

# Kingdom Growth: The Believer's Role in Planting

## Session 2: A Biblical Call to Support Church Planting

### 1. Opening

- The biblical mandate for planting: it's not just for pastors—it's a response to Jesus' commission (Matthew 28:18–20).
- *Church planting isn't optional for churches that want to obey the Great Commission.*
- There is joy in participating in God's mission (e.g., **Romans 10:13-15**, which underscores the importance of sending and supporting).

- **Salvation hinges on people being sent:**

### 2. The Biblical Roles of Church Members/believers in Planting Efforts

- **Prayer as a Missional Mindset:**
  - **Colossians 4:2-4**, Paul asks for prayers to proclaim the mystery of Christ.
  - **Colossians 4:2–4 is a blueprint for whole-church engagement.**
    - The church planter speaks, yes—but with the clarity that our prayers help birth. That's partnership. That's co-laboring in Christ.

#### **Mobilized by Prayer: Everyone Has a Voice**

- **Ephesians 6:18–20**
  - Prayer Is the Launchpad and Intercession Fuels Mission
- **Encouragement and Partnership:**
  - **Philippians 1:3-5**, Paul thanks the Philippians for their partnership in the Gospel

- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** <sup>1</sup>“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

### ◆ Reflection Prompt

**What would it look like for our church/group to “sound forth” the gospel?**

- Where is our faith being heard?
- What steps can we take to amplify it?
- **Generosity in Giving:**
  - **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**, the Macedonian churches gave sacrificially to support the work of the Gospel.
  - Romans 12:4–8 – *One body, many functions*
    - Paul emphasizes that each member has a **gift** to contribute—whether teaching, serving, encouraging, or giving.

**Church planting thrives when everyone activates their role.**

**Notice that early churches gave out of obedience and not out of security**

- 1 Corinthians 3:6–9 – *Planting, watering, growing*  
 “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”

Paul shows that planting is **collaborative**—some sow, others nurture, but all are **God’s fellow workers**.

### 3. Key Church Planting Roles Rooted in Scripture (see handout)

### 4. Closing

**The church’s supportive role is rooted in God’s design for gospel partnership:**

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Th 5:11.

- **Partnership** – Gospel work isn’t solo. From Philippians to 3 John, we see believers sharing in the work through encouragement, generosity, and practical support. Their role wasn’t secondary—it was essential.
- **Philippians 1:3–5** — Paul thanks believers for their *partnership* in the gospel, not just financial or moral support, but active, prayerful engagement from “day one.”
- **Romans 10:14–15** — Those who proclaim cannot go unless *sent*. Supporters aren’t sidelines—they’re part of the mission’s launch team. They are part of the unified body!
- **3 John 5–8** — Believers are urged to support gospel workers “in a manner worthy of God,” becoming *fellow workers* through their hospitality and provision.

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# Kingdom Growth Starts with Me

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### Section 1: Why Support Matters

#### What Does Support Look Like?

Supporting church planting means actively participating in the work—even if you're not the one preaching. Scripture affirms that senders, encouragers, givers, and servants all play critical roles in advancing the Gospel.


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### Prayer Fuels the Mission

 *Colossians 4:2–4 | Ephesians 6:18–20*


- Prayer isn't passive—it's frontline work.
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### Encouragement Strengthens the Work

 *Philippians 1:3–5 | 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

- Encouragement sustains planters—Paul calls it “partnership.”
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### Generosity Multiplies the Mission

 *2 Corinthians 8:1–5 | Romans 12:4–8 | 1 Corinthians 3:6–9*

- Early Christians gave sacrificially—not from surplus.
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#### ◆ Reflection Prompt:


What role might I play—prayer, encouragement, giving, or serving?

## Key Church Planting Roles Rooted in Scripture

Role	Function	Biblical Model
<b>Visionary Leader / Elder</b>	Casts the mission, gathers the team, and initiates the work	Paul (Acts 13:1–3)
<b>Evangelist / Elder</b>	Shares the gospel, connects with seekers, and builds relational bridges	Philip (Acts 8:4–8)
<b>Elder</b>	Serves as spiritual shepherd, guards doctrine, models maturity, and guides church health	Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:23)
<b>Teacher / Discippler</b>	Grounds new believers in truth, builds spiritual maturity	Apollos (Acts 18:24–28)
<b>Shepherd / Caregiver</b>	Provides pastoral care, nurtures community, and models Christlike love	Timothy (1 Tim 1:3; 3:1–7)
<b>Prayer Intercessor</b>	Covers the mission in prayer, seeks spiritual breakthrough	Colossians 4:2–4; Ephesians 6:18–20
<b>Hospitality Host</b>	Opens home or space for gatherings, builds trust and belonging	Lydia (Acts 16:14–15)
<b>Encourager</b>	Strengthens the team through affirmation, presence, and spiritual support	Barnabas (Acts 11:22–26); 1 Thess 5:11
<b>Administrator</b>	Manages logistics, communication, finances, and systems	Phoebe (Rom 16:1–2); Acts 6:1–3
<b>Cultural Connector</b>	Bridges local context with gospel truth, builds credibility and relevance	Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:1–3)
<b>Supporter / Giver</b>	Fuels the mission through financial and material generosity	Philippian Church (Phil 4:15–18)

### Reflection Prompt

- “Which role do you feel most drawn to in this season?”
- “How might your gifts contribute to a church plant—even if you’re not the one preaching?”

