

## **“Kingdom Missions”: Study Guide**

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Missiology is the study of biblical principles of missions and their application. What are the biblical principles related to missions?

Related concepts to be defined and understood: Church planting, church growth, church health, missional churches, evangelism, missions

Effective mission studies combine theory and practical concerns, with an emphasis on practical applications of knowledge. Purely academic studies often tend to make things difficult and complex.

How can we facilitate (make easy) the task of reaching out with the gospel?

The overarching principle is the kingdom: the rule and reign of Christ.

This is the ultimate purpose of God, reflected throughout the Bible, culminating in the New Testament, and especially clarified in Ephesians.

### **Six dynamics or principles that are essential (non-negotiable) in developing people who live under the rule and reign of Christ.**

  #1   (Initial) Evangelism, telling people about God, getting the message right and sharing the right message about God, the nature of God, who God is

This is a story that must be told again and again in the church, we are participants in the story of God  
Bringing people into restored relationship, knowing God and the purpose of God

Eph. 1:3-14

  #2   Worship, helping people learn how to respect and reverence God

Worship based on the nature of God, worship that pleases God rather than appealing to human beings  
Developing healthy vertical relationship with God in the spiritual life

This healthy vertical relationship honors obedience to the will of God, understanding and applying the gospel in one’s personal life, commitment to discipleship

Eph. 1:15-23

  #3   Structure and organization, helping people learn how to respect and reverence one another in the context of the body of Christ

The nature of the body of Christ: Eph 2-3

Developing healthy relationships horizontally

Fleshing out the initial functioning of the body of Christ in every local setting

Eph 4:1-6, the importance of Christian characteristics, unity, and shared understandings

This involves the development of capable teachers (“pastors and teachers,” Eph 4:11-16)

The church must become self-motivating, recognizing mutuality according to biblical principles

The church thus begins the process of developing its own understandings of the biblical text, culturally and contextually applied, within the broad principles of Scripture

  #4   Leadership training

The church must become self-governing, developing capable leaders

Eph. 4:11-16

[The work of the church planter or minister is not done until the church leadership has been set in place, Titus 1:5ff. Church planters must give attention to sharing the gospel in the context of the demographics of the community, not only with those who are easy to reach, but more broadly as well]

\_\_#5\_\_ Stewardship, (including financial support), how individual Christians live out the rule and reign of Christ in their own lives, the body functioning for its own growth and health  
The church must move from dependence to independence, becoming self-sustaining and self-supporting, Eph. 4:11-16.

\_\_#6\_\_ Reproducible growth  
The church must accept responsibility for continuing the evangelism process, bringing more and more people into the kingdom, working to establish more and more churches.  
This reproducibility depends on understanding the first three concepts well and then following up with the second three to make certain the local body of Christ is fully functional.

### **How Can we Help Churches Move toward Reproducibility**

-1- Leadership development, developing local leaders and teachers (pastors and teachers) beyond the presence of the initial evangelist or evangelism-mission team.

→The pulpit must not be the primary influence in the local church. Jonathan Edwards: “A church’s greatest weakness is invariably its greatest strength taken to excess.” The pulpit can strangle mission and evangelistic reproducibility.

→We must train leaders and teachers with personal experience and not just with theory shared in the training institute. This practice has been effective throughout church history. Bible training programs are not the problem, but the way students often respond to formal education conditions them for churches that are not highly reproducible, low in cost, and missional.

-2- Developing teachers so that the church becomes self-sustaining both financially and also spiritually, not totally dependent on a limited number (two or three) ministry professionals. Self-supporting churches must look to more than finances, and must seek to be self-sustaining in every aspect of the local work, including teaching and mutual edification

-3- Developing effective evangelism and outreach tools, developing new preaching points, setting up the processes for assimilation of new Christians, encouraging the local church to take responsibility for the duplication of the church in its locality.