

Perspectives Module #13

12 PRACTICES THAT ENHANCE SPONTANEOUS MULTIPLICATION OF CHURCHES

Jesus ordered his apostles to make disciples everywhere, by teaching folk to obey Jesus' commands (Mt 28:18-20). They did so by forming them into churches (Ac 14:21-23). No one has come up with a better method. *From www.newgenerationsintl.org*



12. Leaders train more leaders to start new gatherings as a normal church activity.

Proof text: 2 Timothy 2:1-2.

Learning activity: Choose and instruct several 'shepherds' (a) to gather participants into a group of four to six; (b) to read to them Matthew 18:18-20; and (c) to invite Jesus to come into the gathering.

Learning objective: Empower believers to form new churches, by faith, without extra-biblical requirements.

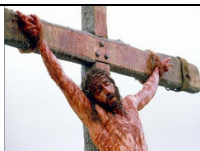


11. Indigenous church planters and local leaders regularly launch and lead new churches.

Proof text: Acts 14:21-23.

Learning activity: Shepherds invite the participants to join as many temporary gatherings, as instructed above. Members of these temporary, little churches will undertake these 12 practices together.

Learning objective: Experience the planting of an authentic, little church, and the appointing of a shepherd.



10. Leaders and church members learn through obedience-based discipleship.

Proof text: Matthew 28:18-20.

Learning activity: Demonstrate for shepherds a simple way in which lead their gatherings in the Lord's Supper. Allow a time to confess sins. (Please, do not explain the 'meaning' of communion.)

Learning objective: Enjoy intimate worship, by serving each other, in simple obedience to Christ.



9. Folk obey immediately God's truth that they themselves find in Scripture.

Proof text: Acts 2:37-47.

Learning activity: Shepherds lead their gatherings in discovering several ways in which the early church obeyed Jesus. Relate their activities to specific commandments that Jesus gave.

Learning objective: Encounter and affirm the normal activities of reproductive churches.



8. Folk learn from audio and written Scripture in their preferred language.

Proof text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Learning activity: Shepherds have their gathering read or recite Scripture texts aloud to each other.

Learning objective: Exercise the centuries-old prerogative of reading and believing the Holy Scriptures.

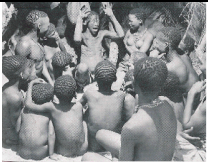


7. Evangelism and discipleship happen mainly in households through bible discovery.

Proof text: Acts 10:24-33.

Learning activity: Shepherds lead their gathering in discovering the original, apostolic Good News from Lk 24⁴⁴⁻⁴⁹ Ac 2²¹⁻²⁶ 2³⁰⁻³⁸ 3¹³⁻¹⁵ 3¹⁸⁻²⁶ 5²⁹⁻³² 10³⁸⁻⁴³ 13²⁸⁻³³ 13³⁷⁻⁴¹ 17¹⁻³ 17²⁹⁻³¹ 26¹⁸⁻²³ 1 Co 15¹⁻⁸

Learning objective: Express in several points the Message that releases the power of God for salvation.



6. Chronological storytelling within oral cultures lays a necessary biblical foundation.

Proof text: Acts 10:34-43.

Learning activity: Gatherings choose bible stories they would recount to folk having no bible knowledge.
What do Hindus need to know? Muslims? Buddhists? Tribals? Seculars? Nominal Christians?

Learning objective: Elucidate a bible-discovery program for illiterate seekers and new believers.



5. Insider movements find and make disciples of men or women of peace.

Proof text: Acts 16:13-15, 40.

Learning activity: Two participants leave the room, then return and go from group to group looking for receptive folk. Members of one of the groups prove receptive, whereas all the other rebuff them.

Learning objective: Employ 'prayer-walks' as a means of preparing a population and of finding receptive folk.



4. In restricted or resistant areas, compassionate service often facilitates church planting.

Proof text: Titus 3:1-8.

Learning activity: Gatherings discuss urgent community needs that they could help meet on a small scale.
How to do so without duplicity, deceit or dishonesty?

Learning objective: Expose known, human needs — spiritual, material, social — that God wants to meet.



3. New churches follow only fundamental, biblical requirements.

Proof text: Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:3, 24-26.

Learning activity: Gatherings identify church practices that are not biblical requirements and could be eliminated. Identify fundamental, biblical, body-life practices.

Learning objective: Expound how three levels of authority determine what churches must practice.



2. Ministry methods conform to local culture.

Proof text: Acts 15:6-11.

Learning activity: Gatherings discuss how to put into practice fundamental, biblical commands, in ways that fit local culture, keeping biblical meanings (beliefs) when adopting new or local forms (customs).

Learning objective: Establish guidelines for 'contextualizing' biblical absolutes in human cultures.



1. Persistent prayer is made on a large scale.

Proof text: 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

Learning activity: Gatherings spend the final minutes interceding for neglected population segments.

Perhaps each one could transform two of the above 12 practices into requests addressed to God?

Learning objective: Entreat the Father to give to the Son a bride from amongst neglected peoples.

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