

Fourth Edition

# **Straight Street for Church Planting**

*A Spiritual Preparation Guide to  
Basic Training Journey  
for Church Planting*

**Express Route**  
2010 Edition

**“I planted...  
but God made it grow”  
—1 Corinthians 3:6, NIV**

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# Acknowledgments

*Straight Street for Church Planters is dedicated to all church planters and their spouses and team members for their commitment to God, for their desire to seeing people won to Jesus Christ, and for growing the kingdom by the multiplying of New Testament churches.*

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“And the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for behold he is praying’” (Acts 9:11-12, NASB).

# History of *Straight Street*

## *Straight Street, A Spiritual Guide for Church Planters*

In the summer of 1998, during the NAMB Week at Ridgecrest, Joe Hernandez, former leader of the CPG Mentoring Team was visiting with one of the state convention language missions workers. In the conversation, the missionary shared with Joe what had occurred during a major evangelism event in his state. He had indicated how the focus group to which he was assigned had received only a small portion of the resources for the project. He then indicated that they decided to commit their time to preparing spiritually for the project since they did not have training event funds nor materials to use in any training or promotion. Once the major evangelism events took place, it was remarkable that though his focus group was only a small percentage of the total population, the evangelism results were equal to all other groups together. He was making a point that one should get ready for special events through a process of spiritual preparation and not rely only on good training events.

The missionary's words stuck with Joe as he went on to the worship service that evening and then a major thought struck him. Here we had been in the process of providing Church Planter Basic Training across North America for two years and though it seemed that every workshop was an excellent experience, it was evident that some people had a difficult time engaging fully the depth of the Basic Training workshop. That was it! For many of the planting team members, there was the lack of preparation for the Basic Training workshop, more precisely, the lack of the spiritual preparation for the event. Joe realized that we had a great workshop that helped the planting team lay out their church planting plan, but we had missed the spiritual preparation that would have indeed prepared each one for what God would accomplish through a workshop experience.

The next day, Joe shared his thoughts with a fellow worker and as he was telling him what he was thinking, he used his arms to demonstrate the dynamic that had been occurring. Joe laid one of his arms on the table and said that we had created an excellent resource (BT), but it was horizontal, that is from person to person. He then put his other arm with the elbow on the table which was reaching up and indicated that we assumed that the connection with God was occurring, thus the vertical dimension. Joe then demonstrated that we needed a hinge that connected us to the vertical, God, and this should occur prior to any good horizontal activity, such as the Basic Training.

Out of that discussion was born the idea of a connection, thus the birth of *Straight Street*, the Spiritual Preparation for Church Planters manual. This was to be a Bible study and prayer approach, in which the church planting team member would seek out the issues and topics found in the Basic Training by starting with God through the study of His Word and listening to Him through prayer. *Straight Street for Church Planters* is intended to connect us to God first and from seeking God, knowing what this means to any process which results in developing a church planting plan. It is our hope that you will seriously consider the spiritual preparation so that you will know what God has in store for you as you experience Basic Training.

Why the name *Straight Street*? On the road to Damascus Jesus confronted Saul and called him to faith, salvation, and ministry (Acts 9:3-6). While Saul was staying in a house in Damascus on Straight Street and praying, Jesus revealed the directions and dimensions of Saul's future ministry to him through a disciple named Ananias (Acts 9:15-16). Straight Street became a point of reference for Saul's life that he often went back to as he faced challenges in his future ministry. Why would Saul stay at a task that was so challenging and would later mean his death? The answer is found in two experiences: one was the call to faith that occurred on the road to Damascus and the second was the call to ministry that was given and clarified on Straight Street.

The *Straight Street* devotional resource is designed to help prepare members of a church planting team for Jesus' revelation of His directions and the dimensions of the team's future ministry.

## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 1 – Overview – Express Route

#### Scripture Helps:

#### I. What is *Straight Street for Church Planters*?

Straight Street is a personal spiritual preparation guide to be used by members of a church planting team 2-8 weeks before engaging in Basic Training Journey for Church Planting. Ideally, a church planter will work through the self-study units that make up *Straight Street* with the aid of a mentor. By completing *Straight Street*, which is based on Acts chapter 9, a member of a church planting team will be better prepared from a spiritual perspective to process and implement much of the content found in Basic Training Journey for Church Planting.

*Straight Street* consists of eight units not including the overview. A participant will complete the journey through *Straight Street* by choosing to travel one of three routes, which are described below. Each route involves a different level of intensity and time commitment. You have in hand the Express Route (it is fast paced, no stops) – Travel this road if you want to experience the main learning objective for each unit and will engage Basic Training Journey for Church Planting within 30 days.

The other two routes can be accessed on the Church Planting Village: [www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/StraightStreet](http://www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/StraightStreet)

#### Reflection and Thoughts

- Scenic Route (scenic, slow paced, plenty of stops) – Travel this road if you want to experience all the detail that each unit has to offer and will engage Basic Training Journey for Church Planting in approximately 4-8 weeks.
- Business Route (a few stops along the way) – Travel this road if you want to experience the basics that each unit has to offer without all of the detail and will engage Basic Training Journey for Church Planting in approximately 2-4 weeks.

Questions you should consider when choosing which route to travel: How much time are you willing to invest daily in completing the units and when will you engage in \*Basic Training Journey for Church Planting?

*\*Once a church planter or a member of a church planting team has determined their role in the church plant and identified the people and place, then they should attend a Basic Training Journey Workshop.*

## **II. Learning Objectives**

**Listed are the learning outcomes for each *Straight Street* unit:**

### **Unit 1 – Overview**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** To provide a general overview of *Straight Street*.

### **Unit 2 – Prayer**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** To enable participants to reflect on how prayer has shaped their lives and how their prayers and the prayers of intercessors can shape the future of the church plant.

### **Unit 3 – God’s Vision for Your Church Plant**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to identify key Scriptures that pertain to the kingdom of God and the vision that God has given them for the church plant.

