

# CHURCH PLANTERS



REPLANTS, REVITALIZATIONS,  
FOSTERING, ADOPTING

**COHORT**



*Planters Helping  
Other Planters  
Grow Deep Roots*



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## CHURCH PLANTING COHORT OF PLANTERS

**PLANTERS HELPING OTHER PLANTERS GROW DEEP ROOTS** Romans 15:14 *“I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.”* This verse says an awful lot about our ability to spur each other on to good works, regardless of our giftings, skills or experience. The Planting Community of Planters sees each of us as having desire, ideas, and commitment to ‘plant churches.’ It’s a place of mutual contribution, and formally lead, where we all share our lives, our efforts, our questions, and experiences to get this thing firmly rooted in the in the ground and keep to it growing! It’s a fellowship of pastors growing, going, learning, and doing together.

**A PERSONAL NOTE** I wish that in planting I would have had somebody or somebodies to walk with me through the start-to- finish process of planting and establishing a church. In fairness I did have some people in my life. I also was privileged, as many of us are, to attend workshops, conferences, and seminars on church life and church planting. I eve was fortunate enough to have a mentor that would on occasion sit with a group of 10 -12 of for a few hours. These times were invaluable. I did have a few phone numbers I could call with peers and talk about some of this. I decided if I can ever do anything to help church planting families, I would! I hope this meager effort builds the Kingdom, plants local churches and serves planters and their families.

Church planting is hard. We made it, but church planting is hard! I remember having so many questions with so many things to do that I’d never done before. Design a Children’s Ministry, Start a Youth Group, buy church insurance, hire staff and literally a hundred other things. What made it particularly difficult was that once the resources are discovered, you find there is no one size fits all that fits into what we are doing where we are. Having resources, options, somebody in front of us, somebody we are bringing along, and some peers really helps! That’s what we’re after!

**WHO IS THIS FOR?** Anyone planting a church, praying about planting a church, or deep into a church plant.

A little clarification of what we mean by “Church Planting.” That’s two words together, church and plant. Church (the Greek word *ecclesia*) is actually a secular term commonly used in the everyday ancient Greek language that meant ‘a gathering,’ an ‘assembly’ a ‘congregation.’ Generally it would mean ‘people meeting together at a set time for an expressed purpose.’ An *ecclesia* could take on many formats, but always meant ‘meeting together for an expressed purpose.’ Church. Churches can take on many different expressions and formats, but they will always be an ‘*ecclesia*.’

There is another word that is often associated with ‘church’ as we know it. Fellowship. The Greek word is *Koinonia* This appears frequently in the New Testament as fellowship, communion, things in common. The combined meaning in using the word church then becomes ‘gathering together for like purpose and action.’

Planting in our context is defined by more than ‘starting a church,’ although it certainly means that. Planting, Farming, or Gardening certainly is more than just digging a hole and dropping a seed in it. For the purposes of our groups Planting is multi-faceted and includes a number of commonly used terms. It is for those starting a church, but also for those revitalizing a church, re-planting a church, fostering a church, adopting a church. While some of these are accomplished by seasoned pastors and planters, some of the work in those definitions is like starting all over. Just because you served in a church for thirty years does not mean that you know how to incorporate, get a tax identification number, gather and initial group, a form a team out of nothing.

**WHAT IS FORMAT AND SCHEDULE?** Both are Scalable, Reproducible, Flexible. The Community is a one-year commitment, mostly on Zoom, with a weekend overnight retreat at the beginning and at the end of the Module. Each 'Community of Planters' Module is built around the schedule of the participants. Often planters are bi-vocational, co-vocational, or tri-vocational so the gatherings will be determined by the availability of the participants and worked out by the group. Joining brings a commitment to flexibility. Since some may have rigorous work schedules it is conceivable that some our gatherings will take place in the early mornings before work, or in the later evening after the family is done with their day.

