

The Rabbit and the Elephant

Welcome to these additional materials that are designed to help you think through the concepts discussed in our book *The Rabbit and the Elephant*.

We have produced two sets of materials for you to choose from:

- If you are someone who likes to think through ideas on your own, we suggest going through the “Discover for Yourself” series of activities and questions.
- If you are part of a group that would like to learn more together, we have a six-week course that will teach you some of the practical skills involved in simple church, with an emphasis on reaching out to those who do not yet know the Lord.

Discover for Yourself

We would like you to develop your own understanding of these ideas and values from first principle, based on Scripture, so here are some practical suggestions to help you think through the concepts expressed in *The Rabbit and the Elephant*. Consider some of the ways that you might implement what you learn in your own context. It will help you to write down your answers.

The first five questions take you on the journey of discovery that we took when we first began to explore the ideas expressed in *The Rabbit and the Elephant*. The remaining questions cover some of the principles that are being used around the world to see rapidly multiplying communities of faith.

1. Read Acts 2:39-42:
 - What did church look like immediately following the Day of Pentecost?
 - What do you see of the relationships between the new believers? How did they relate with the apostles and with the rest of society?
 - What were the main activities of the church?
 - How can these verses best be applied today?
2. Following the persecution resulting from the martyrdom of Stephen in Acts 8, the Christians were scattered and most left Jerusalem. They spread throughout the region preaching the gospel everywhere they went (Acts 8:4). From this point on, there is little to suggest that they met regularly as the church in large groups again. (Possible exceptions might be Acts 19:9 and Acts 20:20.) Look up the following verses to see where some of the churches could be found:
 - Acts 8:3
 - Acts 10:24-27
 - Acts 12:12
 - Romans 16:5
 - 1 Corinthians 16:19
 - Colossians 4:15
 - Philemon 1:2
3. A concordance is a reference resource that lists the words used in a book in alphabetical order. A good Bible concordance (such as a *Strong's* concordance) will often distinguish between the original words used in the Greek. There are many online concordances to be found. Using a concordance, look up the word *house* or *home* in the Gospel of Luke.
 - List the different things Jesus did in the context of a home.
4. Using a concordance, look up the phrases *each other* and *one another* in the New Testament. There are more than fifty that are specifically relevant within a community of believers.

- What do these verses tell you about relationships between the early followers of Jesus?
 - How can these verses best be implemented today?
5. In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul states that he is going to answer questions sent to him by the Corinthian church. Read through 1 Corinthians 11–14. They contain some of the answers to the problems the Corinthians posed to him.
- What does chapter 11 say about meals and the Lord’s Supper?
 - What do you learn from the analogy of the church to Christ’s body in chapter 12?
 - What roles and gifts are described?
 - Why do you think the “love chapter” (chapter 13) is written in the context of helping a young church learn how to exercise the various gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - What do you learn about what went on in a typical meeting from these chapters, especially chapter 14?
 - Spend some time meditating on 1 Corinthians 14:26.
6. Read John 4:35-36.
- What is usually said about the harvest?
 - In contrast, what does Jesus say?
 - How do you explain the discrepancy?
7. In Mark 1:17, Jesus tells His disciples that He will teach them to be fishers of men. From your knowledge of the Gospels, think through:
- How did Jesus teach them?
 - What did He train them to do?
8. Study Matthew 28:18-20 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and answer the following questions:
- What relevance does Jesus’ having “all authority” have to making disciples?
 - What are we to do as a result of this authority?
 - What is a disciple?
 - What does it mean to make disciples of nations? How would you know when a nation has been discipled?
 - How important is baptism?
 - What specific commands do you think Jesus wants His disciples to obey? Is discipleship a body of knowledge to be learned or an attitude of obedience to Jesus’ commands?
 - What does it mean in your context to become “all things to all men, that [you] might by all means save some”?
 - Do you have friends who do not yet know Jesus? If not, how might you become involved in activities that help you to meet new people? What interests do you have that would naturally fit into a group setting of

people who do not yet know Jesus? Start praying that you will make some new friends, and deliberately go out of your way to be in contexts where you rub shoulders with others (think local coffee shop, <http://www.meetup.com>.)