### **Unit 4 – Values**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** To enable participants to identify the values behind the functions of the early church and to identify their own personal core values.

### **Unit 5 – Focus Group**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to understand how God has gifted them, and how He might use their giftedness, uniqueness, background, and life experiences to reach a specific group of people.

### **Unit 6 – Reaching God’s Vision**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to know what God would have them to do now, based upon the things that He has recently convicted, convinced, and corrected them about. To understand the call to missions in a way that is contagious to other believers.

### **Unit 7 – Relationships**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to understand that Jesus must be the central focus of their lives and to recognize that God has prepared others to come alongside them in the church

plant so that they will not be alone.

### **Unit 8 – Evangelism**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to reflect on the lostness of man and how God desires to use them to lead lost people to Christ. The participants will also consider their level of evangelistic training and their understanding of evangelistic approaches. The participants will be challenged to share their faith using an approach of their choosing.

### **Unit 9 – Worship**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to discover or be reminded that true worship always focuses on God.

## **III. *Straight Street* Learning Approach**

The learning approach for *Straight Street* is self-study. The guide may prove to be most beneficial to the church planter or member of a church planting team who has a mentor to guide and help them to reach their full potential. Please visit the NAMB Church Planting Group Web site for more information about mentoring or if you do not have a mentor but desire one, a mentor selection guide is available at the Web site for your use:

*www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/mentor*

The content of *Straight Street* emphasizes one or two learning components or activities from Basic Training Journey for Church Planting. *Straight Street* was not designed to be an exclusive or exhaustive authority on any of the subject matters contained in the guide. We acknowledge that much more could be written on each of the units, but again the desire was to highlight one or two learning components from Basic Training Journey for Church Planting. The participant will note that some units contain more content and activities than others. That design is intentional.

Each unit contains three sets of questions that serve to guide the participant through the study materials. Those questions are:

- 1. What is God saying to me in His Word?**
- 2. What is God saying to me through others?**
- 3. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

Within each of the three sets of questions are a series of reflective questions that require some type of action from the participant. Normally, these reflective questions will require a written response from the participant.

#### **IV. The ABC's to get the most out of *Straight Street***

1. **A**pproach it with an open and prayerful spirit.
2. **B**e transparent and honest in your answers.
3. **C**omplete all units in consecutive order.
4. **D**ialogue about what you are hearing God say.

#### **V. Additional Helps**

Many couples have found it helpful to study *Straight Street* individually and at the end of each unit to dialogue about what each is hearing from God. Similarly, Church Planting Teams should study individually and dialogue about their learning.

In the left hand margin there are headings titled, *Scripture Helps* and *Thoughts and Reflection*. These headings provide a place for the participant to record related Scripture references, notes, resources, and their thoughts. On occasion Scripture references or resources will be listed there. Remember, this is your personal journey to spiritual preparedness to Basic Training Journey for Church Planting. Feel free to record in the margins of each unit your thoughts, any notes that you will need to refer to when you engage Basic Training Journey, and/or Scriptures that God uses to speak to you.

**NOTE:** *You will want to have your Straight Street guide with you once you engage Basic Training Journey for Church Planting.*



*Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare you for Basic Training Journey through Straight Street. If you are willing, sign the covenant saying yes, "I will complete Straight Street."*



*God, I will complete Straight Street with an open mind and transparent spirit.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 2 – Prayer – Express Route

#### ***Scripture Helps:***

**Desired outcome from this unit:** To enable participants to reflect on the importance of prayer in their life and ministry, to consider how their prayers, and the prayers of their intercessory prayer team, along with specific prayer activities, can prepare the community and shape the life of the church plant.

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

Jesus Christ took the initiative to speak to Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul was on a mission to arrest the people of the Way. Jesus was on a mission to arrest the heart of a man and show him the true Way. It is not surprising that only after a short time Saul, whose name much later was changed to Paul, was found praying to the very Jesus who had just a few days before changed his life forever. Saul's prayer life was one of the very first things that he developed immediately after his encounter with Jesus. Read Acts 9:11.

#### ***Reflection and Thoughts***

T. W. Hunt says that, "Prayer is the shaping force of history." "The apostle Paul's prayers helped to shape the personality and destiny of the new church as it spread across the Mediterranean world."<sup>1</sup>

In this unit you will discover how Paul's life was shaped through prayer, how prayer can shape your life, and the life of your church plant.

Read Acts 9:1—Saul was breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord. The word literally means, "snorting." Saul by breathing out threats was only doing that which was natural and common to him. Fellowshiping with God in prayer does not come natural to man. God, on the other hand, initiates the relationship with mankind. Most often, this takes place through prayer. Satan is very good at causing individuals to rely on processes and procedures that can be devoid of spiritual power. The reminder of Zechariah 4:6 (NIV) is very important to church planters "Not by might, nor by power but by my spirit says the Lord Almighty."

Read Acts 9:3-5—As with most of the divine encounters in the Bible, Saul recognized that he, too, was in the divine presence of God. He was in the presence of holiness (Jesus Christ). Not only

did Saul experience the holiness of Jesus on the road to Damascus, but he also experienced the love and mercy of Jesus toward a sinner. Each church planter should allow the Spirit to root out every impurity that interferes with our personal holiness and witness.

Describe a time in your life when you experienced the holiness, love and mercy of God. Was this through a time of prayer? What areas of your life need renewal and cleansing?

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Describe what God has been saying to you in prayer about your prayer life, your attitudes and some of the self-made difficulties you are facing.

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Describe what God has been saying to you in prayer about your walk with Him. Notice the implication to your walk with Him if you are not hearing Him say anything to you right now.

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Describe what God has been saying to you in prayer about your ministry and church planting. Notice the implication to your ministry if you are not hearing Him say anything to you right now.

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## II. What is God saying to me through others?

Read Luke 24:52-53.

