

## ***PREPARATION GROUP 1 - SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP***

The Spiritual Growth Group is charged with a number of responsibilities that guide and influence the Acts 1:8 Weekend process for the church. This group also assists in the continuing spiritual growth and discipleship of the church membership through small mission groups in the weeks and months following the Acts 1:8 Weekend. The pastor and other church staff members are encouraged to be a part of this group, but not as Chairperson or Sub-Chairperson.

The Spiritual Growth Group Chairperson should work with the church's Acts 1:8 General Chairperson and pastor in recruiting church members to serve as Sub-Chairpersons for each of the following Groups:

- |    |                               |   |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| A. | Jerusalem Chairperson         | (Church and Associational Missions Group) |
| B. | Judea Chairperson             | (State Convention Mission Group)          |
| C. | Samaria Chairperson           | (North American Mission Board Group)      |
| D. | Ends of the Earth Chairperson | (International Mission Board Group)       |

Each of these four Sub-Chairpersons should recruit 3 to 6 church members to serve on their Group. Youth and Children, especially GA, RAs, Acteens & Challengers could be asked to serve on these Mission Planning Groups.

Most of the other church Acts 1:8 Preparation Groups responsibilities are completed after the Acts 1:8 Weekend, however, each of the sub-groups of the Spiritual Growth Group continue to serve as long as the church remains involved in their mission assignments.

1. Providing continuity for on-going Church Renewal Journey process.
2. Work with Pastor and Staff to place possible future date on church calendar for a Lay Ministry (Equipping) Weekend, which is normally 6 to 12 months after the Acts 1:8 Weekend.

## **What is the Acts 1:8 Challenge?**

Today's cutting-edge churches are discovering a new passion for ministry and unprecedented involvement from members of all ages. Pastors and church leaders are embracing God's heart for the world and transforming their churches into worldwide mission centers. When a church accepts the Acts 1:8 Challenge, it commits to fulfill Jesus' last spoken words on earth by taking the gospel to their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

The eight Kingdom-Growing Responses of the Challenge (below) are designed to encourage a church to be intentional in areas of missions involvement under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit.

### KINGDOM-GROWING RESPONSES:

The following eight Kingdom-Growing Responses to the Acts 1:8 Challenge should not be seen as a “checklist,” but as areas of missions involvement in which a church grows under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit:

1. Prepare—empowering a designated leader of missions and developing mission teams, strategies, and plans to take the gospel to our community, state, continent and world.
2. Learn—bringing mission awareness and interaction to the entire church body, training members for service and connecting them to missionaries and mission needs.
3. Pray—asking God for kingdom perspective and worldwide vision, interceding for Christian workers and unreached peoples.
4. Give—increasing the financial support of the Cooperative Program and other SBC cooperative missions.
5. Go—enabling a growing number of members to directly participate in short-term, long-term and marketplace opportunities to minister and spread the gospel beyond our church’s walls.
6. Tell—involving an increasing number of members in intentional, culturally-relevant evangelism.
7. Send—providing members with opportunities to hear and respond to God’s call to vocational mission service.
8. Multiply—participating in church planting and facilitating church planting movements.

## **Acts 1:8 Renewal Mission Groups**

**“Jerusalem”** (Local Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Prayer strategy
- Contact your Baptist Association Missionary and get involved in several assoc. ministries
- Promote church member attendance at your associations annual meetings
- Organize or join and support an existing Association event
- Senior adult mobilization to nursing care centers, hospital chaplaincy, YMCA chaplaincy, golf club chaplaincy, etc.
- Enlist and commission “Lay Church Planting Team”
- Invite Director of Missions to present overview of associational ministries
- Check Associational Newsletter
- Make sure your church as representatives that attend associational meeting

**“Local”** (Local Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Prayer strategy
- Define every pocket of lostness within a 3 mile radius of your Church
- Map the location of the church membership
- Design actions to contact every home in the 3 mile region 3 times a year.
- Identify existing ministries of church members
- Create a local ministry as church-wide youth project

The key to this strategy is calling out gifted and passionate persons to give leadership in each area of the strategy. As we wait up on God, we trust him to move us deeper and broader in each area of the strategy.

