

# Bible Models-- Guidelines for Ministry:

Developing Reproductive Churches by Doing  
What God's Servants Modeled in the Bible



These Guidelines *Integrate* Evangelism, Pastoral Training  
and Church Planting

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## How to use this list of guidelines based on biblical models

- Write for each activity your detailed plans: **Who** will do them? **Where**? **When**? **What** will they do?
- To monitor progress, mark activities that are being practiced to your satisfaction.

## Options for using this list of guidelines

- Use these guidelines to develop your own outline for a *planning workshop* or series of *training sessions*.
- Supplement existing pastoral training programs, with one that focuses more directly on helping trainees to learn skills that enable churches to multiply and train a larger number of new pastors.
- If possible, arrange chairs in a circle, to enhance communication and interaction in training sessions.

## Optional Role-plays

- Role-plays are a powerful teaching aid, if done with care. They make easy the interaction and total participation that the Holy Spirit uses to create the family-like atmosphere of new, small churches or cells that Romans 12:4-18 requires.
- If you are inexperienced in leading role-plays they will probably move too slowly, unless you carefully follow the simple ***Role-play Instructions*** in Appendix A. Before training, read these instructions at the end of this document.
- The workshop leader names different volunteers to play the parts of the model Bible persons. The first one is **Peter**. “**Mr. Tradition**” argues with the person playing that part. When the leader introduces a guideline, Mr. Tradition states his unwise opinion. It may sound good at first but is damaging and non-biblical. This stimulates discussion.
- Ask the person doing the part of the model Bible person to correct Mr. Tradition. If he cannot, ask anyone to do so.
- The leader thus encourages people in the group to do much of the teaching. The leader should not teach during these discussions except to summarize briefly when the guideline in question is still unclear.
- Avoid a few persons dominating the discussion. Keep asking others to speak. For example: “Let’s hear from someone who has not spoken about this yet.”
- Volunteers who play the model Bible persons do not prepare ahead of time, unless it says, “***Prior preparation needed.***”
- Different people might take turns playing Mr. Tradition. Ask them not to talk long. They are to mention the tradition and nothing more—that is not what we want to teach!
- The **Leader** can assign any of his own role-plays to others.
- All role-plays are optional. Select any that you think might clarify the guideline

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## Guidelines Based on Bible Models

### ***A. Church Planters Form Churches That Obey Jesus***

- A1 Peter, as Disciple-maker.** In Jerusalem, the Apostle Peter taught new believers to obey Jesus' commands before all else.
- 1 **Obey Jesus above all.** The 3,000 converts of the first church in Jerusalem started at once to obey Jesus' seven basic commands, in which all that he commanded is summarized, Acts 2:37-47.
 

**Optional Role-play** (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: portray Satan and send demons named *Greed*, *Control* and *Fear* to corrupt Mr. Tradition. See the explanation in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 1.
  - 2 **Know Jesus' commands.** A group of people becomes a *church* when they start to obey Jesus' commands in their basic form, as illustrated in Acts 2:37-47. These commands are dealt with more fully under G5, Christ, our Supreme Commander, below (items 78 to the end).

- 3 Command of Christ: **Repent, believe, be born again by the Holy Spirit**, Mark 1:15; John 3:16; 20:22

**Optional Role-play** (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: introduce Peter. Ask him and Mr. Tradition to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with what Peter did in Acts 2. Mr. Tradition and Peter argue. See their instructions in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 3.

- 4 Command of Christ: **Baptize the repentant**. Receive them into your church and help them to live the new, transformed life it initiates, Mat. 28:18-20.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: ask Peter to stand, then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Peter.

Mr. Tradition: Stand and argue with Peter in your own words, that one must walk on water before being baptized, and wait at least 2 years, *etc.*

Peter: stand and correct Mr. Tradition, in your own words. Ask the audience to help you.

- 5 Command of Christ: **Love** God, each other and needy neighbor; forgive enemies, Matt. 22:36-40; John 13:34-35, Luke 10:25-37; Matt. 5:43-48. Love is seen in the fellowship in the first church, Acts 2: 41-47.
- 6 Command of Christ: **Break bread**. Take Communion with heartfelt worship, Matt. 26:26-28; John 4:24.

**Optional Role-play** (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: ask Peter to stand, then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that new churches should celebrate Communion.

Mr. Tradition: stand and argue with Peter that only an ordained Ph.D. can officiate the Lord's Supper.

Peter: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask the others to help you.

Leader: demonstrate how we put the Bible over the book of traditions or under it, and ask which way Mr. Tradition put it. For more information on this role-play see Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 6.

- 7 Command of Christ: **Pray**. Have private and family devotions, intercede and do spiritual warfare, John 16:24; Eph. 6:10-18
- 8 Command of Christ: **Give**. Be faithful stewards of our time, treasure and talents, Luke 6:38; Matt. 25:14-46
- 9 Command of Christ: **Make disciples**. Witness for Jesus, shepherd, apply the Word, train leaders, and send missionaries, Matt. 28:18-20
- 10 **Obey all New Testament commands**. We also obey Jesus when we observe His apostles' commands, which build on Christ's commands, as seen above.

**A2 Nehemiah, the Organizer** organized God's people to perform different jobs in harmony with one another.

- 11 **Integrate and balance edifying gift-based ministries**, Luke 10:25-37; 1 Cor. 14:3, 24-26.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Nehemiah. Ask him to stand, then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with what Nehemiah did.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Nehemiah, in your own words, that all one needs to do is to teach the Word and nothing else.

**Nehemiah:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition, in your own words. Ask the others to help you.

- 12 **Show genuine love in *practical* ways**, as in items 13 - 16.

- 13 **Serve one another and care for the needy**, Rom. 12; 1 John 3:14-18

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask Nehemiah to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should care for the needy.

**Mr. Tradition:** stand and argue with Nehemiah, in your own words, "No! Spend offerings on music instruments, decorations, new staff and our salaries."

**Nehemiah:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask the others to help you.

- 14 **Cultivate loving fellowship** by planning events that allow for everyone to talk with others, play games, eat together, or whatever helps them to know each other, John 13:34; 1 Cor. 13; Heb. 10:23-25

- 15 **Host cells or house churches** in a loving family environment, Philemon 1-2

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask Nehemiah to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should encourage house churches.

