
Basic Training Journey Preparation Guide



North American Mission Board, SBC

Resource Development and Equipping Team

4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022

www.BTJourney.net

Basic Training Journey Overview

Welcome to Basic Training Journey! This is more than just a workshop on how to plant a new church; it is a journey of growing in your faith in Jesus Christ. The journey contains three parts, which when completed will help you to achieve your goal of planting a multiplying church.

Step 1: Preparation Materials for BTJ

The amount of content to be learned in the workshop and the needed effort on your part will be greatly aided by the preparation materials for the upcoming workshop. You should plan thirty days in advance to get ready for your church planting training. Begin by reading this paper and following the guide in learning about Mileposts, developing a Prayer Team, and following a thirty-day prayer guide.

You have also received an electronic copy of *Straight Street, Express Route*; a spiritual preparation guide for BTJ. Read through the Overview and then plan to study two units of *Straight Street* per week for four weeks. The time you spend studying this material will help you to go farther in the BTJ workshop. Working on Vision, Values, and Focus Group is time consuming, and the more time you take to prepare the more you will accomplish. Make your preparation for BTJ a priority and it will pay dividends.

Step 2: The Basic Training Journey Workshop

This workshop contains a total of eighteen hours of training, 50% of which is hands on learning and activities. Come ready to learn and enjoy working with church planting teams and church planting leaders from the host state convention. This will be a great experience. One where God will work to guide and direct you as you move forward to plant a church that plants churches. One of the key ideas we will share is the importance of churches starting churches. A brief schedule for BTJ is on the following page.

Step 3: Follow Up

You will be challenged to connect with a mentor to work with you following the workshop. Look to the leaders of your state convention in the area of church planting to help you in locating a mentor. Finding someone with church planting experience to walk with you on this journey as a mentor will greatly assist you in your journey. Materials for the follow up will be made available following BTJ.

Basic Training Journey Schedule

	<u>FOUNDATIONS</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
	Section 1: (Day 1)		
1.	Biblical Foundations	1.5	Basic Concepts for Understanding Church Planting
2.	Vision	1.5	Developing the Preferred Future for the new church
3.	Core Values	1.5	Why we do what we do
4.	Ministry Area & Focus Group	1.5	Understanding your Target Area and Focus Group
	<u>COMPONENTS</u>		
	Section 2: (Day 2)		
5.	Evangelism Strategy	1	God's Plan for Sharing
6.	Discipleship & Leadership Strategy	1	Discipleship is a process of Developing Leaders
7.	Gathering Strategy	1	Gathering the church is Built on Relationships
8.	Small Group Strategy	1	Small Groups=Accountability=Growth
9.	Stewardship Strategy	1	Helping People Use God's resources wisely
10.	Worship Strategy	1	Understanding the Importance of Worship
	Section 3: (Day 3)		
11.	Administrative Strategy	1	Legal Do's and Don'ts
	<u>INTEGRATION</u>		
12.	Master Design	2	How Everything Fits Together
13.	Team	1	Developing a Church Planting Team
14.	Mileposts	2	Planning by Tasks Not Time

PLANNING: Using the Mileposting Process

The Need for Planning

It is not uncommon for questions to be raised about planning in church life. Why should you plan and prepare for church planting? If reproducing is natural, doesn't it just happen? Our theology moves us to walk by faith and trust God for our every need. So why should we bring what some consider secular methods into spiritual work? There are two reasons: First, planning is both a biblical and spiritual activity; and second, history has proven that good planning and the implementation of those plans are critical to success.

In Luke 14:28-33, Jesus gives an example of planning. In His example, we are building a tower and we plan well its design, engineering, and fabrication. This is done so that the cost can be fully known.

Jesus also talks about a king who must go to war. He goes through the planning process so that he knows for sure he has enough men and supplies to win the battle. Both stories talk about the importance of planning to make sure we reach our preferred future, the vision God has given us about His church.

Another question often raised is, "If we are going to rely on planning to plant churches, where does God fit into the process? Do we rely on ourselves rather than Him?"

The answer is an unequivocal "No, we do not rely on ourselves!" The vision, resources, and manpower used to plant churches all belong to God and we are to be good stewards of them, using them appropriately to fulfill His desires. As stewards, therefore, we have the responsibility to use the gifts God has given us for planning, preparing and planting this new church. Therefore, not planning and preparing after praying for God's leadership is not exercising genuine faith. (James 2:17)

Proverbs 13:16 says, "A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!"(TLB) It seems fairly obvious that Solomon believed planning was important to God and should be to us. He also said in Proverbs 21:31, "Go ahead and prepare for the conflict, but victory comes from God." (TLB)

Planning and faith go hand in hand. Everything of value and worth comes from God. He gives it because of the orderliness and value He has placed in His world and in us. We are to use God's resources to plan and prepare for church planting.

