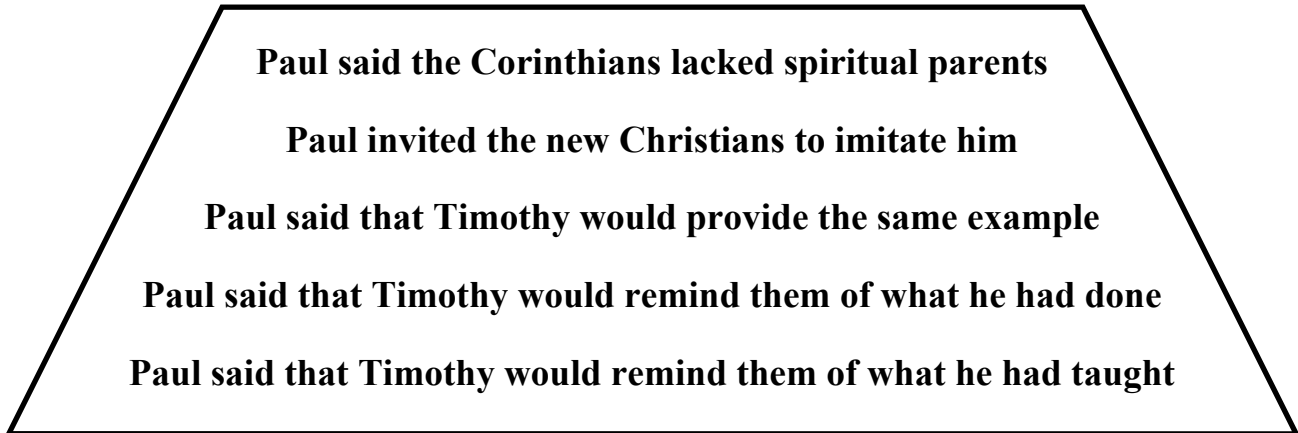
a godly father provides comfort

a godly father charges (bears witness)

a godly father encourages people to a worthy walk

3. Spiritual parents provide new Christians someone to imitate
1 Corinthians 4:15-17

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do* not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

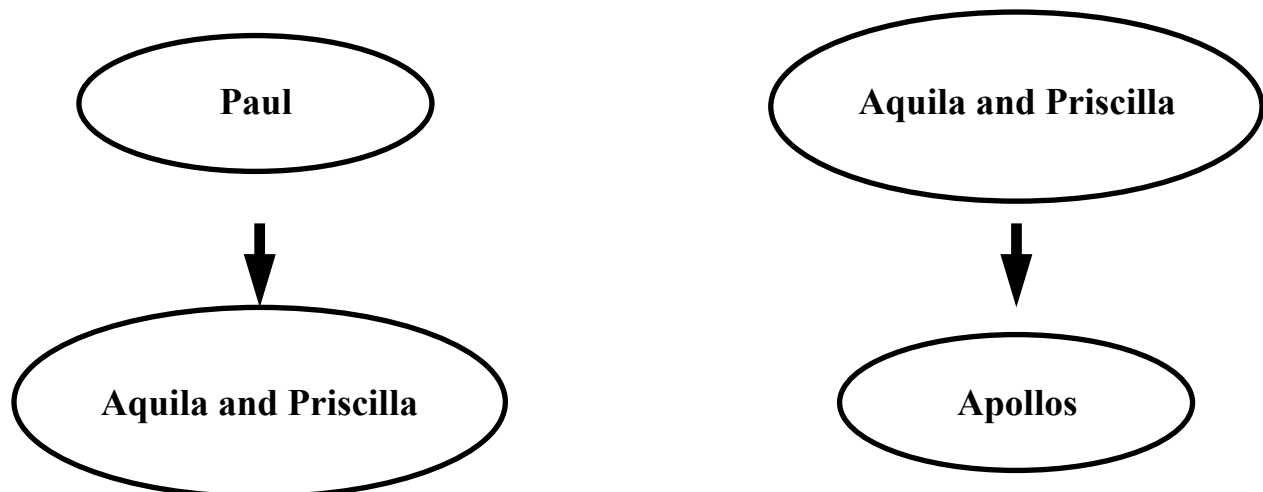


4. Spiritual parents carry out much of their ministry in one-to-one relationships
Acts 18:1-3

“After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.”

Acts 18:24-26

“Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”



5. Spiritual parents spend much time with their spiritual children

Christ spent time daily with the twelve

Mark 3:13-14

“And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.”

The early church leaders spent time with people in their homes

Acts 2:46, 20:20

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart...how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.”

Christ chose the disciples that they might be with Him

the early church leaders had communion with people in their homes

Paul took the leaders with him as they went from house to house

6. Spiritual parents help new Christians learn to take root in the love of Christ

Christ wants new Christians to become rooted and built up in Him

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Christ wants new Christians to take root in His love

Ephesians 3:17-19

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Christ wants new Christians to learn to walk in love

Ephesians 5:1-2

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

**7. Spiritual parents show new Christians how to walk in the Spirit
Galatians 5:16**

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

spiritual parents show Christians how to walk in the Spirit
spiritual parents show Christians how to have victory over sin

**8. Spiritual parents show new Christians how to be led by the Spirit
Galatians 5:18**

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

spiritual parents show Christians how to be led by the Spirit
spiritual parents show Christians the Spirit sets them free from the law

the Holy Spirit leads through the Word of God - John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:12-14
the Holy Spirit leads through prayer - Eph. 6:18; Acts 16:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:17
the Holy Spirit leads through inner peace - Isaiah 26:3; Galatians 5:22-23
the Holy Spirit leads through other people and circumstances - Acts 16:9

**9. Spiritual parents listen to us so that they understand us
James 1:19-20**

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Three characteristics of healthy listening and understanding

quick to hear	to listen carefully so that there is full understanding of what is being said
slow to speak	to be slow to anger so that we can think through what the person has said
slow to wrath	anger that causes us to become agitated or seek to punish

10. Spiritual parents answer our questions

Acts 19:9

“But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”

Acts 20:20

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.”

spiritual parents protect us from false teachers

spiritual parents answer our questions

spiritual parents come to our homes to teach us

11. Spiritual parents show new Christians how to develop healthy relationships

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Acts 2:46

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.”

spiritual parents focus on Bible study

spiritual parents focus on developing fellowship

spiritual parents explain the meaning of communion

spiritual parents focus on prayer

spiritual parents focus on the unity of the body

spiritual parents focus on joy and gladness

spiritual parents focus on singleness of heart

12. Spiritual parents help new Christians develop a God-centered focus

Thessalonians 2:13

“For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

the new Christians received the Word of God

the new Christians recognized the Word as truth

the new Christians saw the Word work effectively in their lives

B. The importance of developing a spiritual family

This is of critical importance when planting a church in another culture or ethnic group. New Christians need to learn to build godly relationships with a spiritual family. Spiritual families or small groups provide such an opportunity.

1. The early church focused on spiritual families that cared

Acts 2:41-47

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

The early church met in spiritual families or small groups so that they:

- ♥ **could study the Word of God together**
- ♥ **fellowship together**
- ♥ **break bread together (share in communion)**
- ♥ **pray together**
- ♥ **be together in one accord**
- ♥ **share to meet the needs of one another**
- ♥ **eat meals together**
- ♥ **praise God together**
- ♥ **share the Gospel with others as they were together**

2. The early church met together to stir up love and good works

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

**we must get together
we must exhort one another
(to comfort, encourage and strengthen one another)**

3. The early church had seen how Christ made relationships grow closer

John 15:15

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

John 20:17

“Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

servants	do not know the plans of their master
friends	know the plans, ideas and goals of one another
brethren	Christian brethren develop the kind of love that Christ showed to us– John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:14

Spiritual families provide the opportunity for people to build relationships with other Christians from strangers, to friends, to brethren

4. The early church learned twelve things that destroy relationships

There are 12 negative “One Anothers” that destroy relationships

let us not judge one another anymore - Romans 14:13
do not go to law with one another - 1 Corinthians 6:7
stop depriving one another - 1 Corinthians 7:5
do not bite one another - Galatians 5:15
do not devour one another - Galatians 5:15
do not consume one another - Galatians 5:15
do not challenge (provoke) one another - Galatians 5:26
do not envy one another - Galatians 5:26
do not lie to one another - Colossians 3:9
see that no one repays another with evil for evil - 1 Thessalonians 5:15
Do Not Speak Against One Another - James 4:11
Do Not Complain Against One Another - James 5:9

