Foundation of the Apostolic Workbook
Required Reading

The following chapters are required reading for the course: “Apostolic and Prophetic Foundations.” We encourage you to read the following books in their entirety at your convenience.

**Week One:**
Read Chapter One of *Moving in the Apostolic* by John Eckhardt; Chapters 1 - 25 of *50 Truths Concerning Apostolic Ministry* by John Eckhardt.

**Week Two:** Read Chapters Two and Three of *Moving in the Apostolic* by John Eckhardt; Chapters 26 - 50 of *50 Truths Concerning Apostolic Ministry* by John Eckhardt.

**Week Three:** Read Chapters Four and Five of *Moving in the Apostolic* by John Eckhardt; Read Chapter Four through Six of *Growing in the Prophetic* by Mike Bickle.

**Week Four:** Read Chapters Ten, Thirteen, Fifteen and Seventeen of *Growing in the Prophetic* by Mike Bickle.
KEY VERSE:
“Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself” (Ephesians 2:20, New Living Translation).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Understand the roles of apostles and prophets in the Church today.
2. Understand the difference between the modern day pastoral paradigm and the ancient apostolic approach to ministry of the New Testament.
3. Gain confidence to be used both prophetically and apostolically to advance the Kingdom.
4. Learn how the Five-Fold Ministry works to equip and the Body of Christ for works of ministry.
INTRODUCTION:

In our text, we are introduced to the gifts and offices of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher also known as Five-Fold Ministry. The purpose of the Five-Fold ministry is to establish and equip Christians [saints] to become like Jesus and to do His mission resulting in the church collectively becoming a Kingdom force of righteousness upon the earth.

Ephesians 4:11-13 puts it this way: “He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.” - New Living Translation.

Five-Fold Ministry is to “perfect the saints.” The term “perfect” (KJV) is *katartismos* in the original Greek. It seems to have a dual meaning: to repair and prepare. An example of this is found in Matthew 4:21. “And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.”

The word ‘mending’ is *katartizō*. Naturally speaking, James and John were repairing their nets for a purpose: to catch fish. There are two stories in the Gospels that illustrate Jesus performing miracles that resulted in an abundant catch of fish. The first account is found in Luke chapter five; the second in John 21.

In the first story, Simon Peter and his team had been fishing all night to no avail. Jesus shows up and tells him, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” Initially Simon hesitates, however, after some consideration he listens to Jesus. The result: “And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking” (Luke 5:6).

The purpose of this fishing miracle was to show the disciples how God would supernaturally bless their efforts as they fished for the lives of men. (See verse 10). However, I want you to notice that verse six states that the net tore! In other words, if the disciples were to launch out into ministry now, they would not be able to contain what the Lord wanted to do through them. It would be like fishing with torn nets. Even if you made a great catch, the fish would all be lost.
THE FRUIT OF THREE YEARS LATER

Three years later there would be another supernatural fishing miracle. We read in John’s Gospel that the disciples had decided to give fishing another shot. Perhaps there was economic motive behind seeing that Jesus was no longer with them and this was their former commercial occupation.

They toil all night unsuccessfully. Jesus cries out to them from the shore, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish” (John 21:6).

Notice what happens next: “Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken” (v. 11).

This time the net is not broken! After 3 years of being discipled by Jesus, the disciples are now ready to launch their ministries. They would go forth with assurance that their ‘nets would not break.’ They would be able to successfully accomplish what Jesus had called them to do three years earlier. Christ had invested His life into repairing and preparing the disciples to perpetuate His ministry.

*Power Principle:* The purpose of Five-Fold ministry today is to perfect, prepare and equip the saints for works of ministry to edify or build up the Church to the extent “...that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection” (Ephesians 4:13).

SAVED TO SERVE

We are saved to serve. A story in the Gospels elucidates this truth. Mark 1:29 – 31, “As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.”

Once Peter’s Mother-in-Law was mended, she immediately began to minister. The truth is that we too are repaired from our misery, in order to be moved into a ministry.
FIVE-FOLD GRACE

It is impossible for the Church to grow up and develop fully into the complete measure of the stature of Christ without the input and contribution of all Five-fold ministry offices. Five-full ministry is the ____________________________ mechanism of the Church!

