

# STUDY GUIDE

By DAVID J. GARDA

To grow a healthy church, we must leave theory, theology, and biblical principles and move toward action. This study guide helps you do that through two sections that appear throughout the guide: *Taking Ownership* and *Taking Action*. Our intent is for you to evaluate your ministry in the church and, where necessary, modify or change it totally. The goal is a vibrant, thriving church sensitive to the distinct needs of every attender.

## CHAPTER 1

# Our Divine Purpose and Passion

### Taking Ownership

1. The great commandment that drives the Great Commission is “make disciples.” As we note on page 15, “His words hit home loud and clear. In His message was a sincere profound command, ‘make disciples.’ You knew what He meant because you were a disciple. . . . His plan was that you would help others follow Him just as you had followed Him. Jesus had summarized His passion and His design for ministry that you were to continue. It was identical to the passion for His own ministry.”

1. What is your understanding of Christ’s command to make disciples?

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2. Personally, which relationships and experiences have impacted you to be a disciple? List the persons, by name or position, who have influenced you and what events were involved.

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3. Read again the following two sections from chapter 1:

The Great Commission, contrary to many people's thinking, is not just a missions emphasis, nor is it just a focus upon evangelism. It is the mandate of making disciples—a balance of winning people to Christ, building them in their faith, and then equipping them to share in the further work of the Great Commission. *The Great Commission is the primary work of the church!* (p. 17)

We are called to restore to the local church a passion for obeying the Great Commission. (p. 16)

Consider the above two statements. How will your ministry change if disciple making becomes your primary objective rather than merely a program within your ministry?

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4. What struggles do you have with establishing the Great Commission as the priority for the church? What struggles would your ministry face in establishing the Great Commission as the priority for the church?

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### Taking Action

5. How committed is your ministry to Great Commission discipling? Explain:

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6. How well do your ministry co-workers share your commitment to Great Commission discipling? How could you measure their commitment better?

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7. How accurately do the people who share the leadership in your church understand a Great Commission purpose?

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8. What might be done in the near future to communicate God's purpose for the church with the people of the church?

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**CHAPTER 2**  
**Our Desired Product**

**Taking Ownership**

1. In your own words, why does the local church exist?  
(What is the purpose of your church?)

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2. What does a ministry with a passion to carry out the  
Great Commission look like? What priorities are essential?

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3. What is a Christ-like disciple like? List his or her qualities in the areas of skills, relationships, knowledge, and attitudes.

SKILLS
RELATIONSHIPS
KNOWLEDGE
ATTITUDES

4. What ministry in your church is currently producing disciples with a winning, building, and equipping balance? How could these priorities be expanded into other segments of your church?

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**Taking Action**

1. Please identify the following levels of spiritual interest. In the left column, explain what each individual looks like. In the right, explain your ministry strategy to impact each individual at his level of spiritual interest.

What is this individual like?	How can our church impact this type of individual?
Secular	Winning/Outreach Cultivate
Fringe Attender	Winning/Outreach Sow
Curious	Winning/Outreach Reap
Growing Believer	Building/Growth
Serving Believer	Equipping/Ministry Training
Leader/Shepherd	Leadership Multiplication

2. One principle that must guide our programs is a narrowed focus: "Doing few things well is more effective than doing many things in mediocrity" (p. 30).

Consider that statement. What would change if this were true within your ministry? (If it is already true, how has this practice of specialization affected your area of ministry?)

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**CHAPTER 3**  
**Christ Our Example**

**Taking Ownership**

1. Reflect upon Christ's ministry. List those insights that you glean for your ministry.

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2. A critical foundational element for every ministry is a proper understanding of who Christ is. Draw from your experiences to list six descriptive statements about Jesus. Those statements should have affected your life; explain how those truths have influenced your life.