## **Acts 1:8 Renewal Weekend Mission Group**

**“Judea”** (Local Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Develop a State Prayer Strategy.
- Check with State Convention and adopt or join in a state project.
- Assist a MSC Missionary with an existing ministry in your state.
- Get involved with a state convention partnership with another state.
- Join with other churches in your state to support or start a new church or mission.
- Invite someone from the state convention staff to come and address the church.
- Check and see if you state has a State Mission Offering, and get the church to support it.
- Create a State Convention Promotion night for state mission education
- Check for possible State Brotherhood and WMU projects
- Locate a State sponsored Church Planter in your area and partner with him.
- Make sure your church has lay representatives at your State Convention and find out how many messengers your church is allowed and why. Promote attendance.

## Acts 1:8 Renewal Weekend Mission Group

“**Samaria**” (Local Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Prayer strategy
- Cross cultural outreach in the region (*pante ta ethne*—“*all the peoples*”)—identify all ethnic expressions
- Adopt a target pioneer state convention in the nation to minister with.
- Deploy teams
- Identify international students in the region
- Identify local Mission Service Corps Missionaries
- Identify and adopt North American Missionary
- Partner with the North American Mission Board in ministry project
- Schedule and promote Week of Prayer for North American Missions
- Schedule and promote Church-wide North American Mission Study
- Promote special Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and set Goal
- Schedule North American Missionary to come and speak to congregation
- *On Mission Magazine*
- Explore and experiment with Mission Education program for children and youth

## **Acts 1:8 Renewal Weekend Mission Group**

**“Uttermost Parts of the Earth”** (Local Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Prayer strategy
- Adopt one target international nation and Missionary
- Adopt an un-reached people group
- Mobilize laity—Medical personnel, dentists, civil engineers, educators, sociologists, craftsman, artists, et al.
- Partner with Global Networks
- Partner with a International Mission Board Missionary
- Promote *Commission Magazine*
- Schedule and promote Week of Prayer for International Missions
- Schedule Church-wide International Mission Study
- Create special promotion and goal for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Schedule International Missionary to come and address congregation
- Work to develop a Mission Education program for the children and youth

Suggested books for Literature Group Table & possible Small Group Studies after weekend

**Men and Women**

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Author</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Sessions</u></b>
The Acts 1:8 Challenge	Nate Adams	6 weeks
The Purpose Driven Life	Rick Warren	6 weeks
Lasting Legacy: Making a Difference	Serendipity House	13 weeks
Fresh Encounter	Blackaby & King	6 weeks
Five Keys to Effective Spiritual Growth	Ralph Neighbour, Jr.	5 weeks
Celebration of Discipline	Richard Foster	
Returning to Holiness	Gregory Frizzell	7-8 weeks
Experiencing God's Presence	Warren & Ruth Myers	13 weeks
The Ragamuffin Gospel	Brennan Manning	11 weeks
What's So Amazing about Grace	Philip Yancy	14 weeks
The Jesus I Never Knew	Philip Yancy	
Becoming a Contagious Christian	Bill Hyers	
Discovering the Depths	William P. Clemmons	
How to Follow the Shepherd...When You're Being Pushed Around by the Sheep	Jill Briscoe	10 weeks
The Priority of Kingdom-Focused Prayer	Rick Astle	6 weeks

**Men's Groups**

The Man God Uses	Henry & Tom Blackaby	7 weeks
Men of the Bible	Spangler & Wolgemuth	1-yr. Devotional
Men Leading the Charge video study	Steve Farrar	8 weeks

**Women's Groups**

Women of the Bible	Spangler & Syswerda	1-yr. Devotional
Loved by God	Liz Curtis Higgs	7 weeks
Women of Honor		