



**Church Planting  
Teaching Notes**

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## Lesson 1 – What Is Church Planting?

This course is designed to train students in the strategies and practical ministry skills involved with planting new churches. Students were introduced to several ministry tools that are useful in the process of church planting during the 4 Fields course in Term 1. In this course they will be given the opportunity to practice several of these ministry skills and tools associated with the 4 Fields. Each day during this course will examine or practice a different aspect of ministry related to the work of planting a new church. Day 1 reviews the 4 Fields ministry model and encourages to students to begin thinking about how the 4 Fields helps in the work of planting a church. Days 2-4 allow students to practice important ministry skills that are part of the church planting process. Day 5 is the final ministry project for the course. Details and instructions are provided in the notes for Lesson 5 below.

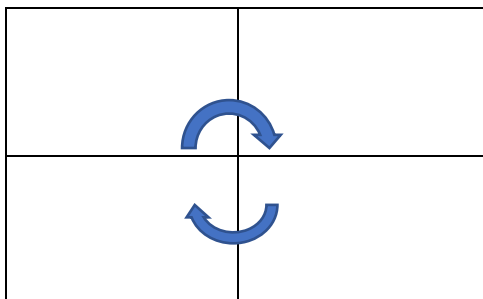
In today's lesson, we will review the basics of the 4 Fields and begin thinking about how this teaching helps us in the ministry of planting new churches.

### Part 1 – Review of the 4 Fields

*Note: This section is copied from lesson 1 of the 4 Fields course taught in Term 1. Use this time to remind students of the different fields and how they work together to help us plant healthy and biblical churches.*

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33, “to seek first the Kingdom of God...” In many of His parables Jesus begins with, “the Kingdom of God/Heaven is like...” As it relates to specific Kingdom ministries, Mark 4:26-29 gives us the foundation for the four fields.

Have someone read Mark 4:26-29 and if possible, draw the diagram outline of the four boxes on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or large piece of paper and leave them blank.

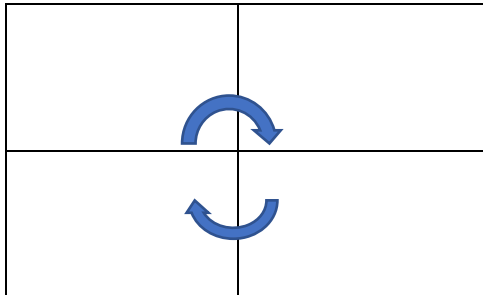


**Field 1** Begin talking about the farmer and ask the students to name in the elements Jesus brings out in this story. As they mention spreading seed, or the seed grows, etc, mention that Field 1 is something that is assumed in the parable. Ask what does the farmer have to do to the field before he spreads seed? He has to prepare the field and the soil. Remove the rocks, till the land, remove seeds, perhaps fertilize. We call this field ENTRY. The farmer goes in to prepare the field and the Kingdom worker enters new territory to prepare it spiritually.

So, Field 1 is assumed and something we need to read into. Before the farmer sows the seed, he prepares the soil.

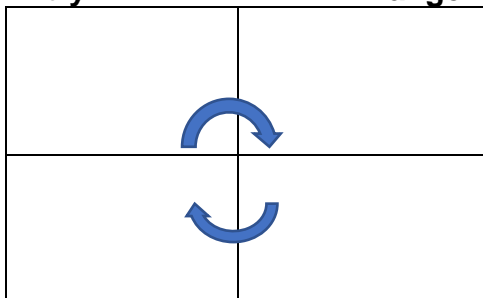
This is our **Entry** strategy. (Entry on the top of the first box) In this field, we have a double meaning: The farmer must prepare him/herself and he/she must prepare the soil of the hearts of those with whom he/she will share the gospel.

**ENTRY**



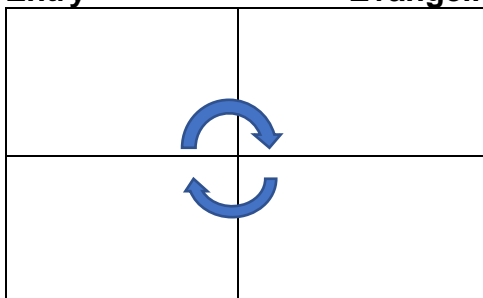
**Field 2** (v.26-27) – is sowing the seed. The farmer is spreading as many seed as possible. This field is where we **Share the Gospel**. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible. We never know which person (seed) will take root and grow. So, we share with as many as possible, looking for that good seed to take root. As we share, we will get three responses: Red Light (not interested, resistant), Yellow Light (I’m not ready but I would like to hear more), Green Light (I want to become a follower of Jesus Christ). We will talk more about this later. (Write Evangelism on the next box and tap dots all in the box)