9. Read through Luke 10:1-9—this is how Jesus taught his followers to make more disciples. Answer the questions to learn some of the principles from these verses.

Verse 1:

- Why does it say “other” disciples?
- Why two by two?
- Did Jesus have a strategy for that area?
- Does Jesus have a strategy in your area?
- What did the disciples have to do?

Verse 2:

- According to Jesus, what was the problem?
- How many workers were going out? Does that sound like “a few?”
- What did Jesus say the solution is?
- What is the significance of God being “Lord of the harvest”?
- Where do you think other workers will come from?

Verses 3 and 4:

- Do we go or ask others to come?(Consider Matthew 28:18-20 also.)
- Why does Jesus send us out “as lambs among wolves”? Is there an advantage in being a lamb?
- What part does spiritual warfare play in this? (See also Luke 11:20-22. What are the strong man’s possessions?)
- Why are we not to take anything with us?
- Why might it be better not to speak to anyone else along the way?

Verses 5 and 6:

- Who are we looking for?
- How will we recognize them?
- What does it mean to speak peace? How might this happen within a Western context in the twenty-first century?

Verses 7 and 8:

- Why should we not move from home to home?
- What is the importance of eating and drinking what is set before us?
- What reaction do people have if we refuse their hospitality?

Verse 9:

- What gives us the right or opportunity to preach about the Kingdom?
- What do you think preaching the Kingdom includes?

10. The concept of the person of peace is an important one in the New Testament. These are people of influence who will open up their circles of influence to the message of the Kingdom. They are the “laborers” from Luke 10, and a new work is most likely to start in their homes. Read the following passages for some examples:

- Matthew 9:9-12
- Mark 5:1-20
- John 4:4-30
- Acts 10
- Acts 16:13-34

If you have enjoyed working through these Scriptures, and sense that the Lord may be asking you to explore these concepts further, we suggest that you get together with a group of friends to go through the six-week course.

Six-Week Course

Welcome to this six-week course based on the book *The Rabbit and the Elephant*.

You will get the most out of this material if you go through it with a group of friends. Have “simple church” together, maybe on a weekly basis and in the context of a shared (potluck) meal.

The purpose of this course is to equip you to

- reach out to unbelievers in the world around you
- help them to become followers of Jesus
- gather the new disciples into simple churches meeting in homes
- teach these churches to multiply

Each week you will learn new skills to help you do this. Each skill will be experienced in practice, not just taught in theory.

We hope that you enjoy your times together. Without Jesus’ presence, this course will be just another program. Anything man-driven rather than Spirit-led is merely the form without the life. We believe that Jesus will be present in your midst and that He will guide you into His truth.

Practical Instructions

ACTIVITIES ARE CAPITALIZED. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Special instructions for the person facilitating the time are in italics. The facilitator may prefer to familiarize him- or herself with the materials before the group meets, so any preparation (for example, downloading a video) can be done prior to the gathering.

The rest of the material can be read aloud in the group.

Week 1

All over the world, God is using ordinary believers to start simple churches. These are not typical churches with buildings and paid leaders. They are small and simple, meeting mainly in homes. They seek to follow the Holy Spirit and to reach out to the world around them. Hundreds of thousands of people are becoming followers of Jesus each year because of the multiplication of these simpler forms of church.

- One elderly man planted 42 churches in his first year as a believer. (India)

- Over a four-year period, more than 20,000 people in one city came to faith in Christ, resulting in more than 500 new churches. (China)
- At the University of Texas in Austin, over 200 different people groups have seen missional communities (simple churches) started within them by students.

