

Lesson 17 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 17. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of when James destroyed his computer because of his thirst for holiness? One important aspect of foundation-building in the New Testament is the apostles' focus on establishing healthy and reproducing *communities*, or churches. In many if not most instances, these churches were relatively small and met in homes.

The apostles made it a priority to lay community-based foundations. This is another key reason why Paul could confidently leave new disciples behind after just a few weeks with them. When he moved on to a new area, he did not abandon isolated individuals with no support base. Rather, he left behind communities and churches. These communities were usually small-groups of disciples who met together regularly. These small groups and house churches provided a context for dynamic spiritual growth and discipleship.

A church planting movement is a rapid multiplication of indigenous churches planting churches that sweeps through a people group or population segment. Church planting movements are different than movements where there is just mass evangelism and mass conversion. While it's true that church planting movements include massive evangelistic proclamation, they go beyond evangelism. In church planting movements mass evangelism produces rapidly multiplying new church starts. These churches are where discipleship takes place.

In the early church, small groups and house churches were very strategic to the advance of the gospel. The same is true about church planting movements today. Most church planting movements are able to thrive because they are small-group oriented and focus on using pre-existing infrastructure and space. Church meetings can be conducted in apartments, storefronts, homes, business offices, restaurants, garages, and even cars and taxis. In a church planting movement, church growth is not slowed by the time, processes, or money needed to build and maintain large buildings.

In the context of persecution, house churches are not only strategic because of their reproducibility, but also for a number of other reasons. They build resilience and strength into the gospel's advance. When persecutors kill the members of one house church or cell, the other small groups in the network can rebound and relocate quickly enough to ensure the church's survival and growth in a geographical area.

For a new movement to become a church planting movement, a vision for multiplying churches must become part of the movement at the very beginning of the movement. One way to go about this is to teach new disciples an uncomplicated, easily memorable, and simple pattern for church meetings. The point we want new disciples to grasp is that they did not need big buildings or highly educated clergy to have a church meeting.

The spontaneous expansion of the church depends on unpaid disciples being empowered and equipped to multiply themselves under the leadership of the Holy Spirit from the beginning of their conversion. As a movement grows, new leaders for the next wave of church

multiplication constantly need to be identified, equipped, and empowered. If we want a movement to flourish, local lay leaders must be empowered to lead.

In the Western world today, we tend to define qualifications for church leadership primarily in terms of education and degrees. We like to appoint leaders who have met certain educational requirements. Paul, however, did not do this. He defined leadership qualifications primarily in terms of character. He viewed prayer and fasting as the context within which the Holy Spirit himself highlights the leaders whom He is raising up. Paul also saw the excellence of the Spirit's leadership, not more degrees and conferences, as the primary key to the continued growth and strengthening of local leaders. Paul also appointed multiple leaders in the churches he planted. By doing this, there was a measure of accountability and checks-and-balances in leadership.

We can trust the Holy Spirit to appoint leaders for His house churches, and we can trust Him to lead those leaders well. As new leaders are appointed, like Paul and Barnabas we need to pray and fast for those leaders. As we pray and fast, we need to commit them to the care, guidance, and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

B. Review of Key Principle – Review and repeat the following principle until memorized.

- 1. We must focus on laying foundations for church planting movements, not on making individual and disconnected converts.*
- 2. House churches and small groups play a strategic role in the advance of the gospel.*
- 3. We must trust the Holy Spirit himself to point out leaders in the context of prayer and fasting.*
- 4. Leaders should be appointed on the basis of character, not formal education.*
- 5. More than one leader should be appointed in each church for the sake of accountability in leadership.*

Lesson 18 Review

A. Review of Lesson – Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 18. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.