**Entry** **Evangelism**



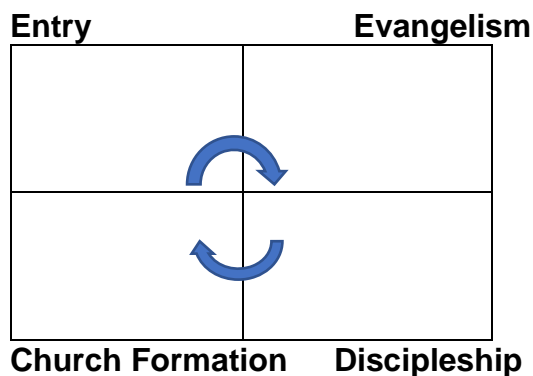
**Field 3** (v.28)– At the harvest we start gathering the bundles. This field is **Discipleship**. Those who were green lights and became followers of Jesus, we train them to become disciples of Jesus who make disciples. We teach the new or inactive disciple how to obey everything Jesus teaches us. (Write discipleship on the third box and draw some bundles like the picture)

**Entry** **Evangelism**



**Discipleship**

**Field 4 (v.29)** – In Field 4 we gather the bundles and harvest them to eat and store them for food. Field 4 is where we gather disciples in **Groups or New Churches**. This is a group/church formation phase that we hope just continues to multiply. We gather the followers of Jesus into small groups that typically meet in homes or other spaces. They continue to disciple one another and obey Jesus. The characteristics of the group continue to develop as they begin to reflect the first church in Acts 2:42-47. (Write Church Formation on the fourth box and draw one big bundle of wheat like the picture provided)



**Leadership Development & Multiplication** – The last piece of the diagram is Leadership Development. We must continue to raise up new believers and train them to keep the process going and multiplying the Kingdom of God. Raising up mature leaders in our congregation as well as sending out those who feel called to plant new churches or become missionaries to other people groups. (Write Leadership Development between the arrows on the diagram)

This is the outline for time together and the basic elements of the Four Fields of Kingdom Growth. However, before we move into the Four Fields and what we should DO, we need to spend a moment on what we should BE. As we said in Field 1, Entry, preparation has a double meaning. The Farmer, or Kingdom worker, must prepare his/her own heart before they are ready to go into the field and begin the work. It is not a one-time preparation, but it must be the lifestyle or discipline of the Kingdom worker. Jesus calls that Abiding in Christ.

## Part 2 – Biblical and Theological Foundation for Planting Churches

### 1. The Heart of God - 1 Timothy 2:1-7; 2 Peter 3:8-9 (read these verses)

Let's begin by looking at the heart of God. In 1 Tim. 2:1-7 we see that Paul is writing to Timothy and says specifically in V.4 that "God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God's heart is that all become saved. In V.5-6 we see that the God has given all mankind one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ who is a ransom for all people.

In 2 Peter 3:8-9, Peter tells us that God is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

It is God's heart and desire that everyone be saved and come to know Him. He desires that no one should perish, but that all come to repentance by faith in Christ Jesus alone.

**2. The Passion of Paul** – Acts 20:17-24; Acts 21:7-14 (read these verses)

In these two biblical accounts of Paul's suffering and pain we see the passion of a man

who was committed, dedicated, and loved his Lord more than anything else. What makes a man go through what Paul went through? Paul had a passionate commitment to a target. Paul was dialed in and had his eyes on the salvation of people. Paul is the first missionary and models a passion and commitment to make disciples, no matter the cost.

**3. The Parable of the Net** – Matthew 13:47-50 (read)

The Parable of the Net shows us how to look at all people from heaven's eyes. We don't focus on their outward appearance, but we focus on their heart condition. In the parable there are every kind of fish. Those fish represent people of all nations, tribes, tongues, men, women, people groups of all kind. But with all the different kinds of fish/people, there are only two categories: good/bad; righteous/wicked; saved/lost. So, Jesus is teaching us to see every person on earth as either saved or lost; righteous or wicked, on their way to heaven or hell. If they are lost we share the gospel, **evangelize**. If they are saved we train them, disciple them, or **enlist** them.

### **Part 3 – Review and Discussion**

1. Can someone retell the parable of the Four Fields?
2. What are the Four Fields of Kingdom Growth?
3. Why is Leadership Development such an important part?
4. Which part(s) of the Biblical and Theological foundation for church planting is motivating or encouraging to you? Why?
5. Discuss: If you were asked to begin the work of planting a new church today, what would you do first? Who would you include in this ministry? Where would you choose to plant a church? Why would you do these things?