Who Christ Is	How This Truth Impacts Me

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In this chapter we consider the four phases of Jesus' ministry on earth. Phase 1 is foundational. "It was a time in which He devoted Himself to building a foundation that would nurture and sustain significant growth" (p. 36).

3. In building a foundation for His ministry:

a. What did Christ emphasize in His teaching?

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b. With whom did Christ spend time?

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c. How did Christ teach His followers?

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The authors present a key caution in the process of building a ministry: "Never be too hasty to move away from building and maintaining a foundation. Beware of the lure of what lies ahead. The important goals and needs before you can consume you and lead you prematurely away from the foundation of your ministry" (p. 38).

4. What are the dangers of building upon a poor foundation? Look at Matthew 7:24–27 as you consider your answer.

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### **Taking Action**

During phase 2, when the team is equipped for ministry, Jesus “made it His habit to seek all kinds of people from all kinds of backgrounds. He paid particular attention to those who were responsive to Him. He had seen that responsiveness in those He called to be His disciples. Now He called them not only to follow Him but to receive special training. He promised to help them become ‘fishers of men’ (Matt. 4:19; Mark 1:17) and in so doing inaugurated what we might call an ‘equipping’ or ‘ministry training’ phase of ministry” (p. 38).

5. Who are the men or women under your care that are ready to be equipped?

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6. Are you available to train these people as workers and multipliers? If your schedule limits or excludes your availability, what duties or activities need to be diminished (eliminated?) to allow you to make such training a priority?

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7. Identify two individuals and a strategy to expand your equipping ministry with them.

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In Phase 3 of His ministry, Jesus actively pursued the masses. “His outreach methodology had a twofold purpose. First and foremost, He was working to reach the masses. Jesus was passionately burdened for the lost and sought to reach out to people everywhere He went. His second purpose was to model the process and involve His ministry team in outreach. He wanted His disciples to share His passion, and He wanted to

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give them the ability to duplicate His ministry. His desire was to help them succeed in the task of evangelism. He knew the result in their lives would be both deep joy as well as lifelong conviction and commitment to Great Commission living” (p. 40).

8. Read Mark 1:14–2:12. List two insights you gain from observing Christ’s outreach priority.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

The authors call on ministry leaders to be like Christ by going beyond evangelism talk to “creating avenues of group success. This aspect of our Savior’s strategy should be reflected in the corporate strategy of every ministry and every church. . . . It is time to learn how to get involved together in bringing that message to the masses of our generation” (p. 41).

9. How is your ministry assisting believers to be successful in evangelism with their friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

10. Jesus was often called “a friend of sinners.” What sinners would genuinely call you a friend? If no names come to mind, how will you prioritize a friendship with two lost individuals?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

How could your ministry help you to reach these “lost” friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In phase 4 we restructure for multiplication: “The twelve . . . had been involved with Him in ministry training and outreach, and now they were ready for shepherding responsibilities” (p. 41; see Matt. 10:1; Mark 3:13–19; Luke 6:12–19).

11. What individuals or influences (teaching, showing, sending, or involving) have significantly contributed to your ability to “lead others”?

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### Tying It Together

As we review the ministry of Christ we often overlook the everyday nature of those who followed and ministered with Him. We see three types of believers: they could be called *new*, *regular*, and *super*. But this brand of thinking misses the point of Jesus life and commission—it’s dangerous thinking! We must affirm that *we* are the people about whom Christ talks. If I am not qualified to be a disciple, and if I never hope to be a disciple, then who will be qualified?

Here is a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication that reminds us that we remain lifelong disciples called to follow the Master. Pray the following as a reminder of His call and your willingness to follow Him:

Dear Lord, thank you for modeling a life of winning, building, and equipping priorities for me. I can’t believe that your strategy to change the world includes me—but I praise you because it does! Please help me to be the disciple you invite me to be. In Jesus name, \_\_\_\_\_ (Your Name).

