FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church

Coaching Guide #7

Gathering Strategy

How a church planter responds to the individuals they are working with is of utmost importance. They need to think through and provide what I call "next steps" or "pathways" toward Christ, towards a deeper relationship with Christ or towards a deeper relationship with the Launch Team that is forming.

These pathways could be:

- Evangelistic studies such as Bible 101 or Christianity 101.
- Small group meetings led by those on the Leadership Team.
- Prayer meetings for those committed to the Launch Team.
- Informational meetings, gathering more than 20 people, to introduce people to the church.
- Launch Team meetings.
- Preview or monthly worship services.

The difference between a leader and a follower is that the leader knows what the next steps are in a person's spiritual journey.

Biblical Insights

- Acts 1:12-23
- Matthew 10:1-42
- Luke 9:57-10:23

Checklist

- ☐ Evangelistic small group strategy determined.
- ☐ Leadership prayer gathering established.
- ☐ Next steps map developed and discussed with coach.
- ☐ Leadership training curriculum chosen and discussed with coach.
- ☐ Launch team location chosen.
- ☐ Preview or monthly worship service dates set.

Reflective Questions

- What next steps will you provide for the "person of peace" you discover?
- What next steps will you provide for a de-churched person?
- What next steps will you provide for a person who wants to join your leadership team?
- What next steps need to be taken to get the group up to 40 adults?
- How do you know a person is committed to the new church?
- How will you maintain and manage the momentum in the new church?

Conclusion:

The goal of the networking & gathering phase is to get enough buzz in the community that the new church will have minimally about 40 adults committed to being on your Launch Team (with a healthy percentage of those being individuals who came to know Christ through the process.) Conversion growth is critical through this phrase if you really want to be a missional church.

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