## Lesson 2 – Prayer Walking

Lessons 2-4 require students to practice some of the basic ministry skills that are often used in church planting ministry. In this lesson, students will prayer walk through the community where your Bible School is located. Prayer walking is one of the simplest and most God-centered activities we can do as we begin preparing ourselves for the work of starting a new church.

### Part 1 – Daily Introduction and Preparation (30 Minutes)

- **Definition** – Review the important ideas that students learned about prayer walking during the 4 Fields course earlier this year in term 1. Prayer Walking through new areas, villages, and communities are very important. We can go two by two or in small groups in our new territory, village, neighborhood. We might do research on the history of the area and find out if there are specific strongholds, lies, false beliefs, etc., that have been barriers to Christianity taking root or growing so we know how to specifically pray. One way to prayer walk is to pray Scriptures as we walk around an area.
- **Explanation** – What are the challenges or difficulties that one might experience when Prayer Walking?
  1. Remind students that we are going out to pray FOR people and communities, not to pray AGAINST anything at this time.
  2. Encourage students to carry specific verses of Scripture to use in their prayers as they walk.
  3. Help students to notice signs of spiritual need in the area. Are there other churches? Are there cults? Are there signs of traditional religion or other spiritual practices? Are there signs of immorality or darkness in the community?
  4. Remind students that today's exercise is only to walk and pray. We will engage people later.
  5. Remind students that this act of prayer is a private prayer between the student and the Lord. This is not the time for loud shouting, declarations, or other actions that draw the attention of others in the area.
- **Review** – Allow the students a few minutes to review their plan for the prayer walk and which areas they will cover.

### Part 2 – Practice (60 minutes)

Instruct students to find a partner and go into the streets as a pair to practice Prayer Walking.

- Give the class one hour to go out. Everyone will return at the end of one hour to discuss their experiences.
- Students should remain with their partner the entire time they are out. (Remember, Jesus sent his disciples out two by two.)

### **Part 3 – Sharing and Review (30 minutes)**

During the final portion of class, students will share with one another about their experience in Prayer Walking as they went out. Instruct each pair of students to answer the following questions and allow others in the class to ask for clarification or give encouragement as they share.

- Where did you go?
- What did you find challenging or difficult today?
- What did you notice about the spiritual condition of the area?
- Did you experience any surprises or unexpected situations?

## Lesson 3 – Care Through Prayer

Lesson 3 is an opportunity for students to practice another powerful ministry tool that is useful during the entry phase of church planting. Care through Prayer goes one step beyond simple prayer walking and allows the students to engage neighbors in conversation. By showing the care and concern for the problems people are facing, then praying for the Lord to meet these needs, students are able to understand their community more deeply and to begin building relationships with those who live in the area.

### Part 1 – Daily Introduction and Preparation (30 Minutes)

- **Definition** – Review the key steps in Care Through Prayer. Be sure that students are clear about exactly why they are doing this exercise and what they are expected to do (and not do) while they are out.

Our goal is to care for people in their brokenness. Caring for people is a great way to gain a safe connection. One of the best ways to care for people is to pray for them. We are going to begin conversation with someone and listen for opportunities to care. We are going to engage in normal conversation, listening to their story, and listening for places of brokenness, hurt, or need. Anything that is not going well, places of pain, or discomfort in their life is an opportunity to care through prayer. Example: Someone says their child is sick, or they are out of work, etc. When we hear an opportunity to care through prayer we say,

- *“I am sorry you are going through this. Could I pray and ask God to help you with that?”* A quick prayer, just a few sentences. *“Father I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ and I ask you to give her strength as she cares for her son and I pray that you would heal him. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*
  - After this prayer, there may be a great opportunity to continue having a spiritual conversation and share the gospel or share your testimony of a time when something similar happened to you and God helped you through it.
  - We can also go door to door if that is possible or simply walk around a city or village looking to have conversations with people. When we find people to talk to we simply say: *“Hello, I am \_\_\_\_\_, this is \_\_\_\_\_.* We are going around caring for our community by praying. *Is there anything we can ask God to help you with?”* Then simply pray a short prayer asking God to help them with their need.
  - Care through Prayer is a powerful and proven way to safely connect with people and show them that we care and that God cares. It creates an opportunity to have spiritual conversations, share our testimony, or share the gospel. Care through Prayer should be a daily part of the Disciples life. You can do it almost anywhere.
- **Explanation** – What are the challenges or difficulties that one might experience when practicing Care Through Prayer?