The birth of the early church started in an atmosphere of prayer and praise. This evidently was not private prayer. The early church met **every day** at regular hours for prayer. This perhaps was the beginning of a climate for an ongoing community lifestyle of prayer. It is good to pray not only privately, but also with others.

What happens when the church comes together and prays? What could happen to your community if you prayed for and shared Jesus with everyone there?

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### Activity: Answer the following questions.

What should I do to create or enhance a daily, consistent, and effective quiet time?

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Do my spouse and I pray together consistently?

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Do I pray consistently with my children in a way that distinguishes ritual from relationship?

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Do I have someone that I am accountable to for my prayer time? If so, who? If not, do I see value in having someone to be accountable to in prayer and Bible study?

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For whom am I praying? What are the implications for my obedience if I am not praying fervently and righteously for others?

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Things I have done and will do this year in terms of my personal prayer life. Zech 4:6, NIV: “So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.’”

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**Reflection:**

- I can pray fervently for doors of opportunity to open.
- I can pray specifically for believers, unbelievers, and personal needs.
- I can pray for deliverance.
- I can pray for boldness.
- I can pray for the churches.
- I can enlist others to pray for me.
- I can participate in a prayer walk.

## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 3 – God’s Vision for Your Church Plant – Express Route

#### **Scripture Helps:**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to identify key Scriptures that pertain to the kingdom of God and the vision that God has given them for the church plant.

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint” (Prov. 29:18, NIV).

“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained” (Prov. 29:18, NASB) [“perish” in KJV].

“I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17, NASB).

#### **Reflection and Thoughts**

In Proverbs 29:18 the word translated “*vision*” in several translations is translated “*revelation*” in the NIV. The emphasis here is that the vision or revelation does not come from man. It does not well up from within the planter but it is God’s revelation about His church. Note, the emphasis is on God, not man.

Read Acts 9:1-9 from the *New American Standard Version* of the Bible.

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground,

and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized and he took food and was strengthened.

Did you take note of the number of times that God speaks of Himself or His purpose (Me, Mine, My)? Now read Psalm 100. Again, take note of how many times the personal pronoun *He, His*, or the word the *Lord* is used. Do you see that it is all about God? Through this study you will discover how you can get God's vision for your new church plant by focusing on Him and what he has to say about His kingdom, His church, and you personally. With that in mind, let us begin.

### **A. What is God saying to you about His kingdom?**

(If you have not studied the kingdom of God passages recently, there is a collection of Bible passages and parables concerning the





**II. What is God saying to me through others?**

What have you heard God say to you about church planting in general?

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What have you heard other Christians say to you about church planting in general?

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What have you heard people in the community say to you about church planting in general?

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**III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

Read the following verses:

Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working” (John 5:17-18, NIV).

As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world (John 9:4-5, NIV).



## Envisioning an Uplifting and Ennobling Future

| <b>Listening to God</b>  | <b>Listening to Life's Experience</b>   | <b>Listening to Those Around You</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Verses related to kingdom of God:</p> <p>What verses related to the kingdom of God have spoken to me?</p> <p>What key ideas related to the kingdom impact ministry?</p>               | <p>Life Past</p> <p>Review life and identify the peaks and valleys of life. Are there any themes or patterns to these highs and lows?</p> <p>What strengths and characteristics were revealed in these experiences?</p> | <p>Hearing people in community</p> <p>How does the community need to be different because of the church's ministry?</p> <p>What role will the church play in the community?</p>                              |
| <p>Verses related to church/church pictures</p> <p>What pictures of the church are most attractive to you?</p> <p>What are the implications of those pictures for the church's life?</p> | <p>Life Present</p>   | <p>Hearing from pastors in community</p> <p>How will this new church complement other churches in the community?</p> <p>How will this new church be differentiated from other churches in the community?</p> |
| <p>Verses related to functions of church</p> <p>In thinking about the functions, what verses direct the church in each function?</p>   | <p>Life Future</p>  | <p>Hearing denominational and political leaders on community</p>   |

## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 4 – Core Values – Express Route

#### **Scripture Helps:**

Genesis 1:31; 3:4  
Revelation 3

#### **Reflection and Thoughts**

*“All values are either sacred or secular.”*

**Desired outcome from this unit:** To enable participants to identify the values behind the functions of the early church and to identify their own personal core values.

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

Behavioral modeling is one of the most effective means for communicating a concept to people. Luke records that the early church “devoted themselves to” their values—an obvious reference to how they lived and went about their ministry.<sup>3</sup>

In this study, you will discover what the Bible has to say about values by examining Scriptures related to Paul and the early church. You will also be given an opportunity to begin to identify your own core values, those that you had before coming to know Christ, and those that you have developed since knowing Christ. You will also be given the opportunity to identify the core values of the early church. Having this information will help you answer the question in Unit 3 of *Basic Training Journey*, “*What should the church really be doing?*” (p. 3-3)

**Values are biblical**—All values are either sacred or secular. However, not everything that takes place in the church is good and sacred; nor is everything that takes place outside of the church bad and secular. When God created the world, no sacred or secular dichotomy existed—all of God’s creation was sacred. “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day” (Gen. 1:31, NASB). The secular existence came into being in Genesis chapter 3 when Satan spoke the lie. “The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die!’” (Gen. 3:4, NASB).

Values are foundational to everything we do whether or not we know what they are. Personal values underlie our word and actions all the time. *Values are more about deeds than words*. Core values should have the capacity to be expressed in terms of *acceptable and unacceptable behavior*. “Values help us determine what to do and what not to do. They are deep-seated, pervasive standards that influence every aspect of our lives: our moral judgments, our responses to others, and our commitments to personal and organizational goals. Values set the parameters for the hundreds of decisions that we make every day” (*Leadership Challenge*, p. 212).<sup>4</sup>

## Scripture Helps:

A look at the functions of the early church.

**Activity:** Read the following Scriptures and note the italicized words that demonstrate a function of the Jerusalem church. An example is given. **Note:** There may be more than one function for each Scripture.