**CHAPTER 4**  
**An Environment for Growth**

**Taking Ownership**

We must remember that is God, not us, who brings spiritual growth. "Leadership cannot make growth happen; it is God who causes growth (1 Cor. 3:6). Much as the right climate enables grapes to grow into perfection, the church needs to create an environment that will help people grow" (p. 48).

1. Write a brief prayer of thanksgiving to express your praise to God for the growth He brings.

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**Taking Action**

2. Evaluate how effectively the following priorities are functioning in your ministry by completing the right column.

Foundational Priority	How Are We Doing in this Area?
1. An Atmosphere of Love	1. _____
2. Relational Ministry	2. _____
3. Communicating Christ Clearly	3. _____
4. A Healthy Group Image	4. _____
5. A Prayer Base	5. _____
6. Communicating the Word	6. _____

3. Identify the area of most pressing concern: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Brainstorm ways this need can be addressed during the next three months.

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4. What benefits come by investing your time and resources in a healthy foundation within your ministry?

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5. Identify two foundational priorities that you find particularly sensitive to the tyranny of the urgent. What steps are you willing to take to prevent the urgent from overtaking each of these top priorities?

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Priority a: \_\_\_\_\_

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Priority b: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CHAPTER 5**  
**An Atmosphere of Love**

**Taking Ownership**

An atmosphere of love should pervade our interactions because that is Christ's command for his disciples: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

1. What are the practical implications of this passage?

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2. According to John's gospel, what are the marks of a true disciple?

- a. John 8:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. John 13:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. John 15:8 \_\_\_\_\_

3. The love of a disciple of Christ is in stark contrast to the ways of the world. Give two examples of how your ministry is known for its atmosphere of love.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

4. "The task of leaders is to do all we can to create a place where love is genuinely expressed" (p. 58). How have you seen this modeled by other leaders?

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\_\_\_\_\_

### Taking Action

5. Below is a chart to help you measure your "love quotient." Put a check mark under the column that best reflects the frequency you practice these loving actions.

Opportunities to Lead in Love	High	Medium	Low
1. Attitude check: Do I really love those under my care?			
2. Do I teach with a tone of love (vs. law)?			
3. Am I a good listener?			
4. Do I model God's love in disappointments?			
5. Do I create situations where love can be expressed?			
6. Do I regularly pray for those under my care?			

6. Read Hebrews 10:24. List at least two acts of love you could demonstrate to “spur on” those under your spiritual care. Then seek opportunities to put that act into practice.

To my spouse \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To my children \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Among my ministry team \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Among those to whom I minister \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## CHAPTER 6

# Relational Ministry

### Taking Ownership

1. Describe the type of relationship that has helped you grow spiritually (John 3:22).

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2. "The point is that the ministry of Jesus was a relational ministry" (p. 70). In what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement?

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### Taking Action

3. How does a relational priority enable us to fulfill our purpose of “assisting believers to fulfill the Great Commission”?

a. In the priority of *winning* others to Christ?

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b. In the priority of *building up* believers in Christ?

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c. In the priority of *equipping* believers in Christ?

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4. Time is never the problem; the *management* of our time is. Within the context of honest discovery, take five minutes to fill in your realistic weekly schedule, using the grid below. The following codes will help you mark your schedule clearly (Note: more than one code may apply to a single time slot):

TWS: Time with Spouse

TWK: Time with Kids

WORK: Time spent at Work (incl. both home & office based work.)

DEVO: Planned Time with Christ

MEET: Meetings

R&R: Rest & Relaxation

WIN: Time invested in winning relationships

BUILD: Time invested in building relationships

EQUIP: Time spent in equipping relationships

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 A.M.							
7							
8							
9-10							
11							
NOON							
1-2							
3-4							
5-6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11-12							

5. Name three changes you can make during the next three months to increase the relational effectiveness of your schedule. How will you accomplish them?