- **Apostle** – ________________
- **Prophet** – ________________
- **Evangelist** – Gathers
- **Pastor** – ________________
- **Teacher** – Grounds

In the Scripture, the Number Five is symbolic for __________________________. The reason why the Early Church was so powerful was because they experienced the full measure of God's grace! “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:33).

Without the involvement of and impartation from all Five-Fold Ministers, the Body of Christ will in fact become asymmetrical. We see this all the time:

- Churches that emphasize evangelism, but do not teach and disciple others in the deeper life!
- “Prophetic Churches” that are constantly seeking the “next word” from God, but never fulfill the last words of Jesus, “Go into all the world and preach and demonstrate the Kingdom of God.”
- Other churches teach and teach and yet the people never witness the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit in signs and wonders that accompanies the through ministries of the apostle and prophet.

There is a better way! Through the input and of Five-Fold Ministry the manifold or multi-faceted grace of God is dispensed resulting in the Body of Christ maturing. “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).
EDIFICATION AND MULTIPLICATION

Our human bodies are designed to both mature and multiply. Without this, the population of earth would cease increase. In the Kingdom of God, the body of Christ must grow spiritually and numerically. There must be edification and multiplication. “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” (Acts 9:31).

The Early Church grew from 120 people to 20 million in 200 years without Bible Colleges, training facilities, or buildings. What are the dynamics that caused such phenomenal growth?

APOSTOLIC EMPOWERMENT

The leaders of the Early Church were called “apostles.” This is not a title of respect much like reverend or bishop is today. They were dubbed apostles because they were “sent out ones.” The word apostle = Gk. apostolos, lit., "one sent forth" (apo, "from," stello, "to send").

The word is used of the Lord Jesus to describe His relation to God (Heb 3:1; see John 17:3). Additionally, it is employed in relation to the Twelve that were chosen by Jesus for special training in order that they would eventually be released to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nations (See Luke 6:12-13; Mark 3:13-15).

The apostles in the Early Church mentored and multiplied leaders. We see this in the Book of Acts first among the Jews, and later, in an even more powerful way, modeled by Paul among the Gentiles.

INCREMENTAL VS EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

Addition is good, but multiplication is better. Addition produces incremental growth, but multiplication produces exponential growth. Paul delineates the better way of multiplication in his second letter to Timothy when he says, “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

The Early Church initially grew by addition.” “Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all” (Acts 2:41 NLT; See also, Acts 2:47; 5:14; 11:24). It is never a small thing when great multitudes are added to the Body of Christ on one or when believers are added to the Church on a daily basis. Most churches in the West have never even come close to seeing such a phenomenon. However, the most far-reaching expansion of the Kingdom as recorded in the Book of Acts did not happen until the followers of Christ embraced a multiplication paradigm. The New Testament records that at first it was disciples that increased exponentially. “Now in those days, the number of the disciples was multiplying rapidly” (Acts 6:1, New Living Translation).
After time, the growth shifted from disciples multiplying to entire churches multiplying: “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” (Acts 9:31).

We all know small churches that justify their few members as a result of them focusing on growing “spiritually.” They claim they are not interested in “numbers” that they are about quality instead of quantity. We are also aware of larger churches that are “a mile wide and an inch deep.” I would like to submit that God’s intention is that we experience both numerical and spiritual increase. The Body of Christ was never intended to grow one-dimensionally. The preceding verse in Acts 9:31 make it clear that the Church is intended to grow deeper spiritually [edification] and increase numerically through multiplication!

**IMPROVING METHOD OF EVANGELISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

**Addition of New Christians:**
- Acts 2: 41, 47 – Added to the Church
- Acts 5:14 – Increasingly added
- Acts 11:24 – Great many were added

**Multiplication of Disciples:**
- Acts 6:1, 7 - Disciples are multiplying

**Multiplication of Churches:**
- Acts 9:31 – Churches growing and multiplying

**ADDITION VS MULTIPLICATION**

The chart below shows how multiplication is much more powerful than addition.

**Addition:** To demonstrate *addition*, we start out with 100,000 churches that will lead one new person to Christ every week. It will take 1,154 years to reach the current world's population (6.9 billion).

