

Straight Street for Church Planters
Unit 7 - Relationships

Study Helps:

- Acts 9:7-11; 26-28
- Matthew 12:46-50
- John 3:16

Resources:

Reflection and Thoughts

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you” (John 15:16, NASB).

Desired outcome from this unit: For participants to understand that Jesus must be the central focus of their life and to recognize that God has prepared others to come alongside of them in the church plant so that they will not be alone.

Desired outcome from the Basic Training unit on Relationships: To help the church planter/planting team begin a process of examining relationships essential in the church planting experience.

I. What is God saying to me in His Word?

“The Bible is first and foremost a book about relationships,” says Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*.

It is imperative that Jesus becomes the starting point for all our relationships. He is also the central focus for the church plant and not the church planter. Healthy relationships begin with a healthy relational walk with our Lord.

Read the account of Saul’s encounter with Jesus in Acts 9.

That day Jesus became the center of Saul’s life. In Unit 2 of this study you were asked to share your encounter of coming to know Christ in a real and meaningful way and accepting him as your Savior. Take a moment now and reflect back on that encounter and honestly answer these questions.

Is Jesus still the central focus of your life today?

Yes, Jesus is the central focus of my life today because

No, Jesus is not the central focus of my life today because

Spend a moment in prayer asking God to reveal to you anything in your life that may become a barrier in your relationship with Him or with others.

How will you demonstrate to others that Jesus is the central focus of your church plant?

“As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men’” (Mark 1:16-17, NASB).

List below 2-3 Scriptures that speak to the following types of relationships.

1. _____ God and Man
2. _____ Man and God
3. _____ Family
4. _____ Friends
5. _____ Husband and Wife

II. What is God saying to me through others?

Read the following Scriptures and identify at least two people that God used to assist Saul soon after his encounter with Jesus. Note: The Scriptures may not always give a person’s name.

1. Acts 9:8

2. Acts 9:10

3. Acts 9:19

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God” (Eph 1:1, NASB).

Did you discover that God used the men who accompanied Saul on his mission to Damascus to assist him after his encounter with Jesus? Next, God instructed the disciple Ananias to go to Straight Street and inquire about a man named Saul. Ananias obeyed God

- The church planting team
- Core group
- Partnering entities
- Local association of churches
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Are there any other people that you can think of that God might want to use to assist you in church planting? They may be people that have shown minor or significant interest in you, your family, and your church plant. List their names and remember to thank God for them.

Discover as many Scriptures as you can that show how God used people to assist the Apostle Paul in his church planting endeavors. List below the Scripture reference, their names, and the roles that they had.

Church life begins in the home. If a church planter gains a church but loses his or her family, he or she has gained nothing. It is important for the church planter to begin thinking about roles, expectations, and covenants within the church planter's family.

Discover 3-5 key Scriptures regarding the family. Write the Scriptures below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

As the church planter, what do you see as your role?

mentor invests himself in another individual for the purpose of helping the church planter achieve his/her God-given potential. The ultimate goal of mentoring is reproduction.

List below biblical examples of people who served as mentors or were mentored. Write the Scripture reference and the name of the mentor and the person being mentored.

Reference	Mentor	Mentoree	Activity
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Do you see the need to have a mentor in your life? Why or why not?

III. What is it that I need to be doing in relation to what God is saying to me through His Word, through others, and in light of the things that I have discovered through this study?
