

BIG IDEA

God breaks through and brings the good news of Jesus to all places reaching all people through church planting.

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use the icebreaker as a starting point to the discussion about churches in general and what have been positive memories and experiences for members. From that, open the discussion up to thoughts about church planting. Do group members feel as though this is a job for pastors and not parishioners? Begin to narrow the conversation to the areas in which we can all play our part to be missional in church planting.

BIBLE STUDY

Read the scripture together. Discuss how the “each according to his ability” statement applies to our role in church planting. While we may not all be sent as church planters, we are all sent to places and people to demonstrate the love of God. How can our “sentness” contribute to the overall understanding of sending in our church? We all have abilities that are God-given that contribute to the overall mission. Help your group wrestle through how they are gifted, and how they play a part in it all.

LIFE APPLICATION

Take each of the areas where we can all play a role in church planting and spend time as a group discussing them. For listening and learning, you may even want to have members learn more outside of the group. For example, as you brainstorm what it would logistically take to start a new church, maybe have each group member research an item on their own. The following week, each member could share what they learned. This may act as a catalyst to learn more about areas in which their particular abilities may be needed and called upon for new church plants.

Discuss generosity and inclusion as areas that we can always grow in. Both of these can be sensitive topics. Be ready with ideas of how we can realistically be more generous by referring to the generosity ladder – give something, give consistently, and give extravagantly. The discussion doesn't have to be about amounts, but about a discussion that every generous gift we give helps people find their way back to God.

When discussing multiculturalism, have members discuss how diversity is a strength and benefits the whole community. Who do they encounter in their day to day lives that may benefit from Community and that we may benefit from them as well? Come up with ideas on how we, as a church body, can be more inclusive.

CHALLENGE

“Just as the true fruit of an apple tree is not an apple, but another tree; the true fruit of a small group is not a new Christian, but another group; the true fruit of a church is not a new group, but a new church; the true fruit of a leader is not a follower, but a new leader; the true fruit of an evangelist is not a convert, but new evangelists. Whenever this principle is understood and applied, the results are dramatic.”

— Ed Stetzer, *Spiritual Warfare and Missions*.

Pray for what God is calling you to do in this season of Breakthrough this coming week.