Taken from: **One Anothers** (page 2 of 2) - Updated: July 2023
Taken from pages 19-20 of the manual: “You Can Grow to Spiritual Maturity”
Copyright © 1994, Duane L. Anderson, AIBI; 2022 Serve and Equip
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

5. The early church learned thirty-one things that build relationships

Helping new Christians learn to transform their relationships involves:
(learning how to practice the one anothers of Scripture)

love one another - John 13:34-35, 15:12, 17; Romans 13:8;
1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3;
1 Peter 1:22, 4:8; 1 John 3:11, 23, 4:7, 11-12; 2 John 5
accept (receive) one another - Romans 15:7
admonish one another - Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16
bear one another's burdens - Galatians 6:2
bear with one another - Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13
build up one another - Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11
care for one another - 1 Corinthians 12:25
encourage one another - 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 3:13, 10:25
be encouraged together through faith in one another - Romans 1:12
have compassion one of another - 1 Peter 3:8
confess your sins to one another - James 5:16
be devoted to one another - Romans 12:10
fellowship with one another - 1 John 1:7
forgive one another - Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13
seek what is good for one another and for all men - 1 Thessalonians 5:15
greet one another - Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12;
1 Peter 5:14
be hospitable to one another - 1 Peter 4:9
clothe yourselves with humility toward one another - 1 Peter 5:5
be kind to one another - Ephesians 4:32
be members one of another - Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25
be of the same mind one to another - Romans 12:16, 15:5
be at peace with one another - Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13
pray for one another - James 5:16
regard one another as more important than self - Philippians 2:3
serve one another as a slave - Galatians 5:13
employ your gift in serving one another - 1 Peter 4:10
stimulate one another to love and good deeds - Hebrews 10:24-25
submit to one another - Ephesians 5:21
teach one another - Colossians 3:16
wait for one another - 1 Corinthians 11:33
wash one another's feet - John 13:14

Since there are 31 One Anothers, I encourage new Christians to focus on one of the above each day of the month until they become a part of their life!

C. The development of knowledge, character and ministry

Moses was told how to focus on helping people develop in these three areas

Exodus 18:20

“And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.”

**teach the people the Word of God
show the people the way to walk
show the people the work to do**

1. Developing the structure to help people develop in these three areas

Exodus 18:21-26

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you. If you do this thing, and God *so* commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.’ So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.”

**realize that people develop best in spiritual families of about ten
(one hundred is just ten spiritual families of ten)**

**realize that God is preparing people to lead spiritual families of ten
(qualified people were there but Moses had not recognized them)**

Church planting team members may lead a spiritual family to begin

have each team leader select two Timothys to begin to train

have the team leader take the Timothys with him whenever possible

help the Timothys develop godly character by seeing godly examples

show the Timothys what to share and how to share with others

2. Helping new Christians grow in their knowledge of the Word of God (this happens best in the spiritual families)

a. help each one learn to search the Scriptures daily

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

**people have to be shown how to approach the Word with readiness
(this involves prayer asking the Spirit to help them understand)**

people have to be shown how to search the Scriptures

people have to be shown the importance of doing this daily

**people have to be shown how to test what they hear
(this is showing them how to see if things agree with the Word)**

b. help each one learn to share what they learn from Scripture

1 Corinthians 14:29-32

“Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”

**have two or three share each time the group gathers for Bible study
(work through a book assigning passages at least a week in advance)**

let the others determine if what is said agrees with other Scriptures

let the others explain the passages that they think disagree

**let all take their turn at explaining a group of verses
(to prophesy means to explain the Word of God)**

**the ones who learn the most are the ones who prepare and share
the ones who hear someone else share are encouraged**

**stress the importance of preparation for those who share
(this is learning to submit their spirit to the Holy Spirit)**

c. help each one learn to apply what they learn from Scripture

Help each person learn the difference between a wise and a foolish person

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

a wise man hears the Word of God
a wise man obeys the Word of God
a foolish man hears the Word of God
a foolish man does not obey the Word of God

Help each person learn to obey and not just hear

James 1:22-25

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

a person deceives himself if he hears but does not obey
a person who only hears is like a person looking in a mirror
a person who only hears immediately forgets what he hears
a person who obeys is following the perfect law of liberty
a person who obeys continues in the Word of God
a person who obeys will be blessed by obedience

**3. Helping new Christians grow in godly character
(this happens best with spiritual parents and in spiritual families)**

a. show people how to walk by spending time with them in Bible study

Acts 19:9

“But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.”

b. show people how to walk by spending time with them in their homes

Luke 10:38-39

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”

c. show people how to walk by having them spend time in your home

Acts 18:26

“So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

d. show people how to walk by having them travel with you

Acts 20:4

“And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”

e. show people how to walk when meeting them in the marketplace

Acts 17:17

“Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.”

f. show people the way to walk when suffering

Acts 16:25

“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

**show people the way to walk in Bible studies
show people the way to walk in their homes
show people the way to walk in your home
show people the way to walk by having them travel with you
show people the way to walk when you meet them in the marketplace
show people the way to walk when you are suffering**

4. Helping new Christians grow in ministry

a. helping new Christians learn to share the Gospel

New Christians can share good news with their relatives

John 1:40-42a

“One of the two who heard John *speaking*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus...”

New Christians can share the good news with their friends

John 1:45-46

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’”

New Christians can share the good news with their co-workers

Matthew 9:9-10

“As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples.”

New Christians can share the good new with neighbors and other acquaintances

Mark 1:29, 32-33

“Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John... At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

Go with new Christians to the people for whom they are praying

**on pages 30-31 is a prayer outline to give to new Christians
(go with them to the homes of these relatives, friends, co-workers,
neighbors and other acquaintances and you share the Gospel
with those for whom they have been praying)**

**you show them how to share the Gospel by sharing the
Gospel with their relatives, friends, co-workers,
neighbors and other acquaintances**

b. helping new Christians learn to minister to other Christians

1. helping new Christians move from fear to love

Because of Adam's sin, all people are motivated by three things

Genesis 3:10

“So he said, ‘I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid (**Fear**) because I was naked (**Guilt**); and I hid myself (**Shame**).”

Christ says new Christians can begin moving from fear to love

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

Christ commands us to love others as He loved us

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Christ commands us to love one another

Christ said He demonstrated this love to the disciples

Christ said that love should be the characteristic of Christians

Christ communicated this love by choosing to spend time with the disciples

Mark 3:14

“Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.”

Christ calls us to communicate this love by spending time with new Christians

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

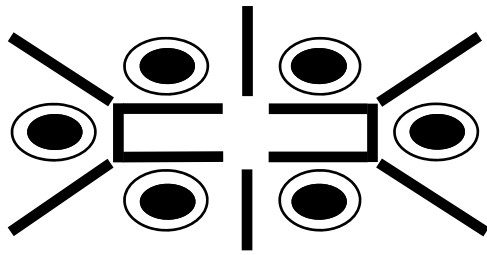
we communicate love with the care of a nursing mother

we communicate love by sharing our lives with new Christians

we communicate love by telling others how important they are to us

2. helping new Christians build relationships with other Christians

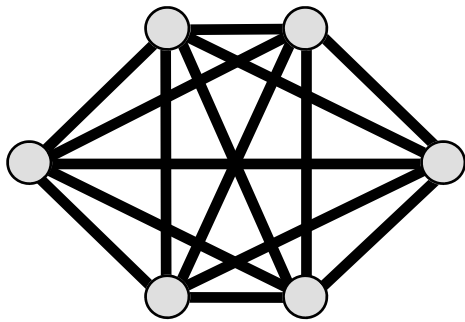
Understand how fear based relationships have separated people



Fear Relationships

- ◆ relationships controlled by fear
- ◆ everyone erects barriers with others
- ◆ everyone creates a shell to protect their feelings
- ◆ no trust
- ◆ no communication

Understand how love-based relationships can bring people back together



Healthy Relationships

- ◆ relationships are controlled by love
- ◆ barriers have been replaced by acceptance
- ◆ shells have been replaced by openness
- ◆ trust is a characteristic of relationships
- ◆ communication is direct

