

# **The Scriptural Roots of Advancing the Gospel**

## **IMPLEMENTING THE CORE**

### **An International Leadership Group Bible study on the advance of the Gospel**

Working together as Navigators to carry out our Calling to advance the Gospel and to implement our Core we keep asking: How can we help people live out our Calling with faith and creativity, learning from all we have experienced as Navigators, and with the whole Bible open in front of them? Studying the spread of the Gospel through the New Testament, we see a rich variety of approaches to ministry all playing their part—influenced, no doubt, by context, timing, gifting, and by the supernatural leading of the Holy Spirit.

### **What is the Spirit teaching us about how to live out our Calling?**

**Jesus' ministry in the Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) Focus especially but not exclusively on Mark 1:14-6:12 and John 13-17

*“As the Father sent me, so I send you.”* We believe that Jesus is the author of our Calling, so it is important that we look into the Gospels to see how He lived out what He has called us to.

- What different approaches and types of ministry did Jesus use and why?
- What do we learn about how He envisioned the advance of the Gospel—
  - From His example?
  - From His teaching, including the parables?
  - From His prayer?
- What did Jesus do to lay the foundations for generations?
- Other questions or observations from reading the Gospels which we should consider?

### **The Jerusalem ministry of the Apostles** (Acts 1-7)

The early chapters of Acts describe the growth of the Gospel in Jerusalem (clearly prepared soil, but with significant official opposition).

- What approaches to ministry do we observe in this context?
- What was the generational impact and why?
- Which of these are instructive for Navigators and in what contexts?
- Other questions and observations we should consider?

### **The scattering of these first believers from Jerusalem and the beginnings of the church in Antioch** (Acts 8-12)

As the believers were scattered from Jerusalem, the Gospel began to spread more widely.

- What approaches to ministry carried the Gospel into its next phase?
- What do we observe about the flow of fruit? What efforts were made by leaders to stay connected and to sustain generational growth?
- What are important lessons for us as we seek to implement our Calling to advance the Gospel into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers?
- Other questions and observations we should consider?

## **Paul's pioneering ministry** (Acts 13-18, 1 Thessalonians)

The first two of Paul's missionary journeys are the clearest examples in Scripture of pioneering missionary efforts.

- What approaches did Paul use in planting the Gospel in new contexts?
- What factors in the contexts influenced him?
- What strategy guided him?
- What results did he look for?
- What steps did he take to ensure the generational continuance of the ministries he planted?
- How should our study of "Paul's missionary journeys" influence our pioneering efforts?
- Other questions or observations we should consider?

## **The planting and growth of the Gospel in Ephesus and the province of Asia** (Acts 19-20; Ephesians; Colossians; 1 Timothy; 1, 2 and 3 John; Revelations 2-3)

The longest look we have in the Scriptures at the Gospel being planted and growing in a context is Ephesus and outwards from Ephesus into the Roman province in Asia. (Acts 19 is 53 AD and Rev 2,3 probably about 90 AD)

- How was the Gospel planted in Ephesus?
- How did it spread and grow in Ephesus and into the surrounding province?
- What was the fruit?
- What were the problems?
- What was the generational impact and why?
- What was done to develop local leaders?
- What was done by Paul and others from outside the province to encourage and guide?
- What elements do you see of a "vision" for the ministry in the province of Asia?
- "I sent Tychicus to Ephesus" 2 Tim. 4:12 (ca 66 AD). What do you think Tychicus would have looked for as signs of health?
- What can we learn?
- Other questions or observations we should consider?

## **Paul's vision for the fruit of his ministry and his provision for their well being and ongoing fruitfulness** (Galatians, Philippians, 2 Timothy, Titus)

Paul's letters give us much to consider as we wrestle with the ongoing generational fruitfulness of those we disciple.

- What was Paul's vision for the fruit of his ministry?
- How did Paul expect this to be worked out and what did he see as being critical to it happening?
- What provision did Paul make to support and encourage the outworking of this vision?
- What was the relationship between local leaders and mobile leaders such (Timothy and Titus)?
- What about our contexts in this 21st century is different from that in which Paul ministered? Should these differences affect us and if so, how?
- What are the lessons for us as Navigators?
- Other questions or observations we should consider?