Change #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Change #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Change #3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER 7**  
**Communicating Christ Clearly**

**Taking Ownership**

1. What misconceptions of Christ have you observed recently?

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2. What characteristics of Christ do you cling to:

a. in times of trouble and disappointment? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. in times of joy? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. in times of stress? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. in times of unmet needs? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Taking Action

3. Communicating Christ clearly to the world around you is important. How can you communicate a proper concept of Christ to the following:

a. your co-workers? \_\_\_\_\_

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b. your family members? \_\_\_\_\_

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c. a spiritually lost peer, family member, or associate? \_\_\_\_\_

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d. those under your spiritual care? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Retell a Scripture event in the first person. Remember, you are one of the characters (an eyewitness) of the event. Help us to feel, smell, hear, and join you in your meeting with the Savior.

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5. Spend time in prayer celebrating the character, person, and ministry of Jesus in your life.

**CHAPTER 8**  
**A Healthy Group Image**

**Taking Ownership**

1. Read Acts 2:43–47. Illustrate the following evidences of a healthy group image from your own experiences with a group in your current (or past) church.

a. They were devoted (v. 42). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. They were together with oneness (vv. 44, 46). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. There was a sense of gladness (vv. 46–47). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. They enjoyed the favor of all the people (v. 47). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Seeing problems over potential is contagious. Do you remember the ten spies who saw the problems as Joshua and Caleb saw the potential? Do you remember the big Goliath in the eyes of Israel, but the bigger God in the eyes of young David? In what way does our concept of Christ affect our willingness to view our ministries with “potential-filled” versus “problem-finding” eyes?

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### Taking Action

3. What testimonies of God’s working need to be told to those within your ministry? List the names of five people who need to proclaim how Christ has shown Himself to be powerful and present.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a creative or fresh way to communicate these testimonies within your ministry?

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5. Identify a regular way to communicate these stories to those within your ministry.

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More than anything else, Christianity is relationships. Consider the close relationships described in the early church:

They were devoted. (Acts 2:42)

They were together with oneness. (vv. 44, 46)

There was a sense of gladness. (vv. 46-47)

They enjoyed the favor of all the people. (v. 47)

6. As followers of Christ, we have many relationships too. First and foremost is a relationship with our heavenly Father. How can you help those under your spiritual care to become devoted to the Great Commission purpose that God has given His church?

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7. Also important is a relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. What will you do to contribute to a healthy (oneness, gladness, favor) group image among those with whom you minister?

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**CHAPTER 9**  
**A Prayer Base**

**Taking Ownership**

“The kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power” (1 Cor. 4:20, NASB). Neither is it defined by “programs, curriculum, video libraries, creative clip-art, or any other ministry tool” (p. 100). That is why prayer is paramount for the church leader.

1. Read Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23-25; and Luke 6:12-13. What three conclusions can you draw from these texts?

Conclusion #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion #3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Taking Action

2. Flip back a few pages and compare these conclusions with your schedule from chapter 6. What one surgical adjustment could be made to bring your schedule into more conformity with your conclusions?

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“Prayer is one of the most important aspects of building disciples. If we are to help people grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ we must pray. In fact, if we do everything else right, but fail to pray, nothing significant will happen” (Carl Wilson, *With Christ in the School of Discipleship*).

3. What is one adjustment to your ministry agenda, events, or schedule that can help you to simply implement Christ prayer priority within your ministry?

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4. Read Exodus 33:15. Spend time in prayer—making this prayer of Moses your personal plea.

**CHAPTER 10**  
**Communicating the Word**

**Taking Ownership**

1. What “funny” misconceptions of Bible stories or Christian living can you remember from your childhood or the childhood of others?

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2. As adults these misconceptions become dangerously wrong road maps for living. How have you witnessed a wrong biblical concept, or a wrong concept of God, sidetrack a life?

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3. “Always keep your finger in the text” (p. 109). Why do you think we so easily shift from this insight?