Acts 2:42, 43—They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' *teaching* and to *fellowship*, to the breaking of bread and to *prayer*. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Acts 2:44, 46—And all those who had believed were *together* and had *all things in common*; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with *one mind* in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.

Acts 2:47—*Praising God* and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were *being saved*.

## Reflection and Thoughts

“For, I the Lord, do not change”  
(Mal. 3:6, NASB).

### The test of a value system for the Christian

“Is it biblical?”

The reason WHY you do something helps to identify the value behind the behavior or activity.

*Note:* These functions are not doctrinal statements. However, each of them could be supported with Scripture. Remember the test of a value system for a Christian: “Is it biblical?”

You will now have an opportunity to discover and list your own values. You might be wondering, “How does one discover his or her core values?” You start by answering this one question, “What values do you hold, not what values should you hold?” You must discover your own values and not borrow them from someone else or take them from a list or recently read book. However, there is value in reviewing a list of values and noting the ones that stand out and grab you. You will then need to determine if these are clear, felt values. Some of these will be; others will not.

**Activity:** Begin by listing in brainstorm fashion the values that you hold. Most people discover their values by looking deep inside. They must be things that you hold at a deep level or they are not core.

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Now go back through your list and circle the values that you are passionate about and the ones that are truly you and add these values to the list of values found on page 29. Now, circle 4-7 values that are truly you.

Remember the test of a value system for a Christian: “Is it biblical?” Aubrey Malphurs adds five other questions to the test of a good value. They are:

1. Does it engender passion?
2. Is it shared?
3. Is it constant? Will it pass the test of time?
4. Is it congruent with other values?
5. Can it be implemented?<sup>5</sup>

Now go back through your list of circled words and review 4-7 values that are top priority for you. Write them below. You may find it necessary to group several values that are similar into one block, then determine which one is truly the value that you hold to more than the others.

1. I value \_\_\_\_\_
2. I value \_\_\_\_\_
3. I value \_\_\_\_\_
4. I value \_\_\_\_\_
5. I value \_\_\_\_\_
6. I value \_\_\_\_\_
7. I value \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. What is God saying to me through others?**

Identify two or three leaders in your life; one could be your mentor. Can you identify their values and how they behaviorally demonstrate those values toward you? Use the chart below.

| Person's Name | Value | Behavior |
|---------------|-------|----------|
|               |       |          |
|               |       |          |
|               |       |          |
|               |       |          |
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What is God saying to you through others concerning your values and how you demonstrate them behaviorally?

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**III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

Determine what the bottom line is for you. What are you most passionate about? What are you willing to fight over? What battle scars do you have? What are you not willing to give up?

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List below what your ministry represents.

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*Look for the reason why you do something. Why identifies the value.*

## POTENTIAL VALUES

|                   |                   |                     |               |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Accountability    | Efficiency        | Intellectual status | Risk taking   |
| Achievement       | Empowerment       | Involvement         | Security      |
| Advancement       | Enjoyment         | Justice             | Self-control  |
| Adventure         | Enthusiasm        | Kindness            | Self-respect  |
| Affection         | Equality          | Knowledge           | Serenity      |
| Appearance        | Ethical practices | Leadership          | Service       |
| Arts              | Excellence        | Learning            | Team          |
| Authenticity      | Excitement        | Location            | Technology    |
| Authority         | Experimentation   | Loyalty             | Tradition     |
| Challenge         | Expertise         | Merit               | Tranquility   |
| Change            | Fairness          | Openness            | Transparency  |
| Character         | Faithfulness      | Order               | Truth         |
| Community         | Family            | Participation       | Wealth        |
| Companionship     | Flexibility       | Patience            | Wisdom        |
| Compassion        | Freedom           | Peace               | Working alone |
| Competence        | Friendship        | Pleasure            | _____         |
| Competition       | Gentleness        | Possessions         | _____         |
| Conformity        | Goodness          | Power               | _____         |
| Consistency       | Growth            | Privacy             | _____         |
| Cooperation       | Hard work         | Purity              | _____         |
| Creativity        | Harmony           | Quality             | _____         |
| Credibility       | Helpfulness       | Recognition         | _____         |
| Decisiveness      | Heritage          | Reconciliation      | _____         |
| Democracy         | Honesty           | Relationships       | _____         |
| Development       | Inclusion         | Relevance           | _____         |
| Discipline        | Independence      | Reputation          | _____         |
| Diversity         | Individuality     | Research            | _____         |
| Ecology           | Influence         | Responsibility      | _____         |
| Economic security | Innovation        | Restoration         | _____         |
| Effectiveness     | Integrity         | Reverence           | _____         |

**Straight Street for Church Planters**  
**Unit 5 – Ministry Area and Focus Group – Express Route**

**Scripture Helps:**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to understand how God has gifted them, and how He might use their giftedness, uniqueness, background, and life experiences to reach a specific focus group of people.

**I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

“To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (1 Cor. 9:20-23, NIV).

**Note: The following is from the *Basic Training Journey for Church Planting Presenter’s Manual*.**

**Reflection and Thoughts**

*“As church planters begin this unit, it is important to keep in mind that the environment and focus group represent two different perspectives to see people. The environment takes into account a geographic area that may have many potential focus groups. Multiple churches are needed to reach the potential focus groups in a geographic area.*

*Both the environment and the focus group must be considered so that awareness and a strategy to reach all people will be part of the up-front planning process. Although every environment differs, there are consistent principles for understanding the environment and the focus group. (Unit 4)*

Describe your understanding of how God sees you.

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According to Neil Cole, in *Organic Church*, Paul developed a pattern of reaching out to various people groups.