**Mr. Tradition:** stand and argue with Nehemiah, that we should teach the Word of God only in chapels built for that purposes, and that the people must sit as in a school; with everyone facing the pulpit.

**Nehemiah:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask the others to help you.

- 16 **Practice the New Testament "one another" commands.**

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask the group to name a few 'one another' commands.

- A3 Priscilla, the Bi-vocational worker.** Priscilla and Aquila hosted a House Church Hosts and mentored the leader, Apollos, behind the scenes in a quiet way, Acts 18:24-28.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** demonstrate balance between classroom and mentoring, for training new leaders. For more information on this role-play see Appendix A, *Instructions*, item A3.

- 17 **Listen to apprentice pastors** as they report what their church or cell people are doing. Help them to plan and assign them studies that fit their current needs or opportunities. See Acts 18:24-28. Also, compare how Paul trained Timothy and Titus.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: name a volunteer to be Priscilla (or Aquila if there are no women). Ask her to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with her.

Mr. Tradition: Stand and argue with Priscilla in your own words that a good teacher will teach only if he has at least 20 students.

Priscilla: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask the others to help you.

- 18 **Model pastoral skills**; do fieldwork with trainees, Mk 3:14.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: ask Priscilla (or Aquila if no women volunteers) to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that pastoral trainers should model pastoral skills on the job.

Mr. Tradition: stand and argue with Priscilla that a good seminary offers only theory for three years, *then* requires an internship.

Priscilla: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help.

- 19 **Work bi-vocationally** when not receiving a salary or if so doing would give a better example, Acts 18:1-4; 2 Thess. 3:7-12.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: ask Priscilla to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that church planters and pastors should work bi-vocationally, supporting them selves financially, when necessary.

Mr. Tradition: Argue with Priscilla that if one does not serve as a pastor full-time, he is not fully dedicated.

Priscilla: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help.

## B. *Pastoral Trainers* **Balance Classroom with Mentoring**

- B1 **Jehosaphat sponsored** education by extension, forming teams that traveled to take God's Word to communities that lacked it, 2 Chronicles 17:3-10.

- 20 **Educate new leaders while they shepherd others**, not in an institution completely outside the churches.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: name a volunteer to be King Jehosaphat. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Jehosaphat that we should send teachers out to teach God's word in neglected areas.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Jehosaphat in your own words, that new pastors must go to your seminary, even though it is far away.

Jehosaphat: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 21 **Keep classroom training in balance with mentoring**, especially for new leaders. Mentor in the way that Jesus and Paul did it, Matt. 10:1-4; 13:3-8.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: ask Jehosaphat to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that classroom teaching must be balanced with mentoring, for new leaders..

Mr. Tradition: argue with Jehosaphat, in your own words, that we should train only single young men—they are moldable.

Jehosaphat: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

**B2 Christ the Master Teacher** used a variety of resources to deal with his disciples' learning needs, Mat. 13:52.

- 22 **Mentor with a menu**, that is, a list of training options. Menu options are ministries and doctrines that are essential for a church. This makes it easier for less-experienced trainers to provide what is lacking in new churches. See how Paul instructed Titus (1:5).

**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

Leader: play the part of a waiter in restaurant. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 22.

- 23 **Avoid a rigid, linear curriculum** when training new leaders or churches. To deal better with urgent needs, following Paul's example when he wrote his letters to new churches and leaders.

**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

Leader: show how not to treat a problem—wait months. See the explanation for this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 23.

- 24 **Train leaders the way Jesus and the apostles did**. They worked together with their trainees as friends. They did not focus on isolated topics in an abstract way, but dealt with issues as the occasions arose that required it. They met needs in love. Notice how very practical Jesus' teaching was in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. 5 - 7.
- 25 **Supplement existing training programs with mentoring** in regions where churches are not reproducing or there are not enough pastors to sustain church reproduction, Matt. 9:37-38.
- 26 **Teach to equip all believers** for the work of the ministry, Eph. 4:11-16.

## C. Churches Reproduce in the Normal Way

**C1 Barnabas, a Sending-Church Leader** helped his church to be a 'sending church' and sent workers to neglected regions, Acts chapters 13-14; Matt. 10:1-4; 28:18-20.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: name a volunteer to be Barnabas. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Barnabas that our churches should all send workers to start daughter churches.

Mr. Tradition: complain to Barnabas that with one church we get a whole cake, but many churches will cut it in tiny slices.

Barnabas: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 27 **Aim at multiplication**. Wherever the apostles made disciples as Jesus said to do, churches multiplied.
- 28 **A church commits as a body to multiply** itself in daughter churches, and not to remain sterile, Acts 13:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:2



**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

Mr. Tradition: argue with Barnabas that the impulse to multiply will weaken as it passes from one church to another, and false doctrine will come in. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 28.

- 29 **Recognize and teach the church's ability to reproduce itself**, Mat. 13:3-8; Mark 4:7, 28; Acts 12:24-25; Eph. 4:11-13; Col. 4:12-13
- 30 **Pray and plan as a church body** to form temporary church planting task groups as the apostles did, that focused on a specific church planting task, Acts 13:1-3; Matt. 9:37-38

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: Ask Barnabas to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that our task groups that plant churches should be temporary.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Barnabas, in your own words, that we should form only permanent teams. The members must get along with each other perfectly..

Barnabas: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 31 **Discern God's 'sent ones'** (apostles, missionaries) who will carry your church's DNA to reproduce churches, Mat. 13:3-8; Eph. 4:11-12. The biblical apostles did not stay in one region, but prepared leaders and moved on.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: ask Barnabas to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that each church should send out the apostles (sent ones) that God has promised to give it.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Barnabas, in your own words, that Apostles are the men of total authority in a region, and should not be sent to other areas.

Barnabas: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 32 **Send workers to saturate people groups** and regions with reproductive churches, Col. 1:6; Acts 13:1-3; 18:20-23

**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

Leader: demonstrate the *scaffold*. See the explanation for this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 32.

