

# THE PHILIPPIAN MODEL FOR CHURCH PLANTING

1. Receive a vision from God.
2. Enlist a church planting team.
3. Secure a place to meet.
4. Locate receptive people.
5. Evangelize nonbelievers.
6. Create a core group.
7. Launch the new congregation.

## Seven **7** Steps to Planting a Church ■

Acts 16:9-15, NIV



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# 7 steps

the apostle Paul used to plant the Philippian church.  
Acts 16:9-15, NIV

## Step One:

Receive a vision from God.

The Bible says while on the docks of Troas "... Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia" (v.9). Someone must have a vision for a new church to be planted. What vision has God given you?

Complete the following statement: I believe God has given me a church planting vision to:

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## Step Two:

Enlist a team.

Paul never traveled alone. He had a team to assist in planting new churches. The Bible says, "... we got ready ..." (v.10). Healthy churches have teams of leaders who share the responsibilities of the congregation. Leaders may be volunteers, partially funded, or fully funded.

I believe God wants me to serve as a leader in:

- Worship Missions
- Evangelism
- Fellowship
- Education
- Other

## Step Three:

From vision to place.

Paul and his companions had stops or layovers on their journey from vision to place. But the trip to the place had an urgency. Paul and his helpers "sailed straight from Samothrace and the next day to Neapolis, from there we traveled to Philippi..." (vv. 11-12).

God desires for the stops or layovers in my journey to be:

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# Education/Equipping/ Evangelizing

Enlist a Team  
Prayer Support

## Step Four:

Find receptive people.

The Bible says Paul "went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer" (v.13). Paul was looking for people who did not know about Jesus but who would be willing to hear the gospel.

I expect to find people by: \_\_\_\_\_

- Survey
- Advertisement
- Ministry
- Other

My plan for finding people includes:

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## Step Five:

Evangelize nonbelievers.

Church planting is more than gathering believers for worship. Jesus identified building the church as the method He would use to evangelize the world. The Bible says, "The Lord opened her [Lydia] heart to respond to Paul's message..." (v.14). Church planting is the creation of an evangelizing unit that will serve to impact communities by introducing people to the Christian lifestyle found in a personal relationship with Jesus as the Christ.

I believe God wants me to conduct the following activities to reach people with the gospel:

- Bible Studies
- Support Groups
- Block Parties
- Backyard Bible Clubs
- Sports Clinics
- Other Events

## Step Six:

Disciple people by building a core group.

The Bible says "... she and the members of her household were baptized..." (v.15). The family and friends of the new Christians should provide the church planter with a wealth of evangelistic prospects. These people can become a core group for the new church.

The principles of discipleship that I wish to teach my core group are: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Step Seven:

The Launch of the New Church.

Lydia, said, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, ... come and stay at my house" (v.15b). There is a definite need for believers to fellowship together in a local congregation.

The public launch of a new congregation is the final step in planting a new church. Once the new church is launched, the congregation moves from the planting stage to the development stage.

The public launch involves choosing a date, a place to meet, assignments of people from the core group for specific responsibilities, planning the initial service, publicizing the time, and preparing for follow-up.