**Each 90 – 120 minute session consists of:**

**(1) Pre reading, Listening, Watching** your choice of provided materials and resources that apply to the upcoming session. These are usually relatively short articles, podcasts, videos, from a variety of church planting sources. All these resources are from solid church planting movements, but are not intended to be something we are embracing or implementing, but are useful to prime the pump for our conversations and applications. You are free to pick from the resources most appealing to you.

**(2) A 20 – 30 minute teaching / lecture related to the topic**, but not necessarily taken from any of the suggested or provided materials.

**(3) A 20 -40 minute discussion integrating, debating, interpreting** the combination of the materials we read with the teaching and lecture

**(4) A 20 – 40 minute discussion on how this applies** to us in our context, and the next steps for us in our various stages of growth and development.

### **CURRICULUM AND TOPICS WE WILL COVER IN OUR TIME TOGETHER**

- Assessments, Training, Coaching
- Bi-Co-Vocational
- Boards
- Building a Team
- Church Calendar (Plot out a year)
- Church Management & Communication Tools
- Church planting Models
- Communion & Worship Services
- Conflict
- Counseling
- Denominational / Network relationships
- Elders, Deacons, and Staff
- Evangelism
- Facilities (Launch)
- Facilities (Long-Term)
- Family / Sabbath
- Follow-up / New Believers / Baptism
- Forgiveness & Offense
- Funerals, Weddings
- Hospital Visits
- Job Description
- Legal Stuff, Taxes, Incorporation
- Livestream / Digital Ministry
- Money
- Music and Worship
- Next Gen
- Online Presence & Branding
- Spiritual Warfare is Real
- Statement of Faith / By-Laws
- Success Defined
- Sunday School & Youth
- The Great Commission
- The Opposite Sex & Moral Purity
- Time Management
- Vision / Values
- Visitors / First Impressions
- Volunteers
- Websites, A.I. & Technology
- Why Another Church? *A Need to Answer Topic*

We will cover the topics as we decide together the ones are the most important now. We will cover all topics but not necessarily in a sequential or topical order as shown below. We'll get to every topic but together will decide the most urgent and pressing for our needs and present situations.

## Church Planting Community of Planters Calendar

Class	Priority	Date	Notes	Complete	Gatherings
<b>VISION, CALLING &amp; STRATEGY</b>					
Vision / Values				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Why Another Church? A Need to Answer Topic				<input type="checkbox"/>	
The Great Commission				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Success Defined				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Church planting models (Plant, Revitalize, Adopt, Foster, Re-Plant)				<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>LEADERSHIP &amp; TEAM DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Building a Team				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Volunteers				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Elders, Deacons, and Staff				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Boards				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Job Description				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assessments, Training, Coaching				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bi-Co-Vocational				<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>CHURCH LIFE &amp; MINISTRY</b>					
Communion & Worship Services				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Music and Worship				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sunday School & Youth				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Next Gen				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Follow-up / New Believers / Baptism				<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>OUTREACH, GROWTH &amp; FIRST IMPRESSIONS</b>					
Evangelism				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Visitors / First Impressions				<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PASTORAL CARE &amp; PEOPLE</b>					
Counseling				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hospital Visits				<input type="checkbox"/>	
Funerals, Weddings				<input type="checkbox"/>	

SPIRITUAL HEALTH & CHARACTER	
Family / Sabbath	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time Management	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Opposite Sex & Moral Purity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spiritual Warfare is Real	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONFLICT & RELATIONAL HEALTH	
Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forgiveness & Offense	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADMINISTRATION, LEGAL & FINANCIAL SYSTEMS	
Legal Stuff, Taxes, Incorporation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statement of Faith / By-Laws	<input type="checkbox"/>
Denominational / Network relationships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Money	<input type="checkbox"/>
FACILITIES & PHYSICAL SPACE	
Facilities (Launch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilities (Long-Term)	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY & TOOLS	
Websites, A.I. & Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Presence & Branding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Livestream / Digital Ministry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church Management & Communication Tools	<input type="checkbox"/>