- It was *incarnational*. Paul lived it as a model for others to follow. He instructed the Philippian church to "...join in following my example and observe those who walk according to the *pattern* you have in us" (Phil. 3:7).
- It was *viral*. The pattern could easily be passed on to others. In 2 Timothy 1:13 Paul wrote, "Retain the *standard* of sound words which you have heard from me in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." He went on to say, "the *things which you heard* from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will teach others also" (1 Tim. 2:2).
- It was *transformational*. Paul was not the only one spreading the contagion. Because of its simplicity and radical life-changing properties, it spread easily. Every new soul transformed became a change agent, a carrier of the virus. In writing to the Roman church, which he had not yet visited, Paul reminded them that "though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that *form of teaching* to which you were committed" (Rom. 6:17).
- It was *universal*. The New Testament Discipleship Pattern can be applied to every culture and with every people group. He exhorted the Corinthians (1 Cor. 4:16-17) to be "imitators of me. For this reason I have sent you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my *ways* which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church."<sup>6</sup>

How have these equipped/prepared you for church planting?

- ✓ If you have completed Discovery Tools and/or PLACE, review that resource and identify your spiritual gift(s) and personality style.
- ✓ If you have not, go to [www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/discovery](http://www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/discovery) (for Discovery Tools) and complete the assessment.
- ✓ Have each member of the team complete Discovery Tools.



Important Question

- ✓ Discuss the results. As you know one another, do the results of the tool agree with your assessment of other members?
- ✓ Are there gifts needed on the team that are missing?
- ✓ How much similarity or diversity of personality types make up team members? Is that a strength or a weakness for the team?
- ✓ Do some team members with a different personality need to be enlisted to give greater balance to the team?

## II. What is God saying to me through others?

Another part of self-understanding is a person's background relative to socioeconomic issues. Planting team members will most commonly and most easily reach persons within ten years of their age and within three segments of their socioeconomic background.

There are three questions that most planting team members will need to deal honestly with.

- ✓ Actually, where did I come from in terms of my family's socioeconomic background during my formative years?
- ✓ Attainment, what level of education, income, and social standing have I attained in life?
- ✓ Aspiration, to what level of education, income and social standing do I aspire?

### 9 Socioeconomic Subgroups

1. Upper-Upper
2. Middle-Upper
3. Lower -Upper
4. Upper-Middle
5. Middle-Middle
6. Lower-Middle
7. Upper-Lower
8. Middle-Lower
9. Lower-Lower

Church planters tend to be more effective in reaching persons from their actual socioeconomic background. This reflects their heart and experiences from their most formative years.

It is easy to recognize limitations in reaching across ethnic, language, and racial barriers. It must be understood that cultural differences are not limited to ethnic, language, or racial areas.

Within the same racial, language groups there are socioeconomic barriers that need to be taken into consideration. Most pastors and church planters cannot reach as far as they imagine. Physically, the average person's reach is three feet. Socially, the average person's reach is three of the nine socioeconomic subgroups (see above list). Most persons function better with groups that represent their actual background, that is their formative years between ages 3 and 12, than their current levels of educational or income attainment or their levels of aspiration.

Some persons are gifted cross-culturally, are more adaptable socially, and are able to reach more effectively across cultural barriers.

**Activity: Think through the following questions.**

In what socioeconomic group did I grow up, especially from 3-12 years of age?

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With what groups of persons do I feel most comfortable?

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With what groups of persons do I feel most uncomfortable?

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How comfortable am I in dealing with persons from different backgrounds—racial, ethnic, economic, educational?

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**What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

The church planter needs to know the community that is the focus of the church plant.

The church planting team needs to research the community. There are a variety of resources for research. Local resources are the best place to begin and should not be overlooked. Some of these

sources are governmental or economic in nature. Local sources can include city or county planning commissions, Chambers of Commerce, real estate groups, or school superintendent's offices. Many colleges, regional (multiple county) governing authorities and state demographers are broader based resources. Some associations, state conventions and national agencies (seminaries or NAMB) can provide resources. Look for demographics, lifestyle, social, cultural, or religious issues. Also look for current numbers and how they have changed in the last ten years and what trends are anticipated in the next five and ten years. In many rural communities and small towns, the diversity is minimal and the distance between groups is limited. In urban areas, the diversity is normally more pronounced and the potential ministry focus groups multiplied.

*(The Center for Missional Research will provide Southern Baptist church planters a detailed demographic report without charge. Go to [www.MissionalResearch.info](http://www.MissionalResearch.info).)*

What research has been done in the area that you will plant in?

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What are the implications of this research (What does the research mean)?

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What additional research needs to be done? Who will do it? What tools will you use? When will the research be completed? How will you use the findings of the research?

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## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 6 – Reaching God’s Vision – Express Route

#### **Scripture Helps:**

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to know what God would have them to do now, based upon the things about which He has recently convicted, convinced, and corrected them. To understand the call to missions in a way that is contagious to other believers.

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

Jesus said, *“That which I see the Father doing, that I do also. My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working. I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does”* (John 5:17-19, NIV).

#### **Reflection and Thoughts**

**Activity: Read Acts 9:1-19 and focus on verses 4-5. Pray and ask God to speak to you through these verses. Take time for personal cleansing for unhindered access to the Spirit.**

*“He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ‘Who are you, Lord’ Saul asked”* (Acts 9:4-5, NIV).

#### **Helpful Web sites**

[www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)  
[www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net)  
[www.wmu.net](http://www.wmu.net)  
[www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)  
[www.onmission.com](http://www.onmission.com)  
[www.churchsmart.com](http://www.churchsmart.com)  
[www.VirtualChurchPlantingExperience.com](http://www.VirtualChurchPlantingExperience.com)

The first words that Saul heard from Jesus were, *“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”* Simply put, Jesus was asking Saul, *“Why are you doing this? Why are you persecuting me?”* The “why” question was an important question that our Lord was asking Saul. It is a question that you should ask yourself often throughout the church planting process; you can be certain that others will. People will want to know why you do certain things and probably even more important to them is that they will want to know why you want them to do certain things. So often, we do things without asking ourselves why am I doing this, or for whom am I doing this? In the rough times of ministry the only thing that will keep you there is the call. We too often look at situations in terms of good or bad; is it good or bad for my family and me? Or bad is defined by something bad that happens to us. We have to come to the point of seeing that events are good if they are good for the kingdom and bad if they are bad for the kingdom. There are times that we can be called to a “bad” situation that is of kingdom importance.