God is using all kinds of people to start these churches. It doesn't require a Bible College or Seminary degree. You don't have to be a full-time pastor or church planter. God is using housewives and factory workers, businessmen and shopkeepers, the highly educated and those who do not read—believers from all walks of life—to reach out to people. They make disciples that gather in small groups that are often called simple churches.

What Is God Doing around the World?

WATCH THE VIDEO *TIDAL WAVE* AND WITNESS SOME OF THE THINGS GOD IS DOING HERE IN THE WEST, AS WELL AS ACROSS THE NATIONS. *This can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/4521963>.*

Studying the Scriptures Together

Something simple is easy to reproduce; something complex is not. In most simple churches, there is no teaching from the front. Instead, everybody learns by studying the Bible together. In this way a church is self-feeding and gains the whole counsel of God.

Here is one pattern we use to study the Bible.

We look for things in the passage that correspond to three symbols:

- A question mark: Is there something that you do not understand?
- A lightbulb: Is there something that sheds light on this passage, or does this passage bring light to something that is going on in your life?
- An arrow: Is God speaking directly to your heart? Is there a way your life must change because of this passage?

SPEND ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES STUDYING LUKE 10:1-2 USING THE QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, AND ARROW PATTERN.

- DIVIDE INTO SMALL GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE PEOPLE. SOMEONE MAY LIKE TO TAKE THE ROLE OF FACILITATOR IF THE GROUP IS LARGER. READ ONLY A VERSE OR THOUGHT BEFORE STOPPING TO DISCUSS IT.
- ASK EACH OTHER, "DOES ANYONE HAVE A QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, OR ARROW ON THIS VERSE?" DISCUSS PEOPLE'S RESPONSES.

- THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

What did you learn from the method?

- Did you notice everyone leaning forward during the study time? Even the body language shows how actively involved people are in the learning process. Studies show that people learn and remember far more when they are allowed to say something than when they just sit and listen.
- Was there anyone who did not say anything? The job of the facilitator is to make sure everyone takes part, especially the quieter ones.
- If someone has a question from the passage, the job of the facilitator is not to answer it but to ask the group for their ideas. Always seek to find the answers in the Scriptures. In that way, the Bible itself, rather than a leader, becomes the authority.
- Was there someone who dominated the discussion? The facilitator should make sure that no one (including him- or herself) does all the talking.
- Did you see the advantage of only covering a thought or verse at a time? It enables you to discover more from the passage. (The only time you read more than this is if you are studying a story or incident that only makes sense if the whole passage is read at one time—for example, a parable.)

What did you learn from the passage?

Did you see the following points as you studied?

Verse 1:

- Jesus had a strategy for the area. He has a strategy for your area too!
- Jesus told the disciples where they were to go. He will tell you, too.
- He sent the disciples out in pairs.
- When Jesus sent people to a place, he planned to come too. If Jesus sends you somewhere, He will come with you.

Verse 2:

- According to Jesus, the problem was not the harvest. Many people complain that their area is too hard, that the people are not interested in Jesus. But Jesus tells us the harvest is ready.
- Jesus said the problem was that there were not enough laborers—even though He had at least thirty-five church planting teams going out (seventy disciples in teams of two).
- Jesus' solution is simple. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers.

IT WILL REINFORCE THESE IDEAS IF YOU EACH FIND SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE GROUP WITH WHOM YOU CAN SHARE DURING THIS

COMING WEEK. THINK OF SOMEONE WITH WHOM YOU COULD DEMONSTRATE THIS PATTERN OF BIBLE STUDY.

Praying the 10:2b Prayer

Prayer is essential to any move of God.

Back in 2002, two friends, Kenny and John, were discussing how to see a church planting movement start across their state. They realized that Jesus had given the key in Luke 10:2. They settled on an experiment. Each day they would pray this prayer together for a few minutes over the phone.

As their praying continued, they realized they didn't know how to pray the prayer day after day, so they asked the Lord to teach them. He showed them that they needed to be persistent in their praying and to be very specific in what they asked for.