- 33 **Evangelize neglected people groups**, as was Paul's passion, Rom. 1:5; 15:20-21. Compare Acts 1:8.
- 34 **Start a church planting movement** of daughter and granddaughter churches, Acts 10; chapters 13 - 14.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: ask Barnabas to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should start a church planting movement.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Barnabas, in your own words, that we will lose control if churches multiply. We will have confusion. The wrong men will lead the new churches.

Barnabas: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 35 **Train local workers where they are**, near their home, Col. 4:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:28., Acts 13:1-3.

## D. *Pastors Train Pastoral Apprentices*

**D1 Jethro, a Delegator**, advised Moses to delegate pastoral responsibilities to new leaders and to hold them accountable to shepherd small groups, Exodus 18:13-27.

**36 Name without delay leaders and trainers** who meet biblical requisites, Acts 14:23.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Jethro. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Jethro that we should form name shepherding elders to lead small groups within our churches.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Jethro, in your own words, that the Bible is too ancient. It no longer applies to modern organization.

**Jethro:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

**37 Make sure that all believers have a shepherd** who listens to their needs, 1 Peter 5:1-4.

### Optional Role-play (*Prior preparation needed*)

**Leader:** do the Wolf Game. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 37.

**38 Commission new leaders with discernment**, judging fitness by what God requires, not man. 1 Sam. 16; Titus 1:5-9.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask Jethro to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should apply only biblical requirements when we name leaders.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Jethro, in your own words, that a good Leader is the one who has been here the longest, gives the most money, is elected to the highest position, is most popular, knows the most Bible doctrine..

**Jethro:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

**D2 Ezra, a Praying Reformer**, led his people to confess their sins and to obey God's commands, Ezra 9 – 10.

**39 Lead your people to confess their sins**, including their neglect of New Testament guidelines. Then ask God to renew your church. He does not bring renewal until His people, including their leaders, confess their sins.

**40 Pray for the lost to be saved**, for workers to volunteer and for the new churches to be planted, Gen. 18:20-33; Col. 4:2-4.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Ezra. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should go where there are no churches to start them.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Ezra, in your own words, that there are enough pagans around here! There is no need to seek them elsewhere.

**Ezra:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

### D3 The Caring Samaritan practiced *practical* love, Luke 10:25-37; Mat. 25:31-46.

#### Optional Role-play

Leader: name a volunteer to be the Samaritan. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with the Samaritan that we should practice practical love.

Mr. Tradition: argue with the Samaritan, in your own words, that we are only to save people's souls, and not get bogged down in social work..

Samaritan: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 41 **Mobilize new churches to serve the needy** from their beginning, as Barnabas and Dorcas did, Acts 4:36-37; 9:36-42
- 42 **Instruct new believers to give.** Do not accustom new churches to absorbing others' money, like parasites on Christ's body. teach them to give as the Macedonians did, even in their poverty, 2 Cor. 8 - 9.

#### Optional Role-play

Leader: ask the Samaritan to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that new churches should learn to give generously from the beginning.

Mr. Tradition: argue with the Samaritan, in your own words, that pastors ought to form their own labor union and go on strike in order to demand more pay.

Samaritan: correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 43 **Instruct new churches to recognize urgent needs and give accordingly,** Luke 6:38; Acts 2: 46; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Phil. 4:16-18.

### D4 Paul, a Pastoral Trainer, trained new pastors while they, in turn, trained newer ones, Acts 14:21-23; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 1:5.

- 44 **Fulfill your duty as a pastor by training newer pastors.** Your responsibility to see that newer pastors receive training *cannot be delegated*. The actual training, however, might be assigned to others. You must see that it is done. Obedient pastors obey God's Word by providing training for other shepherding elders, as Paul modeled, including for daughter churches, 2 Tim. 2:2.
- 45 **Listen to pastoral apprentices before mentoring them.** Apply God's Word at once with authority to the immediate needs and ministry opportunities of the trainee's flock, rather than merely voicing it as abstract theory for some vague future application, James 1:22.

### D5 Abel, a sincere, humble worshipper, trusted in God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of an innocent victim, Genesis 4:3-12.

- 46 **Respect the blood sacrifice as a central element of worship,** John 6:26-63.

#### Optional Role-play (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: demonstrate Old Testament. worship. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 46.

- 47 **Have your flock regularly break bread** and drink the cup of the New Covenant in Jesus' blood. Doing so, they will participate in the body and blood of Christ, Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11: 20-34.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Abel. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that all new churches should obey Jesus' command to celebrate the Lord's Supper, from the beginning.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Abel, in your own words, that new churches don't need to do this as long as we teach them correctly what the Lord's Supper means.

**Abel:** correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 48 **Help all, including children, to participate in praise** and other worship activities 1 Cor 14:26 (vital for new, small churches). If possible, sit in a circle or around a table.
- 49 **Help family heads to lead family worship**, as Job did, Job 1:4-5. Tell stories to your children. Jesus often told stories.
- 50 **Let worship be relevant and reverent.** Learn to lead worship and help others to do it in a way that fits small groups in non-formal settings, Matt. 18:19-20; Acts 5:42; 20:20; 10:27; 12:12; 16:32; Col. 4:15.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask Abel to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that small groups should worship in a way that fits their size.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Abel, in your own words, that churches must hire only professional singers and musicians, so we can listen to them quietly.

**Abel:** correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 51 **Practice the 'one-another' commands** of the New Testament. Search these commands and help your people to do them.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** ask Abel to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that all churches should arrange for their people to practice the 'one another' commands.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Abel, in your own words, that pulpit lectures are all we need.

**Abel:** correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 52 **Let apprentice pastors train newer apprentice pastors**, who shepherd newer flocks or cells, 2 Tim. 2:2.

## E. *Pastoral Apprentices Apply what they Learn at Once and Train Newer Shepherds*

- E 1 **Timothy, a Pastoral Apprentice**, trained new pastors while being trained, 2 Timothy 2:2.

- 53 **"Do the Word."** Practice at once with your flock what is learned, rather than being 'hearers only' who learn for some vague future application, Matt. 10; 2 Tim. 2:2.

