

## **CHURCH PLANTING | Acts 13-14<sup>1</sup>**

- 1. To plant churches, the Spirit uses people already actively involved in ministry.**
  - a. **Ac 13:1-2** 1 There were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
  
- 2. It is the Spirit who sets apart church planters and sends them out.**
  - a. **Ac 13:2-4** 2 While [the church leaders at Antioch] were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
  
- 3. Fasting and prayer are the bedrock practices of church planting.**
  - a. **Ac 13:3** 3 When [the church leaders at Antioch] had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on [Barnabas and Paul], they sent them away.
  
- 4. It is for healthy local churches to send out church planters.**
  - a. **Ac 13:3** 3 When [the church leaders at Antioch] had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on [Barnabas and Paul], they sent them away.
  
- 5. Church planting is a team effort.**
  - a. **Ac 13:2-5** 2 The Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. ...5 When they reached Salamis, they were proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they also had John as their helper.
  - b. **Ac 15:39-40** 39 [Barnabas and Paul] separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.
  - c. **Ac 16:1-3** 1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy.... 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him.
  - d. **Ac 20:4** 4 [Paul] was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
  
- 6. The number one job of church planters is to proclaim the gospel message.**
  - a. **Ac 13:5** 5 When they reached Salamis, [Barnabas and Paul] were proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Dennis Rokser, "Planting and Establishing Local Churches by the Book" (available at [http://www.duluthbible.org/files/Resources/Publications/Booklet\\_PDF\\_Files/Church\\_Planting\\_Revised2006.pdf](http://www.duluthbible.org/files/Resources/Publications/Booklet_PDF_Files/Church_Planting_Revised2006.pdf)).

- 7. Church planters must expect opposition, especially religious opposition.**
  - a. **Ac 13:8** 8 Elymas the magician... was opposing [Barnabas and Paul], seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
  - b. **Ac 13:45** 45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and were contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.
  
- 8. Church planters should work with the willing and not worry about numbers.**
  - a. **Ac 13:42-44** 42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath. 43 Now when the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God. 44 The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.
  
- 9. Organize only as necessary, appointing church leaders in due time. It is far more important to equip and establish believers than to have an organized program in place. Resist the pressure to appoint unqualified men as elders.**
  - a. **Ac 14:23** 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
  - b. **Ac 20:28** 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.
  
- 10. Provide an honest report back to the sending church.**
  - a. **Ac 14:26-27** 26 From there [Paul and Barnabas] sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they were reporting all things that God had done with them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.