## RETREAT WEEKENDS

### BOOK OF ACTS: BUILDING THE CHURCH

- FRIDAY NIGHT Fellowship, Prayer, Introduction to Acts
- SATURDAY Acts Building the Church & Discussion Groups
- SATURDAY NIGHT Plan a Worship Service (Prayer, Music, Announcements, Preaching, Closing, Follow-up)
- SUNDAY MORNING Church Service conducted by Participants

### FIRST, SECOND TIMOTHY, AND TITUS: LEADING THE CHURCH

- FRIDAY NIGHT Fellowship, Prayer, Introduction to Pastoral Epistles
- SATURDAY Pastoral Epistles Leading the Church & Discussion Groups
- SATURDAY NIGHT Plan a Worship Service (Prayer, Music, Announcements, Preaching, Closing, Follow-up)
- SUNDAY MORNING Church Service conducted by Participants



# Vision, Calling & Strategy

## Vision / Values

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is the unique calling God has placed on this church?
- Who are we trying to reach, or why plant in this community?
- What are 3-5 core values that will shape every decision?
- How will we communicate vision clearly and consistently?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Voddie Baucham Creating a Mission / Vision Statement \(55 minute video\)](#)

[Church Planting with Kingdom Vision \(NAMB 20 minute video\)](#)

[NAMB Launch Strategy Workbook \(download must sign-up with email\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘The Call’ by Os Guinness, not specifically about church planting but life direction](#)

[‘The Power of Vision’ by George Barna](#)

[‘John Wimber’s Five Year Plan’ awful audio but helpful 2 part teaching](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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## Vision, Calling & Strategy

### Why Another Church? A Need to Answer Topic

#### Curriculum Questions:

- Why is a new church needed here instead of strengthening an existing one?
- What gap (spiritual, cultural, demographic) exists in this area?
- How would the community be different if this church didn't exist?

#### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Reasons to Plant a Church in the City \(Article from Redeemer City to City\)](#)

[Starting New Churches \(The Great Opportunity\)](#)

[Why Plant Churches \(SEND NETWORK\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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#### Resources

[“Why Plant Churches” Tim Keller](#)

[“Why We Need Churches in Small Towns” Gospel Coalition](#)

[“Why is Church Planting So Important?” New Churches / SEND](#)

**NOTES**

# Vision, Calling & Strategy

## The Great Commission

### Curriculum Questions:

- How does our church practically make disciples (not just attendees)?
- What does obedience to the Great Commission look like locally vs globally?
- How will we measure disciple-making effectiveness?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[What is the Great Commission? \(GotQuestions.org 5 Minute Video\)](#)

[The Great Commission Allister Begg \(45 minute video\)](#)

[What is the Great Commission \(Radical with David Platt – article\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[“The Great Commission Through Church Planting” Mark Devers Nine Marks](#)

[“Evangelism and the Great Commission” Shane Pruitt](#)

[‘How to Become and Evangelist: Billy Graham School of Evangelism’ Online Course](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Vision, Calling & Strategy

## Success Defined

### Curriculum Questions:

- What does success look like beyond attendance and giving?
- What are unhealthy definitions of success we need to reject?
- How will we celebrate spiritual growth?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[What is Success in Ministry? \(one minute video with promo\)](#)

[Podcast Discussion What is Success in Ministry? \(55 minute video podcast\)](#)

[How Do We Define Success in Ministry? \(Outreach Magazine Article\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘Measure What Mattes Course’ Dave Ferguson President of Exponential](#)

[‘Biblical Metrics of a Successful Ministry’ \(Cornerstone Bible College\)](#)


[‘What Does it Mean to Be Successful in Ministry?’ \(Pastors.com\)](#)

**NOTES**

## Leadership & Team Development

**Purpose:** Build healthy, scalable leadership

- Building a Team
- Volunteers
- Elders, Deacons, and Staff
- Boards
- Job Description
- Assessments, Training, Coaching
- Bi-Co-Vocational

