

Kingdom Growth: The Believer's Role in Planting

Session 1: Why Church Planting Matters for Every Church Member

Objective: To understand the spiritual importance and Kingdom impact of church planting as a whole.

1. The Biblical Mandate for Church Planting (15-20 minutes)

- **Defining Church Planting (10 minutes)**
 - What is church planting? Why is it important?
 - Church Planting is the Spirit-led work of establishing new gatherings of believers—rooted in biblical truth, organized for worship, discipleship, and mission, and committed to multiplying the body of Christ in diverse contexts.
 - Growing vs. Multiplying Churches
 - Paul's ministry plan - planting and empowering churches that planted others.
- **Key Scriptures:**
 - **Matthew 28:18-20** (The Great Commission): God's call for all believers to make disciples.
 - **Acts 1:8**: Empowerment by the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel.
 - **2 Timothy 2:2**: The principle of multiplying leaders and believers.
 - **Romans 10:14-15**: The necessity of sending workers to preach to those who haven't heard.

- **John 20:21:** Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you," a reminder that we are all called to a mission.

- This phrase links to John 17:18 and echoes the **missio Dei**—the sending nature of God.

"I also send you"

- Not a suggestion, but a **commission**.
- The disciples are now **ambassadors of reconciliation** (2 Cor. 5:18–20).
- It's a shift from being **followers** to **being sent ones**—apostolic in purpose, even if not in office.

- **Philippians 2:1-4:** The call to put others' needs above our own, reflecting the sacrificial mindset required for church planting.

2. The Impact of Church Planting on the Kingdom of God (15-20 minutes)

- **Reaching the Unreached:** New churches bring the Gospel to communities who may otherwise remain unreached.
- - **Romans 15:20-21:** Paul's desire to preach the Gospel where Christ was not yet known.
- **Revitalizing Faith:** Ephesians 4:11–16 - emphasizes the equipping of saints for ministry and the building up of the body of Christ.
- **A Ripple Effect:** - The growth of one church plant can inspire others (e.g., Antioch in Acts 11).

- Acts 11 is a masterclass in spiritual ripple effects—how one faithful spark can ignite a movement.

1. Persecution leads to planting

2. Revival catches fire

3. Jerusalem responds with support

4. Discipleship deepens the impact

5. Generosity and mission flow outward

- **Acts 13:1-3:** The sending of Paul and Barnabas from the church in Antioch as an example of multiplying efforts.

3. Closing (5 minutes)

...and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.” ¹

—Romans 15:20-21

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 15:20–21.

Kingdom Growth Starts with Me

Session 1: Why Church Planting Matters for Every Church Member

Section 1: Foundations of Church Planting

What Is Church Planting?

Church Planting is the Spirit-led work of establishing new gatherings of believers—rooted in biblical truth, organized for worship, discipleship, and mission, and committed to multiplying the body of Christ in diverse contexts.

“Church planting is more than starting a service—it’s cultivating a community that lives, breathes, and spreads the Gospel. It’s not simply launching a location but igniting a movement of disciples where none existed before.” Unknown

Key Biblical Mandates

Theme	Scripture References	Core Insight
Commissioned to Go	Matt 28:18–20, Acts 1:8, John 20:21	All believers are sent—planting is part of obedience
Called to Multiply	2 Tim 2:2, Romans 10:14–15	Discipling others ensures Gospel expansion
Community Over Comfort	Philippians 2:1–4	Sacrificial love—not personal ease—fuels the mission

Table Prompt:

- “Which part of the biblical mandate feels most connected to your walk—and which part stretches you?”
- “Do you see the Great Commission as a personal invitation, a communal mission, or both?”

Empowered to Go

Jesus gave every believer a mission and the power to fulfill it:

- “You will receive power...” — **Acts 1:8**

- “*I also send you.*” — **John 20:21**

What could that look like in *your* zip code?

Section 2: Case Studies for Group Discussion

Case Study 1 – *The Rural Ripple*

When Ruth and Glenn retired to their small farming town, they didn’t plan to start anything new. But their weekly Bible study started to grow—neighbors invited neighbors, and before long, their living room couldn’t hold everyone. The teaching was solid, the fellowship was warm, and the hunger for discipleship was unmistakable.

They approached their home church, hoping to explore the idea of planting a daughter church closer to the community. The response? Hesitant. Leaders worried that sending might divide the congregation or distract from existing ministries. Ruth and Glenn felt torn: they wanted to honor their church family while staying obedient to the opportunities God had placed before them.