### Optional Role-play

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Timothy. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Timothy that pastoral students should apply immediately what they learn, with their flock.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Timothy, in your own words, that new trainees cannot train other leaders until they have three years experience and a Master's degree.

Timothy: correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 54 **Pass on at once what you learn to newer shepherding elders**, so that churches multiply, Titus 1:5.

## F. *Evangelists* Bring Converts into Obedient Churches God's Way

- F1 **Peter, an Evangelist**, called men to repent and took shared the message about Christ in the homes of men of peace, Acts 2:38; chapter 10

- 55 **Work with heads of households** and their social networks, Luke 10:5-7.

### Optional Role-play (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: portray evangelism by extraction, then by networking. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 55.

- 56 **Leave unreceptive homes** or communities, Matt. 10:12-14.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: name a volunteer to be Peter. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should leave communities that reject Christ.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Peter, in your own words, that we are only to keep sowing the seed and be patient. All people who hear the Word will change..

Peter: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 57 **Evangelize in the biblical way**—proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection, call people to repent and confirm their faith with baptism, in Acts 2:22-41.

- 58 **Let the Gospel flow** by using easy methods and available equipment, Luke 24:44-48; Acts 16:25-34; 1 Cor. 2:1-5.

### Optional Role-play (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: demonstrate the heavy box. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 58.

- 59 **Love people enough to respect their culture**. Peter did so when he ate at a Gentile's house, Acts 11:1-18; Paul did so when he circumcised Timothy, Acts 16: 3, and whenever he became "all things to all men," 1 Cor. 9:19-23.

- 60 **Discern between external form and underlying purpose**, as when Elisha allowed Naaman to bow before the god Rimmon out of respect for his master's custom, 2 Kings 5:15-19.

- F2 **Cornelius, a Prayerful Seeker**, held an *exclusive* meeting for relatives and friends to learn about Jesus, Acts 10.

- 61 **Go at once to a seeker's family**, as Paul did, Acts 16:13-15; 27-33; 18:8.

### Optional Role-play

Leader: name a volunteer to be Cornelius. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should hold exclusive meetings for relatives and friends of one who is seeking Christ.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Cornelius, in your own words, that we should not try to reach entire families. We must avoid the older men, because they are too hardened.

Cornelius: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 62 **Let seekers host gathering meetings**, as Cornelius did, rather than extracting them from their network of family and close friends while you share the gospel with them, Mk 2:14-17; Luke 19:1-10.

**Optional Role-play** (*Prior preparation needed*)

Leader: the group plants a church. The group suggests each step in the process. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 62.

- 63 **Resist Satan** within a community; do not flee from him, James 4:7.

**Optional Role-play** (*Prior preparation needed*)

Continue church planting (above); introduce an idolater. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 63.

## G. Regional Coordinators Oversee Pastoral Training

- G1 **Paul, Traveling Church Planter**, respected different cultures and their leaders, Gal 2; Acts 14:21-23.

- 64 **Avoid brutally canceling a culture** or way of life in a church, Acts 10; Galatians.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: name a volunteer to be Paul. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Paul that we should respect different cultures.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Paul, in your own words, that people of other cultures should adapt to us and our culture.

Paul: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 65 **Phase out your personal control of new churches**. Install leaders who meet New Testament requirements and mentor them on the job. How soon? Look at Paul's own practice! Acts 14:21-23

- G2 **Titus, Regional Overseer**, established *shepherding* elders in the new churches of Crete, Titus 1:5.

- 66 **Name permanent regional coordinators** to oversee leadership training, Titus 1:5-9.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: name a volunteer to be Titus. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Titus that new churches need regional coordinators like Titus.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Titus in your own words, that we should have no such hierarchy.

Titus: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 67 **Appoint shepherding elders in every church in every center of population**. Do so as rapidly as Paul did. Acts 14:21-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-11; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: ask Titus to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should name shepherding elders in every new church.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Titus, in your own words, that new leaders should wait at least six years before leading!

- 68 **Commission pastoral trainers** (instructors), or ask churches to commission them. Place them over regions with new churches and over untrained leaders, Acts 13:1-3.

- 69 **Meet with pastoral trainers regularly** to oversee their work and help to solve problems, Titus 1:5,
- 70 **Provide easy-to-use materials for pastoral trainers.** “Bring the books,” as Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:13).
- 71 **Keep orienting new trainers** to mentor newer pastors, 2 Tim. 2:2.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: Ask Titus to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should keep training new trainers, who train new pastors, who train newer pastors.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Titus, in your own words, that good pastors will not have time for this mentoring.

Titus: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

- 72 **Hold pastoral trainers accountable** to carry out their own plans and keep churches multiplying.

**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

Leader: model a mentoring session. See the explanation of this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 72.

- 73 **Arrange for each church to meet regularly in small groups and in big groups.** Matt. 18:19-20; Acts 22:46; 20:7; 1 Cor. 14:26; Hebrews 10:24-25.
- 74 **Gear training curriculum to fit current needs**, as Moses did, Ex 18 through 20. God provided a curriculum that fit current needs when he gave to Moses and the new shepherding elders the Ten Commandments and other laws for the new nation, Exodus 19 and 40. We should do the same kind of thing for new churches, using New Testament guidelines with the Holy Spirit’s power instead of the ancient legal system, which was based on fear of death.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: Ask Titus to stand. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should use training curriculum in a way that it deals with current needs.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Titus, in your own words, that your seminary uses curriculum that your great-grandfather used in the year 1870..

- G3 Caleb, a Steadfast Visionary**, kept focused on the task in spite of peril and opposition, Num. 13-14.

- 75 **Maintain a positive focus**, avoiding distractions, as Caleb and Joshua did, Num. 13 and 14.
- 76 **Mentors on every occasion add at least one positive thing** to a church’s life that will edify it. In mentoring sessions, *always* spend most of the time dealing with positive things, not dwelling on chronic problems. For example, enroll new pastoral trainees, plan for new churches, introduce new ministries, and witness for Christ. If chronic rejection impedes this, we have Jesus' orders to shake the dust and leave, Matt. 10:14.

**Optional Role-play**

Leader: name a volunteer to be Caleb. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Caleb that we should keep focused on the positive task that God has given us.