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4. What suggestions could you offer to help a study group “keep their fingers in the text?”

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“Communicating the Word is so fundamental to ministry that none of us will ever outlive our need to increase our effectiveness” (p. 116).

### **Taking Action**

5. The six priorities presented in chapters 5–10 summarize the essentials for growing a healthy believer. Complete and discuss the “Evaluating Your Environment of Growth” work sheets found on pages 117–20.

## CHAPTER 11

# The Nature of Ministry Training

### Taking Ownership

“Follow Me, . . . and I will make you fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). A crucial part of Jesus’ ministry vision was to equip His disciples to do the work that He commissioned them to do after His ascension. We also are to equip others to do the work of the kingdom.

1. Write a practical definition of “equipping”:

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2. Share an experience you have had that illustrates this practical definition (draw from any context, i.e., schooling, career, sports, hobbies, ministry):

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3. Why is an equipping process (i. e.,  $M^1$ – $M^7$ ) so critical?

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4. In your own words, explain why Great Commission equipping must include a balance of Peer Care (a people intensive ministry in the life of believers,  $M^4$ ) and Peer Evangelism (a people intensive ministry in the life of unbelievers,  $M^5$ – $M^7$ ).

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### **Taking Action**

5. Brainstorm the skills necessary to accomplish the two-fold agenda of Ministry Training—peer care, and peer evangelism.

Skills Needed for Peer Care	Skills Needed for Peer Evangelism

6. In the above chart, place an asterisk next to the two most critical skills for your current ministry in each column.

a. Identify two individuals who may have the desire to learn and apply these four skills.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

b. What will be your strategy to equip them in these skills?

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**CHAPTER 12**  
Identifying the Responsive

**Taking Ownership**

1. Looking back on our study in chapter 11, what qualities or factors led you to select the two individuals in question 6?

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2. What qualities or factors, do you think, led Christ to select certain individuals to be equipped?

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3. What questions could you ask to measure your growth in each of the following areas?

*Faithful:* As measured by \_\_\_\_\_

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*Available:* As measured by \_\_\_\_\_

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*Teachable:* As measured by \_\_\_\_\_

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*Enthusiastic:* As measured by \_\_\_\_\_

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### Taking Action

“Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matt. 9:38).

4. Take a moment and pray specifically for God to fulfill Matthew 9:38 within your ministry.

5. Identify your most effective skill in ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

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How could you train two individuals to excel beyond your own abilities in this area?

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**CHAPTER 13**  
**Training the Team**

**Taking Ownership**

1. In what ways have you seen evidence of *imparting your life* to another? (1 Thess. 2:8; Luke 6:40).

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2. List the small and large insights, skills, priorities, knowledge, and relationships that have been critical to your growth and ministry in Christ:

Insights	Skills	Priorities	Knowledge	Relationships

3. From the above list, place an asterisk next to the top two lessons in each area. Which lessons have produced the greatest fruit from your ministry?

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### Taking Action

“One of the common mistakes of the equipping process is that it lacks an intentional approach” (p. 141).

4. The guidelines of ministry training are: *impart your life, challenge people to involvement, support your team with training, and keep your focus clear*. Which of these areas reflects an equipping strength in your current ministry?

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Which of these areas reflects an equipping weakness in your current ministry?

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Within your ministry, who is uniquely gifted to assist your ministry to strengthen your equipping process?

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5. Reflect back to the manual transmission illustration on page 144. List three field trips or field experiences that are necessary for your workers to become Great Commission effective? (This includes a balance of winning, building, and equipping priorities on a personal and a ministry level.)

a. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. \_\_\_\_\_

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c. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Identify your ministries (or areas of a specific ministry) that have the greatest need of workers:

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Invest your life and energy in a person  
to make a spiritual difference.*

*Focus on imparting your life.*

*Spiritual preparation is a high priority.*

*Prioritize people over the task or program.*

7. What training strategy can you develop that will increase your effectiveness at producing workers with this Ministry Mind-set vs. the Project Mentality (p. 147).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Through prayer, express to God your eagerness or apprehension about building a ministry that meets people at their point of spiritual need and helps them grow as disciples. Express your desire to have Him lead you as the depth and breadth of your discipling ministry increases.

