

Discipleship and Church Planting

YouTube ⇒ Nuggetnoggin - treasure seeker - metal detecting
 - finds foundations + tries to figure out what was there

Acts 13 ESV

¹ Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

- In, Cyprus, they run into a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. When the Roman governor in the area asks Saul and Barnabas to come chat with him about Jesus, Bar-Jesus tells the governor that they're just spewing lies. Saul (who, did we mention, is better known as Paul?) tells Bar-Jesus that he's a terrible, awful, no good guy and that he's going to be blind for a while. It matches his spiritual blindness.

¹² Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

- Paul and friends leave Cyprus and head to Galatia where they head straight for the synagogue. The religious officials there invite them to speak. Paul stands up and gives a history of the Jewish people leading up to King David. From David, Paul claims, comes Jesus, who is the fulfillment of everything God has ever promised the Jewish people. Paul ends by telling that they can free themselves from sin if they put their faith in Jesus. As Paul and

- he knows, it didn't happen by chance - someone put it there - churches all the same - how did they get there? - they were planted

Barnabas are leaving, the people in the synagogue ask them to come back next week to talk some more. Many people start to become followers of Jesus. The following week, almost the entire city turns out to hear Paul preach but a group of Jews aren't so pleased with what's going on and try and refute Paul. Paul and Barnabas tell everyone that the good news about Jesus was passed on to the Jewish people first but since they reject it, God has asked them to move onto the Gentiles.

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

- The naysayers spread rumors about Paul and Barnabas and they're forced to leave town and head for Iconium

Acts 14 ESV

¹ Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

- Paul and Barnabas make some headway getting people to follow Jesus, and then the naysayers start spreading the seeds of doubt. When the naysayers threaten to stone them, Paul and Barnabas get out of Iconium. They head to Lystra, where they meet a man who has never been able to walk and Paul heals him. The people are amazed and decide that Paul and Barnabas must be gods come to Earth and they rush off to the temple to offer a sacrifice to their new gods. Paul and Barnabas tell all the people that they're just regular men and that their job is to tell people about the one

true God, not to become him. Some Jewish naysayers come from Antioch and Iconium to speak against Paul and Barnabas and they get the crowd so worked up that they stone Paul. The stone throwers think Paul is dead and they drag him out of the city and leave him there but when the disciples come to find him, they see that Paul hasn't quite been stoned to death. Paul gets up and walks back into the city. Paul and Barnabas leave and travel around to lots of other places preaching about Jesus and converting Jews and Gentiles alike.

²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

- went out
- preached the gospel
- people are saved
- there were churches

²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, ²⁶ and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. ²⁷ And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸ And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Church planting is the means by which Jesus's disciples corporately accomplish the Great Commission. The Great Commission is the Church's method for accomplishing the Church's mission. Therefore, as a church of Jesus's disciples, we ought to plant churches.

The Disciples' Mission

Before we consider the mission of disciples, we need first to ask ourselves the question, "What is God's mission?" Certainly, our mission must derive itself from God's mission; our mission is secondary whereas God's is primary.

"God's mission is to make himself known to his creation and that this is the driving plan for God's purpose for all of history." Keith Whitfield . *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*

To truly know God is to worship him, to glorify him! If in seeing him you are not willingly compelled to worship him, than you have not seen him accurately.

To know God is to love him – Mac Davis (Irish Rovers): Oh Lord it's hard to be humble/
When you're perfect in every way/I can't wait to look in the mirror/
Cause I get better looking each day/To know me is to love me

Piper: "Missions exist because worship doesn't." Likewise, mission exists because worship doesn't.

God's Mission: Making Himself Known – Biblical survey

- The Exodus: **Exodus 6:7 ESV** I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. **Exodus 9:13-14 ESV** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth."

- David and Goliath: **1 Samuel 17:46 ESV** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,
- New Covenant: **Jeremiah 31:34 ESV** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”
- The Church: **Ephesians 4:11-13 ESV** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

So God's mission is to be known and to be glorified!

“When the church understands that its mission is rooted in God's mission and is captured by the incredible privilege of participating in God's work for his name's sake, we believe the church will be energized and empowered to pursue its spiritual calling and purpose, namely, to make God's name known through making disciples to the ends of the earth (Matt. 28: 18– 20). Keith Whitfield, *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*

God's mission gives birth to the disciples' mission: making disciples, baptizing disciples, teaching disciples. The Great Commission is the marching orders of the church to participate and accomplish God's mission.

As we move now to talk about the methods the disciples use, let's think about why a mission is necessary...for God or for us.

The Disciples' Method \Rightarrow We see this as we consider the question: "Why does God need a mission?"

Original plan: God's people would know him and worship him. But we sinned.

~~GOSPEL~~

Sin happens. Sin necessitates God's mission and our mission. And, because of sin, in some ways, "humanity becomes both object and agent of mission." ... "At every major turning point God uses humanity in his mission to glorify himself through redemption." Doug Coleman, *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 ESV ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

GOSPEL \Rightarrow God-Man-Jesus-Response

God uses us in his mission! And he has given us our methods!

Evangelism, teaching, and baptizing while we are going is how we make disciples.

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God's Mission: His name known and worshipped!
 Disciples Mission: Make known the greatness of God - (know God X worship Him)
 Disciples method: Great Commission - evangelizing, baptizing, teaching as they go

The Disciple's Means ⇒ *Corporately, what do disciples do?*

Case Study: Paul's first missionary journey: Commissioned by the Antioch church, Paul and Barnabas witnessed on the island of Cyprus and in the southern cities of the Roman province of Galatia.

*(Barnabas)
(John)*

We see Paul using the methods of a disciple:

Going:

- **Acts 13:2-4 ESV** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit,
- Cyprus, Galatia, Iconium, Lystra, Antioch

Evangelizing [Baptising]:

- **Acts 13:12 ESV** Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.
- **Acts 13:48-49 ESV** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.
- **Acts 14:1-4 ESV** ¹ Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Teaching:

- **Acts 14:22 ESV strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith**, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

They were fulfilling the great commission!

- **Acts 14:26 ESV** and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been **commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled**

What happened?

Disciples were made, baptized, taught to observe and they were organized into churches: **Acts 14:21-23** ²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. ²³ **And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.**

The biblical pattern of Great Commission discipleship begins with evangelism, baptism, and teaching and continues with the formation of churches filled with disciples who, in turn, endeavour to join God's mission by accomplishing the Great Commission. Connect, Grow, Go.

Application

"The question is not whether God will accomplish his mission. The knowledge of his glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Every tongue, tribe, people and nation will be represented among the redeemed before God's throne. The question is whether we will know the joy of obedience and participation."

Doug Coleman, *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*

Will we know the joy of obedience and participation?

[BAPTIZE]	CONNECT	<u>INDIVIDUAL</u> Be involved (believe)	<u>CORPORATELY</u> Plant Churches
[TEACH]	GROW	Through the WORD	Through the WORD
[GOING]	GO	Evangelism	Plant Churches

- ① Think about church planting
- ② Pray about church planting
- ③ Commit to becoming the most biblical disciple you can be

WORLD RELIEF - empowers the local Church to serve the most vulnerable

- end the cycle of suffering + transform communities