1. Instruct students to match with the same partner from their prayer walking exercise in lesson one. They should walk through the same area that they prayer walked for this assignment.
  2. Encourage students to be friendly and model kindness as they engage different people in the areas they are walking.
  3. Instruct students that they should be careful not to make any promises to people as they are walking and praying.
  4. Advise students that they are encouraged to share the gospel if the opportunity arises as they are praying for people in their area.
  5. Remind students that as they go and pray for different people, they should always point others to put their hope and trust in Jesus rather than in themselves or any other person.
- **Review** – Allow the students a few minutes to review their plan for Care Through Prayer.

## **Part 2 – Practice (60 minutes)**

Instruct students to find a partner and go into the streets as a pair to practice Care Through Prayer.

- Give the class one hour to go out and share. Everyone will return at the end of one hour to discuss their experiences.
- Students should remain with their partner the entire time they are out. (Remember, Jesus sent his disciples out two by two.)
- Each pair of students should share stop to pray for at least two different individuals (each person should share at least once).
- The person who is not praying aloud should stand quietly beside and pray for their partner as they are talking.

## **Part 3 – Sharing and Review (30 minutes)**

During the final portion of class, students will share with one another about their experience in sharing the gospel as they went out. Instruct each pair of students to answer the following questions and allow others in the class to ask for clarification or give encouragement as they share.

- Where did you go?
- How many people did you pray for?
- What did people ask you to pray about?
- How did people respond when you asked to pray for them?
- What did you learn about the spiritual condition of the people and the community through this experience?
- Did you have any opportunities to share the gospel while you were out? Tell us about that.

## Lesson 4 – OIL Bible Study Discipleship

Prayer Walking and Care through Prayer are great tools to use during Field 1 – Entry of the church planting process. Also, students learned several tools to use for sharing the gospel during their Evangelism course in the previous term. But for those who will be planting churches, helping new believers grow into mature disciples of Jesus Christ is an extremely important ministry as well. In this lesson, students will practice using the OIL Bible Study method that was introduced during the 4 Fields course. This is a powerful tool that will help pastors and church leaders guide new believers and church members into a meaningful study of the Word of God that will help them grow strong in their faith as they worship the Lord and serve him together.

### Part 1 – Daily Introduction and Preparation (30 Minutes)

- **Definition** – Review the key steps in OIL Bible study method. Use Handout 1 to assist the students in remembering the steps in the Bible Study and to find questions that will help them with each part of the study.

We can practice long-term discipleship with any new believers or church members with this tool, OIL. We can pick any book of the Bible and have our disciple read sections and use these three questions. They should get a notebook and write the answers to these questions. Then you can meet with them each week to discuss what the Holy Spirit is teaching and help guide them to the truth.

- **Explanation** – What are the challenges or difficulties that one might experience when using the OIL Bible study method?
  1. Instruct students that they should be careful to make sure that all answers given to questions should come directly from the verses they are studying.
  2. Caution students to keep the focus on studying what the Bible says and what it means first. Application comes last in this method, but many people want to start with, “What does this verse mean to me?”
  3. Encourage students to consider how to apply the truths learned at the community level, not just as an individual. What would it look like if WE – our whole family or our whole church – obeyed what is taught in these verses?
- **Review** – Allow the students a few minutes to review the basic plan of OIL Bible study and how they will teach it.

### Part 2 – Practice (60 minutes)

Instruct students to gather into groups of three for this exercise.

- Each group should be given a passage of verses from the book of Mark to study. (Recommended passages: Mark 4:35-41; Mark 5:1-20; Mark 6:30-44; Mark 6:45-52)

- Allow students 30 minutes to study their assigned passage and make notes about questions and answers related to the three steps in the OIL Bible study method
- Students will take turn leading a Bible study with their two partners. Each student teaches for 10 minutes, then the next student teaches for 10 minutes until all three have had a turn to teach.
- The two students who are not sharing should listen carefully and respond to the teaching of the other one.

### **Part 3 – Sharing and Review (30 minutes)**

During the final portion of class, students will share with one another about their experience in using the OIL Bible study method to teach within their groups. Instruct a spokesperson from each group to explain the following and allow others in the class to ask for clarification or give encouragement as they share.

- Which passage did you study and teach?
- What did you find interesting in the Observation section?
- What did you learn in Interpretation section?
- What points of application did you find for individuals or for groups (families or churches) from this passage?
- What was difficult or challenging in this process for you?
- What did you find easy or enjoyable?