We often hear the terms strategic planning, future planning, and vision planning. No matter what you call the process you use for planning this new church, it will contain certain components:

1. an understanding of your beginning point (current reality in which you are trying to plant the new church)
2. An understanding of your preferred future (what the church will look like at a chosen point in the future)
3. Critical events or actions that must take place (those thing that must happen if we are to accomplish the mission to which God has called us)

4. Supporting events or actions (those things that help fulfill the critical events or actions)

The milepost process, which we will use in Basic Training Journey and other NAMB equipping resources, is a tool for planning and implementing a church planting strategy through a simple, highly effective process like the one outlined above. As you proceed remember that, as Wayne Gretzky said, “100% of the shots you don't take don't go in.” If we are not willing to expend the energy and time it takes to develop effective plans, a healthy church will not be planted and those who would have been reached by them may never know the Savior who died for them.

Planning for the “Planting Process”

As you continue your journey into church planting, an inevitable question will be raised: “How will we accomplish what God has called us to do?” As the saying goes, “This is where the rubber meets the road.”

To help answer the question, “How will we accomplish what God has called us to do?” think in terms of a vacation trip. List on a sheet of paper the things you need or must do in order to arrive at your vacation destination.

As you look at your list, you may see things like: get the car checked out, get gas, get cash, get someone to take care of the dog, get someone to watch the house, stop mail delivery, pack bags, pack car, get snacks, and so on. Below is another way to show this list.

Get car checked out	Get someone to watch dog	Pack bags	Stop mail delivery	Get cash	Get someone to watch house	Pack car	Get snacks
---------------------	--------------------------	-----------	--------------------	----------	----------------------------	----------	------------

When we analyze the list, we begin to see common elements and recognize that some activities are more important than others. If we arrange by common elements and emphasize the very important elements, our list takes on a different appearance.

Car Ready for Trip	Household Items Covered	Trip Planned
Get car checked out	Get house sitter	Pack bags
Get car Filled with gas	Get Someone to watch dog	Pack car
	Stop mail delivery	Get snacks

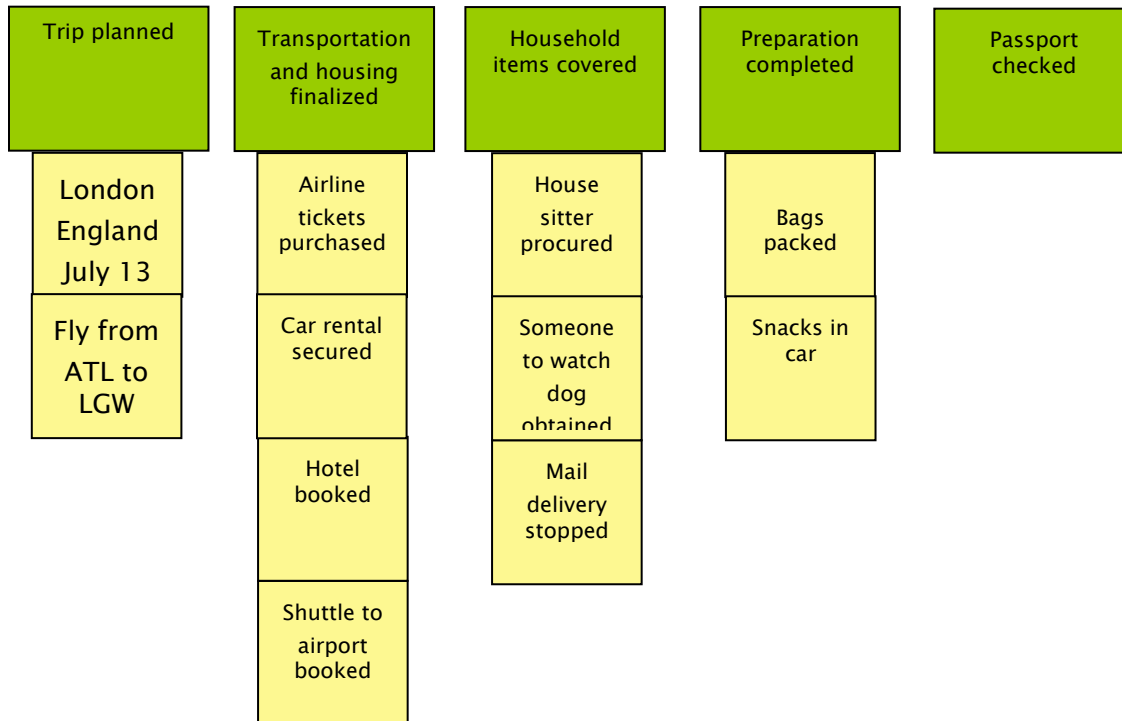
Done this way, it becomes easy to see missing parts or activities that need to be completed before we leave.