**CHAPTER 14**  
**Rethinking Evangelism**

**Taking Ownership**

1. “The majority of [Christians] believe they cannot be successful in sharing their faith” (The Barna Group, p. 151). As you reflect upon this quote, list why you think most believers have bought into the concept that only a few within the body of Christ can effectively be committed to evangelism?

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2. Re-read Matthew 28:18–20. How does Christ’s strategy counteract this misconception?

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3. Why is evangelism difficult to accomplish alone? How does our evangelistic equipping change when we include a commitment to share together in evangelizing our peers?

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4. How has a relationship with another believer helped you in an evangelistic relationship?

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5. Identify the ways your church has assisted you in reaching a lost friend or peer.

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### Taking Action

6. Outline a three-event strategy that will model the cultivating, sowing, and reaping process within our evangelistic relationships. The events or activities can be spread over three consecutive months, three consecutive weekends, or even over three consecutive nights.

Outreach Event A: Primary purpose *cultivating*

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Outreach Event B: Primary purpose *sowing*

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Outreach Event C: Primary purpose *reaping*

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**CHAPTER 15**  
**Mobilizing for Evangelism**

**Taking Ownership**

1. Jesus was often called a *friend of sinners*. Identify the nonbelievers who would genuinely call you their friend:

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2. Select one of the above individuals. How can you affirm this relationship during the next week?

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**Taking Action**

“The Gospel is news to each generation, and we must seek new ways to address our times” (R. C. Sproul). In our increasingly secular culture, the unchurched have a decreasing knowledge about Christ and the Scriptures. Within this context the traditional concept of a one-shot outreach event can actually hinder the process of lifestyle evangelism. It is the Holy Spirit empowered life of an authentic believer with a nonbelieving

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friend that actually energizes our outreach events. The event becomes a forum to spark a conversation about Christ and His impact, rather than a monolog gospel presentation. As believers share together the responsibilities for these consistent body evangelism events, the more equipped they will become in exposing their peers to Christ.

3. Prepare a strategy for your plan to further the team approach of evangelism within your ministry. How can you specifically counter the misconception that evangelism is primarily a lone ranger responsibility?

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4. Read Luke 15, especially noting verse 10. When was the last time you had the first-hand experience of rejoicing in the finding of a lost soul? Spend time in prayer. Commit yourself to the finding of a lost soul in much the same way as Luke 15 presents the search for the lost coin, lost sheep, and a lost life.

**CHAPTER 16**  
**Leadership Multiplication**

**Taking Ownership**

1. Read Exodus 18. What leadership principles do you draw from this passage?

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2. *Reflect:* Moses became willing to share his leadership responsibility with faithful and capable believers. What do we communicate when we function as a lone ranger leader?

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3. *React:* Whereas all believers are ultimately called to an equipping ministry, only a few are called to a leadership ministry. This is especially true when we define the leadership ministry as the role of an elder or shepherd.

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4. What insights do the following verses offer on understanding the role and character of leadership?

1 Timothy 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Timothy 5:22 \_\_\_\_\_

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Ephesians 4:11–13 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

James 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Titus 1:5–6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER 17**  
**Cultivating Vision**

**Taking Ownership**

1. Write down your vision for your current ministry:

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2. How well does the vision of your church reflect the balance of winning, building, and equipping priorities that we draw from the Great Commission?

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3. Which aspects of your vision do you especially own as your passion?

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**Taking Action**

4. With a clearly communicated vision we can evaluate fruitfulness in light of effectiveness, rather than mere quantity

or efficiency. We become caught in the trap of doing things right, without being certain that we are doing the right things! Use the following work sheets to sharpen your handle on the unique vision that God has called you to within His Great Commission objective.