Mr. Tradition: argue with Caleb, in your own words, that you need the whole time when you teach, to explain about all the sins in your church!

Caleb: stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

**G4 Silas, a Messenger between Congregations**, traveled from one church to another with messages and offerings for the poor, as they served new churches, as in Acts 15:27.

- 77 **Develop mutual cooperation between sister churches** in the same region, to edify them and keep them reproducing. Let them hold occasional united meetings to give reports, to plan projects, to offer and ask for help when needed. Acts 15:22.

**Optional Role-play**

**Leader:** name a volunteer to be Silas. Then ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Silas that we should develop mutual cooperation between sister churches.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with Silas, in your own words, that every church is autonomous and independent, and not to get involved with other churches.

**Silas:** stand and correct Mr. Tradition in your own words. Ask others to help you.

**G5 Christ, our Supreme Commander**, orders us with all authority in heaven and earth to make disciples by teaching them obey all his commands, Matthew 28:17-20; 2 Cor. 10:5-6; Rev. 14:12.

- 78 **Pass on a light baton.** Jesus left us a simple, inexpensive model for ministry and church life that is easy to pass on to others, to multiply churches, Mat. 7:24-29; 11:29-30; 15:1-9; 28:18-20; 2 Tim 2:2. Include in the light baton Jesus' seven basic commands and the ministries required by the New Testament, which are reviewed below:

**Optional Role-play (Prior preparation needed)**

**Leader:** Teach the group to discern Three Levels of Authority for what churches do. See the explanation for this role-play in Appendix A, *Instructions*, item 79.

- 79 (a) Ministries that corresponds to **Jesus' command to repent, believe, be born anew by the Holy Spirit** include:
- Help your flock to trust Christ and follow Him before all else, Luke 9:23.
  - Watch over the flock to see that only born-again believers are considered to be part of the body of Christ. Confusion about this invites false doctrine and a powerless body. Mark 1:15; John 3:16; 20:22.

**Optional Role-play**

**Leader:** ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees with Jesus that we should call people to repent and be born again by the Holy Spirit.

**Mr. Tradition:** argue with the leader, in your own words, that we should not embarrass people by asking them to confess sin.

**Leader:** ask the group to correct Mr. Tradition.

- 80 (b) Ministries that correspond to Jesus' command to **baptize** believers and to teach them to live the transformed life that it initiates include:
- Baptize sinners who confess their sin, without delaying for legalistic reasons, adding man-made requirements, Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38. Rom. 6:1-14;
  - Assure and embrace new believers with love and acceptance.
- 81 (c) Ministries that correspond to Jesus' command to **break bread and worship God** include:
- Enable all to participate actively in worshipping God as a body, Heb.10:25; 1 Cor. 14:26.
  - Let the Holy Spirit exalt Jesus edify believers through the Lord's Table, Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-24



- Seek worship that is neither merely entertainment nor passively watching others perform, John 4:24

### Optional Role-play

Leader: ask Mr. Tradition if he agrees that we should avoid merely entertaining the people when we worship.

Mr. Tradition: argue with the leader, in your own words, that we should hire only professional musicians and bring in famous speakers.

Leader: ask the group to correct Mr. Tradition.

- 82 (d) All ministries are motivated by Jesus' command to **love**, but these are directly related to it:
- **Cultivate fellowship** and loving service among all their members, Rom.12:3-21; John 13:34-35
  - **Serve other flocks.** Arrange edifying interaction between them, Acts 15:22, 27; 24:17; Rom. 16
  - **Strengthen family life** and marriage, Eph.5:21 through 6:4
  - **Organize churches so all members use their spiritual gifts** to serve each other, Eph.4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12 - 13; Rom.12
  - **Forgive enemies**, Matt. 5:43-48
- 83 (e) The ministries that correspond to Jesus' command to **pray** include:
- **Intercede**, Col. 4:3
  - **Pray for healing**, James 5:14-15
  - **Maintain personal and family devotions**, John 16:24; 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:4
  - **Wage spiritual warfare**, Eph.6:10-18; Rom.12:12
- 84 (f) The ministries that correspond to Jesus' command to **give** include all that involves Stewardship.
- **We give generously to invest in our future reward**, Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38
  - **Materialism breeds selfishness and spiritual ruin**, Luke 12:13-34.
  - **God owns all things**--what we have belongs first to Him; we are His stewards of what he has given us to administrate. Matt. 25:14-30. God owns "the cattle on a thousand hills," Psalm 50:10.
  - **God commands that we serve the needy**, inside and outside the church, Mat.25:31-46; Luc 10:25-37; Hech.6:1-16; Gál.6:10.
- 85 (g) The ministries that correspond to Jesus' command to **Make disciples**. To make disciples requires us to mobilize our flock to:
- **Witness** for Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8; 2 Tim.4:5. We proclaim the things that Jesus said to, as we witness for Him, Luke24:46-48. We pray for the lost, 1 Thess. 5:17.
  - **Teach new disciples to obey all of Jesus' commands**, Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 7:24-29.
  - **Shepherd believers**, equipping them for the work of the ministry, Eph. 4:11-16. We apply the Word to their lives and ministries, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
  - **Train leaders**, 2 Tim. 2:2.

- **Send missionaries** to neglected fields, Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8.

**Optional Role-play**

Mr. Tradition: Argue with the Leader that emphasizing obedience is legalism.

- **Watch over the spiritual life of those under your care** and correct the unruly, Acts 20:28-32.
- **Counsel those with problems** as Paul did with Philemon. We find this in Paul's letter to Philemon.
- **Correct and restore the weak** without condemning them, 1 Cor. 5.

**Optional Role-play**

Mr. Tradition: Argue with the Leader that true Christians are perfect like you. They do not sin or make mistakes.

- **Shepherd as a *servant* leader**, 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matt.20:25-28

**Optional Role-play**

Mr. Tradition: Argue with the Leader that we should simply preach the Word and everything will go well.