Understand how we help new Christians learn to love one another 1 John 4:10-11

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Share with new Christians the 12 negative “one anothers” on page 45

share that these are the things we often do
when we act out of fear and depend on our own strength

Share with new Christians the 31 positive “one anothers” on page 46

share that these are the things we have power to do
as we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit and depend
on His strength instead of our own strength
John 15:5 or Philippians 4:13

VI. Beginning public meetings in another culture or ethnic group

A. Developing the leadership of the steering committee

1. Forming a steering committee

**Before the first public meeting, form a steering committee
(this committee can be appointed for a six-month period)**

This committee could include the following:

**The men who have been on the church planting team
one to four men who have become Christians through
the evangelistic outreach of the church planting team
(This provides training for the men who may become
the future leaders of the new church - Acts 14:21-23)**

2. The functions of a steering committee (until the time comes to begin public meetings)

- a. the steering committee is an expansion of the church planting team to include some of those reached in the planning for continued outreach.
- b. the steering committee provides a time for the developing leaders to learn to pray and seek the leading of the Lord together.
- c. the steering committee serves as the leadership and administrative unit for the development of the group until it is ready to organize as a church.
- d. the steering committee takes the oversight for planning functions where the Christians in the various Bible studies can begin to meet together and enjoy periodic Christian fellowship.
- e. the steering committee prays and plans together to make certain that each one who becomes a Christian has someone to work with him or her and help them in their spiritual growth.
- f. the steering committee will be preparing for an expanded role when it comes time to begin public services.

**B. Meet as a group of Christians before beginning public meetings
(this period may be from 3 months to a year)**

**Many times, it is helpful to begin meeting as a group Sunday evening
for a period of time before beginning public services.**

**Let me illustrate this by using American Indian Bible Church, which met in our
home for several months on Sunday evening prior to beginning public services.
(1 Corinthians 14:26-33 gives a format for developing growing Christians.)**

The Sunday evening meeting usually included at least the following:

a reading from a Psalm by one of the men

group singing to learn new worship songs

**a responsive reading to give all an opportunity
to participate in Scripture reading**

**a time of prayer for the salvation of others
(family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and other acquaintances)**

group singing to learn great hymns of the faith

**a reading of the Bible chapter we would be studying that night
(we went through books such as 1, 2, & 3 John, 1 & 2 Thessalonians)**

**the chapter would be divided into three sections
and three men would each explain a section
(the first two speakers would be newer Christians and
the final speaker would be one of the leadership team)**

**a time for food and fellowship so those in different Bible studies
had the opportunity to get better acquainted**

These Sunday evening times provided:

**an opportunity for people to grow in the Word
(the ones who spoke learned the most and the others were encouraged)
an opportunity for people to build relationships with other Christians
an opportunity for people to begin gaining experience in leadership**

B. Determining an effective meeting place to begin public meetings

1. the early church met in a wide variety of places

the church in Jerusalem met both in the temple and in many homes

Acts 2:42, 46

the church in Corinth started in the synagogue - Acts 18:4

the church in Corinth later moved to a house - Acts 18:7

the church in Ephesus started in the synagogue - Acts 19:8

the church in Ephesus later moved to a school - Acts 19:9-10

the church in Troas met in a room on the third floor - Acts 20:7-12

the church in Rome met in various homes

the home of Aquila and Priscilla - Romans 16:4-5

the home of Gaius - Romans 16:23

2. if possible, find a place with few restrictions

pray for the Lord to lead to the place of His choice

consider city zoning codes

consider access by public transportation

consider available parking

consider time restrictions

consider what setup will be required

meeting rooms for any classes you plan to start

(remember that Christ can overcome all obstacles)

3. the option of using your own building to reach another culture (some church buildings have room to house two or more congregations)

churches can meet at different times

(check the church at Troas - Acts 20:7, 11)

churches can meet in different parts of a building

4. a key factor if two or more churches meet in the same building

make sure you meet regularly with the leaders of the other

church (es) to coordinate the use of the building

and prevent any misunderstandings

Remember!!!

Christ would rather see a building wear out rather than become a museum

C. Begin public services with a ministry team

1. Remember when we gather together to worship God

**God is the audience and
we are the participants**

**2. Remember the only public service of the church
that is described in detail is in 1 Corinthians 14:23-35**

There we see that:

a church may have unbelievers visit - 14:23

**all who speak are to prophesy - 14:24
(share the Word of God that is already written down)**

expect God to work in the hearts of people - 14:25

**every one should come prepared to share Scripture - 14:26
(all that is spoken is to edify or build up not destroy)**

**there are limitations on people who speak a different language - 14:27-28
it is limited to two or at the most three**

each is to take his turn

each is to have his words interpreted to the rest

**it is to be a known language that can be interpreted
if the language a person speaks has no one who can interpret,
that person is to keep quiet**

it is good for more than one to explain the Word of God - 14:29-33

there may be two or three who explain the Word of God

the others are to examine to make certain it agrees with the Word

the ones who explain the Word are to do it one at a time

the ones who speak are usually the ones who learn the most

the ones who hear will be comforted or encouraged

the ones who speak will prepare so that their spirits are subject to them

it is the responsibility of the men to speak so that they learn - 14:34-35

it is the privilege of the women to encourage their husbands with questions

VII. Developing godly leadership in another culture or ethnic group

A. Focus on the development of godly character, Biblical knowledge and effective ministry

1. Focus on the development of godly character

a. the basic qualifications for Old Testament leadership were godly character

Exodus 18:21

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

**Moses was told to choose able men
Moses was told to choose men who feared God
Moses was told to choose men of truth
Moses was told to choose men who hated covetousness**

b. the basic qualifications in Acts 6 were godly character

Acts 6:3

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”

**the apostles told the church to choose men of good reputation
the apostles told the church to choose men full of the Holy Spirit
the apostles told the church to choose men full of wisdom**

c. the basic qualifications for deacons are godly character

1 Timothy 3:8-13

“Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. Likewise *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

d. the basic qualifications for elders are godly character

**1 Timothy 3:1-7
Titus 1:5-9**

2. Focus on the development of Biblical knowledge (and application)

a. Paul said he had taught the elders at Ephesus Biblical knowledge

Acts 20:20-21

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Paul had shown the elders how to share the Gospel
Paul had taught the elders what to teach
Paul had shown them these things publicly
Paul had shown them these things from house to house**

b. Paul said he taught the elders the whole counsel of God

Acts 20:27

“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

Paul was concerned that the elders knew the whole counsel of God

c. Paul knew the elders needed to know the Word to shepherd the flock

Acts 20:28

“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

**Paul knew the elders needed to know the Word for their own sake
Paul knew the elders needed to know the Word to give effective oversight
Paul knew the elders needed to know the Word to shepherd the church**

d. Paul said that the elders needed to know the Word to deal with false leaders

Acts 20:29-31

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. “Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

**Paul knew the danger of false teachers coming in among them
Paul knew the danger of proud leaders rising among them**

3. Focus on the development of effective ministry

a. King Ahab learned the results of busyness rather than effectiveness

1 Kings 20:38-41

“Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, ‘Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, “Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.” **While your servant was busy here and there**, he was gone.’ Then the king of Israel said to him, ‘So *shall* your judgment *be*; you yourself have decided *it*.’ And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.”

people often substitute busyness for effectiveness

b. Help developing leaders develop an effective ministry to the non-Christian

Acts 20:20-21

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, “testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

an effective ministry to the non-Christian must include a focus on repentance

an effective ministry to the non-Christian must include a focus on faith

c. Help developing leaders develop an effective ministry to Christians

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

effective ministry to Christians includes equipping them for ministry

effective ministry to Christians includes building up the body of Christ

effective ministry to Christians includes developing unity of the faith

effective ministry to Christians includes unity in knowledge of Christ

effective ministry to Christians includes bringing each one to maturity

B. Focus on developing a balanced team of equippers

1. Understand the equipping gifts

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

a. the apostles and prophets are the foundation of the church

Ephesians 2:19-20

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*.”