First, I recognize that I have not really planned the trip. Packing bags or car, and getting snacks have nothing to do with planning the trip.

- What is our destination?
- How will we get there?
- When do we leave and return?
- Where will we stay?

It becomes obvious that not only are there other things that must be decided or done, but these decisions have an impact on other activities.

When I fill in the missing pieces, a more complete and easier to use plan takes shape. There are more activities but because the exercise shows everything that is necessary for a fun and anxiety-free trip, it is simpler and easier to accomplish.



Look at this example; notice that the top green notes describe major (critical) activities. If we don't do these, we will not have a good trip and maybe not even be able to go. The other notes are all important but probably will not affect the trip as dramatically if not fully completed.

As we analyze both examples, it becomes obvious that planning the trip was very important and doing it graphically creates a highly usable tool. Identifying England as our destination eliminated the need to get the car checked, but it did create an urgent need to check our passports for their validity. Dates of travel were needed to enlist sitters for the house and dog, and to stop mail delivery. Packing the car became unnecessary, but transportation to the airport had to be found.

Although there is one more critical (green) note and three more supporting (yellow) notes in the final example, this tool makes planning and implementing the trip much easier and less prone to error and forgetfulness.

This type of planning process is referred to as the Milepost Process. It describes the church planting journey and the mileposts you will pass as you fulfill the vision of planting a new, healthy, cooperative, multiplying church. During the journey, there will be Critical Mileposts. If you miss these, chances are the new church will struggle or not survive.

This prospect should not hinder you from pursuing the goal of church planting. It just highlights the necessity of good planning. By understanding the critical and supporting mileposts needed to reach the desired planting outcome, the task becomes significantly easier to manage and far more likely to successfully accomplish the preferred future.

In the following section, you will be introduced to the milepost process and how to implement your church planting process using this tool.

Planning Using the Milepost Process

Mileposts are the result of actions. They identify completed actions of projects, activities, or tasks. As such, they are written in past tense. Some examples are: prayer strategy implemented, demographics obtained, or meeting location secured. (Notice in our example we use past tense. To check it off as done, it should be written in past tense.)

Using this motif, when all actions connected with a milepost are completed, the milepost can be checked off as having been accomplished. This helps the church planting team measure progress made over time. A review of completed mileposts provides an affirmation of progress and the completion of critical (green in the examples) mileposts becomes an occasion for celebration.

Critical Mileposts are those mileposts that must be achieved or a healthy church probably will not be planted, or at best struggle to survive. There may be 100 mileposts to accomplish before the new church is launched, but only ten to twelve will be critical mileposts.

Supporting Mileposts are mileposts that support the completion of critical mileposts. They specify a process, project, or specific task that needs to be done. Unlike critical mileposts which must be completed for effective planting to be achieved, supporting mileposts are more flexible and adaptive. Failure to completely achieve a supporting milepost seldom derails the planting process.

After all critical mileposts and supporting mileposts are identified:

- Arrange critical mileposts in logical sequence.
- Place supporting mileposts under or beside their critical milepost in a relational sequence.
- Identify, calendar, budget, and assign who is responsible for the action to complete each milepost.

When an action, calendar, budget, and person or team responsible for each milepost has been identified, a strategic plan is produced that guides you and your leadership team through every phase of the planting process.

Critical Milepost Posted Here

Supporting Milepost	Responsible Person	Date		Cost
		Assigned	Date Due	
Supporting Milepost 1 posted here				
Supporting Milepost 2 posted here				

Effective mileposts will exhibit the following characteristics:

- They will be consistent with the church's vision, values, mission statement
- They will be realistic in terms of time projections, resources available, and sequence.
- They will show a steady flow of relationship between mileposts (no gaps).