- **Apply** the Word, train all believers to serve, Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim.3:16-17, 2 Tim.4:2; James 1:22-26
- **Ward off wolves**—oppose and shun divisionists, legalists, false teachers, Acts 20:28-31; Titus 3:9-11.
- **Agree on goals**, practices and plans to develop and extend the work, Acts 15:22-31; 2 Cor. 13:11
- **Form new flocks**, Acts chapters 13 - 14
- **Name and prepare pastors**, evangelists, and missionaries, 2:Tim. 2:2; Titus 1:5

## Appendix A. Optional Role-plays, Instructions and Preparations

### Read Before Doing Optional Role-plays

#### (Preliminary Instructions)

- a **Role-plays suggested under some of the guidelines above are *optional*.** You do not have to use all of them, for there are too many. Use them when a guideline requires more clarity, or to encourage the group to discuss more freely. When you prepare a person to do a role-play, explain that *you might not use it*.
- b **Participants** are not to memorize the suggested conversation, only the ideas. They are to say it briefly in their own words.
- c **Use role-plays** to focus on a truth and encourage discussion—*not* to entertain or act out details dramatically. To prolong the role-player's conversation is poor role-playing and robs too much time. Most role-plays present a brief argument between **Mr. Tradition** and someone playing a Bible model. Other role-plays are demonstrations that involve only the Leader.
- d **Prepare the following aids ahead of time** if you use the role-plays:
  - Signs for persons to hold in front of them, who take the part of the biblical models. Prepare a sign for each one *except for Christ*. The first one would say in large print **"Peter, a Disciple."**
  - Also prepare signs for **"Mr. Tradition," "Enemy"** and the demons **"Greed," "Control"** and **"Fear."**
  - Prepare a book (or stack of papers) with its name in large print **"Man-made Traditions."**
  - Prepare a fairly **large box** and a **small box**, if you use the role-play for item 58.
- e **How to prepare role-plays with Mr. Tradition.** Most of these require no preparation except for the signs, and a very brief word of explanation to whoever plays Mr. Tradition:
  - **Leader:** Briefly describe what a model Bible person did, and hand the Bible model's sign ("Peter," "Paul", etc.) to someone. For example, "You are **Peter**." (Hand them the sign.) "Please stand and defend your practice."
  - **Mr. Tradition:** Stand, show your sign and argue with the Bible person, as instructed in the role-play suggestions. Argue against the biblical guideline.
  - Several persons might play the part of **Mr. Tradition**, who argues many times.
  - **Leader:** ask the entire group to help correct **Mr. Tradition**, if the person playing the model Bible person needs help.

# Explanations

## [1] Satan sends his demons. Leader:

a **Explain:** “If we could see as angels see, we might see this.”

- Show the sign “**Enemy**” to everyone. Play the part of Satan. Look up and point up, saying, “I see the planet earth, I see (country), I see (city) and I see Mr. Tradition attending a workshop! Aha! (Laugh in an evil way.) I will make Mr. Tradition destroy that workshop!”
- Call demon **Greed**. (Select anyone.) Hand him the sign **Greed**; ask him to let everyone see it. Say, “Go tell Mr. Tradition, if churches multiply, there will be *less money* to go around! That is he over there.” (Point to Mr. Tradition. Greed goes to him repeats what he was told.)
- Call demon **Control** and hand him his sign and say, “Go tell Mr. Tradition if churches multiply, he will *lose control* of the work!”
- Call demon **Fear** and do the same “Go tell Mr. Tradition if churches multiply, *false doctrine* will creep in!”

## [3] Repentance.

- **Leader:** ask a volunteer to be “Peter.” For this role-play he and Mr. Tradition need not rehearse ahead of time, nor memorize their dialogue. Simply tell them what they argue about. After they have argued a moment, you might ask the others to help Peter answer Mr. Tradition.
- **Mr. Tradition:** When the leader asks you to stand, hold up your sign and argue angrily in your own words, “Telling people to repent from sins offends them. Tell them only to make a *decision*.”
- **Peter:** stand and explain in your own words why Jesus commands us to repent and be born again. Ask the others to help you answer Mr. Tradition.

## [4] Baptism. Mr. Tradition: argue with “Peter” that to be baptized one must do the following:

- Become perfect first, and walk on water.
- Wait at least two years and learn all biblical doctrines, *etc.*

Peter answers that the apostles baptized converts *at once*, and required nothing more than that a sinner confess his need for Christ to save him from his sin. Extensive Bible teaching always came *after* baptism, not before.

## [6] Lord's Supper. Mr. Tradition argues that only an ordained pastor can serve the Lord's Supper. To be ordained he must have a Ph.D. degree and thirty years of pastoral experience.

- **Leader:** show the group the book *Man-made Traditions* and a Bible.
- Ask: “Does **Mr. Tradition's** rule place God's Word above man's traditions?” (Put the Bible on top of the book.)  
“Or, does it place man-made traditions over God's Word?” (Put the book on top of the Bible.)
- Keep putting one on top of the other as you ask the people which way Mr. Tradition puts it. Let them discuss it.
- **Repeat** this demonstration whenever a question comes up if a practice agrees with God's Word.

## [22] The Restaurant.

- **Leader:** Tell the group, “I am a waiter in the “**Big Burp Bistro.**”

- Approach anyone and ask, “How many times have you eaten in our Big Burp Bistro?”
- Whatever number of times he answers, tell him he must order the next item on the menu. If He says, “I’ve been here twice,” you say, “Then I will bring you item number three, fried snails.” (Or, raw horsemeat, pickled octopus eyes, live goldfish, etc.).
- Repeat this with two or three people, then ask the group what is wrong?
- Compare it with the linear way some educators train new pastors, whose new churches have urgent needs. A new church is often ‘hungry’ for something else besides the next item on the menu.

[23] **Linear curriculum.** Leader: demonstrate why we do *not* use linear curriculum to deal with new churches:

- Ask anyone, “What is a current problem in your church?”
- No matter what he says, thumb through your outline and say, “Here it is!” (Mention the problem). “Yes! We will deal with it next year at this time! Tell your people to wait!”

[28] **The Fear that Churches Weaken as they Multiply.**

**Mr. Tradition:** complain that the impulse to multiply will weaken and that false doctrine will creep in, if churches multiply.