The Foundation of the Church

**apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection
prophets gave us the written Word of God**

the apostles gave us eyewitness testimony of the resurrection of Christ

Acts 1:21-22

“Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, “beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

the prophets gave us the written Word of God

2 Peter 1:19-21

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

b. the evangelists, pastors and teachers are the equippers of the church

**evangelists equip us to share the Gospel
pastors equip us to teach the Word of God
teachers equip the saints to teach and apply the Word of God**

2. Evangelists equip us to share the Gospel

a. Philip is called an evangelist

Acts 21:8

“On the next *day* we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him.”

Philip was one of the original seven - Acts 6:5
Philip preached the Gospel in Samaria - Acts 8:4-25
Philip preached the Gospel to an Ethiopian - Acts 8:26-39
Philip preached the Gospel in the coastal cities - Acts 8:40
Philip spent the rest of his life in Caesarea - Acts 8:40, 21:8

b. Timothy was told to do the work of an evangelist

2 Timothy 4:5

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

Timothy was to be calm in all things
Timothy was to endure hardship and trouble
Timothy was to do the work of an evangelist
Timothy was to make certain that he carried out his ministry
Timothy was not to neglect his gift that had been recognized - 1 Tim. 4:14

c. what is the work of an evangelist?

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Timothy had been shown how to share the Gospel by Paul
(Paul took Timothy as Paul shared the Gospel - Acts 16:1-5)

Timothy had learned to share the Gospel with others
(Timothy shared the Gospel as he traveled with Paul - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-6)

Timothy was now to teach faithful men to also share the Gospel
(Timothy was to teach others by having them follow him - 1 Cor. 4:16-17)

Timothy was to train those men so they could train others
(Timothy had been left to train the men in Ephesus - 1 Timothy 1:3-11)

3. Pastors equip us to minister to one another
(the word translated “pastor” is used 18 times in the New Testament,
the other 17 times it is always translated by the word “shepherd”)

a. the Lord appointed pastors to equip the saints for the work of the ministry
Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

pastors are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry
pastors are to build up the body of Christ spiritually
pastors are to help Christians come to the unity of the faith
pastors are to help Christians become mature and like Christ

B. pastors are to equip every member to shepherd effectively
Ephesians 4:14-16

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share,** causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

c. what is the work of a shepherd?
Isaiah 40:11

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, *And* gently lead those who are with young.”

Ezekiel 34:16

“I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.”

feed the flock
carry the lambs
gently lead those who are with young
seek those that are lost
bring back those who are driven away
bind up the broken
strengthen the weak

4. Teachers equip us to teach and apply the Word of God

a. Paul said that he was a teacher

2 Timothy 1:11

“To which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.”

preacher - one who shares the Gospel
apostle - one who was an eyewitness of the resurrection
teacher - one who equips saints to teach and apply the Word of God

b. a teacher is one who helps people to understand the Word of God

Luke 2:46-47

“Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.”

a teacher is one who listens carefully to others
a teacher is one who asks questions
a teacher is one who gives others understanding
a teacher is one who is able to give wise answers

c. a teacher is one who shows people how to obey the Word of God

John 13:13-15

“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for *so* I am. If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

a teacher is one who serves
a teacher is one who teaches by example

d. a teacher is one who shows people how to apply the Word of God

Romans 12:1-2

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

a teacher focuses on transformed lives
(ones who use their bodies to serve Christ)
a teacher focuses on transformed minds
(ones who have learned to continually renew their minds)
a teacher focuses on transformed wills
(ones who seek to practice the will of God rather than serve self)

C. Focus on developing a servant leadership team

1. Teach and model servant leadership

Mark 10:42-45

“But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’”

**Christian leaders are not to lead like the world
Christian leaders are to lead by serving
Christian leaders are to become the bondslaves of all
Christ leaders give their lives for the sake of those they lead**

2. Build a team of servant leaders

3 John 9-12

“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church. Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.”

worldly leaders in the church

**love to have the preeminence (want to be the boss)
do not accept spiritual servant leaders
use evil words to turn others away from servant leaders
become dictators whose focus is control**

servant leaders in the church

**have a good testimony from all
have lives that demonstrate the truth**

**The diagram on the next page shows how we move
from worldly leadership to servant leadership**

Moving from Worldly Leadership to Servant Leadership (Mark 10:35-40)

Power or position *Rights*

People follow you because they have to.

... *“You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.”* Mark 10:42

Production *Results*

People follow you because of what you have done for the organization.

“For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.” Galatians 1:13-14

Permission *Relationships*

People follow you because they want to.

“From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” John 6:66-68

Personal development *Reproduction*

People follow you because of what you have done for their development.

“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.” Mark 10:43

Personhood *Respect*

People follow you because of who you are and what you represent.

“And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:44-45

VIII. Organizing the church in another culture or ethnic group

A. Focus on Biblical qualifications for Biblical leadership

1. Biblical qualifications for Deacons

Acts 6:1-8 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 give us the qualifications for deacons. Men of the church who meet these qualifications, but do not meet all of the qualifications for elders, shall be recognized as deacons appointed by the Holy Spirit. Since Scripture teaches that deacons are to serve and assist (Acts 6:1-8), they shall serve under the direction of the elders.

Qualifications for deacons (Acts 6:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

When a man meets the following Scriptural qualifications, he should be recognized as a deacon appointed by the Holy Spirit:

1. full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom - Acts 6:3
2. of honest report (above reproach) - Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:2, 10; Titus 1:6-7
consistent, mature Christian living which gives no opportunity for accusation
3. a man of dignity - 1 Timothy 3:8
a seriousness of mind and character
4. not double-tongued - 1 Timothy 3:8
must control his tongue, especially in the area of gossip
5. not one who drinks - 1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7
6. not greedy for money or position - 1 Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7
7. must show faith at all times with a clear conscience - 1 Timothy 3:9
must be settled in his commitment to the doctrines of God's Word without any hesitation
8. must allow time to make certain a man meets these qualifications -
1 Timothy 3:10
9. must have a wife who is respected, if married - 1 Timothy 3:11
10. only one wife - 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6
must be a single woman man
11. must be the spiritual leader in the home - 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Titus 1:6

2. Biblical qualifications for elders

The church should be governed by a board of two or more elders (Acts 14:23) who are responsible to God for the leadership of this church according to Acts 20:28-31. The qualifications for elders are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Men of the church who meet these qualifications should be recognized as elders appointed by the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the church (Acts 20:28).

In addition to the qualifications of a deacon, an elder must also meet the following qualifications. When a man meets these Scriptural qualifications, he should be recognized as an elder appointed by the Holy Spirit:

12. must have a desire to be an elder - 1 Timothy 3:1
13. temperate - 1 Timothy 3:2
sober in judgment so as not to be diverted by false teaching
14. prudent (sensible) - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6
a quality of mind which is serious, earnest and sound
15. respectable - 1 Timothy 3:2
a well organized mind and life
16. hospitable - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8
one who uses his home as a place of ministry
17. able to teach (equip for ministry) - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9
(see the specific ministries of elders)
18. not pugnacious - 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7
not quick-tempered which would cause him to strike another
19. gentle - 1 Timothy 3:3
one who is patient, kind and forbearing
20. uncontentious - 1 Timothy 3:3
one who is not fighting or insisting on his own way or his rights
21. not a new or immature Christian - 1 Timothy 3:6
22. respected by everyone including those outside the church - 1 Timothy 3:7
23. not self-willed - Titus 1:7
not one who demands his own way without regard for others
24. not quick-tempered - Titus 1:7
not suddenly upset or quick to retaliate
25. a lover of what is good - Titus 1:8
a supporter of everything that is worthwhile to God and His purpose
26. just - Titus 1:8
conduct which meets the approval of God
27. holy - Titus 1:8
one who demonstrates the moral standards of the Word of God
28. self-controlled - Titus 1:9
one who is able to control his sensual desires
29. able to answer false teachers from the Word of God - Titus 1:9

3. Recognizing elders and deacons

The board of elders shall serve as the men who shall recognize those men who meet the spiritual qualifications for elders and deacons (1 Timothy 4:14). Men shall only be recognized after much prayer (1 Timothy 5:22). When the elders recognize that a man meets the qualifications, his name will be presented to the entire congregation for approval (Acts 14:23).