Things started to happen. Kenny was responsible for church planting in his state for his denomination. Prior to Kenny and John's praying, about one person a month contacted him about church planting, but as they prayed together, this soon became a daily occurrence. And in one eight-month period, Kenny saw more than 120 churches start as a direct result of this praying.

Kenny and John call this the 10:2b prayer virus (referring to Luke chapter 10, verse 2, the second part of the verse), and they are seeking to infect everyone they come across with it. Across the world, people are partnering to pray the 10:2b prayer daily, and everywhere they are seeing remarkable answers to prayer.

PRAY THE LUKE 10:2B PRAYER IN PAIRS. STAND AND PRAY ACTIVELY AND LOUDLY.

Spend about 5 minutes on this activity.

ARRANGE TO PRAY THE 10:2B VIRUS WITH A PRAYER PARTNER OVER THE PHONE FOR THE DURATION OF THE COURSE.

We usually have men pray with men, and women with women.

Week 2

The main theme of Jesus' teaching was the Kingdom of God (Matthew 4:23). Many of His parables illustrated the Kingdom (Matthew 13). Jesus told His disciples to heal people and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you" (Luke 10:9). Following His resurrection and before His ascension, He spent forty days talking to His disciples about the Kingdom (Acts 1:3).

Having spent three years living Kingdom life with Jesus on a daily basis, the disciples lived out what they had learned from Him about the Kingdom by

meeting together in each other's homes on a daily basis to share their lives together. They called this lifestyle "church."

Perhaps the simplest definition or building block of church is one that Jesus gave in Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Church exists where Jesus is gathered with His people.

What Does Church Look Like?

IN SMALLER GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE PEOPLE, STUDY ACTS 2:41-47 USING THE QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, AND ARROW PATTERN.

Allow about 20 minutes for this study.

What do you learn about the lifestyle of the early believers from this passage? Who can you share these principles with this week?

Recognizing God's Voice

Jesus was able to say He only did what He saw the Father do and only spoke what He learned from the Father (John 5:19-20; John 8:26-28). The same can be true for us. We can learn to recognize God's activities and to listen for His voice. This is especially important in knowing where Jesus wants us to focus our attention in order to make disciples.

This implies an ability to hear the voice of God. Hearing God's voice is a skill that can be learned. If you are married, you could be in a room of fifty people, but you could instantly distinguish the voice of your spouse. The reason? You have spent much time with him or her and recognize his or her voice. In John 10:4, Jesus says, "The sheep follow [the shepherd], for they know his voice." The way to learn to hear Jesus' voice is to spend time with Him.

READ THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES AND NOTE THE DIFFERENT WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO US. SEE IF ANYONE IN THE GROUP HAS A PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF GOD SPEAKING TO HIM OR HER IN THESE WAYS.

- John 10:3-5, 27
- Psalm 119:105
- Philippians 4:7
- Acts 2:17,18
- Proverbs 15:22

Prophecy

In this next activity, we are going to move into what the Bible calls prophecy. Prayer is when we speak to God. Prophecy is God speaking to us—through another person. In 1 Corinthians 14:1 we are told to pursue love and to earnestly seek the spiritual gifts, especially that we may prophesy. 1 Corinthians 14:3 gives guidelines as to how prophecy can be safely used—for edification, encouragement, and comfort.

Prophecy is not a time to put on a holy voice and begin, “Thus says the Lord . . .” It is not a time to predict the future or try to convict a person of sin. It is simply a time to share, in a normal voice, the impressions God gives you while praying for someone.

BREAK INTO PAIRS, PREFERABLY WITH SOMEONE YOU DO NOT KNOW WELL. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER QUIETLY FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND THEN COMMUNICATE TO YOUR PARTNER THE THINGS THAT CAME TO MIND WHILE YOU WERE PRAYING FOR HIM OR HER. THIS MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A BIBLE VERSE, A PICUTRE, A PRAYER, AN IMPRESSION, AND SO ON.