**Multiplication:** To demonstrate *multiplication*, we start out with one Christian. This Christian will lead only one person to the Lord each year. The Christian will then invest a year bringing the new convert into spiritual maturity. The following year, the two Christians will each lead a person to the Lord and spend a year leading them into spiritual maturity. Every year, this doubling process continues. Using multiplication, the present world's population can be reached in less than 34 years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year #</th>
<th>Addition</th>
<th>Multiplication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Accumulative Total)</td>
<td>(Accumulative Total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5,200,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10,400,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15,600,000</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20,800,000</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>31,200,000</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>36,400,000</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>41,600,000</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>46,800,000</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>52,000,000</td>
<td>1,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>57,200,000</td>
<td>2,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>62,400,000</td>
<td>4,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>67,600,000</td>
<td>8,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>72,800,000</td>
<td>16,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>78,000,000</td>
<td>32,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>83,200,000</td>
<td>65,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>88,400,000</td>
<td>131,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>93,600,000</td>
<td>262,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>98,800,000</td>
<td>524,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>104,000,000</td>
<td>1,048,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>109,200,000</td>
<td>2,097,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>114,400,000</td>
<td>4,194,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>119,600,000</td>
<td>8,388,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>124,800,000</td>
<td>16,777,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>130,000,000</td>
<td>33,554,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>135,200,000</td>
<td>67,108,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>140,400,000</td>
<td>134,217,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>145,600,000</td>
<td>268,435,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>150,800,000</td>
<td>536,870,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>156,000,000</td>
<td>1,073,741,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>161,200,000</td>
<td>2,147,483,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>166,400,000</td>
<td>4,294,967,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>171,600,000</td>
<td>8,589,934,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>176,800,000</td>
<td>17,179,869,183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jesus and Apostolic Empowerment:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:12-13).

Jesus’ promise in John 14:12–13 shows that apostolic leadership seeks to ______________________ others to achieve results even greater than the leader has achieved. The true leader seeks to achieve great goals more than great personal gain. Rather than being intimidated by his followers’ potential, he rejoices in their growth, development, and achievements.
SESSION OBJECTIVE:

1. Understand the difference between the modern day pastoral paradigm and the ancient apostolic approach to ministry of the New Testament.

KEY VERSE:

“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” (1 Corinthians 12:28).
INTRODUCTION:

Among the Five-fold ministry offices, the office of apostle and prophet are considered that are foundational to the Church (Ephesians 2:19-22) and first and second in significance (1 Corinthians 12:28).

- **Ephesians 2:19-20** - “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

- **1 Cor 12:28** - “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.”

Clearly, there need for recognition and restoration of the New Testament offices of apostle and prophet today. However, it must not stop there. The Church as a whole must become an apostolic force and a prophetic voice in modern times.

The New Testament declares that the ________________ is to be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Some of have postulated that this verse denotes the necessity of our doctrine and conduct being established upon the Scripture alone. They explain that the term “prophets” refers the Old Testament scriptures and “apostles” refers to the New Testament canon.

Though it is absolutely essential that our faith and conduct is based upon the word of God alone and no other source, Paul is referring to something more than this. He is stating that the true Church must exemplify and express apostolic and prophetic ________________ which are part of the culture of the Kingdom of God.

All ministries, including the other Five-fold ministry offices of evangelist, pastor and teacher, emerge from the soil of the apostolic and prophetic. The Great Commission is an apostolic and prophetic commission that involves initiating breakthrough, ________________ ________________, discerning the Enemy’s strategies in order to effectively disarm principalities and powers. It also entails equipping and ordaining leaders as well as setting things in order. These responsibilities demand the unique governing anointing that is present in the life of the true apostle as well as the guidance of the prophet.
APOSTLE = Gk. *apostolos*, lit., "one sent forth" (apo, "from," stello, "to send").

- **Foundation**: The Church is to be apostolic in the sense of laying new foundation and breaking ground (1 Corinthians 3:10; Romans 15:20).

- **____________**: The Church is to be apostolic in the sense of authenticating the message of the Kingdom with signs and wonders following (2 Cor. 12:12; Mark 16:20).