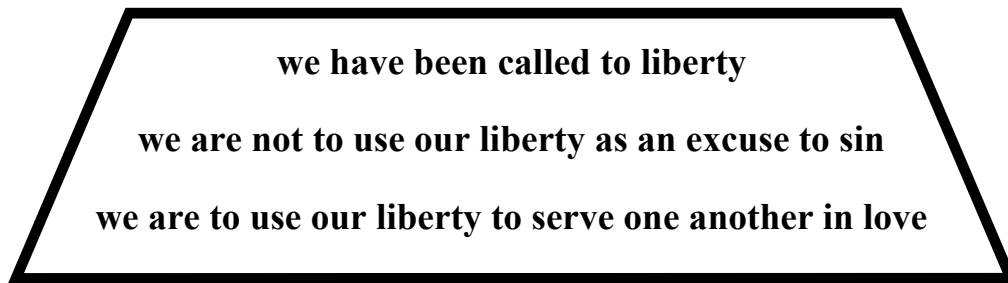
**B. Focus on developing a church that functions as a body
by helping each Christian discover his or her spiritual “SHAPE”**

**1. Understanding our spiritual “SHAPE”
Galatians 5:13**

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Understanding true liberty

**true liberty is living as we should and not as we please
(the freedom to do what is right)**



**true liberty means we need to understand our “SHAPE”
so that we can serve one another in love**



Adapted from page 4 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

2. Spiritual gifts are given to us to minister to one another

a. sign gifts were given to confirm the message of the apostles

Hebrews 2:3-4

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

“I have become a fool in boasting; you have compelled me. For I ought to have been commended by you; for in nothing was I behind the most eminent apostles, though I am nothing. Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”

sign gifts were needed to confirm the message of the resurrection

Acts 1:21-22

sign gifts were demonstrated by the men who wrote the New Testament

2 Peter 1:19-21

sign gifts will be misused in the future by the antichrist

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

b. serving gifts have been given to each Christian to serve one another

Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14:40; 1 Peter 4:7-11

the first seven gifts are listed in Romans 12:6-8

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; or ministry, *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

additional serving gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues...And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

Adapted from pages 5 and 7 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”

Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

the gift of prophecy

Since the prophets gave us the written Word of God, the gift of prophecy does not speak about giving new revelation as that is clearly forbidden in Revelation 22:18-19. Instead, the one with the gift of prophecy is to prophesy what has already been written down in the Word of God. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 14:3; 1 Peter 1:10; Jude 14-15

the gift of prophecy: To quote the Word of God to edify, exhort and comfort; to announce the grace that is provided in salvation and to warn of judgment for ungodly deeds. The person with this gift will often quote the Scripture without explaining it, as Peter did in his sermon in Acts 2.

the gift of ministry (serving)

The Christian who has the gift of serving will usually emphasize practical ways to help other Christians. This will involve many different kinds of ministry but the purpose will be to serve other Christians. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 16:15; Romans 16:1-2; Acts 6:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

the gift of serving: To serve the saints by helping, by serving, by sharing and by devoting our time to the ministry of the saints. The gift will often involve manual projects and short-term goals.

the gift of teaching

The Christian who has the gift of teaching will tend to emphasize purity of doctrine and will emphasize the importance of much study in order to make certain that there is purity of doctrine. The concern of one who has this gift is for sound doctrine in all teaching and the application of that teaching so that it produces obedience and godly living. Key passages:

1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 2:7-8; Titus 1:9

the gift of teaching: To spend much time in study so that there will be purity of doctrine in all teaching. This teaching will include both teaching those who want to learn and those who contradict.

the gift of exhorting

The Christian who has the gift of exhorting will tend to emphasize growth toward spiritual maturity so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed. He will urge others to pursue a course of conduct which is always prospective, looking toward the future. Key passages:

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:15; Titus 2:4-5

the gift of exhorting: to encourage the saints to love, to good works, and to godly living by giving specific steps so that the Word of God will not be blasphemed. The person with this gift will often encourage individuals to take small specific steps which will help them to work toward spiritual development and goals.

the gift of giving

The Christian who has the gift of giving tends to emphasize giving to needs that are often not recognized by others. There will also often be an emphasis on giving to missions so that the Word of God can be carried worldwide. Key passages:

Romans 12:8; Romans 1:11-12; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 2:8

the gift of giving: to give generously so that faith may be strengthened, needs may be met, and others may be able to minister because we have given of our own souls. The person with the gift of giving will often encourage other Christians to share in the ministry of giving so that his or her giving is multiplied.

the gift of leading

The word translated “lead” means *to stand before or lead*. In order to lead effectively, God has given the person with this gift the ability to see what a church or other ministry needs to do to accomplish the work of God in the future. The Christian who has the gift of leading (ruling) tends to take a long- range view and to make long-range plans so that the work of God can be completed smoothly and efficiently. Key passages:

Adapted from pages 9-10 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape “
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

1 Thessalonians 5:12; Titus 3:8; Titus 3:14

the gift of leading: to lead under the leadership of the Lord so that the good works of all will be profitable and fruitful. The person with this gift will often be given insight by the Lord to help that person see what a group needs to do to move forward and make progress in their ministry.

the gift of showing mercy

The Christian who has the gift of showing mercy tends to be more sensitive to the inner feelings of others and demonstrates loving concern to those who are in inner distress. The person with this gift is usually effective at offering comfort to those experiencing inner distress. Key passages:

Matthew 20:30-34; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 12:8

the gift of showing mercy: to feel such sympathy with the misery of another that it produces comfort and thankfulness for the opportunity to show mercy.

additional serving gifts from 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 4

the gift of word of wisdom

The word that is translated “wisdom” in the New Testament is used most often to speak of the ability to understand God’s will and apply it obediently. The Christian who has this gift is able to apply the Word of God to situations that people face in life and to apply God’s Word to the problems and questions that people bring. Key passages:

Acts 6:10; James 3:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Colossians 1:28

the gift of the word of wisdom: to share the wisdom of God by showing godly wisdom in living and by applying spiritual wisdom to life so that Christians can make progress in their growth to spiritual maturity.

the gift of the word of knowledge

The word that is translated “knowledge” in the New Testament means *to know through inquiry and investigation*. The Christian who has this gift is able to understand through study the meaning of the text and related passages so that he can in turn explain the Word of God and make it clear to others. Key passages:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14; Colossians 2:3

the gift of the word of knowledge: the ability to discover through study the full meaning of the text, context, words, phrases, related passages and truths and then help provide that understanding to others.

the gift of faith

The gift of faith is different than saving faith and speaks of the ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways. This faith is strong in spite of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities. This gift is primarily exercised through prayer to God in asking God and trusting God to do what is beyond His normal provision. Key passages:

Matthew 17:20; Hebrews 11:1; James 5:16-18

the gift of faith: the ability to trust God in difficult and demanding ways in spite of overwhelming obstacles and human impossibilities. It is exercised through prayer to God as a person asks and trusts God to do what is beyond His normal provision. The person with this gift is the kind of person who makes the ministries of others effective through fervent prayer and the assurance that God is able to and will do the impossible.

the gift of discerning of spirits

Because young and immature Christians often cannot discern between the true and the false, God has given this particular gift to certain Christians to give them the ability to discern what is not in agreement with Scripture and actually has its source from Satan, the father of lies. Key passages:

Adapted from pages 12-13 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

John 8:44; Hebrews 5:13-14; Acts 20:19-21; 1 Corinthians 14:29

the gift of discerning of spirits: the special ability to recognize those ideas, philosophies and teachings which are not in agreement with Scripture but have their source in Satan, the father of lies, and correct those false teachings with the Word of God.

the gift of helps

The gift of helps is similar to the gift of serving in that it speaks of helping and serving others. However, it is different in the sense that the word translated “helps” means *to take the burden off someone and place it on oneself*. It has the special thought of helping the poor, weak and needy. Key passages:

Acts 20:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Philippians 2:25; 1 Corinthians 16:15

the gift of helps: the special ability to help other Christians, especially the poor, weak and needy, by taking the burden off someone and placing that burden on oneself.

the gift of administration

The word that is translated “administration” comes from the same root word as the word for the pilot of a ship. It has the thought of one who steers the ship and guides it to the harbor. The gift of administration speaks of those who have been given the special ability to make wise decisions and to mobilize, motivate and direct others toward an objective. Key passages:

Acts 27:11; Acts 8:4; 2 Timothy 4:11-12

the gift of administration: the ability to make wise decisions and to mobilize, motivate, direct others and delegate responsibility to help a group of Christians accomplish a purpose, fulfill objectives and reach the goals that they have been led of the Lord to establish.