Ask how many people know that God spoke to them specifically through their partners. (Our typical experience is that well over 50 percent know that God has spoken to them directly.)

DISCUSS BRIEFLY HOW YOU MIGHT USE THIS GIFT IN A NONRELIGIOUS AND NONTHREATENING WAY WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT YET KNOW JESUS. LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SO THIS WEEK.

Telling Our Stories

People love to tell their own stories, and they enjoy hearing our stories too. Stories often play a part in helping someone commit his or her life to Christ.

We can learn to tell the story of our spiritual journeys in a way that is acceptable to someone who does not yet know Jesus. When Paul told his story, for example, in Acts 22, it was in three parts. We can do the same when telling our stories:

- Describe your life before you became a believer (or if you were a believer from an early age, before your faith became real to you)?
- How did you meet Jesus?
- What changes has Jesus made in your life?

This is a skill you will use time and time again in your conversations with those who do not know Jesus. You can develop several parts to your story that fit into different circumstances of the people around you. For example, share about a time when God provided for you, or He healed you. Try to tell your story so that it sounds fresh, like it just happened yesterday.

DIVIDE INTO PAIRS AND TELL YOUR STORIES TO EACH OTHER. TAKE ABOUT THREE MINUTES EACH. DO NOT USE CHRISTIANESE (WORDS LIKE *SAVED* OR *REDEEMED*—ANY WORD THAT IS ONLY COMMONLY USED IN CHURCH CIRCLES). IF YOUR PARTNER DOES USE CHRISTIANESE, THEN STOP YOUR PARTNER AND ASK HIM OR HER TO REPHRASE THE SENTENCE IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE.

DURING THE COMING WEEK, PRACTICE TELLING YOUR STORY. ASK THE LORD TO LEAD YOU TO SOMEONE TO WHOM YOU CAN TELL IT.

Week 3

This week we are going to look further into what the Scriptures say about how we relate together as a community of followers of Jesus and what happens when we gather together.

The Body of Christ

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul uses the picture of a body to describe the church (verses 12-27). He states that just as a body has many members and each one is significant, so it is with the body of Christ, the church. Each person in the group is important, and each has his or her own special function. We do not want everyone to be the same, but as each person uses the different gift God has given him or her, everyone acts together to produce a whole. No one wants a body consisting only of eyes or only of ears. Everyone is important, and as we welcome diversity, it adds to the richness of the community.

But Paul goes beyond that. He says that the weaker members are necessary and worthy of greater honor. The contributions of those who are shier or more reticent to speak out (especially the kids) should be given greater attention and appreciation.

When You Come Together

STUDY 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 USING THE QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, AND ARROW PATTERN. SPEND FIFTEEN MINUTES LOOKING AT THIS VERSE TOGETHER WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HOW THIS MIGHT WORK OUT IN YOUR GATHERING.

The Lord wants to be given more than lip service in our meetings—He actually wants to be in control. If we are not careful, simple church meetings can be run like a traditional church meeting. Someone has been designated to lead

the worship and another to bring a sermon. But that is missing out on a major dynamic of a simple church, i.e., that God Himself has a plan for our times together. He knows what is going on in our lives, and if we let Him, He touches and changes us and challenges us to reach out to the world around us. A time together led by the Holy Spirit is never boring.

The functioning body of Christ is like an orchestra with the Holy Spirit as conductor. When the instruments, each with its own distinctive sound, play the melody assigned to them, the result is a divinely inspired symphony. If we all play the same tune, we miss out on the magnificent creativity of the Bride of Christ.

In an open time such as that described in 1 Corinthians 14:26, people share what God is doing in their lives or what He is teaching them from the Scriptures, spiritual gifts flow, people pray for each other—there is no limit to what the Lord might do.