 **Outcome:** A leadership structure that multiplies, not bottleneck

**NOTES**

# Leadership & Team Development

## Building a Team

### Curriculum Questions:

- Who are the first 5-10 people we need and why?
- What qualities matter more than skills at this stage?
- How will we build trust and unity early?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[‘Eight Values of Teamwork’ \(Saddleback Article\)](#)

[‘Becoming a High Performance Church Team’ \(Malphurs Group\)](#)

[‘Leadership Team and Vision Fulfillment’ \(Church of God in Christ\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘Developing Leaders in the Church’ Eric Geiger \(5 Lesson Course RightNow Pastors\)](#)

[‘What Makes a Great Team’ \(Pastors.com\)](#)

[‘The Five Dysfunctions of a Team’ Patrick Lencioni](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Leadership & Team Development

## Volunteers

### Curriculum Questions:

- How will we recruit volunteers without burnout?
- How do we move people from attending to serving?
- How will we appreciate and retain volunteers?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[“Building a Thriving Volunteer Culture’ \(Barna\)](#)

[‘Building a Healthy Volunteer Culture’ \(50 minute video\)](#)

[Volunteer Training Essentials \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[The Volunteer Playbook – Nick Blevins](#)

[Ministry Grid Training](#)

[‘Sticky Teams’ Larry Osbourne \(Book Amazon\)](#)

NOTES

# Leadership & Team Development

## Elders, Deacons, and Staff

### Curriculum Questions:

- What biblical qualifications are non-negotiable?
- When is the right time to appoint leaders?
- How will accountability and authority function?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[“Paul’s Vision for Deacons \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[What Is Biblical Church Leadership? \(Ligonier Ministries – YouTube\)](#)

Biblical Eldership – What Is an Elder? (9Marks)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[9Marks Church Leadership Resources](#)

[Acts 29 Leadership & Ecclesiology Resources](#)

[‘Paul’s Vision for the Deacons \(Gospel Coalition\)](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Leadership & Team Development

## Boards

### Curriculum Questions:

- What role will the board actually play?
- How do we prevent micromanagement or disengagement?
- What governance structure fits our church?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[‘Church and Ministry Board Series’ StartCHURCH \(is a company\)](#)

[Church Governance Explained \(9Marks\)](https://www.9marks.org/article/church-governance/) <https://www.9marks.org/article/church-governance/>  
[The Role of Church Boards](#) (ChurchLeaders)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Church Governance – 9Marks](https://www.9marks.org) <https://www.9marks.org>  
[The Advantage – Patrick Lencioni](#)  
[Acts 29 Governance Resources](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Leadership & Team Development

## Job Description

### Curriculum Questions:

- What are the top priorities of the lead pastor?
- What should NOT be part of the job description?
- How will expectations be communicated and evaluated?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Pastor Job Description Guide](#) (ChurchLeaders)

[Defining Roles in Ministry \(Acts 29\)](#)

[Church Staff Roles Explained \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘Leadership Lessons from Billy Graham’ \(Christianity Today Institute\)](#)

[Church Staffing Guide](#)

[Acts 29 Staffing Resources](#)

**NOTES**

# Leadership & Team Development

## Assessments, Training, Coaching

### Curriculum Questions:

- How will we identify and develop leaders?
- What training systems will we use?
- Who is coaching the leader?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Church Planter Assessment \(Acts 29\)](#)

[Leadership Development Systems \(Exponential\)](#)

[Leadership Coaching Basics \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Developing Leaders – John Maxwell](#)

[Exponential Training](#)

[SEND Network Coaching](#)

**NOTES**

# Leadership & Team Development

## Bi-Co-Vocational

### Curriculum Questions:

- Is bi-vocational ministry necessary or strategic?
- What are the risks to family and focus?
- How will time and energy be managed?