 *Note: Early churches gave out of obedience, not out of security.*

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## Section 2: Case Studies for Group Discussion

### Case Study 1 – *FellowshipSend: Everyone Has a Role*

Jason never dreamed of preaching from a pulpit or launching a church—but he believed in those who did. At Fellowship Bible Church in Winchester, VA, he saw how their church planting residency—FellowshipSend—equipped planters with rich theology, hands-on mentoring, and leadership development. It wasn't just the residents who made it flourish. It was the church behind them.

As a high school teacher and devoted church member, Jason found his lane. He joined the monthly prayer team, interceding for residents by name. He hosted “Planter’s Nights” at his home, creating a warm space for stories, updates, and honest questions. He gave financially to the residency fund and even helped with childcare on training weekends, knowing how much it meant to young parents.

He was never on stage. But he was deeply woven into the story.

#### Scriptures in Action

- *Colossians 4:2–4* — Jason prays for open doors and clarity.
- *Philippians 1:3–5* — His partnership brings joy and strength.
- *2 Corinthians 8:1–5* — His giving reflects grace and sacrifice.
- *1 Corinthians 12:12–27* — Jason’s role is indispensable.

#### Discussion Prompts

- What does Jason’s example teach us about supporting church planting without being a planter?
- What practical roles could someone in your group take on to support Fellowship Send?
- How might your church create more opportunities for “non-planters” to engage with the residency?

### Case Study 2 – *Shifting the Culture: Planting as a Priority*

Grace Fellowship Church had grown into a vibrant congregation—solid preaching, connected small groups, and deep relationships. But one thing lingered in the background: they had never planted a church.

Pastor Dan, along with a handful of members, began wrestling with that reality. As they studied passages like Romans 10 and Hebrews 10, a conviction grew. Church planting wasn’t just strategic—it was biblical. They brought this vision to leadership, but concern quickly followed. Would a church plant drain the budget? Would volunteers burn out? Was it too risky?

Instead of pushing harder, they began building a quiet groundswell. Prayer nights sparked curiosity. Visiting planters shared raw stories. Sunday morning testimonies hinted at possibility. What had once felt threatening started to feel catalytic.

Grace Fellowship didn’t flip a switch overnight. But the conversation shifted—and so did the culture.

## Scriptures in Action

- *Romans 10:13–15* — A clear call to send those who preach.
- *1 Corinthians 12:12–27* — Every member contributes to mission.
- *Hebrews 10:24–25* — Stirring one another toward good works.

## Discussion Prompts

- What barriers often prevent churches from embracing church planting?
- How can leaders cast vision without creating division or fear?
- What practical first steps could help a church begin supporting planting efforts—even before launching a residency or sending team?

## **Case Study 3 – Called to Go: Leaving to Join a Church Plant**

Angela and Marcus had been pillars at Riverstone Church for over a decade. They taught classes, led small groups, and saw their children grow up surrounded by trusted mentors and friends. Their roots ran deep. But after attending a local prayer gathering focused on unreached areas nearby, something shifted. They couldn't shake the growing sense that God was stirring them—not to plant a church themselves, but to step away and join a fledgling one.

It wasn't a decision made overnight. They prayed. They sought counsel from their pastors. They sat with their kids and talked through the uncertainties. Would it be selfish to leave? Was it pride? Were they simply restless? Every time those questions rose, so did a quiet assurance: "It's time."

When they finally shared their decision publicly, the response was mixed. Some friends didn't understand. Others rallied behind them. The leadership at Riverstone didn't just release them—they commissioned them with prayer, affirmation, and a promise of ongoing encouragement. At the new church plant, Angela jumped into hospitality and discipleship. Marcus became the sound setup guy, teaching and encouraging whenever asked. They gave themselves wholeheartedly, committed for at least a year.

It wasn't easy. But it was good.

## Scriptures in Action

- *Romans 10:15* — "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."
- *Galatians 6:9–10* — Faithful service, even when tiring or misunderstood
- *Hebrews 10:24–25* — Encouraging and stirring one another in community
- *Ephesians 4:3* — Protecting unity while following God's leading

## Discussion Prompts

- What internal or relational tensions might arise when someone feels called to leave a church for a plant?
  - How can a sending church act as a spiritual anchor for those who go?
  - What principles help discern between a Spirit-led calling and a personal impulse?
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## Section 3: Personal Reflection

- What challenged or encouraged me today?
  - What role might I play in planting—prayer, encouragement, giving, or serving?
  - How does seeing myself as a co-laborer change my posture toward mission work?
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## Closing Thought

The mission doesn't rest solely on pastors or planters. It rests on a unified body—each member contributing with joy and purpose.

... You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. <sup>7</sup>For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup>Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. <sup>1</sup>

3 John 6-8

*Pray for a spirit of unity, generosity, and boldness as you embrace your role in God's kingdom multiplication.*

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 3 Jn 5–8.