*Experiencing God...knowing  
and doing the will of God*  
[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

Notice that Saul met Jesus. Jesus caused the change in his career. Paul saw many difficult days in ministry. Some of them were the fruit borne of seeds he had sown. Some were the attacks of Satan. Some were just the consequences of those who followed the influence of Satan. Some were character-building events from his new Boss.

As you may be aware, Saul was on a personal mission before his encounter with Jesus. His mission was to identify and persecute followers of Christ. After his encounter with Christ, his mission changed dramatically. He had different convictions, he was convinced about new things, and he even used the moments of correction from Christ to discover and obey the new mission that God set before him.

Notice in Acts 9:5 that Saul did not answer the Lord's question, and instead, he asked the Lord a question. He said, *Who are you, Lord* (sir)? Saul was not yet acquainted with Jesus personally, but the bright light, and the voice of Jesus, convinced him that one from heaven was indeed speaking to him. In just a matter of moments, Saul went from being on a self-serving personal mission to being on mission with God. Note the change in the *will* of Saul because of his conversion; Saul went from doing his *will* to doing the *will* of God.

Jesus said, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working" (John 5:17-18, NIV).

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me" (John 6:38, NIV).

In *Basic Training Journey for Church Planting*, you will be asked to develop a milestone chart to help you accomplish the vision for your new church plant. In order to develop an effective milestone chart you will need to know the answers to these three questions:

- 1. Where are you now?** (your current condition—both as church/core group and community) and
- 2. Where you are going?** (your vision, as directed by Scripture)
- 3. What do we need to do?** (during the next 12 to 18 months to move us from where we are toward where we need to be.)

For the purpose of the next portion of this study, you will consider where you are now and where you are going. You will also draw from the following commentary excerpt that emphasizes how Saul was convicted, convinced, and corrected by Jesus Christ.





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B. Where are you going? (your vision)

In Unit Three you were asked to identify key Scriptures that pertain to your church plant and write out the vision that God has given you for that church plant. Now go back, review what you wrote, and answer this question. **What needs to take place spiritually, personally, and professionally in your life to help move you closer to that vision?**

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**On Mission Opportunities**

Contact your State Convention, North American Mission Board, SBC, or the WMU for information on how you can be involved with On Mission Opportunities.

[www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)  
[www.wmu.org](http://www.wmu.org)

**II. What is God saying to me through others?**

Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, suggests that God speaks to His children in ways such as: through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, prayer, others, and through circumstances. God may choose to use an experience in a person's life to help him to understand His will for him. For some, God may have extended the invitation to church planting through a mission experience or opportunity such as a mission trip or other hands-on mission/church planting activities.<sup>8</sup>

**Activity: Make a list of mission or church planting activities and experiences that you have been a part of. What was your role?**



up.” At some point God may say to you, “Get up and move from where you are, get going, and get on with it.” There comes a time when a person must get on with what God has called him to do and be.

In *Visioneering*, Andy Stanley explains how vision propels people to action. He states,

“There is always a moral element to vision. Vision carries with it a sense of conviction. Anyone with a vision will tell you this is not merely something that *could* be done. This is something that *should* be done. This is something that must happen. It is this element that catapults men and women out of the realm of passive concern and into action. It is the moral element that gives vision a sense of urgency” (p. 17).<sup>9</sup>

Vision compels one to action. As stated at the beginning of this unit, this study was an attempt to help you know what God would have you to do at this time in your life based upon those things about which He has convicted, convinced, and corrected you.

**Activity: Write how you will accomplish God’s will for your life.** Complete this statement as clearly and briefly as you can.

**The specific next thing that I am to do at the moment is...**

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*Now, get up and do!*

**Additional Helps and Resources:**

Developing your own personal vision is so important. Take the time to read through Andy Stanley’s book, *Visioneering*, “God’s blueprint for developing and maintaining personal vision.” As you seek the Lord for his direction in your life, you will find your way. The more time you take to define and develop your pathway, the more you will accomplish for the Lord. According to Reggie McNeal in *Get a Life*, we need to answer the following questions.

- Why am I here?
- What is Really Important to me?
- What is my Scorecard?

- What Am I good at?
- What do I need to learn?<sup>10</sup>

Two other books worth looking into are:

***Practicing Greatness: 7 Disciplines of Extraordinary Leaders*** by Reggie McNeal

***Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done*** by Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan.

**Discovery Tools:**

*“Discovery Tools is a self-assessment resource that helps you discover how God has designed you to be involved in church planting. You will explore your call into ministry, spiritual gifts, passion, ministry preference, and past behaviors and experiences.”*

It is downloadable from the ChurchPlantingVillage website in the Church Planter section.

[www.churchsmart.com](http://www.churchsmart.com)  
[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

[www.churchplantingvillage.net](http://www.churchplantingvillage.net)

**Straight Street for Church Planters**  
**Unit 7 – Relationships – Express Route**

**Study Helps:**

- Acts 9:7-11; 26-28
- Matthew 12:46-50
- John 3:16

**Resources:**

**Reflection and Thoughts**

*“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you” (John 15:16, NASB).*

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to understand that Jesus must be the central focus of their life and to recognize that God has prepared others to come alongside of them in the church plant so that they will not be alone.

**I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

“The Bible is first and foremost a book about relationships,” says Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*.<sup>11</sup>

It is imperative that Jesus becomes the starting point for all our relationships. He is also the central focus for the church plant and not just the church planter. Healthy relationships begin with a healthy relational walk with our Lord.

Read the account of Saul’s encounter with Jesus in Acts 9.

