

#YouGot2StartSomewhere - 5 Steps to Start Transforming Your City

Adapted for AOX Leadership Development by Brad McKoy from [5 Step Strategy for Church Planting](#) from All Nations

Pray. - Let Mission Overflow from Intimacy with God and with other followers of Jesus. (Acts 13:2)

- Ask God to give you His heart for people and to show you where to invest your life.
- Pray until you can weep over people. Don't stop praying.
- Pray for "Divine Appointments". Remember, He loves people more than we do. Expect him to move.
- "God, lead me to hungry hearts..." and "God, give me three people to live out the gospel to."

Meet. - People Make the Best Disciples! (John 3:16)

- Learn to love people & make friends without an agenda. Recognize the imprint of God on each person.
- Through prayer determine your "pocket of people" or *oikos*. This is what the Bible would call a household.
- Commit to regularly spend time with this new network of relationships. Meet them where they are. Become a regular someplace where these people spend life.
- Hang out with those who don't know Jesus. Get outside the Christian bubble.
- Learn to recognize the "light of the King's face..." in your new relationships. (Prov) Ask God to help you recognize "persons of peace".

Make. - Make Disciples, Then Be Prepared for a Mess. (Matt. 4:19)

- Understand that Jesus did not have one plan for Evangelism and another one for Discipleship. *What you catch them with, you keep them with.*
- *Identify "Zacheus"*. Look for who is looking at your life.
- *Invite yourself into their world.* Don't make them come to you.
- *Invest in people's lives.* Don't wait for them to accept Jesus to invest your life in them.
- Point people to Jesus. He is the Messiah, not me. Introduce people to Jesus in such a way that they get to know him personally, and then learn to love and obey Him. When it's the right time, teach people the seven commands of Jesus:

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| 1. repent and believe | 5. pray |
| 2. be baptized | 6. gather with others |
| 3. forgive | 7. make disciples of all nations |
| 4. give | |

Do not hesitate to tell new believers the cost of following Jesus. Emphasize the privilege of going to other nations so God's mission is part of their spiritual DNA.

Gather. Our personal relationship with Jesus is meant to be connected with others. (Hebrews 10:25)

- Get new believers & near believers connected with your spiritual family. (We use nets, not fishing poles.)
- Gather those you meet who are spiritually open with others for fun, hanging out, enjoying common interests, prayer, and study of God's Word. Focus on the words and stories of Jesus.
- Don't wait for them to say they want to become a follower of Jesus to gather people into a community of friends. Gathering around a meal with others is one of the best ways to build community.
- Jesus said that where two or three gather in His name, He is with them. This is "church" in its simplest, most essential form. Nothing more is needed to "be church." There is more that can be done to contribute to growing a healthy, vibrant church (see Acts 2:42-47), but gathering people together is the beginning of birthing a new church.

Multiply. Spread the seeds of the Gospel by creating a healthy environment for growth. (2 Tim. 2:2)

- Plan for growth. From the beginning, train new believers to understand that making disciples is a normal part of following Jesus.
- Let them have responsibility and ownership in your simple churches and discipling relationships.
- Learn that it's ok to stay in the background to encourage others to grow and exercise their spiritual gifts.
- Coach your new disciple to begin to pray and meet people. Help them learn how to make disciples and gather people together.
- Build expectations for multiplication from the beginning. Let people know that this is a healthy part of the Gospel spreading to impact more people.
- Champion the value of connection to a larger church community while encouraging and releasing people to live on mission by making disciples and planting new expressions of the church.