Do you remember the story of how God gave Muhammad and the other disciples he knew freedom from the garbage in their hearts? Do you remember how the Holy Spirit helped you get free of your garbage and the demonic rats that were attracted to it? The New Testament says that the people of God are a holy temple, a sacred place in which God dwells through the Holy Spirit. It also teaches that Satan only has access to this temple to the extent that God's people *give* him a foothold in their lives. If we want to get Satan and his demons out of our lives, we must first remove the footholds that give them a place in our lives

So how do we get rid of Satan's footholds in our lives? Sin is like garbage. In the same way that rats are attracted to garbage, so Satan is attracted to garbage that we still have in our hearts. "Garbage" refers to a broad range of issues that give demons a measure of access to our lives. Garbage includes sins that we have committed against others and sins that others have

committed against us. Garbage includes curses spoken against us by others, or which we have spoken against others. Other kinds of garbage include generational curses, unresolved trauma or painful memories, unforgiveness, unresolved bitterness or grief. Garbage can also include letting anger burn in our hearts over long periods of time without forgiveness. As garbage attracts rats, so our spiritual garbage attracts demons. However, when we repent, forgive, and turn all of our garbage over to Jesus, the footholds that give demons a legal right to affect our lives are removed. With nothing left to stand on, the devil is forced to flee when we rebuke and command him to leave through the Spirit's anointing.

B. Review of Key Principle – *Review and repeat the following principle until memorized.*

1. *We must teach Jesus' disciples to give their garbage to Jesus so that Satan has no place in their lives.*

Lesson 19 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 19. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

As the people of God, we are not only called to be a clean and healed temple. We are also called to be a house of prayer, made up of living, breathing stones whose lips continually offer sacrifices of praise that honor Jesus' name. In Isaiah, we learn that the temple is the house of prayer. In the New Testament, Paul says that the people of God are the temple where God lives by His Spirit. If the temple is the house of prayer, and if we are now the temple is the people of God, then this means that we ourselves are the house of prayer! The church of Jesus is a house of prayer, and we are priests who called to "pray without ceasing." We are a living temple of prayer that will never cease to exist because of our inclusion in the resurrection of the righteous.

Though unceasing prayer requires effort and focus, through the grace of God it is not a burden. God promises us that as we regularly and wholeheartedly give ourselves to intimacy with him through prayer, he will meet us and fill our hearts with great joy and spiritual pleasures. The reason we have joy in prayer is because God Himself is enjoyable! He is not looking down on us with a big frown and an angry look on His face. He enjoys us as His children. He enjoys hearing our voices. He is our good Father. He enjoys us in prayer, and we enjoy God in prayer.

At the end of the age, the Bride's growth as a house of prayer will be more vital than ever. We will be called to stand pure, holy, and radiant in the face of an anti-Christ empire and a level of worldwide wickedness more vile than anything the world has ever seen. Jesus is zealous for the purity of his house. He is coming back for a fiery, praying, pure, and passionate Bride, not a dull, sleeping, unresponsive, and indifferent people.

If a church planting movement is to be of New Testament quality, it must also have a high vision for both individual and group prayer. The living stones of God's rapidly expanding house of prayer must actually pray together! In God's sight, a church planting movement is equivalent to a house-of-prayer planting movement. A church planting movement that does not value prayer highly is a temple that does not function as it should. The best way to ensure that a high vision for prayer is instilled in a movement from the beginning is to simply conduct prayer

meetings, providing opportunities for the Holy Spirit to encounter new disciples and grip them with a hunger for prayer and closeness with Jesus.

When we pray the prayers that the apostles prayed in the New Testament, we know that our prayers are fully in agreement with the will of God. Knowing that we are praying God's will gives us more conviction, faith, and confidence as we pray.

B. Review of Key Apostolic Prayers – Review and repeat the following apostolic prayers until memorized.

Ephesians 1:15-21

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 3:16-19

¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

3 Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

Acts 4:29-30

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Romans 15:5-6

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:1

10 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Lesson 20 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 20. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of how God used His power and fire to strengthen Iman through persecution? Iman was only a few days old in her faith when she experienced violent persecution from her family. However, the Holy Spirit strengthened his daughter with power and fire through these persecutions. The Holy Spirit is an amazing leader. His incredible power is able to strengthen even brand new believers through difficult seasons of persecution.