That day Jesus became the center of Saul’s life. In Unit 8 of this study, you will be asked to share your encounter of coming to know Christ in a real and meaningful way and accepting him as your Savior. Take a moment now, and reflect on that encounter and honestly answer these questions.

Is Jesus still the central focus of your life today?

Yes, Jesus is the central focus of my life today because

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No, Jesus is not the central focus of my life today because

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Spend a moment in prayer asking God to reveal to you anything in your life that may become a barrier in your relationship with Him or with others.

How will you demonstrate to others that Jesus is the central focus of your church plant?

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## II. What is God saying to me through others?

*“As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’”*  
(Mark 1:16-17, NASB).

Use the relationship chart on page 46 to list the names of people who gave you initial or early guidance after your call to ministry and to church planting. What was their role? What did they do for you? How did you benefit from their coming alongside of you?

Who stands ready to walk alongside of you now as you prepare for church planting? List their names below and thank God for them in a moment of prayer.

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*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God”*  
(Eph 1:1, NASB).

Identify some groups of people that God has already prepared to assist you in church planting.

- The church planting team
- Partnering entities
- Local association of churches
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Read Acts 9:22-31.

God brought Barnabas into Saul’s life to walk alongside of him. God may also bring a mentor or several mentors into your life to walk alongside of you.

Is there someone that is mentoring you now? If so, write the person's name here and take a moment to thank God for him/her.

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Do you see the need to have a mentor in your life? Why or why not?

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**III. What is it that I need to be doing?**

**In light of what God has said to me in his Word, through others, and this study, this is what I need to do next, in order to ready myself and others who will walk with me in the church plant.**

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## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 8 – Evangelism – Express Route

#### Helpful Web Sites

[www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)

[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

[www.GPS2020.net](http://www.GPS2020.net)

#### Scripture Helps:

*“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9, NAS).*

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to reflect on the lostness of man and how God desires to use the participants to lead lost people to Christ. The participants will also consider their level of evangelistic training and their understanding of evangelistic approaches. The participants will be challenged to share their faith using an approach of their choosing.

#### **The North American Mission Board, SBC Evangelism Group defines evangelism in the following way:**

God’s act of working through believers empowered by the Holy Spirit to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to every person and people group with the purpose to persuade the lost to come to salvation.

- **Acts of God**—We confess that salvation is of God. He has taken the initiative, while we were yet sinners, to send Christ into the world. He convicts people of sin and convinces them of the truth of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation.
- **Gospel of Christ**—Salvation is due to Christ’s redemptive work on the cross. He was the sacrifice for sin and was the first fruit of the resurrection. Salvation is due solely to the work of Jesus Christ and is not based on any form of human effort.
- **Come to Salvation**—Everyone is commanded to repent toward God and to place their faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is appropriated by faith alone and the only saving object of Christian belief is Jesus.

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

Read the following passages of Scripture and note the two references to Paul’s testimony before and after his conversion (Acts 9:10-22, NIV):

*“In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, ‘Ananias!’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he answered. The Lord told him, ‘Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.’ ‘Lord,’ Ananias answered, ‘I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on*

## **Reflection and Thoughts**

*“A postmodern culture will debate religion, politics, and morality. The one thing it will not debate is...your personal experience. That’s why your story/testimony is a powerful tool for 21st century evangelism.”*

*The NET – NAMB*

*“Your personal testimony is a powerful tool for sharing the gospel....use it often.”*

*your name.’ But the Lord said to Ananias, ‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.’ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, ‘Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?’ Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.”*

Can you imagine the concern and anxiety that Ananias must have experienced when God told him to go and meet with Saul? Perhaps he must have been thinking, “But Lord, I have heard about this man. He has a reputation for persecuting Christians.” Even those who later heard Saul preach in the synagogue were amazed. They too remembered or had heard from others about his reputation for persecuting followers of Christ.

As you work through this unit, keep in mind the word testimony. You will be asked to consider your testimony, the good, the bad, and the ugly of it. You will be asked to write your personal testimony using this simple outline: what my life was like before knowing Christ, how I came to know Christ, and what my life is like since coming to know Christ as my personal Savior. You will also be challenged to learn how to share your personal testimony in 2-5 minutes and to share it with someone before attending Basic Training Journey for Church Planting.

Consider how God used Saul’s personal testimony to reach many people for Christ. Have you considered how God could use your personal testimony to reach others for Christ? “Your personal testimony is a powerful tool for sharing the gospel, use it often.”  
The NET—NAMB

**Activity – Scripture Search**

**You will need a Bible and a concordance or Bible reference software for the following activity.**

List the Scriptures that you normally would share in a witnessing experience (write the Scriptures out).

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**Activity – Writing Your Personal Testimony**

Describe your life before knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

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## II. What is God saying to me through others?

In *Basic Training Journey for Church Planting*, you will learn about the need to penetrate key people networks. Jesus often demonstrated the importance of penetrating people networks. The calling of Matthew led to an invitation to a party; thus, a new network was penetrated. The calling of Andrew led to the calling of Peter. Every contact has potential for opening new doors to opportunities for sharing the gospel. In the New Testament, it was not unusual for entire households to be evangelized. Priority should be given to penetrating key people networks.

### Activity – Identify networks.

List any key people networks that you are attempting to penetrate in the community where you will be planting a church.

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What will be your plan to penetrate these key people networks?  
(Will you share your personal testimony, using servant evangelism events and/or evangelistic tools such as The Net or One-Hour/One-Day Witnessing Workshop, et cetera?)

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*“It is critical to view evangelism not as an activity-oriented function of the church, but as a process.”—Basic Training Journey for Church Planting*

*“The NET approach is powerful because it teaches believers to clearly articulate their story by combining their salvation experience with the essential truths of the gospel. It requires the memorization of familiar Scriptures. Since The NET presentation is built around a person’s story/testimony, it is easy to learn, easy to communicate, and easy to remember.”  
The NET, NAMB*

What is your plan to share the gospel with these people? Will you share your personal testimony with them?