It may be helpful to distinguish between the gift of leading and the gift of administration. The person with the gift of leading is the person who can make long-range plans and lead a group toward those goals. The person with the gift of administration organizes all of the details and delegates the responsibilities to various individuals to help the group reach those goals.

the gift of hospitality

The gift of hospitality is the special gift of being able to make people feel comfortable and at home both in the church and in the home. Christians with this gift are especially effective at making others feel comfortable. Key passages:

1 Peter 4:8-9; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; Acts 16:15

the gift of hospitality: the ability to make people feel comfortable and at home so that there will be the opportunity to have an effective ministry to them.

commandments and gifts

Actually, each Christian is commanded to do each of the things that have been mentioned in these spiritual gifts. Obedience will cause us to do each of these things as we have opportunity. However, the gifts we have been given allow us to be able to minister in a way beyond that of most Christians. They also cause us to see needs other Christians do not see. In addition, we can exercise our spiritual gifts for an extended period at any one time.

There are two attitudes that we must avoid in order to be effective in the use of our spiritual gifts. **First**, we must not be proud because we have been given those gifts. **Second**, we must not be critical of other Christians because they do not see the same needs we see. We see those needs because we have been given spiritual gifts to meet those needs. The fact that we see those needs gives us the opportunity to exercise our spiritual gifts without being critical of others.

using our spiritual gifts to glorify God

1 Peter 4:10-11

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Adapted from pages 15-16 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

Equipping Gifts and Serving Gifts

As we look at the gifts that we have listed from the various passages, we see that there are three equipping gifts for today and a whole variety of serving gifts. The spiritual leaders who have been given the equipping gifts are to equip each Christian to use his or her gifts to serve the Lord. We may have several serving gifts. Let's look at these gifts in a diagram form and see the wide variety of possible combinations of gifts we may have.

	Evangelists	Pastors	Teachers
Prophecy			
Ministry (Serving)			
Teaching			
Exhorting			
Giving			
Leading			
Showing Mercy			
Word of Wisdom			
Word of Knowledge			
Faith			
Discerning of Spirits			
Helps			
Administration			
Hospitality			

Adapted from page 17 of the manual "Understanding Our Spiritual Shape"
 Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
 Scripture taken from the **New King James Version®**. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
 This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
 ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

3. Understanding how our “heart” affects our ministry to one another

every growing Christian has a heart (passion) for some ministry

the example of Epaphras who had a passion to help the Christians in Colosse

Colossians 4:12-13

“Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.”

the example of Epaphroditus who had a passion for service to Paul

Philippians 2:30

“Because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.”

the example of Paul who had a passion for those who had never heard

Romans 15:20-21

“And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, but as it is written: ‘To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.’”

the example of Stephanas who had a passion for serving the saints

1 Corinthians 16:15

“I urge you, brethren -- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints...”

our heart or passion is the ministry that really gets us excited

some have a passion to help Christians grow to maturity

some have a passion to serve the needs of another Christian

some have a passion to plant churches in new areas

some have a passion to serve the saints

What ministry really gets you excited?

Adapted from page 19 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape “
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

4. Understanding how our abilities affect our ministry to one another

some of us have been given abilities to speak

Acts 14:12

“And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.”

some of us have been given abilities to play musical instruments

1 Chronicles 16:5-6

“Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, *then* Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly *blew* the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.”

some of us have been given abilities to lead singing

1 Chronicles 6:31-32

“Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest. They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office according to their order.”

some of us have been given abilities to write

Romans 16:22

“I, Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.”

some of us have been given abilities to be people helpers

Romans 16:1-2

“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”

our abilities are given to us by God to serve one another

1 Peter 4:11

“If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

God gave us the abilities that we each have

God gave us those abilities to serve each other

God gave us those abilities to glorify Him

Adapted from page 20 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

5. Understanding how our personalities affect our ministry to one another

some of us are impulsive like Peter

John 13:8-9

“Peter said to Him, ‘You shall never wash my feet!’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’ Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!’”

some of us see things negatively like Thomas

John 11:16

“Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.””

some of us let others speak for us like James and John

Matthew 20:20-21

“Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, ‘What do you wish?’ She said to Him, ‘Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.’”

some of us focus on people and others focus on the ministry

Acts 15:37-38

“Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.”

some of us worry about doing everything properly

Luke 10:39-42

“And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’”

key principles for building a group with different personalities

learn to accept one another - Romans 14:1-3

learn to listen to one another - James 1:19-20

learn to have faith in one another - Romans 1:12

learn to consider the interests of others - Philippians 2:1-4

Adapted from page 21 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

6. Understanding how our life experiences affect our ministry to one another

some of us have spent time in jail

Acts 16:23-25

“And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

some of us have experienced years of physical problems

John 9:1-3

“Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’”

some of us have experienced years of rejection

Matthew 9:10-11

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, *that* behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said to His disciples, ‘Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?’”

some of us have spent years helping others

Acts 9:36

“At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.”

some of us have spent years following the law

Acts 21:20-21

“And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, ‘You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law; but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children nor to walk according to the customs.’”

key principles for building a group who have had different life experiences

learn to deal with your prejudices - James 2:1-13

learn to minister to people in their homes - Acts 2:46

learn to minister from your own suffering - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

learn to develop strong friendships in the group - John 15:12-17

Adapted from page 22 of the manual “Understanding Our Spiritual Shape”
Copyright © 1996 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute; 2022 DLA, Serve and Equip
Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
This resource is available from and distributed free of charge by Serve and Equip - <https://sveq.org>
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

IX. Helping the new church become a healthy, reproducing church in another culture or ethnic group

A. Help the church develop reproducing disciples

review page seven **“Four Calls and a Commission”**
(The Process of Making Disciples)

1. From the time that Christ called the disciples to “Come and See” until the time He called them to “Come and Grow” is approximately a year

**During that time:
Christ led by love while the disciples observed**

Christ took the disciples with Him to a wedding in Cana - John 2:1-12
Christ took the disciples to the Passover in Jerusalem - John 2:13-25
Christ spent time with the disciples in Judea - John 3:22
Christ took the disciples with Him through Samaria - John 4:1-42
Christ took the disciples with him to Cana in Galilee - John 4:43-54
During this period, Christ made His headquarters in Capernaum where some of the disciples lived - Matthew 4:13-16

If we are going to develop reproducing disciples in any culture, we need to take new Christians with us so that they can observe:

they will see our love and concern for our family - John 2:3-5
they will see our love for other new Christians - John 2:11
they will see our love for other friends - John 2:12
they will see our concern for the holiness of God - John 2:13-17
they will see how we relate to other people - John 2:23-25
they will see our love for the religious - John 3:1-21
they will see our love for people of other cultures - John 4:1-42
they will have their spiritual vision expanded - John 4:35
they will see our love for those who are leaders - John 4:46-54

**love and compassion are
Caught not Taught**

2. From the time that Christ called the disciples to “Come and Grow” to the time He called them to “Come and Serve” was about nine more months

During that time:

Christ served the multitudes with love while the disciples participated

Christ ministered with the disciples in their home town - Mark 1:21-28

Christ ministered to people at the home of Peter - Mark 1:29-34

Christ showed the disciples the importance of prayer - Mark 1:35-37

Christ showed the disciples how to share the Gospel - Mark 1:38-39

Christ showed the disciples how to show compassion - Mark 1:40-45

Christ went back to Capernaum (to the house of Peter ?) - Mark 2:1

(if Peter’s house, he got involved repairing the roof) - Mark 2:4

the disciples got involved talking with the Pharisees - Mark 2:16

the disciples prompted a discussion with the Pharisees - Mark 2:23-24

the disciples got involved with the multitudes - Mark 3:7-9

3. From the time that Christ called the disciples to “Come and Serve” to the time He called them to “Come and Shepherd” was about 21 more months

During that time:

Christ gave the disciples opportunities to do while He encouraged

Christ sent out the twelve to preach with specific instructions - Matthew 10:5-12

the disciples were not to go to the Gentiles - v. 5

the disciples were not to go to the Samaritans - v. 5

the disciples were to go only to the lost sheep of Israel - v. 6

the disciples were to preach that the kingdom of heaven was at hand

the disciples were to heal the sick

the disciples were to cleanse the lepers

the disciples were to raise the dead

the disciples were to cast out demons

the disciples were to give freely

the disciples were not to take any money

the disciples were not to take extra clothing

the disciples had to learn that Christ would provide!!