As believers bless and love their enemies in the midst of their suffering, not only do God's people become more like Jesus, but their persecutors see the cross of Jesus portrayed before their very eyes. By this, they are given more opportunities to submit to Jesus before they are punished at the Second Coming. When the Holy Spirit backs up the gospel with power, this provides a living testimony to the resurrection of the dead that will occur at the Second Coming. The persecution birthed by the same power and our loving responses to our persecutors provides a living testimony to love Christ displayed on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Neither Jesus nor the apostles ever hid the reality of persecution from their disciples. They were up-front and frank about the implications of being a disciple of Jesus on this side of his return. When they were with their disciples, they warned them ahead of time about the persecutions they would face as Jesus' disciples. By doing these, they removed false expectations about what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this age. Like Jesus and the apostles did, from the beginning of a movement we must clearly warn new or potential disciples about the realities of persecution connected to a decision to follow Jesus. From the beginning of their life in Christ, they must have no illusions about what they are getting themselves into. If we make clear both the benefits of the gospel and perils that await disciples of Jesus, potential disciples can then weigh the cost without illusions. This also protects our integrity when persecution actually comes, as we warned.

According to the New Testament, one of the ways God imparts the power and gifts of his Spirit into his people is through the laying on of hands. One of the key purposes of this power is to give divine strength to remain faithful through hardships and persecution. While making the cost of following Jesus known to new disciples up-front plays a vital role in bracing them for persecution, an infinitely more significant factor is the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit himself. When we lay hands on new disciples, like the apostles and the early church, we must ask God to release an impartation of the Spirit's fire and power that will sustain them through the persecutions and difficulties they will face as followers of Jesus.

B. Review of Key Principles – *Review and repeat the following principles until memorized.*

1. *We must warn potential and new disciples up-front about the costs of following Jesus and the persecution that will come with such a decision.*

2. *When we lay hands on new disciples, we must ask the Holy Spirit to give them an impartation of strength to sustain them through persecution.*

Lesson 21 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 21. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of when Muhammad was brought before the elders and ordered to deny his faith? Just days earlier, Muhammad had observed a powerful example of what Jesus has to offer when he watched God raise his own child from the dead. These blessings were followed by the cost of following that same King. Was the promise of Jesus' coming kingdom worth the hard times of persecution now?

Many of the letters written by the apostles in the New Testament were written to strengthen the saints through times of persecution. When severe persecution comes to our brothers and sisters in Christ and life feels overwhelmingly complex to them, one thing we can do to strengthen them is to retell their own story for them and remind them of God's promises. Another gift we can give the persecuted is to remind them that they are being persecuted for Jesus' sake.

As ambassadors of Christ, we must let these kinds of tensions and pressures drive us to the Lord in prayer. Paul constantly prayed for new disciples and churches. Through prayer he constantly asked the Lord to secure the loyalty of his people by showing them the incomparable superiority of what his coming kingdom has to offer. He asked God to enlighten the eyes of the saints through the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Paul knew that if the saints tasted glimpses of the coming blessings that await those who carry their cross in this age, then they are much less likely to deny their faith. We must not forget that the apostolic prayers of the New Testament were fashioned and offered to God in a context where persecution was commonplace. Like Paul, day and night we must pray the apostolic prayers of the New Testament on behalf of new disciples and churches.

One of the key reasons that we must learn to labor long and hard in prayer is that one day God may call us to carry *by* prayer those whose salvation has been birthed *through* prayer. It is our responsibility to pray new sheep through persecution. Paul could leave new churches behind with confidence after spending just weeks or months with them, partly because most of his work of discipleship was accomplished through intercession. In that sense, he never left them at all. In the words of Hudson Taylor, the famous missionary to China: "My claim will be alone in God and I must learn before I leave England to move men through God by prayer alone." In prayer, we wield a sword that moves men, angels, and demons irrespective of our geographical location.