But how do you follow the Holy Spirit in this context? Let's say you are sitting in a meeting, and someone has just prayed a great proclamation of praise to God. What happens next? How can you know what the Holy Spirit wants? In our experience, the best way to cooperate with the Holy Spirit is to make that person's prayer into your own vehicle of praise to God. If, as you do that, a verse of Scripture or a song comes to mind, the chances are that it is the Holy Spirit. In other words, if you fully participate in what is going on, the things that come spontaneously to mind are most likely to be from the Holy Spirit. We should expect there to be variety—gifts of the Spirit such as prophecy and visions, prayer for each other, insights from the Scriptures, etc.

In these gatherings, try to make things so simple that anyone can participate. Something that is simple is easy to reproduce. This principle applies to everything you do. For example, if you pray a five-minute prayer, a new believer will not dare to open his or her mouth and pray because the new believer feels he or she cannot pray to that standard. But anyone can pray a sentence or two, or everyone can pray in unison together without feeling embarrassed. If a revelation you share is more like a ten-minute sermon, no one else will share anything, but if you share what God is showing you in a few sentences, others will be encouraged to add their contributions too.

Simple is not the same as shallow. When the Holy Spirit is free to work as He wills in a gathering of disciples, the effects can be profound. Simple can be duplicated. If a few easy-to-follow patterns are established early on, then almost anyone can facilitate a time together.

God is very creative! And don't be concerned about making mistakes. Nobody minds if you do, so step out and try something new!

SPEND 15 MINUTES EXPERIMENTING WITH A TIME OF WAITING ON GOD BASED ON 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26.

We find a good way to start an open time like this is to ask people to share briefly what the Lord has done in their lives during the week. Or maybe

someone has a song or a Scripture on his or her heart that leads into a time of worship. Watch out for and stress what the Holy Spirit is doing. So say, for example, that someone shares a need, the chances are high that the Lord wants to minister to that need, and it might be good to suggest that people gather around that person and pray for him or her. In general, unless something really goes against the flow of what is happening, you can take what is going on as what the Holy Spirit is doing, and you can encourage people to participate in ways that fit in. Often a theme emerges and it is obvious the Lord is speaking clearly.

WATCH THE VIDEO *WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER*.

This video is available at <http://vimeo.com/4678782>

Week 4

The Great Commission

The Great Commission is not an optional extra for believers. Many of us live in Christian communities—all our friends are believers and we rarely have significant interaction with others who do not yet know the Lord. We have tried to keep ourselves separate from our neighbors out of concern that we might be “contaminated.” But Jesus was known as a friend of sinners, and, as it says in Romans 10:14, how will they hear unless someone tells them? Admittedly, not all of us are evangelists, but all of us can be witnesses to what Jesus has done in our lives (Acts 1:8). We have the Spirit of Jesus dwelling within us, and if we ask the Lord for opportunity to share His life with others, He will delight to answer that prayer.

STUDY THE GREAT COMMISSION FROM MATTHEW 28:18-20
BY READING THE PASSAGE AND USING THE SCRIPTURES TO
DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

Spend about 25 minutes on this activity.

- What is the relevance of Jesus’ having “all authority?”
- What is the difference between a disciple and a convert? How might this affect how we reach out to those who don’t yet know Jesus?
- What would be the outcome if we obeyed Jesus’ command to go rather than asking people to come to church? What difference would this make in our own lives, in the lives of our churches, or in the lives of those we go to?
- What is a nation?
- How will we know when a nation is disciplined?
- What is the significance of baptism? Who does the baptizing?
- What are we to teach?
- Think around the cycle of discipleship—disciples making disciples.

Reaching the “Nations” around Us

The Great Commission tells us to make disciples of all nations. The Greek word for nation is *ethne*, from which we get our word *ethnic*. It implies far more than a nationality, however. It could refer to a cultural group such as skateboarders, the elderly, those involved in the bar and club scene, students, and so on. Think language and customs. For example, skateboarders have their own clothing style, their own vocabulary, their own stories and ways of relating to each other.