## Lesson 5

# Church Planting Final Group Project

The final lesson of this course is a group project that allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how to plan for starting a new church. In this project, students will be expected to work together to form a clear plan that a church planter and his team could follow to help them start a new church. Begin by dividing the class into 2-4 group (at least 3 students in each group). Instruct each group that their assignment is to develop a clear plan for starting a new church in a nearby community, town, or village that is need of a healthy, Bible-believing church. Students should consider everything they have learned in the 4 Fields course as well as the practical ministry tools they have learned in this course and the Evangelism course. Each group should write a report for their plan and present the report to the full class at the end of this lesson. Each group's plan should answer the following questions:

- **General Questions**
  - Which community, town, or village did you choose for your church planting project?
  - Why did you select this area? What churches or ministries are active in this area now?
  - Which church or churches would ask to join or support this church planting project?
  - Who do you need to talk to so that you can get permission and support to plant this new church?
- **Field 1 – Entry**
  - Which ministry tools would you use to gain entry and begin building relationships in the place your church will be planted?
  - Why did you select these ministry tools?
  - Are there any tools for Entry that you believe would not be useful in this project? Why?
- **Field 2 – Evangelism**
  - Which evangelism tools that you learned through 4 Fields and the Evangelism class would you use to share the gospel in the area where your new church is to be planted?
  - Why did you select these evangelism tools?
  - Are there any tools for Evangelism that you believe would not be useful in this area? Why?
- **Field 3 – Discipleship**
  - Which ministry tools for short-term discipleship and long-term discipleship would you use to begin teaching new Christians and church members to grow in their faith and become mature disciples of Jesus Christ?
  - Why did you select these discipleship tools?
  - Are there any tools for Discipleship that you believe would not be useful in this area? Why?

- **Field 4 – Group Formation**

- What is your plan for organizing new believers into groups for ongoing Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and worship?
- Who will lead these new groups?
- What will they study?
- Where will they meet and how often?
- When will you expect the group to become an official church?
- How will you explain to this group how to become a healthy local church?

Allow groups to work on their plan for 60-90 minutes. At the end of this time, each group should select a spokesperson to present their plan to the rest of the class. These presentations should take 5-10 minutes each. Allow other students in the class to ask questions for clarification or to offer suggestions for improvement at the end of each presentation.

**How to grade the group project:**

After giving the students full instructions, watch them closely for the entire time of the project. Try to give as little help as possible, but you can give them a small hint to help them if they get stuck in their planning. You should be able to see that the group has learned the 4 Fields and have a clear understanding of the different ministry tools associated with each phase of the church planting process. Each group should submit their written report to the instructor at the time they give their spoken report to the class.

The group will be graded as a whole with either a 'pass' or 'fail.' If you see that everyone in the group has learned the 4 Fields, understands how to use the different ministry tools appropriately, and shows some ability to make a clear and thoughtful plan for planting a new church, then award them a grade of 'pass' for their work on this project. Remember that the groups only have a short time to work on this project, so the plans may not be very detailed at this time.

## **Handout 1 – OIL Bible Study Method**

### **O - Observation**

The goal in using this study is to first observe what is happening in the passage. To understand the intent and meaning of scripture you must first understand the context that it is being written in. Through the author God has an intentional meaning of what is being said but when read out of context we can miss the meaning or worse, come away with the wrong meaning. Some great questions to ask and seek the answer to in order to understand the context is:

- WHO is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters?
- WHAT is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event, or teaching? What historical time frame is this being spoken in? What type of literature is being written here (historical narrative, poetic, prophetic, allegorical, wisdom literature)?
- WHEN do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone?
- WHERE did or will this happen? Where was it said?
- WHY is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time and/or to this person/people?
- HOW will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

### **I - Interpretation**

Second, once you have gotten a thorough scope of the context of what you are reading it is time to make sense of it all. This is the interpretation phase of the study. You want to ask questions like:

- Why is the author writing this particular passage?
- What sinful, broken or fallen condition is being addressed or corrected by this passage?
- What deeper sin or heart issues are being exposed or corrected?
- How does this passage point to God's character and Glory?
- How do we see God's redemptive plan (gospel) being worked out in the people's lives?

### **L – Life Application**

Third, the last step of the study is to put it all together and understand how it applies to your life right now. Some questions to ask when you are meditating and seeking what God is saying to you are:

- In what ways am I looking to find hope and fulfillment in things besides you, Lord?
- In what ways am I seeking to earn your favor rather than live by grace?
- What do my actions suggest that I'm wrongly believing about your character, our relationship, and what you've said in your Word?
- In what am I making my treasure (looking to for my worth, identity and joy) other than Christ?
- What old sinful thoughts and beliefs am I trusting in and need to repent of?
- What new thoughts and beliefs should I trust in and walk in according to my reading today?