They weren’t rebels. They were ripples—faithful servants whose obedience was beginning to spread.

Scriptures in Action

- *John 17:20–23* — Unity in the mission of Christ
- *Acts 16:5* — Churches strengthened and growing daily
- *2 Timothy 2:2* — Entrusting teaching to faithful people
- *Philippians 1:3–6* — Confidence that God completes what He starts

Discussion Prompts

- How could Ruth and Glenn’s church affirm and support their growth without feeling threatened?
- What Scriptures encourage unity through multiplication rather than division?
- What practical steps might create a “sending” mindset in rural congregations?

Case Study 2 – *The Youth Launch*

It started with late-night vision talks and lattes. A group of young adults dreamed of planting a church in a downtown coffeehouse—one with music, art, open conversation, and space for doubters and seekers. They weren’t interested in rebellion—they wanted relevance and connection.

But when they shared the idea, some leaders hesitated. Was it too casual? Too unstructured? One elder asked, “Is this church... or just a hangout?” The tension grew. The young leaders questioned if they’d be taken seriously. The older leaders worried about losing doctrinal clarity and accountability.

So the group invited mentors into the process. They studied Antioch’s example, sought wisdom, and began shaping their vision around Jesus—not just aesthetics. In time, they gained trust, and their creativity became a strength, not a liability.

Scriptures in Action

- *Acts 13:1–3* — A diverse and Spirit-led launch from Antioch
- *1 Corinthians 9:22–23* — Becoming all things to reach all people
- *Psalms 96:3* — Declaring His glory among the nations
- *Colossians 3:17* — Doing everything in Jesus’ name

Discussion Prompts

- What assumptions might need to be unpacked—on both sides of this conversation?
- How does Antioch model diversity in leadership, gifting, and mission?
- What balance can be struck between innovation and theological clarity?

Case Study 3 – *The Revived Remnant*

Twelve. That’s how many remained in New Light Fellowship, tucked in the heart of a weary urban neighborhood. They’d seen decline. Loss. Grit. But the ones left were faithful. Week after week, they gathered, prayed, served, and asked the Lord for renewal.

Then someone raised a wild thought: “Should we plant a church?” The question was met with silence—then doubt. “Aren’t we too small?” “Shouldn’t we rebuild first?” “Is this even possible?” The group didn’t have money or staff. But they did have calling. And community. And spiritual hunger all around them.

They began dreaming. Could they plant something fresh—not out of abundance, but out of belief?

Scriptures in Action

- *Romans 15:20–21* — A passion for reaching unreached places
- *Zechariah 4:10* — Do not despise small beginnings
- *Mark 4:30–32* — The kingdom starts small and grows large
- *2 Corinthians 12:9* — Power made perfect in weakness

Discussion Prompts

- How do these Scriptures elevate impact over size?
- What might faithfulness look like for a small remnant that wants to multiply?
- What steps could encourage boldness in communities that feel overlooked?

Case Study 4 – *The FellowshipSend Resident*

Andre never set out to become a church planter—but through the FellowshipSend residency, he felt a calling sharpen into purpose. He was building a core team, learning outreach strategies, and discerning where God might lead. His sending church was proud—mostly. But there were questions.

“Shouldn’t we focus here first?” “Why send anyone when there’s so much need locally?” Andre understood the concern, but he also saw a bigger picture: multiplication doesn’t abandon—it extends. With grace and patience, he began inviting his church into the journey—not just to release him, but to walk with him.

Planting wasn’t just about him. It was about all of them learning to send well.

Scriptures in Action

- *Acts 13:1–3* — Spirit-led sending with unity and prayer
- *Matthew 9:37–38* — Asking the Lord to send laborers
- *1 Thessalonians 2:8* — Sharing life, not just message
- *Isaiah 52:7* — How beautiful are the feet that bring good news

Discussion Prompts

- What Scriptures support Andre’s calling and the church’s sending role?
- How might his church shift from reservation to celebration?
- What practical support—spiritual, emotional, logistical—can members offer?

Section 3: Personal Reflection

- *What challenged or encouraged me today?*
 - *What role might I play in planting—prayer, support, sending, or going?*
 - *What unique gifts, passions, or connections has God given me that could support church planting?*
 - *What might shift in my mindset if I saw myself as “sent”—not just “gathered”?*
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Closing Thought

“...and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation...”

“Those who have never been told of Him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

— Romans 15:20–21

Pray for your church’s openness to supporting new planting efforts and to embracing their role in Kingdom multiplication.