If the Church is truly apostolic, it will be focused on fulfilling the Great Commission of making disciples among the unreached nations [people groups] in the power of the Holy Spirit (See Matthew 28:18-20).

PROPHET: signifies "the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God" (pro, "forth," phemi, "to speak")

- **____________**: The Church is to be prophetic in the sense of knowing the mind of Christ. *(See 1 Cor. 2:10).*

- **____________**: The Church is to be prophetic in the sense of proclaiming the knowledge and will of God to men. *(See 1 Cor. 14:3, 24-25).*

If the Church is authentically prophetic, it will focus on decreeing the revelation of God’s truth to the nations [people groups] in the power of the Holy Spirit (See Matthew 28:18-20).

In *Moving in the Apostolic*, John Eckhardt refers to the restoration of the apostolic and prophetic to the Church in the 1990’s as the reinstatement of the “____________ anointing” (See page 31).

2 Kings 6:5-7: “As the sons of the prophets were cutting down trees to build a house, the ax head fell into the water. This represents the building anointing. You cannot cut down trees and acquire the wood for building without the ax head. The lost ax head represents the anointings that were submerged under religion and tradition for so many years. Through a miracle, the ax head was recovered. With the apostolic and prophetic anointings being returned to the Church, we are seeing a return of the ax head. These are cutting-edge ministries that give the Church the ability to build.”
WHERE HAVE ALL THE APOSTLE’S GONE?

Some teach that there are no modern day apostles or prophets. They insist that ministry of the apostle ceased with those recorded in the New Testament. This is partially true, in that, the foundational office of apostle ceased with the Twelve (See Acts 1:21-22). However, we know that there were other apostles beside the original twelve, particularly, Paul. To this some say Paul was the very last of the apostles based on His own testimony in 1 Corinthians 15:7-8, “Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.” The problem with this is that the Scripture clearly records additional apostles. In Acts 14:4, 14, it is used of Barnabas as well as of Paul; in Rom 16:7 of Andronicus and Junias (a woman). In 2 Corinthians 8:23, two unnamed brothers are called 'messengers (Lit., apostles) of the churches.' In Phil 2:25 Epaphroditus is referred to as 'your apostle.' It is used in 1 Thessalonians 2:6 of Silas and Timothy in addition to Paul.

APOSTLES THEN AND NOW

Though there are not foundational apostles today, the need for functional apostles is still very real today.

1. Taking the gospel to __________________ areas. Paul said to the Romans, "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation" (Romans 15:20).

   Relevance Today - Although the gospel has gone out to some degree to every nation of the earth, there are still an estimated 16,000 "people groups" that are geographically or linguistically isolated and have never even heard of Jesus Christ.

2. Laying a firm _________________ (Christ Himself) for the churches being established. Paul speaks of this important apostolic role: "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise master builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:10,11).

   Relevance Today - Foundation Laying - Many churches in this nation and all over the world have never really been established on a solid biblical foundation and structured after the New Testament pattern. Rather, they have been built upon human traditions and the concepts of men, not upon Christ Himself and His eternal Word.
3. **Training & _______________ Leaders.** Paul took Timothy under his wing and mentored him (Acts 16:1). When Paul and Barnabas made their second visit to Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch, they prayed and fasted and ordained elders in each church (Acts 14:21-23). 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.” Paul likewise instructs Titus to “set in order” the churches in Crete and appoint elders in every city (Titus 1:5).

**Relevance Today - Training Leaders** - Today the apostolic function of training leaders has been largely replaced by seminaries and Bible schools. Appointing the leaders of local churches has been made a matter of congregational voting, selection by a denominational hierarchy, or ambitious aspiring young preachers simply starting their own churches and appointing themselves the pastors.

The result has often been that leaders are put in places of responsibility that they are not really called to by God, and/or are not adequately equipped to fulfill. They may have been good students at the seminary, but are likely to miss the kind of personal training and character development that Timothy received from Paul.