Steps in the Milepost Process

As you go through the Basic Training Journey workshop, you will use the following list to complete the Mileposting exercise.

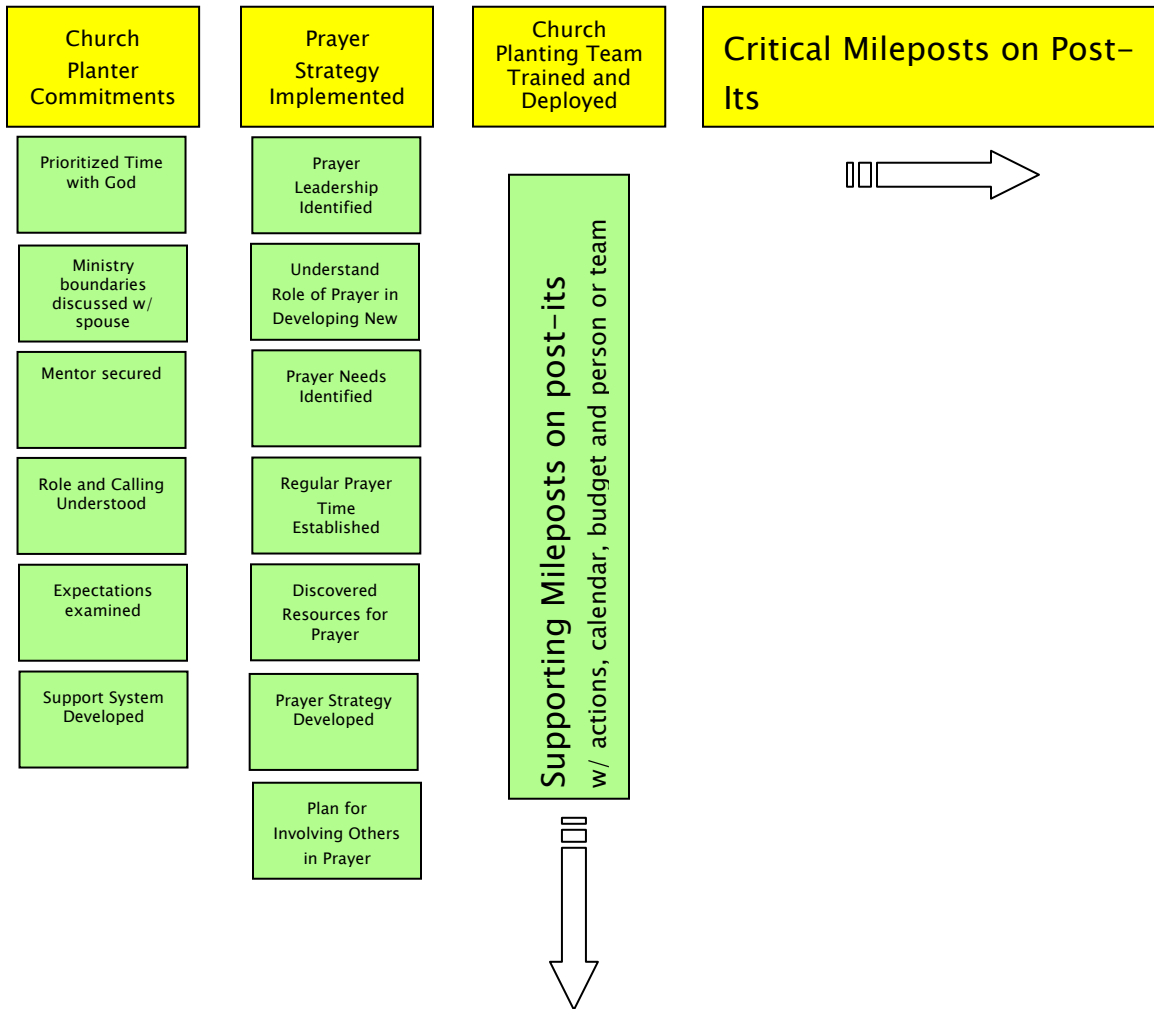
1. Identify Critical Mileposts that are needed to effectively plant the new church. Write those that are listed in the BT participant's manual and others you may identify on larger Post-it™ Notes.
2. Arrange the Critical Mileposts in a process-oriented sequence. Place them in this logical sequence on large easel pad paper.
3. Identify the Supporting Mileposts that are needed to accomplish each critical milepost. Write each of these on small Post-it™ Notes.
4. Arrange each of your Supporting Mileposts under or alongside its related critical milepost in logical sequence on the easel pad paper. NOTE: You will continue adding Supporting Mileposts until all gaps and/or missing tasks are included.
5. For each Supporting Milepost, you will identify the tasks that must be completed.
6. By placement, and by using lines and dotted lines, you will identify actions that are dependent on other actions.
7. Project a realistic time line to accomplish the critical mileposts. NOTE: Remember these are time projections subject to change. You are not driven by the calendar.
8. Identify needed personnel, budget, and other resources to accomplish each task.