### Pre-Gathering Wor

[Bi-Vocational Ministry \(SEND Network\)](#)

[Trends in Bi-Vocational and Co-Vocational Ministry](#)

[Bi-Vocational Ministry Explained \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Cutting Edge of the Kingdom: The Necessity of Dynamic Bi-Vocational Ministry](#) (Book Amazon)

SEND Network Training <https://www.namb.net/send-network/>


[Developing Teams in the Bi-vocational Church – Terry Dorsett Workbook](#)

**NOTES**

## Church Life & Ministry

**Purpose:** Shape what the church actually does

- Communion & Worship Services
- Music and Worship
- Sunday School & Youth
- Next Gen
- Follow-up / New Believers / Baptism

 **Outcome:** A clear discipleship and gathering strategy

**NOTES**

# Church Life & Ministry

## Communion & Worship Services

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is the purpose of our gatherings?
- How often will we practice communion and why?
- What should people experience when they attend?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[What Is the Purpose of Corporate Worship? \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[Why Do We Take Communion? \(Ligonier Ministries\)](#)

[What Makes a Worship Service Meaningful?](#)

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**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Worship Matters – Bob Kauflin](#) (Book)

[Christ-Centered Worship – Bryan Chapell](#)

[Planning Center Services \(Worship Planning Tool\)](#)

**NOTES**

# Church Life & Ministry

## Music and Worship

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is our philosophy of worship (style vs substance)?
- How do we avoid performance-driven worship?
- How will we develop worship leaders?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Sample 'Order of Worship' Worksheet](#)

[The Heart of Worship \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[How to Lead Worship \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Worship Online Resources](#)

[Song Select Worship Songs](#)

[Free Worship Resources from Life Church](#)

**NOTES**

# Church Life & Ministry

## Sunday School & Youth

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is our approach to teaching across age groups?
- How will we disciple children and teens intentionally?
- Who is responsible for next-gen leadership?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Child Safety Worksheet](#)

[How to Start A Children's Ministry in Five Steps \(24 minute video\)](#)

[Voddie Bauchan on Youth and Children's Ministry](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Why Kids Ministry Matters \(Lifeway\)](#)

[Youth Ministry Philosophy \(Fuller Youth Institute\)](#)

[Orange Curriculum](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Church Life & Ministry

## Next Gen

### Curriculum Questions:

- How are we investing in future leaders now?
- What does long-term discipleship look like for young people?
- How do we partner with parents?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Why the Next Generation Matters \(Barna\)](#)

[Discipling the Next Generation \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[Why Gen Z is Flocking Back to Church \(The Atlantic\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Christianity Today: Next Gen Initiative](#)

[Gen Z is Redefining Ministry](#)

[Billy Graham Strategies for Gen Z](#)

**NOTES**

# Church Life & Ministry

## Follow-up / New Believers / Baptism

### Curriculum Questions:

- What happens within 48 hours of a new visitor?
- How do we move someone from decision to disciple?
- What is our process for baptism?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[How to Follow Up with New Believers \(Lifeway\)](#)

[Why Baptism Matters \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[Assimilation Systems in Churches \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Church Community Builder](#)

[Follow-up Materials from CRU](#)


[Billy Graham Follow-up Materials](#)

NOTES

## Outreach, Growth & First Impressions

**Purpose:** Reach people and help them stay

- Evangelism
- Visitors / First Impressions

 **Outcome:** A repeatable system for reaching and integrating new people

NOTES

# Outreach, Growth & First Impressions

## Evangelism

### Curriculum Questions:

- What does evangelism look like in our context?
- How do we equip people to share their faith?
- How will we create a culture of outreach?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Creating a Culture of Evangelism \(Acts 29\)](#)

[Ways to Encourage Evangelism \(Lifeway\)](#)

[Evangelism Training \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Greeter Training Manual \(Life Church\)](#)

[Alpha Course](#)

[Evangelism Training Classes](#)