4. **Dealing with specific problems, _______________ ________________, in the churches that had been established.** Paul's first letter to the Corinthians illustrates his use of apostolic authority to speak to a number of problems in the church he had planted at Corinth: disunity, immaturity, pride, immorality, taking other believers to court before secular authorities, questions about celibacy and marriage, disputes about meat sacrificed to idols, wrong handling of the Lord's Supper, misuse of spiritual gifts, confusion about the resurrection, etc.

Paul also had to use his apostolic authority to deal with disunity and schism. In Corinth, there was apparently city wide disunity in the church because of certain believers giving preferential treatment and allegiance to one leader above another.

In Philippi, Paul had to deal with a situation of contention between two ladies in the local assembly, Euodia and Syntyche.

**Relevance Today - Problem Solving** - It is clear that local churches frequently encounter problems that they have difficulty solving without outside assistance. Pastors are often without any personal accountability and often have no one to give them input regarding church problems. Sometimes local leaders have blind spots and cannot even see the shortcomings that exist. There still a need today for men of apostolic authority to pierce through the blindness, ignorance and pride, speaking the Word of God to areas of sin, imbalance, false doctrine, division and other problems. The disunity of the Body of Christ is still a scandal that robs us of the full blessing of God and undermines our testimony to the lost.
Those of genuine apostolic heart have a burden to see God's people come together as a united family and a united army. They see an overview of the universal church around the world and can sense the heartbeat of what the Lord is speaking. The vision is sorely needed in the church today, and only men of apostolic insight and authority can bring it about in a significant way.

5. Demonstrating and imparting the _________________ dimension of the Kingdom of God. Although it is God's intention for all believers to heal the sick, cast out demons and perform miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit, those in apostolic ministry are particularly to bear this credential. “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds” (2 Corinthians 12:12).

Elsewhere it is said that God did extraordinary miracles through Paul (Acts 19:6). Apostles were often used in a special way to impart the power of God to other believers.

Relevance Today - Supernatural - We live in a day when God is moving mightily to restore signs and wonders to the church. For too long we have relied upon our intellect, human wisdom, and persuasive words - the very things Paul put no confidence in: "My message and my preaching were not in wise and persuasive words, but with demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:4,5).

A Word of Caution

It is also important to realize that having an apostolic calling does not automatically mean that the apostle had the right to exercise full authority in all places and situations.

2 Corinthians 10:13 is clear about this, “We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us -- a sphere which especially includes you.”

It was a ministry based upon an assigned metron, as well as mutual relationships, not titular authority alone.

Founder or Flounderer

There is a sense in which the authority of an apostle diminishes in certain ways once the local church was firmly established and provided with the oversight of local elders. The relationship and the authority still existed when necessary to intervene in problems not being remedied by the local leadership, but it was Paul’s perspective that he was like a father whose role of authority diminished once his son or daughter reached adulthood. His heart was not to establish a "chain of command," but rather to see each church established under the headship of Christ.
KEY VERSE:
“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” (2 Timothy 2:2).

SESSION OBJECTIVE:
1. Understand the strategy that was learned and executed by the Paul the apostle to rapidly advance the Gospel message and make disciples of the nations in his time.

In previous sessions, we have shown from the New Testament and particularly the words of Jesus that the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18 – 20). It is this author’s conviction that most of the Body of Christ has not understood what they are called to do, i.e., fulfill the Great Commission. However, it is as equally true that the church does not understand how to do what we are called of God to do. Therefore, it is imperative that we acquire a strategic plan to advance the Gospel of the Kingdom.
A STRATEGY TO REACH THE HARVEST

Our Lord Jesus said that there is no shortage of a harvest of souls on the earth. He identified what is needed to see the ingathering of the harvest. He said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the ___________________________ are few" (Matt. 9:37). He continued by challenging His disciples in two ways:

1. To ___________________________ for more workers – Matthew 9:38.

Life Lesson: Never pray for someone to do something you are not willing to do yourself!

MENTORING FOR MULTIPLICATION OF WORKERS

A great need in the church today is a way to multiply workers for a greater harvest. A basic principle for expansion is that in order to increase production, production ___________________________ must first of all be enlarged. By increasing the number of workers, the scope and depth of the harvest can be increased as well.