On the following page you will see the beginnings of a mileposting process for a church that is planting a church. This example is given to help you see the flow and reasoning behind this method of strategic planning.

As you engage in the Basic Training Journey workshop, we will review this process and help you think through what must be done to see God's plan for the new church He has called you to plant become reality.

Every Baptist Church - Somewhere, Ville 00000

Planting Church Milepost



Developing your Intercessory prayer team

Following this discussion, you will be challenged to develop your intercessory team. The following is designed to assist you in doing so.

A. Essential criteria in gathering your intercessory prayer teams.

1. They have a **passion** for the lost and for church planting.

Those who are to be intercessors must share your burden for the reaching of lost persons and planting new churches. Those you enlist should not be casual about prayer and spiritual warfare.

2. They are already people of **prayer**.
3. They have demonstrated an **interest** in your life, family, and ministry.

A group of people who make good intercessory prayer team members are those who demonstrate an interest in your life and ministry. All along your spiritual journey God has placed key people on whom you can count for prayer. No matter how long it has been since you have seen them, they are still praying for you. They may have a relational connection to your life. They may be people in current or former ministry settings. They may have supported you through their finances or stood alongside you in difficult times. They may be people from your partnering churches.

Don't forget those closest to you. They can often provide the best accountability as it relates to your intercessory prayer team.

4. They are people who are faithful in their prayer **commitments**.

They are people who will not just say, "I'll pray for you," but people on whom you can count on to do it.

5. They are people who know how to keep confidences.

As you share prayer needs that relate to issues concerning your family, the developing church planting team, lost persons to whom you are witnessing, et cetera, you need to know that these issues will be treated with confidentiality.

ACTIVITY 1

Begin developing a list of people whom you will invite to join your intercessory prayer team. We want to encourage you to think about developing a **team of at least 20 to 25 persons**.

1. Use the five ideas listed above to begin to compile your list of persons whom you could invite to become members of your intercessory prayer team.
2. Review your list, look back over the five ideas and eliminate names of those on your list who don't belong on it.
3. Take time to share your list with your church planting team, either in person or by email describing the reason you included those on your list.

B. Essentials for enlisting your intercessory prayer team.

1. Develop an **invitational piece** for those you are inviting to join your intercessory team.

Getting started is often the greatest challenge. Enlistment requires clearly communicating to people your specific request. In this case, it is to serve on an intercessory prayer team. Enlistment can take place face-to-face, by phone, e-mail, and/or letter.

2. Include a **covenant agreement** that reflects responsibilities and expectations on both sides.

Take the enlistment and responsibilities of your intercessory prayer team seriously. Spell out the responsibilities and expectations you have for your team members. Also communicate to them what they can expect from you. Provide a simple covenant that they can return to you as a mutual commitment to be team members. Share the names of other team members with those on the team. Create a sense of teamwork through your covenant.

3. Develop an ongoing **communication** plan for requesting prayer and updating your team.

Make regular contact with your intercessory prayer team. Develop an informational piece that can be used regularly to communicate updates and requests. This should be different from a general newsletter. Email, Facebook, and Twitter are great ways to connect with your prayer team.

ACTIVITY 2

Develop your prayer enlistment piece.

Write a letter inviting individuals to join your intercessory prayer team. Some of you will want to write a letter. Others may choose to do their enlistment over the phone. Write a phone script to explain specifically what you are inviting the person to do. Some

of you will attempt to enlist these persons personally and face to face—you write a script for that encounter. Some of you will attempt to enlist your intercessory prayer team by e-mail; you write a script for that as well. Develop a simple covenant that includes roles, expectations, and responsibilities.

☞ Intercessory Prayer Team Enlisted

Developing a praying church

- A. Whatever you want at the **end**, build in at the beginning.

It is not enough just to have people praying for the new church, but from the beginning the new church needs to develop as a people of prayer.

- B. Make prayer more than **bookends**.