SPEND SOME TIME BRAINSTORMING TO CREATE A LIST OF THE “NATIONS” IN YOUR AREA. ARE THERE OBVIOUS WAYS THAT ANYONE TAKING THIS STUDY COURSE COULD REACH OUT TO ANY OF THESE GROUPS?

Spend about 15 minutes on this activity.

SPEND A FEW MINUTES ASKING THE LORD OF THE HARVEST IF THERE IS A PARTICULAR PEOPLE GROUP OR AREA OF TOWN HE WOULD LIKE YOU TO FOCUS ON.

Prayer Walking

Prayer is a vital part of preparing the ground for starting churches. Joshua 1:3 tells us that God will give us the places where our feet tread, and Psalm 2:8 tells us that He will give us the nations as our inheritance.

If the Lord has shown you a particular group He would like you to concentrate on, then prayer walking may be a great way to get started in praying for them. Go to the neighborhoods where these people live or to where they hang out, and begin to pray there.

When we prayer walk, we can expect that the Holy Spirit will reveal to us how to pray, including giving us insight into the demonic powers that control the area.

There are four main ways to pray for an area when you are prayer walking:

1. Bless the city.
2. Pray for the welfare of those living there.
3. Demolish strongholds.
4. Repent for the problems in the area.

MAKE PLANS TO PRAYER WALK DURING THE NEXT WEEK IN THE PLACE THAT JESUS INDICATES TO YOU.

Helping Someone to Become a Follower of Jesus

Becoming a follower of Jesus is usually a process. Often, during that process, a person will come to a decision point, and it is good to know how to help that person commit his or her life to following Christ.

FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES, DISCUSS TOGETHER IN YOUR GROUP WHAT YOU THINK IS THE MINIMUM A PERSON NEEDS TO KNOW TO GIVE HIS OR HER LIFE TO JESUS.

(Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for the things we have done wrong. If we turn away from these things and give control of our lives to Him, He will give us a new life and His Holy Spirit will come and live inside us.)

The following are some useful verses (sometimes known as the “Roman Road”) when it comes to helping others commit their lives to Christ:

- Romans 3:23 (If using the New Living Translation, verses 24-25 are a great addition here)
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8 (In the NLT, the whole paragraph (verses 6-11) is a great explanation of salvation)
- Romans 10:9-10
- Revelation 3:20

DIVIDE INTO PAIRS AND ROLE-PLAY LEADING A PERSON TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF JESUS USING THESE VERSES. MAKE SURE YOU KEEP IT SIMPLE. LET EACH PERSON TAKE A TURN.

Week 5

Discipleship

Jesus did not command us to plant churches. He told us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). He said that He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). Our commission from Him as ambassadors for the Kingdom is to make disciples, and Jesus will build His church.

SPEND ABOUT 20 MINUTES DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How do we ensure a person becomes more like Jesus (rather than like us)?
- If discipleship is a lifestyle of obedience to Jesus rather than a body of knowledge to be learned, what is the best way to impart this?

We highly recommend the Life Transformation Group pattern of discipleship started by Neil Cole. Small same-sex groups of two to four people commit together to read large chunks (about thirty chapters) of Scripture each

week and then come together to answer accountability questions and to pray for their friends who do not yet know Jesus. You can find the materials for this at www.cmresources.org/ltg.

Luke 10 Principles

Several years ago, the leadership of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention became aware of something new. From different locations around the world they were receiving reports of a rapid and spontaneous multiplication of indigenously led churches (i.e. led by local, nonprofessional people) with tens of thousands of new believers. They gave the name *church planting movement* to this phenomenon.

We have had the privilege of spending time with several of those involved in the leadership of church planting movements and seeing what is going on firsthand. Whenever we have asked them, “Where do you find the principles for what you are seeing?” their answer is always “Luke 10.”