NOTES

# Outreach, Growth & First Impressions

## Visitors / First Impressions

### Curriculum Questions:

- What does a first-time guest experience from start to finish?
- Where are potential friction points?
- How will we make people feel known quickly?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[First Impressions Matter in Church](#)

[Hospitality in the Church \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[Guest Experience Training \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Greeter Training Guide \(Life Church\)](#)

['Greeters and Guest Services: Four Part Training' \(Life Church\)](#)


[Fusion: Turning Guests into Members](#)

**NOTES**

## Pastoral Care & People

**Purpose:** Shepherd people through real life

- Counseling
- Hospital Visits
- Funerals, Weddings

 **Outcome:** Confidence in handling key pastoral moments

**NOTES**

# Pastoral Care & People

## Counseling

### Curriculum Questions:

- What issues are we equipped to handle vs refer out?
- How do we maintain healthy boundaries?
- What biblical framework guides our counseling?
- What about 'The Recovery Movement'?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[What Is Biblical Counseling?](#) (CCEF)

[The Pastor as Counselor \(The Gospel Coalition\)](#)

[Biblical Counseling Basics \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands](#) – Paul Tripp

[Self-Confrontation Manual](#)

[CCEF Counseling Courses](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Pastoral Care & People

## Hospital Visits

### Curriculum Questions:

- Who is responsible for care in emergencies?
- How quickly should response happen?
- What does meaningful presence look like?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Pastoral Care in Crisis \(Ligonier\)](#)

[The Ministry of Presence \(Desiring God\)](#)

[Hospital Ministry Training \(YouTube\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Pastoral Care – Gregory the Great](#) (Old Advice from a Pope)

[Multi-Faith Chaplaincy](#)

[Stephen Ministry Training](#)

<https://www.stephenministries.org/>

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Pastoral Care & People

## Funerals, Weddings

### Curriculum Questions:

- What policies will we set ahead of time?
- How do we balance pastoral care with time constraints?
- What theological convictions guide these events?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[‘On Funerals’ — 9Marks Podcast](#)

[‘On Weddings’ — 9Marks Podcast](#)

[‘Funerals’ — The Everyday Pastor Video](#)

**Homework:** How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?

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### Resources

[Pastor’s Handbook: Weddings and Funerals](#)

[The Pastor’s Book — R. Kent Hughes](#)


[Minister’s Service Manual](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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## Spiritual Health & Character

**Purpose:** Protect the leader and the church spiritually

- Family / Sabbath
- Time Management
- The Opposite Sex & Moral Purity
- Spiritual Warfare is Real

 **Outcome:** Sustainable, spiritually healthy leadership

**NOTES**

# Spiritual Health & Character

## Family / Sabbath

### Curriculum Questions:

- What does a healthy Sabbath look like for us?
- How will we protect family time?
- What warning signs indicate imbalance?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

['Why Taking a Sabbath is Hard for Pastors' \(Lifeway Video 3 minutes\)](#)

['The Sabbath is God's Gift – Even to Pastors' \(Gospel Coalition 3 minute video\)](#)

['Should a Pastor Continue in Ministry if he has unbelieving Children? \(John Piper 4 minute video\)](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[The Pastor's Family \(Book\)](#)

['When Role Eats Soul. Needs of the Pastor's Family' \(Fuller Studio article\)](#)

['Taking a Sabbatical' \(Building Church Leaders Course\)](#)

**NOTES**

# Spiritual Health & Character

## Time Management

### Curriculum Questions:

- What are the highest-value activities for a church planter?
- What should be delegated or eliminated?
- How do we avoid constant urgency?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Time Management for Planters](#)

[Managing Your Time as a Covocational Church Planter](#)

[3 Simple Time Management Tips for Pastors](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Redeeming Your Time — Jordan Raynor](#)

[What's Best Next — Matt Perman](#)

[New Churches — Bivocational Ministry Course](#)

NOTES

# Spiritual Health & Character

## The Opposite Sex & Moral Purity

### Curriculum Questions:

- What boundaries will we put in place proactively?
- How will accountability be structured?
- What situations should always be avoided?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[The Billy Graham Rule](#)