- a **Leader:** Ask someone to read 2 Tim. 2:2. Explain: This verse has **four links** in the chain of church reproduction. Then form four groups, separated from each other.
  - **The first link** is **Antioch** (1<sup>st</sup> group), which sent Paul and Barnabas. Ask two of them to take a Bible to the next group.
  - **The second link** is **Ephesus**, where Paul left his apprentice Timothy and to whom he wrote this verse. Ask someone to be Timothy and, with a helper, take the same Bible to the third group.
  - **The third link** is a **granddaughter church** in a city near Ephesus, with the ‘faithful men’ mentioned in the verse. Ask two of them to take the same Bible to the fourth group (E.g., Colosse.)
  - **The fourth link** is a **great granddaughter church**, with the ‘others also’ taught by the ‘faithful men.’ (E.g., the house group leader at Laodemia.)
- b Explain: This chain reaction happened in church history, resulting in dozens of churches.
  - Ask: “What danger might lie in such rapid church multiplication?” Someone will say that false doctrine will creep in, etc. If not, you say it. But explain that it does not have to happen, for these important reasons.
  - Ask: “Does the Holy Spirit grows weaker as He walks from Antioch to Ephesus, and to the other churches?” (You might walk from one group to the next, getting more tired and lame all the time).
  - Ask, “Will the newer group receive a smaller Christ” “Will it have less love for the Word?”
- c Explain: Newer churches must be weaker only in *one way*—they are *younger*. Otherwise, there would not be any strong churches left on the earth. All result from such a chain reaction reproducing for centuries.

[32] **Temporary scaffolding.** Leader: Explain that starting a new church is like building a tall building with bricks.

- The church planters are the bricklayers on temporary scaffolding. This platform is removed when the building is finished.
- A church planting team is like temporary scaffolding. It exists only to build the church, then its job is done. Now they can move on to a new area.

- Ask, “What happens if we put all our efforts into building the scaffolding and not the church?”
- Explain that this happens if organizations outside of the churches become parasites on the body of Christ, by needlessly drawing workers and funds away from the churches to do work of secondary importance.

[37] **The wolf game.** Do this if you have open space in the room, or can go outside.

- **Leader:** ask everyone to stand in a line along a wall or along a line on the ground. If the group is large, ask about 20 persons to do so. Explain: “You are **sheep**. If a wolf tags you, fall down. You’re lost. You cannot move from where you are.”
  - Select three strong men to be **wolves**. “You rob the sheep. When I count to three and say ‘Go!’ you tag as many sheep as you can before the shepherd tags you. If he tags you, you must fall down, dead.”
  - Select a **shepherd**. “Shepherd, you must protect the sheep from the wolves. If you tag a wolf, it falls dead.”
  - Then shout, “One. Two. Three. Go!”
  - After several sheep have been lost, stop. Ask the shepherd to do what Jethro told Moses to do (name Leaders of small groups). The shepherd names helpers, one for every three or four people. They also can tag the wolves to slay them.
  - Repeat the game. When it is evident that few sheep will be lost, let the group be seated and ask, “If a cattleman drives a large herd of cows to a distant market, will he do it alone? Then, What is more valuable? An animal or a human soul?”
  - Ask, “What form of church organization shows that we consider humans more valuable than cows or sheep?”

[46] **Old Testament Worship.** **Leader:** Prepare someone ahead of time to be a sheep.

- Tell the group you are going to worship like in the Old Testament. You and the ‘sheep’ go out of the room.
- Come back at once. The sheep crawls on hands and knees and follows you, bleating loudly. He pretends to keep jerking back on a rope around his neck.
- Do not use a real rope. Just walk ahead of him and pretend that you are pulling a rope.
- Tell someone (anyone) that he is a priest, and to sharpen his knife.
- Tell another that he is a Levite, and to tie the feet of the sheep.
- Ask the priest and Levite to help you lift the sheep onto the altar. (Use a chair.)
- Lay your hands on its head. Tell the group, “I must confess all my sins—that will take a long time!”
- Tell the priest to slit its throat. When he does, act as though blood has spurted all over you. Shake it off your hands and cry out, “Oh no! Blood all over everything! This is terrible! Now there’s smoke in my eyes! They are burning it! Oh, the smell of manure!”
- Ask the group, “Is this shocking, repugnant ritual really worship? Yes! Because our sins are shocking and repugnant to God!”
- Explain: “This has not changed—except we no longer bring an animal to church. **Why not?**”

- k Explain that we repeat this when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Jesus is the lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Give the Lord's Supper the same importance and seriousness as the apostles did!

[55] **Work with heads of households** and their social networks.

**Leader:** portray evangelism by extraction, then by networking.

- Ask a man to stand and act as '**Seeker**,' a 'man of peace.' Then ask about six persons to form a circle, around Seeker.
- Explain that these are **Seeker's** family and friends.
- Explain that you are an evangelist and you fear that these family members and friends will be a bad influence on **Seeker**. Break into the circle and pull him out of it, to one side.
- Explain to **Seeker** that you will shelter him from all those bad people, and that he will have all new friends.
- Ask the group, what command of Christ does this violate? (love)
- Ask if this is what Peter did, or Paul. What is the better way?
- Get inside the circle and tell **Seeker** that he is to love these people, forgive them and ask their forgiveness.
- Explain that if you give **Seeker** a simple method to witness for Christ, the gospel will flow freely throughout his network and many will come to Christ.

[58] **Make the package lighter.** Prepare a "**Recipient**" to receive a fairly large box, then a smaller box.