**THE PAST:** How has God worked in my life? What has happened in your life that has shaped the ministry burdens or passions within you? What experiences or relationships have God used to clarify His purpose for your life?

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**THE PRESENT:** What opportunity of ministry causes me to light up? What needs am I, or my church, in a unique position to meet? I find myself especially sensitive to the challenge of \_\_\_\_\_.

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THE FUTURE POTENTIAL: In my wildest dreams, I sense that God wants to do this in \_\_\_\_\_ ministry over the next \_\_\_\_\_ (number of) years. Five years from now, what will our ministry look like? If God blessed you with unlimited resources, what would you desire to see most thoroughly accomplished for Christ's cause?

5. Clarify your vision by defining three areas of maximum impact:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Update or create a vision statement (either for your ministry or for your life) that draws from the unique ministry of God in your past and present, plus your dreams for the future.

7. How can this vision be remembered and owned by those within your ministry? How will this vision be communicated in a simple, yet memorable, way?

## CHAPTER 18

# The Act of Challenging

### Taking Ownership

At the beginning of chapter 18, we read about the disappointing experience of Pastor John: “By the time registration was finished, only three people had signed up. Three people wouldn’t even comprise one healthy group, not to mention the fact that all three apparently signed up because they felt sorry for their pastor. After all, ‘This program seemed so important to him’” (p. 198).

1. What lessons have you learned from experiences similar to the above illustration?

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2. With all of our best intentions we easily slip into a *Program-Based Design* for ministry rather than a discipling *People-Based Design*. Why do we feel such a pressure to measure success by the size of an event rather than the progress within people’s lives?

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3. How could Pastor John have changed his approach from promoting a ministry to a more People-Based Design for their involvement?

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4. How did Jesus challenge individuals to a deeper ministry involvement?

John 1:39–43 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 14:27–33 \_\_\_\_\_

### Taking Action

5. Develop a challenge for the following opportunities (see pp. 201-5).

You are inviting a friend to an outreach event:

*Create thirst* \_\_\_\_\_

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*A drink of information* \_\_\_\_\_

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*The cost* (time, energy, funds) \_\_\_\_\_

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*How will they specifically respond?* \_\_\_\_\_

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You are recruiting a couple to join your small group Bible studies:

*Create thirst* \_\_\_\_\_

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*A drink of information* \_\_\_\_\_

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*The cost (time, energy, funds)* \_\_\_\_\_

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*How will they specifically respond?* \_\_\_\_\_

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You are challenging a believer to be equipped for a ministry of \_\_\_\_\_:

*Create thirst* \_\_\_\_\_

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*A drink of information* \_\_\_\_\_

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*The cost (time, energy, funds)* \_\_\_\_\_

---

*How will they specifically respond?* \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHAPTER 19

# Power to Make it Happen

### Taking Ownership

“The task of ministry is not intensively complex nor so professionally technical that only ‘experts’ need bother. Serving in the ministry of Christ is a matter of following the basic principles He demonstrated, and resting in His power to change lives. The four phases of His ministry provide a permanent guideline for our own” (p. 210).

1. List three insights into the strategy of Christ that you have owned during the course of this study:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read 2 Corinthians 11:3. How have you observed the truths of this verse to be true?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Colossians 2:6. Why is growth in Christ as supernatural an event as salvation in Christ?

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4. Read John 15:5, 15, 30. How do you react to this truth?

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### Taking Action

5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9–10. It is an incredible mystery: the Creator of the universe has chosen to work in and through you, and every other believer who is willing yield his life. The concept of new, regular, and super saints needs to get thrown out the window. In its place we must rest in His promise to gift us to be sufficient for our discipling call. Turn to the Father in prayer and yield yourself to His purpose and respond to the single command of the Great Commission—make disciples.