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**III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

**Activity - Practice sharing your testimony with a family member or friend.**

Try to share your testimony in 2-5 minutes. Edit your written testimony if needed until you are comfortable with the ease and flow of sharing it.

**Activity - Share your testimony with a lost person and write about the encounter in the space provided.**

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*Eternal Life Track, NAMB*

*Share Jesus Without Fear*

William Fay with  
Linda Evans Shepherd,  
Broadman & Holman Publishers

**Activity – Identify evangelism resources.**

List any evangelism courses, workshops, training, or conferences that you have completed.

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**Activity - Visit the following Web sites for additional helps and resources for sharing your faith and developing an evangelism strategy for your church plant.**

[www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net)

[www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net](http://www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net)

[www.Lifeway.com](http://www.Lifeway.com)

[www.VirtualChurchPlantingExperience.com](http://www.VirtualChurchPlantingExperience.com)

**Activity – Share your faith with someone daily.**

**Come prepared to share your testimony at the Basic Training Journey for Church Planting Workshop.**

## Straight Street for Church Planters

### Unit 9 – Worship – Express Route

**Desired outcome from this unit:** For participants to discover or be reminded that true worship always focuses on God.

#### **Scripture Helps:**

Isa. 6:1-9, NAS

#### **Reflection and Thoughts**

#### **I. What is God saying to me in His Word?**

“In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, ‘Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs. And he touched my mouth {with it} and said, ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’ And He said, ‘Go’” (Isa. 6:1-9, NAS).

Read Revelation 4:1-11 and Ezekiel 1:28 in addition to the above passage.

What did Isaiah, John, and Ezekiel see?

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They all saw a vision of God on His Throne.

In his book, *Return to Worship*, Ron Owens says,  
“When we worship, we come to a throne. This is where worship must begin. Everything else arranges itself around that throne. All created life, the church, the angelic

world—everything is in subjection to the One seated on the throne. When we worship, we acknowledge that all authority, power, dominion, control, and supremacy belong to Him who sits on the throne. There is no authentic worship without the acknowledgement of the authority of God.”<sup>12</sup>

A church planter must give serious thought to who or what will influence the worship style for the new church plant. The biblical basis begins with an understanding that we are to worship God in spirit and truth. *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:23-24, NASB).

Read Acts 9:1-31.

Saul’s view of God changed dramatically in Acts 9. Saul acknowledged the authority, power, and supremacy of Jesus Christ in his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul saw the Lord Jesus Christ and he never got over it. It affected everything that he said, did, and wrote. He was awestruck by the authority, power, and supremacy of God.

How will you demonstrate the authority, power, and supremacy of Jesus Christ in the design of corporate worship for your church plant?

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The apostle Paul kept his eyes upon the Lord; he remained focused on keeping Jesus the center of attention.

## **II. What is God saying to me through others?**

Read Acts 9:7-9.

Saul's traveling companions heard the sound of someone's voice, but they did not see anyone. In essence, Saul's traveling companions served as authenticators of what happened to him. However, they did not see the vision of Jesus. They heard a voice, but they did not see anyone. You will find as you engage in the activity of church planting that a variety of people will attend your Bible studies or worship events for one reason or the other. Most, if not all, are searching or looking for something. You, of course, desire that they see their need for Christ, yet most often they will observe something else before they ever see their need for Christ. What they often observe first is a sense of authenticity. They are asking themselves, is this real and can this be?

True worship is authentic worship. Authentic worship is true worship.

Do you think that it was possible or impossible for Saul to have worshiped God, as he was being led to Damascus? Why or why not?

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What elements do you think need to be present in order for someone to authentically worship God? Example, a Bible, prayer, etc.

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What elements do you think that people you are trying to reach will expect to see or think is needed in order for them to have an authentic worship experience? Example, a church building, a piano, an offering, etc.

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**III. What is it that I am supposed to be doing?**

Read Acts 9:7-9.

Saul was led away by his traveling companions, blind, broken, and powerless.

Describe a time in your life when you were completely focused on God, in essence you were blinded to the things of the world. It was just you and God.

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Has it been a while since you had that kind of experience? What do you think needs to take place in your life for that to happen again?

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Is there an area in your life that needs to be broken before God so that you can enjoy authentic worship with Him?

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**Remember – True worship always focuses on God!**

## What's Next?

Thank you for taking the time to work through Straight Street. We hope it has challenged you spiritually as you prepare to attend a Basic Training Journey Workshop. Please take the time to pray and ask God to speak to you regarding His direction for your life. Spiritual preparation is the most important task you can do as move toward attending a BTJ Workshop. Please bring your completed *Straight Street* to the BTJ Workshop. Here are the topics that we will cover at the BTJ Workshop.

### Basic Training Journey Schedule

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

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- <sup>1</sup> Hunt, T.W. *The Doctrine of Prayer*. (Nashville: Convention Press, 1986), p. 15
- <sup>2</sup> Barna, George. *The Power of Vision*. (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1992), Pg. 28-29.
- <sup>3</sup> Malphurs, Aubrey. *Values Driven Leadership*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), p. 72.
- <sup>4</sup> Kouzes, James M. and Posner, Barry Z. *The Leadership Challenge: How to Keep Getting Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1995)
- <sup>5</sup> Malphurs, *Values Driven Leadership*.
- <sup>6</sup> Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: growing faith where life happens*. (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005), p. 112-113.
- <sup>7</sup> Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Data Base © 1991 by Henderson Publishing.
- <sup>8</sup> Blackaby, Henry. Conversation With Author, (Nashville: Convention Press, 1990), Units 5 & 6.
- <sup>9</sup> Stanley, Andy. *Visioneering* (Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 1999), p.17.
- <sup>10</sup> McNeal, Reggie. *Get a Life! It IS All About You*. (Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2007), p. v.
- <sup>11</sup> Blackaby, Henry
- <sup>12</sup> Owens, Ron. *Return to Worship*. (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999), p. 53.



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