**Leader:** Show the large box first and explain:

- a The box represents the package that we take from our own church to carry its spiritual DNA, its genetic code, to reproduce daughter churches. We pass it on like the baton in a relay race, to illustrate church multiplication.
- b Place the Bible in the box and ask the group what else we shall put into it. (Obedience to Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, etc.).
- c Explain: Sometimes we put too much in it, such as attitudes of ***Professionalism, an institutional mentality, entertainment, expensive equipment, individualism, high technology*** (we think the power of the Holy Spirit reaches only to the end of our electrical cord, so we put in a long cord), etc.
- d Hand the box to the **Recipient**. It is too heavy. He drops it at once on his toe, grabs his toe, and cries out in pain and hops around shouting in pain. He doubles his fist and chases the Leader around the room, limping and threatening to kill him, then sits, groaning.
- e **Leader:** Ask: "Do we need to change the package?" Hold up the Bible and ask, "Do we change the message?" "If not, what do we change?" Let the group discuss it.
- f Hold up the Bible again and explain briefly that we use the New Testament as a ***filter***. We take out everything that is not recommended in the New Testament.
- g Explain: "**We do not require all churches to have buildings, to hire full time ministers, to use expensive sound equipment, or to do anything that is not in the Bible.**"
- h Place the Bible in the smaller box and hand it to someone and say, "You are a close friend to (Recipient). Please take this to him. He won't take it from me."

- i That person takes the smaller box to **Recipient**, who holds it and says, “It is light!” He dances for joy, then hands it to someone else (anyone) and says, ‘Pass it on!’”

[62] **Role-play starting a church.** Name half of the group to be a mother church. The other half are 'pagans.' Tell them what to do only when they fail to do it. Don't let dialogue drag. Keep interrupting, “Good! You have established a relationship.” (Or whatever they intended to portray). “Now what has to happen?”

- a The mother church should mention that they should name some workers to go evangelize, lay hands on them and pray. They don't need to actually do it. It is only a role-play. They need only to mention it.
- b Explain, “While traveling on the train to the other place, you meet a person from there, who is interested in learning about Christ. What will you do?”
- c Before long they should do what the apostles always did—go to the family. Ask the new friend who is the mother, father, and brother, etc. Ask the group to discuss how they would approach the family.
- d Assume that the “family” lacks a background to understand the concepts of **one Almighty God, Sin, Judgment, faith, sacrificing an innocent victim so that the blood can atone for sins, God's holiness, God's punishment of idolaters, God's covenants and God's laws**, etc. What would you do? (Tell the Old Testament stories that lay the conceptual foundation for these concepts. Don't actually tell the stories; there isn't time. Simply mention that you would do it.)
- e If the church planters fail to mention it, ask them, “What are the events that make up the gospel proclamation, of which Jesus said we are witnesses, in Luke 24:26-29?” (Jesus' death and resurrection, and the promise of forgiveness to all who repent of their sins, in all nations.)
- f Assume that the family wants to follow Christ. If the church planters fail to *baptize* them without delay, ask, “What did the apostles always do at this time, with no further delay?”
- g Assume that several others in the community join the family and follow Christ. If the church planters fail to mention it, then ask, “Whom might you train to lead the new group?” They should name the older men in the new group. If they name someone from the mother church as pastor, then explain that this was not the apostles' practice. They always prepared men who lived in the locale of the new church, and put them in charge as soon as possible. The workers from the mother church mentor these new Leaders.

[63] **Resist Satan.** Continue the church planting role-play above [62]. Leader: Explain: A member of the family has been away visiting relatives, and now returns.

- a Prepare “grandmother” ahead of time to walk into the role-play limping, her hand on her sore hip and groaning.
- b She finds people in her house and keeps asking why they are there until someone says they are teaching about Christ. She gets angry, says they have their own gods and tells the strangers to leave.
- c Ask: “What should the church planters and new believers do?”



- d Explain: Many church planters make a bad mistake when such opposition comes. Instead of resisting the devil so that he will flee from them (James 4:7), they flee from him! They start holding meetings in another place, to avoid conflict with grandmother and her idolatry. Ask what the correct response is.
- e They should deal with this problem at its root. Grandmother is not the devil; we wrestle not against flesh and blood—nor grandmothers—but against evil spirits (Eph. 6:10-12). If at all possible, keep meeting in the home, love grandmother, and get the family to explain their faith to her.
- f If time allows, assume that the new believers have relatives and friends in a third community. Point out some people to be them. Repeat the process to start a third church and describe how the leaders would train the new leaders in such a 2 Timothy 2:2 chain reaction.

[72 **Model a mentoring session.** Leader: Actually mentor someone for real. Ask them to sit beside you:

- **Pray** asking the Lord to guide you.
- **Report.** Ask someone to tell you briefly about their church. Try to find out what their greatest need is. Use the list of ministries (items 80 - 106) if necessary, to find what is lacking in the church.
- **Plan.** Help them plan what they and their people will do. Get the group to help you plan, if necessary.
- **Assign studies** that fit his plans.
- **Review prior studies.** (Explain that if you had held sessions with him before, you would have asked him to tell you about what he studied, which you assigned the last time you met).
- **Pray** again for power to carry out the plans.

[79 **Discern the Three Levels of Authority** for church activities:

Leader: Define the *Three Levels of Authority* for church activities and practice discerning them.

**1<sup>st</sup> level—New Testament Commands** (of Jesus and His apostles)

**Example:** Baptism. We obey these commands without argument or voting on them. We do not include Old Testament commands; we are no longer under its law or we'd stone you to death if you gathered firewood on Saturday, etc.

**2<sup>nd</sup> level—New Testament Practices** (things the apostles and churches did, but did not command)

**Example:** Baptizing converts immediately. We may practice them, too, but never prohibit them, because the apostles practiced or approved them. Neither can we command them as general church law, since only God has the authority to lay down laws for His universal church.

**3<sup>rd</sup> level—Human customs** (traditions or practices not mentioned in the New Testament)

**Example:** Using baptism as a graduation ceremony after weeks of doctrinal study. We cannot demand obedience to them as law. We can—and must—prohibit them if they hinder obedience. Most church traditions are good. They become evil when they hinder obedience.

**Ask:** “To which of these three Levels *of Authority* do the following church practices belong?”  
Avoid arguing.

The Lord’s Supper (Ans.: level 1)  
Using one cup for the Lord’s Supper (level 2)  
Serving the Lord’s Supper the first Sunday of the month (level 3)  
Wearing robes in the pulpit (level 3)  
Wearing a tie in the pulpit (level 3)  
Not wearing a tie in the pulpit (level 3)  
The pulpit (level 3)  
Preaching the Word (level 1)  
Sunday School with segregation by age (level 3)  
Circumcision (level 2)

*Add more if you want.*