B. Review of Key Principles – *Review and repeat the following principles until memorized.*

1. *We must wrestle fervently and constantly for the birthing and maturing of the harvest in the place of prayer.*
2. *We must entrust new disciples, churches, and movements into the hands of the Holy Spirit.*

3. *We must have confidence that the Holy Spirit will protect and preserve Jesus' flock until Jesus returns.*
4. *We should conduct follow-up visits when possible and as the Holy Spirit opens doors.*
5. *We continue to influence Jesus' disciples from afar through prayer and follow-up communications when possible or appropriate.*
6. *We must trust the Holy Spirit to strengthen the saints through seasons of persecution and trial.*

Repetition and Internalization of Strategy Outline

The New Testament shows that it is possible to lay a solid foundation in a short timeframe. However, this obviously does not mean that we cannot continue exhort and encourage disciples from a distance. Paul stayed connected with churches through letters or through his coworkers, and he visited churches as God opened the door for him to do so. Sometimes God may send someone build on a foundation that we have helped build, like when Apollos built on the foundation Paul had laid in the church in Corinth. However, sometimes circumstances—persecution, imprisonment, isolation, severed communications, etc.—may not allow us to stay in contact with new disciples. In these instances, we must simply continue to trust the Holy Spirit to lead his people creatively and strategically in our absence.

I spent a total of about ten weeks in Muhammad's area. During this time the discipleship process went through three phases. Phase 1 took about two weeks. During these phase, I focused on leading Muhammad through the things we have covered in this course. Once I had trained Muhammad in a discipleship session, his job was to go back and lead the other house church leaders through it. They, in turn, instructed the members of the new house churches. Phase 1 was heaviest in terms of passing on information to Muhammad. I stayed in the shadows through all of phase 1. After Phase 1, we entered Phase 2. Phase 2 took about six weeks. During this phase, my role shifted primarily to that of coach, encourager, and intercessor. When Muhammad came to me, I would pray for him and simply admonish him to keep going deeper in the things he already knew, and to encourage the others to do the same. I also stayed in the shadows in Phase 2. After Phase 2, I left Muhammad's area for one week. When I returned to his area, we entered Phase 3. Phase 3 only took a few days. During this time, we focused on closure and commissioning. I laid hands on Muhammad and committed Him to the hands of the Holy Spirit.

Now we are going to repeat a strategy outline until we have it in your hearts. This outline will help you remember what to do when you go into a new place to share the gospel. Listen to this outline as many times as you need to, until you get it deep in your hearts. The outline has ten parts. You can use your ten fingers to help you remember ten key words that will help you remember the outline.

1. **PRAY** - Pray, fast, worship, and listen to the Holy Spirit
2. **LISTEN** - Let the Spirit lead us to persons of peace and strategic leaders
3. **SHARE** – Share the gospel with them boldly in a way they can understand.
4. **POWER** - Ask God confirm his word with power.
5. **WARN** - Before they make a decision, tell them that they *will* be persecuted if they decide to follow Jesus.

6. **MEET** – If one or more people respond in faith, set up a time to meet with them as soon as possible.
7. **TRAIN** – Begin to train, mentor, and coach them out of the public eye. Stay in the shadows as much as possible. Pass on to them all of the things you have learned in this course. Use the training cycle - Model, Assist, Watch, and Leave – to help you train. The amount of time between sessions will depend on the particular circumstances.
8. **EMPOWER** - After you train them in each session, empower them. They must pass on to others everything they have received from you.
9. **PRAY** – Pray for them constantly. Pray the apostolic prayers for them with boldness and conviction.
10. **COMMIT** – When it is time for you to leave, commission them and commit them into the hands of the Holy Spirit. Continue to disciple them from afar in the place of prayer. If circumstances permit, maintain contact with them and provide follow-up training as God opens doors.

Remember that because of persecution and other unpredictable circumstances, you often will not know how much time you will have with new disciples. So when you begin training them, you will need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit how much time you need to place between different training sessions and meetings.