[Moral Failure in Ministry](#)

[How Can Pastors Guard Themselves Against Sexual Sin?](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Sex and the Supremacy of Christ — John Piper and Justin Taylor](#)

[Dangerous Calling — Paul David Tripp](#)

[Covenant Eyes — Church Resources](#)

NOTES

# Spiritual Health & Character

## Spiritual Warfare is Real

### Curriculum Questions:

- How do we recognize spiritual opposition?
- What role do prayer and fasting play?
- How do we lead others spiritually in this area?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Spiritual Warfare in the Christian Life](#)

[How Should Christians Think About Spiritual Warfare?](#)

[Spiritual Warfare and the Armor of God](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[The Screwtape Letters — C. S. Lewis](#)

[Spiritual Warfare — Brian Borgman and Rob Ventura](#)

[Praying the Bible — Donald Whitney](#)

NOTES

## Conflict & Relational Health

**Purpose:** Handle tension before it breaks the church

- Conflict
- Forgiveness & Offense

 **Outcome:** Tools for navigating difficult people and situations

NOTES

# Conflict & Relational Health

## Conflict

### Curriculum Questions:

- How do we address issues early instead of avoiding them?
- What is our biblical process for conflict resolution?
- How do we lead through criticism?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Conflict Resolution in Ministry: Run to the Pain](#)

[How Should You Make Peace?](#)

[Biblical Peacemaking Toolbox](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[The Peacemaker — Ken Sande](#)

[Peacemaker Ministries](#)

[Relational Wisdom 360 — Peacemaking](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Conflict & Relational Health

## Forgiveness & Offense

### Curriculum Questions:

- How do we cultivate a culture of forgiveness?
- What offenses are most likely in a church plant?
- How do we prevent bitterness from spreading?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Forgiveness and Reconciliation](#)

[How to Forgive Someone Who Has Hurt You](#)

[Overcoming Bitterness](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Unpacking Forgiveness — Chris Brauns](#)

[Breaking Free From the Spirit of Offense – Terry Dorsett](#)

[Peacemaker Ministries](#)


**NOTES**



## Administration, Legal & Financial Systems

**Purpose:** Build a church that is structured and sustainable

- Legal Stuff, Taxes, Incorporation
- Statement of Faith / By-Laws
- Denominational / Network Relationships
- Money

 **Outcome:** A church that is legally sound and financially responsible

NOTES

# Administration, Legal & Financial Systems

## Legal Stuff, Taxes, Incorporation

### Curriculum Questions:

- What legal steps are required to start?
- Who is helping us navigate this?
- What risks exist if we ignore this?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[How to Start a Church](#)

[Church Incorporation](#)

[Churches and Religious Organizations — IRS](#)

**Homework:** How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?

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### Resources

[StartCHURCH](#)

[Church Law & Tax](#)

[Church Administration Handbook](#)

NOTES

# Administration, Legal & Financial Systems

## Statement of Faith / By-Laws

### Curriculum Questions:

- What beliefs are essential vs secondary?
- How detailed should our by-laws be?
- How often should these be reviewed?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[What Should Be in a Church Constitution?](#)

[Church Bylaws: What They Are and Why They Matter](#)

[Why Every Church Needs Clear Doctrine](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Baptist Faith and Message](#)

[EFCA Statement of Faith](#)

[Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa Statement of Faith](#)

**NOTES**

# Administration, Legal & Financial Systems

## Denominational / Network Relationships

### Curriculum Questions:

- What support does a network provide?
- What expectations come with it?
- How aligned are we doctrinally and missionally?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Why Church Planting Networks Matter](#)

[Cultivate Calvary Chapel Church Planting Network](#)

[SEND Network — Church Planting](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Acts 29 Church Planting](#)

[SEND Network Training](#)

[Center Church — Tim Keller](#)