Often prayer is treated as bookends that we use to begin and end services and meetings. Give thought to prayer in every setting. Do not let it deteriorate to a routine activity.

- C. **Teach** prayer.

Do not assume that people know how to pray. Model prayer. Do some specific teaching about prayer. There are many good resources you can use and share with individuals and groups concerning prayer.

- D. Develop some **specific** prayer ministries.

There are many prayer ministries that a new church can develop. A prayer chain to keep members connected concerning prayer needs is a simple one. “Lighthouses of Prayer” is a ministry that any church or individual can begin. What are a few others you can list quickly?

- E. Use the seasons of prayer for **world missions**.

From the beginning train people to pray during the Lottie Moon Season of Prayer for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong emphasis on North American mission needs, and your state convention’s prayer emphasis. Many associations are developing their seasons of prayer. Be involved in praying and share prayer needs that could be included in these focused times of prayer.

THIRTY DAY / STEP PRAYER GUIDE FOR UNREACHED PEOPLE

1. Read Luke 1:11-20. Just like Zechariah, after many disappointments it is easy to begin to believe that the blessing will never come. Pray that we will believe the Lord's words that it is His desire to save all nations.
2. Read Luke 1:21-25. When the Spirit of God moves and things begin to happen, pray that we will remember where the blessing has come from and praise Him.
3. Read Luke 1:38. Pray that they will submit to our Father with humility and awe that He would even use us to fulfill his plans for the _____ (Focus Group).
4. Read Luke 1:76-79. Pray that we will prepare the way for the Lord to enter the hearts of the _____.
5. Read Luke 2:15. Pray that the _____ will come to see what the Lord has done.
6. Read Luke 2:17. Pray that as the _____ hear about Jesus, they will spread the Word.
7. Read Luke 2:20. Pray that the _____ will return to their own people and neighborhoods glorifying and praising God.
8. Read Luke 3:6. Pray that all mankind will see God's salvation.
9. Read Luke 3:16. Pray that the _____ will see beyond us to Jesus, who is more powerful than we are and who can baptize them with His Holy Spirit and with fire.
10. Read Luke 4:14. Pray that the news about Jesus would spread through the whole countryside.
11. Read Luke 4:38-39. Pray that as the _____ are healed they will get up and begin to serve Jesus immediately.
12. Read Luke 5:4-5. Pray that we will be obedient and put out into "deep water" whenever the Lord calls us to.
13. Read Luke 5:6-8. Pray that when the harvest comes we will be overwhelmed with humility in the face of God's awesomeness and undeserved blessing.

14. Read Luke 5:16. Pray that we will constantly withdraw from the crowds to listen to God speak to us.
15. Read Luke 5:26. Pray that the _____ will be amazed at God's works and praise Him alone.
16. Read Luke 5:27-28. Pray that as the _____ are called they will get up and leave behind everything that binds them to follow Jesus.
17. Read Luke 5:34-35. Pray that God's people will fast and pray for the _____ to be saved.
18. Read Luke 6:9-11. Pray that both we and the _____ will be repentant instead of angry when our sinful attitudes are pointed out.
19. Read Luke 6:35-36. Pray that we will love the _____ no matter how we are treated in return.
20. Read Luke 7:18-23. Pray that when the Lord comes in a way we are not expecting that we will not fall away in unbelief.
21. Read Luke 7:30. Pray that the leaders among the _____ would not reject God's purposes for themselves.
22. Read Luke 7:41-48. Pray that the _____ will have a right heart before Jesus and love much. All the knowledge we can teach about Jesus is worthless if it does not produce a right heart.
23. Read Luke 8:15. Pray that we and the _____ would with good hearts hear, retain, persevere and produce a crop.
24. Read Luke 9:24. Pray that we and the _____ will lose our lives for Jesus.
25. Read Luke 9:62. Pray that the new _____ Christians will not turn back.
26. Read Luke 10:2. Pray that God will send native / indigenous workers back into the harvest field.
27. Read Luke 10:13. Pray that the _____ will respond to the Lord's miracles in true repentance.
28. Read Luke 10:27. Pray that the _____ will love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, strength and mind.

29. Read Luke 10:30-37. Pray that we will go out of our way to show mercy to the _____ people.

30. Read Luke 10:39. Pray that we would turn from our busyness and take time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus came into the world nearly 2000 years ago to reveal God's plan to bring all people into a right relationship with Himself. But the task is not complete until every nation and every people of every language has heard. Ask Jesus what part He desires of you to play in completing the unfinished task of loving the lost.