

# Building a Church for the Unchurched: Biblical Basis

Instructor's  
Guide

**Evangelism Resources  
USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Department  
Church of the Nazarene, International**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## Building a Church for the Unchurched: Biblical Basis

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

### MODULE AT A GLANCE

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
1. Module Introduction	5 mins.	5	·Introduce module, objectives, outline.
2. Lecture	25 mins.	6	·Facilitates or presents information that will bring the participants together as a team. The facilitator will encourage the teams to work together to enhance the morale of their church and begin developing a sense of anticipation.
3. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.	10	·Participants work in teams to reflect on the information presented in the lecture and begin applying the concepts.
4. Discussion	5 mins.	10	·Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how the information will assist in their leadership. ·Two possible questions to start the discussion in addition to the questions answered during the exercise are: What new ideas or thoughts did God reveal to you? What new techniques will you begin using as you think about others in your church?
5. Action Planning/ Reporting	20 mins.	11	·Participants begin preparing for their homework assignment: Based on the information presented and ideas generated from the training session, develop a project (or plan) for building morale and bring people together. ·In preparing for these activities, participants discuss how, who, when, and expected results. ·Participants will report the results of the activities at the next workshop.
6. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.	11	·Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 75 mins.			

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## PREPARATION CHECKLIST

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
  - The instructional material includes a copy of each slide.
  - The material includes suggested narrative at points where instructions or transitions are important. The suggested narrative is the *italics*. Even experienced facilitators might want to use the suggested narrative to insure the key information is communicated. However, you may feel more comfortable using your own words as you become more familiar with the module.
- Check to insure the following materials are available:
  - Powerpoint presentations/transparencies (transparency masters can be produced from the Powerpoint slides)
  - participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
  - transparency markers
  - laptop for PowerPoint presentation (if used)
  - pens and/or pencils
  - other material you want to use
- Make copies of the following material (one for each participant):
  - participant booklet
  - handouts
- Check the classroom for:
  - TV/VCR (if necessary)
  - overhead projector
  - chalkboard, whiteboard or flip chart
  - sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants.



Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Your instructor's material contains the following icons:



Special instructions or suggestions



Time suggestions



PowerPoint Presentation with its corresponding number

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## I. MODULE INTRODUCTION (5 Minutes)

PPT #3,  
Slide #1

Prior to the beginning of the session, i.e. as participants are returning from break, place the first Power Point slide (Building a Church for the Unchurched: Biblical Basis) on the screen.



### Distribute Participant Material

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- purpose
- objectives
- “fill in the blanks” for the lecture
- application exercises

*The purpose of this module is to **develop a better biblical perspective on church growth.***

*The objectives for this module are:*

- Establish the theological understanding for church growth.*
- Understand the biblical basis for numerical gains.*

Review the process for this module :

- Introduction..... 5 mins.
- Lecture ..... 25 mins.
- Small Group Exercise ..... 15 mins.
- Discussion..... 5 mins.
- Action Planning/Reporting ..... 20 mins.
- Module Wrap-up..... 5 mins.

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## II. LECTURE (25 Minutes)

### Introduction

When you think of church growth, what would you consider as indicators

that growth is occurring?



Give participants time to respond and use a whiteboard to list responses. Elaborate on some of their ideas (or suggest some other concepts).

Church growth **is** evangelism.

Donald McGavran coined the phrase “church growth” in order to overcome the distasteful accretions that had attached themselves to evangelism, such as high-pressure salesmanship and insensitivity.

Unfortunately, there are now drawbacks associated with the phrase “church growth.”

1. A program mentality
2. Largeness as the only measure of ministerial success
3. “Empire” building
4. A numbers game

PPT #3,  
Slide #2  
to finish.

Go to the next set of slides (The Biblical Bases).

### I. Biblical Bases (Acts 2:42-47)

1. What are the characteristics of the growing New Testament church?



Read the scripture or ask a participant to read the scripture.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

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And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

2. Church growth teaches that the church...

- a. Grows up                      Acts 2:42
- b. Grows together              Acts 2:44
- c. Grows out                     Acts 2:47
- d. Grows more                  Acts 2:47

Ken Parker, pastor of the Berean Church in Spokane, Washington, described the Book of Acts as “The Tale of Three Cities.”

- |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jerusalem | The scene of Pentecost and great miracles.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Rome      | The center of evangelism at the close of Acts where Paul pens letters to his fledgling churches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Antioch   | Where Paul was accepted and missionary work began. His work had seven main characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Worship</li> <li>b. Reached out</li> <li>c. Built up the believers</li> <li>d. Directed ministry towards people’s needs</li> <li>e. Started new churches</li> <li>f. Flexible</li> <li>g. Faithful</li> </ul> |

3. Biblical basis for numerical gains

- a. Jesus said, “Upon this rock (Peter—a man) I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18).
- b. Jesus commanded, “Go and make disciples of all people...” (Matt. 28:19).
- c. Jesus had progress reports along the way:
  - 1. “The Lord appointed **72** others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town” (Lk. 10:1).
  - 2. “The **number** of those who ate was four thousand...” (Matt. 15:38).
  - 3. “Go out to the roads and country lanes and **make** them come in, so that my house will be full” (Lk 14:23).
  - 4. Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to **seek** and to save what was lost” (Lk 19:10).

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5. Jesus said, “**As** the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21).
6. “The Lord added to their numbers **daily** those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).
7. “This came after “about 3000 were **added** to their number that (Pentecost) day” (Acts 2:41).
8. “So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased **rapidly**, and a larger number of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7).
9. “Then the church...was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in **numbers**” (Acts 9:31).
10. Years later Paul and Timothy “As they traveled from town to town...the churches were **strengthened** in the faith and grew daily in numbers” (Acts 16:5).

How could this happen?

“Day after day in the temple courts and from house to house, they **never** stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 5:42).

### III. SMALL GROUP EXERCISE (15 Minutes)

The small group exercise portion of the module provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

*Please divide into your church teams and turn to the small group exercise in your material. Take the next 15 minutes to discuss the climate regarding church growth currently felt in your church, and some of the things you can do to improve the climate. Specific questions are listed in your material.*

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions. Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

### IV. DISCUSSION (5 Minutes)

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The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about the material presented and questions resulting from the small group discuss.



If you're ahead of schedule, the discussion can go a few extra minutes. However, it's easy to lose track of time so watch the clock.

Call the group back together and open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, start with one of the questions they discussed during the exercise. The questions were:

#### **Questions from Small Group Exercise**

1. Describe the climate in your church regarding growth.
2. List some of areas where your church is experiencing numerical growth.
3. List some of areas where your church is experiencing spiritual growth.
4. What would you say is your church's greatest success in regards to growth?

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## V. ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING (20 Minutes)

The homework assignment for this module is:

Based on the information presented, and ideas generated from this training session, develop a project (or plan) for enhancing church growth.

*Let's take about 20 minutes to discuss how you plan to use this information as a church. In your material you have an Action Planning/Reporting page with your homework assignment. In your teams discuss and document how you will complete this assignment before we meet again. You will probably need to continue this discussion.*

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions that are not focused on developing a plan and guide them into developing a plan. Let the groups know when there are five minutes remaining and ask them to begin to conclude their discussions.

## VI. MODULE WRAP-UP (5 Minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Remind the participants to record their results and be prepared to share the progress at the next session.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

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