All over the world, the Lord is using Luke 10 to teach the principles that Jesus Himself taught His disciples when He wanted to reach out into the communities around them. From these verses we learn about the importance of making disciples and starting churches within the people groups or subcultures we are trying to reach, rather than inviting the people from those groups to come to our churches. We see how to make church relevant to their cultures. We look at the importance of creating relationships, and of seeing God move supernaturally.

One of the major things to learn from Luke 10 is this: **the resources are in the harvest.** We start churches within the harvest—within their cultures, and with their people leading. So if someone becomes a follower of Jesus or shows an interest in spirituality, we don’t invite that person to come to our church. Instead, we try to start a church in that person’s home and within his or her circle of influence and culture. The leaders, as well as all the other resources, will come from the harvest.

IN SMALL GROUPS, STUDY LUKE 10:3-9 USING THE QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, AND ARROW PATTERN. BRIEFLY REVIEW VERSES 1 AND 2 THAT WE COVERED IN WEEK ONE. SPEND ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE PASSAGE. THEN DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What is the importance of our going out to others rather than inviting them to come to our churches?
- What can we learn from Jesus sending us out as lambs among wolves? Look at Luke 11:21-22 and Luke 10:17-20.
- Why do you think Jesus told His disciples not to take anything with them? What relevance does this have for us?
- Why should we not talk to anyone on the way?

- Who is the worker for the harvest field?
- How will you recognize a person of peace?
- What New Testament examples of a person of peace can you think of?
- In whose home is a new community of believers most likely to be started?
- Why should we not move from house to house?
- What is the importance of eating and drinking?
- What happens that gives us the right to talk about the Kingdom of God?
- What are the advantages of church planting in the harvest rather than growing our own churches?

Week 6

Leadership

Leadership in simple churches is very important, but it is also very different from the leadership that you know in the world or may have known in a more traditional church setting.

READ THROUGH MATTHEW 20:20-28 AND THEN STUDY VERSES 25-28 USING THE QUESTION MARK, LIGHTBULB, AND ARROW PATTERN.

Spend about 20 minutes studying these verses.

READ JOHN 13:3-17 AND EPHESIANS 4:11-13, AND THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What does leadership usually look like in the world? Think of the government, the army, etc.
- Does this differ from typical leadership in the Western church?
- What did Jesus have to say about leadership? How did He demonstrate His leadership?
- What does it mean to be a servant or slave? What could this look like in a church context today? Think of practical examples.
- According to the Ephesians passage, what is the role of leadership in the church? How could this be implemented in your context?

Commissioning and Conclusion

We are now at the end of this six-week course on organic/simple church. We hope you have enjoyed it. Obviously there are many other topics we could have touched on—like finances or what to do with the kids. Hopefully, you have not only learned about the basics of simple church, but you have also gained some tools to discover the answers to these questions for yourselves, using the Scriptures as your guideline.

SPEND SOME TIME DISCUSSING WHAT PARADIGM SHIFTS HAVE OCCURRED IN YOUR THINKING THROUGH READING *THE RABBIT AND THE ELEPHANT* AND GOING THROUGH THIS COURSE. HOW WILL YOUR PRACTICE OF CHURCH BE DIFFERENT AS A RESULT?

Spend about 20 minutes on this activity.

SPEND THE REMAINDER OF YOUR TIME PRAYING AND COMMISSIONING EACH OTHER TO GO OUT AND REACH YOUR COMMUNITY WITH THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

We suggest that the group prays for each person individually. Gather around the person and lay hands on him or her. Find out from the person where he or she thinks the Lord is leading him or her. Listen to God. Give any pictures, Scriptures, or words of encouragement that you sense the Lord is giving for the person. Expect God to speak to and encourage each person.

For further exploration of this subject, see the resource list at the end of the appendix of *The Rabbit and the Elephant*.

We would also love to hear your stories. How has God led you since reading the book and putting the principles of this course into practice? Contact us at www.tonyandfelicitydale.com