**Christ had the disciples tell what happened when they returned
Mark 6:30-31; Luke 9:10-11**

**the disciples told what they had done - Mark 6:30; Luke 9:10
the disciples told what they had taught - Mark 6:30**

Christ sent out the seventy - Luke 10:1-12

**they were to prepare for the coming of Christ - v. 1
they were to see the greatness of the harvest field - v. 2
they were to learn that the Lord would protect them - v. 3
they were to learn that the Lord would supply their needs - v. 4
they were to bring the message of peace - v. 5-6
they were to eat what the Lord provided through others - v. 7-8
they were to minister to the people that accepted them - v. 9
they were to warn of judgment to those who rejected - v. 10-12**

Christ had the seventy tell what had happened - Luke 10:17-20

**the seventy were excited about their power over demons - v. 17
the seventy were told to rejoice in their salvation not their power - v. 20**

Notice the development pattern of Christ

Christ	the period	the disciples
I do	the first year	you observe
I do	the next 9 months	you participate
I observe and encourage	the last 21 months	you do

**Each time after the disciples returned:
Christ would give further instruction!**

B. Help the church develop additional godly leadership

1. Healthy churches increase the number on the leadership team

Sometimes, these leaders come from other areas to assist at the beginning

Acts 11:22-26

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

the church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to help at Antioch

Barnabas realized the need for more help and recruited Saul

The original leaders develop additional leaders

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

Acts 14:23

“So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

the leaders who came to help were sent out by the Lord

the leaders who developed continued to lead the church

**The new leaders continued to develop additional leaders
(the situation when Paul and Barnabas returned)**

Acts 15:35

“Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.”

There were now many who were teaching and preaching!

2. Healthy churches increase the number on the leadership team by:

a. focusing on the basics (FLOCKS) - Acts 2:41-47

“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Fellowship
Acts 2:42, 46

Fellowship was a very important part of the life of the early church as they gathered together in small groups. Verse 42 tells us that they continued in fellowship and Bible study.

Leadership Development
Acts 2:42, 46

Leadership Development was also very important in the life of the early church. This development of leadership was occurring on at least three levels: One-to-one, Bible study and fellowship groups, and larger groups in the temple.

Outreach
Acts 2:41, 47

Outreach was a very strong emphasis in the early church and resulted in people being added to the church every day.

Caring
Acts 2:44, 45

Caring for the needs of others was also an important part of the life of the early church. The early Christians looked for opportunities to meet the needs of others.

Knowledge
Acts 2:42, 46

Knowledge of Christ and of His Word was very necessary for the new Christians to be obedient to the Word. As they gathered in small groups, it was for Bible study and fellowship.

Service
Acts 2:44, 46

Serving one another was one of the ways that the early Christians showed their love for God and for one another. There was a singleness of heart which was shown by their actions to help one another.

That Are

Praying
Acts 2:42

Prayer was an essential part of the life of the early church. When they got together for Bible study and fellowship, they also prayed together and for each other.

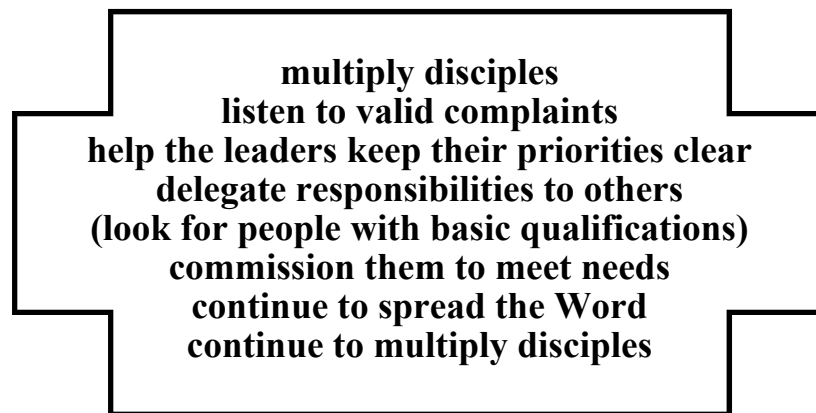
Praising
Acts 2:46, 47

Praise was a vital part of the life of the early church. The word that is translated "praising" always speaks of praise to God so praise was God centered rather than man centered as they gave all glory to God.

b. focus on multiplying disciples and responding to needs

Acts 6:1-7

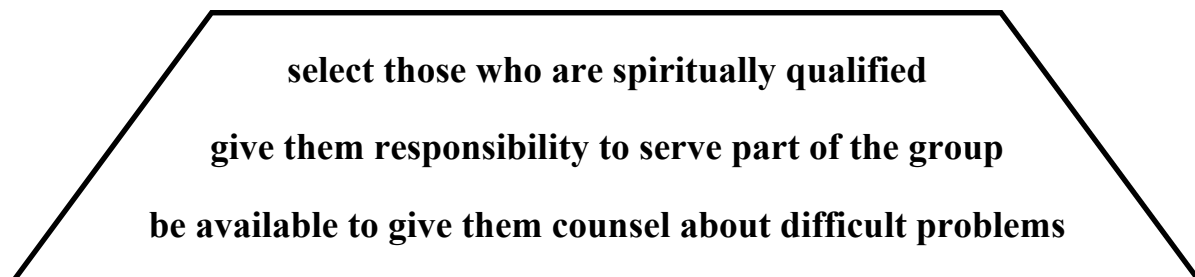
“Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”



c. focus on helping disciples become leaders of a part of the group

Exodus 18:21-23

“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be *that* every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear *the burden* with you. If you do this thing, and God *so* commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.”



C. Help the church develop a vision for other areas

1. Develop vision by taking people to really see other areas

John 4:4, 4:35

“But He needed to go through Samaria... ‘Do you not say, “There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

**take Christians with you as you visit other areas
help them to lift up their spiritual eyes and look
help them to see the spiritual harvest there**

2. Help all Christians learn to share the Gospel

Acts 8:1, 4-5

“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”

**the apostles stayed in Jerusalem
the Christians shared the Gospel wherever they went
Philip shared the Gospel with the Samaritans**

3. Regularly pray for people in other areas

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.’”

**the leaders set the example by praying for other areas
the leaders encourage people to pray for the areas from which they came
the leaders encourage people to pray for people in other areas
the leaders provide an example of seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit
the leaders share the vision that they have for other areas
the leaders take the initiative in recognizing who to send out
the whole church sends them on their way to share the Gospel**

X. Starting a church planting movement in another culture or ethnic group

A. Help the church plant additional churches in its Jerusalem and Judea

1. Equip people to take the Gospel wherever they go

Acts 8:4

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

**expect people to move to other areas
(either they will move or God will move them)
equip them to share the Gospel clearly**

2. Equip people to share the Gospel in surrounding areas

Acts 8:5

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”

Acts 9:1-2, 10-11

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem...Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ So the Lord *said* to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.’”

disciples equipped to share the Gospel will find opportunities to share

disciples will share the Gospel with other cultures as well

3. Expect the Lord to work through the witness of Christians

Acts 9:31

“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

**the Lord wants to multiply churches in your Jerusalem
the Lord wants to multiply churches in your Judea
the Lord wants to multiply churches in your Samaria
the Lord will build up the churches as we make disciples
the Lord will help disciples learn to walk in the fear of the Lord
the Lord will teach disciples to walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit
the Lord will multiply churches as we are obedient by making disciples**

4. Equip every Christian to share the Gospel

a. we begin by helping each Christian learn to yield to the Lord

Christ says we can do nothing in our own strength

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

**we will bear much fruit as we abide in Christ
we will produce no fruit when we depend on our own strength**

Christ says we can glorify the Father by bearing much fruit

John 15:7-8

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

**we will bear fruit as we depend on Christ moment by moment
we will bear fruit if the Word of Christ is abiding in us
we will bear fruit as we pray according to the will of God
we will bring glory to the Father by bearing much fruit
we are recognized as disciples when we are bearing fruit**

Christ only works in and through our lives as we yield to Him

Romans 6:13

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.”