LIFE LESSONS FROM PAUL

In this teaching session we will be looking at the approach of Paul the apostle, who, without a doubt, was used of the Lord to spread the gospel farther than anyone else in his day. Our particular emphasis will be on Paul's missionary methods improving in their effectiveness and fruitfulness with each subsequent journey as he focused more concerted energy in mentoring and multiplying leadership. We will gain a better understanding of Paul's maturation and development as a leader himself.

1. PAUL’S FIRST APOSTOLIC MISSION: (ACTS 13:1-14:28) 47-48 A.D. TOOK PLACE IN SE. ASIA MINOR.

The team for this trip was comprised of Paul and Barnabas (and John Mark, for a portion). Their methodology was that of traveling from town to town making disciples and then moving on to the next town. They covered some 1,500 miles in about a year. So the results they saw were an obvious work of God that most of us only dream of. But the work was mostly incremental growth (by addition), and the churches that were left behind were in need of significant follow-up work (Acts 14:21-23; 15:36; 16:1-5; 18:23).

There was another weakness with this approach. Because Paul and Barnabas were the founders of each church, when they departed to the next town, so went the church leadership. For this reason it was paramount that they allow some time for God’s leadership to rise to the surface. Then they would go back with apostolic authority and appoint those who were indeed elders of each church.
It is hard for us to see room for improvement in Paul’s fruitful work, but God did. He had even greater expectations! So He sovereignty began an educational process that would improve on Paul’s strategy. He sovereignty interrupted their plans and implemented a dramatic shift. He forced multiplication of the team by using a sharp disagreement between the two leaders over John Mark’s eligibility to accompany them on the Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-41).

As disappointing as this contention might seem, it was necessary and Paul learned a valuable lesson. From this point on, we see a better strategy emerging - an approach that shifted from incremental to exponential increase of the Kingdom.

**CLASS DISCUSSION:**

**SEE READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.**

2. **PAUL’S SECOND APOSTOLIC MISSION (ACTS 15:36-18:22) FROM 49-52 A.D. COVERED MACEDONIA & ACHAIA.**

Paul took Silas with him on his next outing, but he also recruited others (Timothy, Luke and eventually Aquila and Priscilla). They began with the same “traveling-evangelist” method. But during the course of the trip, God demonstrated that He had an agenda which differed from theirs. This became obvious when He would not allow them to go to Asia Minor (Acts 16:6-10). Certain lessons must be were learned first.

In this second journey, God forced Paul to shift to a multiplying church planting strategy, and planted him in one of the darkest cities in the world at this time: Corinth. In the process of getting him there, God sovereignty chiseled down Paul’s team until he was left in Corinth "alone".

- Paul, Silas and Timothy (17:1-13), which became . . .
- Paul (17:14-18:5)

God showed Paul in dramatic fashion, that he could never recruit a team big enough to be able to leave someone in every town he came to. He ran out of team just when he hit the darkest of cities. The need for the gospel was far greater than the shadow of his leadership influence could extend. Alone in such a demonically controlled environment must have aroused some anxiety in the apostle. But God had a lesson in mind for His student. He appears to Paul in a vision to encourage him, but also to give him a message of instruction. His message was, “**Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.' And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them (Acts 18:9- 11)."
This marked a truly dramatic shift in the apostle's methodology. In essence, the Lord challenged Paul to stay put for a season and raise-up a team from out of the harvest itself. It was here at Corinth that Paul first learned the strategy of multiplying church planters in a single church ministry, who can then be sent out to start new works by making disciples. He won Aquila and Priscilla to Christ and mentored them (Acts 18:18). This husband and wife team was used by the Lord not only in Corinth, but also in Syria (Acts 18:18), Rome (Rom. 16:3), and Ephesus (Acts 18:19-28; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19).

Instead of just producing a church, he reproduced a missionary team that could go from there all over the empire producing churches just as he had once done. Paul found that the gospel's influence could spread twice as far and twice as fast when he focused his energies on reproducing his leadership. Like Paul their mentor, Aquilla and Priscilla mentored and multiplied other leaders. Apollos is the most prominent example. He was powerfully used of the Lord to reach and make many disciples Himself.

Here we see the principle of 2 Timothy 2:2 being implemented: four generations of disciples being reproduced.