NOTES

# Administration, Legal & Financial Systems

## Money

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is our initial budget?
- How will we fund the church early on?
- What financial safeguards are in place?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[‘Proven Money Principles’ Dave Ramsey @ Seacoast Church](#)

[‘Importance of Understanding Financial Reports’ \(StartCHURCH 6 minute video\)](#)

[‘Salaries for Pastors’ John Piper](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘Dynamics of Church Finance’ James Berkley and Warren Wiersbe](#)

[Church Finance — Michael E. Batts](#)


[Church Law & Tax — Finance Resources](#)

**NOTES**

## Facilities & Physical Space

**Purpose:** Think strategically about space from day one

- Facilities (Launch)
- Facilities (Long-Term)

 **Outcome:** Wise decisions about space without overextending early

NOTES

## Facilities & Physical Space

### Facilities (Launch)

#### Curriculum Questions:

- Will we be portable or permanent?
- What are the cost vs flexibility tradeoffs?
- What space best fits our current size?

#### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Portable Church Industries — Launch Resources](#)

[Finding a Meeting Place for Your Church Plant](#)

[Church Planting Facilities](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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#### Resources

[Portable Church Industries](#)

[Church Facility Solutions](#)

[When Not to Build — Ray Bowman](#)

NOTES

# Facilities & Physical Space

## Facilities (Long-Term)

### Curriculum Questions:

- When is it time to secure a permanent space?
- What financial risks are acceptable?
- How do we avoid overbuilding too soon?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Planning and Building Church Facilities](#)

[Church Building Projects and Stewardship](#)

[Should Your Church Build?](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[‘Planning and Building Church Facilities’](#)

[Church Building Guidelines](#)


[Building Church Leaders — Facilities Resources](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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## Communication, Technology & Tools

**Purpose:** Leverage modern tools effectively

- Websites, A.I. & Technology
- Online Presence & Branding
- Livestream / Digital Ministry
- Church Management & Communication Tools

 **Outcome:** A church that communicates clearly and uses tools wisely

**NOTES**

# Communication, Technology & Tools

## Websites, A.I. & Technology

### Curriculum Questions:

- What is our digital front door?
- How will we use technology without depending on it?
- What tools actually help vs distract?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

- [The Church and Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [How Churches Should Think About AI](#)
- [Your Church Website Is Your Front Door](#)

**Homework:** How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?

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### Resources

- [The AI and the Church — Jason Moore](#)
- [Church Communications](#)
- [Pro Church Tools](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Communication, Technology & Tools

## Online Presence & Branding

### Curriculum Questions:

- What message does our online presence communicate?
- Is our branding clear and consistent?
- How do people find us?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Church Branding Basics](#)

[How to Improve Your Church Website](#)

[Church Communication Strategy](#)

**Homework:** How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?

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### Resources

[Building a StoryBrand — Donald Miller](#)

[Church Communications](#)

[Pro Church Tools](#)

<h2>NOTES</h2>
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# Communication, Technology & Tools

## Livestream / Digital Ministry

### Curriculum Questions:

- Who are we trying to reach online?
- How does online ministry connect to in-person discipleship?
- What level of quality is necessary?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Church Online Platform](#)

[Live Streaming for Churches](#)

[Digital Ministry and Discipleship](#)

**Homework:** How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?

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### Resources

[Church Online Platform — Life.Church](#)

[Church Production Magazine](#)

[From Social Media to Social Ministry](#)

NOTES

# Communication, Technology & Tools

## Church Management & Communication Tools

### Curriculum Questions:

- What systems will track people and engagement?
- How will we communicate with our church regularly?
- What processes need automation?

### Pre-Gathering Work:

[Technology Team Training — Life.Church](#)

[Choosing Church Management Software](#)

[Church Communication Tools](#)

**Homework: How does this apply to my situation right now. What are my next steps?**

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### Resources

[Planning Center](#)

[ChurchTrac](#)

[Church Communications](#)

**NOTES**