Romans 6:16

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

We make choices and they have consequences

**we choose
to yield to sin**



produces death

**we choose
to yield to God**



**produces obedience
leading to righteousness**

b. we help each Christian develop a list of people for whose salvation they are praying (see pages 30-31 for a prayer list to give all new Christians)

Pray that the Lord would open their hearts

Acts 16:14

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

**the Lord is the One who opens their hearts
the Lord is the One who causes people to listen to the Word**

c. we arrange for someone to go with the new Christian to share the Gospel with each of those for whom the new Christian is praying:

**relatives - John 1:41-42
friends - John 1:45-46
co-workers - Matthew 9:9-10
neighbors and other acquaintances - Mark 1:30-33**

d. we show the new Christian how to work with the Holy Spirit

John 16:7-11

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

The Holy Spirit convinces non-Christians of:

**sin - the failure to believe in Christ
righteousness - of the fact that Christ is the Righteous One
judgment - the ruler of this world has already been judged**

e. we show the new Christian how to show love and compassion

Romans 12:15

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”

**we help the new Christians learn to share times of joy
we help the new Christian learn to share times of sadness**

**f. we help the new Christian understand four C's for evangelism
(we share the Gospel with people with different backgrounds in different ways)**

Confrontation - John 3:3

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

Nicodemus - John 3:1-21

The rich young ruler - Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-26; Luke 18:18-27

**confrontation is necessary when we are talking
to people who are depending on:
their religious involvement
their own good works**

Clarification - Acts 17:11-12a

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed.”

the Ethiopian eunuch - Acts 8:26-40

the people of Berea - Acts 17:11-12

Apollos - Acts 18:24-26

**clarification is needed when people have never understood
the meaning of repentance and faith**

Compassion - John 4:7

“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’”

Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13

the Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42

**compassion is needed when people feel they
are “too bad” to be accepted by God**

Creation - Acts 17:23-24

“For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”

the people of Athens - Acts 17:16-34

creation is needed when people have no background of the Bible

5. Help the church leaders learn to develop additional leaders

Acts 14:22

“Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

Potential leaders need to:

be strengthened in their souls

be exhorted to continue in the faith

be prepared for much tribulation

6. Help the church leaders learn to give responsibility to the new leaders

Acts 14:23

“So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

developing leaders need to be appointed to carry out ministry

developing leaders need to be appointed after much prayer

developing leaders need to be entrusted to the Lord

7. Focus on multiplying churches throughout the region

Acts 9:31

“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

help developing churches focus on the regions around them

help developing churches develop a vision for the entire area

help the developing churches learn to experience peace

help the developing churches be built up in the faith

help the developing churches learn to walk in the fear of the Lord

help the developing churches learn to walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit

help the developing churches continue to multiply!

B. Help the church learn to plant churches in its Samaria

1. Help churches to see their Samaria

John 4:31-35

“In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, eat.’ But He said to them, ‘I have food to eat of which you do not know.’ Therefore the disciples said to one another, ‘Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, “There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’”

help people change their focus from physical needs to spiritual needs
help people focus on choosing to do the will of God
help people focus on completing the work that God has given us
help people to lift up their eyes and look around them
help people to see the other cultures around them

2. Help churches see that people in other cultures respond to Christ

John 4:39-42

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I *ever* did.’ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”

people respond to the testimony of their own people
people in other cultures are often open to learn about Christ
people in other cultures are changed as they learn about Christ

3. Help churches send people to reach out to other cultures

Acts 8:4-5

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.”

Acts 8:14

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,”

The church had one of its people go to Samaria

The church sent some of its leaders to help in Samaria

C. Help the church learn to plant churches to the ends of the earth

1. Help the church learn to reach out through Christians who move

Acts 8:4, 11:19-21

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word...Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

**recognize that some are only able to reach their own culture in other areas
recognize that some have a background in other cultures
recognize that it will be easier for them to reach people of other cultures**

**realize that the message is the Lord Jesus in all cultures
realize that the Lord is the One who does the changing of lives
realize that he may have a great harvest in another area
realize that the Lord is able to turn people to Himself**

2. Help the church learn to take responsibility to help Christians who move

Acts 11:22-24

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”

**the church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to help in Antioch
the church at Jerusalem sent a man who recognized the grace of God
the church at Jerusalem sent one who could encourage the new Christians
the church at Jerusalem sent one who could develop their purpose
the church at Jerusalem sent one who would help them grow in faith
the church at Jerusalem had their efforts rewarded by God**

3. Help the new church develop spiritual maturity

Acts 11:25-26

“Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

4. Help the new church become a sending church

Acts 13:1-3

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

**the church at Antioch prayed for the leading of the Lord
the church at Antioch was led to become a sending church
the church at Antioch was seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit
the church at Antioch was willing to let its best leaders go
the church at Antioch fasted and prayed
the church at Antioch commissioned Barnabas and Saul
the church at Antioch sent out Barnabas and Saul**

5. Help the new church become part of a church planting movement

Acts 15:39-41

“Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

the church later sent two church planting teams

**the church sent Barnabas and Mark to Cyprus
the church sent Paul and Silas through Syria and Cilicia
(on their way to a trip that led to Europe- Acts 16:9)**

These teams and the teams they developed took the Gospel to many areas

Romans 15:18-19

“For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

**Paul had more than 30 people travel with him at different times
(Acts 16:1-3, 16:10, 18:18-19, 20:4 and many other passages)
Paul and these teams covered an area more than 1400 miles in length
Paul wanted to reach to still other areas - Romans 15:23-24**

XI. Developing the attitudes needed to reach to other cultures and ethnic groups

A. We need to ask the same to questions that Saul asked in:

Acts 9:1-6

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord *said* to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”

1. Who are You, Lord?

This is the result of fellowship with God and other Christians

1 John 1:3-7

“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

**we are to have fellowship with other Christians
we must have fellowship with the Father and the Son
we do not get to know the Lord if we are walking in darkness
we do get to know the Lord if we are walking in the light
we develop fellowship with others as we walk in the light**

2. Lord, what do you want me to do?

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

we are to be witnesses to Christ among all cultures and ethnic groups!

B. We must be motivated by the love of Christ

1. We will either be motivated by fear or will be motivated by love

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

**perfect love casts out fear
(this happens as we grow in understanding the love of Christ)**

**fear within causes us to punish ourselves
(this hinders our spiritual growth)**

**fear within keeps love from growing to maturity
(this hinders effective service for Christ)**

2. We learn to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit working in us

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

**the Holy Spirit working in our spirit does not produce fear
the Holy Spirit working in our spirit gives us power to obey
the Holy Spirit working in our spirit gives us love to motivate us
the Holy Spirit working in our spirit causes us to exercise self-control**

3. We respond to the love of Christ motivating us

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

**we are now motivated by the love of Christ working in us
we realize that Christ died for all and we are dead with Christ - Romans 6:8
(God is not willing that any should perish - 2 Peter 3:9)
(we should have the same concern for all cultures and ethnic groups)
we will no longer live to please ourselves when motivated by love
we will live to please Christ as we are motivated by love**

C. We must see the world as Christ sees it

1. Christ saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion

Matthew 9:36-38

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’”

when we see the world as Christ sees it:

**we will see the multitudes
we will be moved with compassion for the multitudes
we will see that the multitudes are weary (to be despondent or depressed)
we will see that the multitudes are scattered (thrown down by Satan)
we will see that the multitudes do not have a shepherd
we will see that there is a great harvest to be gathered
we will see that there are few laboring in the harvest
we will recognize that the the harvest field belongs to the Lord
we will pray that He will send laborers into the harvest
we will go into the harvest field and work**

2. Christ gave us an order or progression as we reach out to the multitudes

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**we will share the Gospel in our Jerusalem
(we will depend on the Lord to help us cross the barrier
of our own fear)**

**we will share the Gospel in our Judea
(we will depend on the Lord to help us cross the barrier
of making contacts)**

**we will share the Gospel in our Samaria
(we will depend on the Lord to help us cross the barrier
of another religion, culture or ethnic group)**

**We will share the Gospel to the end of the earth
(we will depend on the Lord to help us cross the barrier
of another language)**