CLASS DISCUSSION:
SEE READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.


Having learned this valuable principle, Paul, on his next journey invests himself completely to the task of multiplying leaders from the harvest who could be deployed into the harvest. With this trip, only a one-man team was needed: Paul the multiplying mentor. Paul implemented a regional church planting saturation strategy from Ephesus for three years and in that time reached all of Asia through multiplication (Acts 19:8-10; 20:31).

How could one man effectively reach all of Asia Minor in just three years without having left the city of Ephesus? Paul effectively raised leaders from the harvest for the harvest. There is no other adequate explanation for such a wide-spread expansion of the kingdom in Asia!

In Acts chapters 19 and 20, we are gain insight into Paul's strategy in which he established an effective training center at the School of Tyrannus.

"...he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:9-10 NAS)."
At first Paul remained in the Synagogue (Acts 19:8), but after three months of preaching this became unwelcomed (Acts 19:9). A man by the name of Tyrannus allowed Paul use of his own academy during the off hours. Paul did not merely plant a church in Ephesus; he established a training base for world missions! This training center also happened to be the formation of the church of Ephesus. In essence, Paul planted a church-based, Leadership training, mission’s–base to strategically multiply and mobilize a mission’s force to reach all of Asia.

CLASS DISCUSSION:
SEE READING AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.


Neil Cole has the following to say about Paul’s imprisonment in Rome:

“We don't often think of Paul's imprisonments as missionary journeys, but I assure you he did! In fact, Paul claims to have more success in his missionary role from jail than he did in any of his previous missionary journeys.”

"Now I want you to know brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear" (Philippians 1:12-14 NAS).

According to his own words, Paul reached all of the Gentile populace from a prison cell in Rome. "At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth." (2 Tim. 4:16-17 NAS).
Discussion Questions

Read the paper by Neil Cole, *A Fresh Perspective of Paul’s Missionary Strategies: The Mentoring for Multiplication Model* and complete the following:

1. The writer mentions that often we fail to perceive Paul as a learner. What was it that Paul, by God’s help, was endeavoring to learn as a growing leader?

2. Read Acts 13:1-14:28: Paul’s First Missionary Journey/Apostolic Mission and be prepared to discuss the following in class:
   a. Who accompanied Paul on this first missionary journey?
   b. What were some positive accomplishments that happened on this first journey?
   c. It seems that the approach of the Second Missionary Journey would be to repeat the initial strategy followed on the First Missionary Journey. How did the Lord sovereignly implement a dramatic shift to change this even before Paul began the second apostolic mission?

3. Read Acts 15:36-18:22: Paul’s Second Missionary Journey/Apostolic Mission and be prepared to discuss the following in class:
   a. Who were Paul’s team members on the Second Missionary Journey?
   b. What happened to Paul’s team on the second trip?
   c. What is the reason Neil Cole cites as for God forbidding Paul and His team to go to Asia?
   d. What was the dramatic shift occurred in Corinth that marked Paul’s methodology in ministry?
Discussion Questions

e. Who are some of the significant leaders raised up either directly or indirectly by Paul while he was in Corinth?

4. Read Acts 18:23-21:16: Paul’s Third Missionary Journey/Apostolic Mission and be prepared to discuss the following in class:

a. How did Paul improve his strategy on the Third Missionary Journey?

b. Who was Epaphras and what is significant about him?

c. What are the seven elements of Paul’s leadership development strategy in Asia?

   i. ________________________________________________________________

   ii. ______________________________________________________________

   iii. ______________________________________________________________

   iv. ______________________________________________________________

   v. ________________________________________________________________

   vi. ______________________________________________________________

   vii. ______________________________________________________________

d. How did Paul continue His ministry while he was imprisoned in Rome?
1. Define the functions of the apostle today and how it benefits the Church and the world:

2. Summarize below the approach Paul employed to make disciples and extend the Kingdom with each missionary journey. Also, reference how he improved his methodology upon each subsequent mission.
   a. First Apostolic Mission or Missionary Journey:
   
   b. Second Apostolic Mission or Missionary Journey:
   
   c. Third Apostolic Mission or Missionary Journey: