

Sample Module - Level 1

Goal: The intern will learn, integrate and demonstrate the various ways God calls His people to strategic mission and discern how God is calling the intern at this point in his or her life.

Memory Verse: *Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received* (Ephesians 4:1, HCSB).



Learn

Read: Exodus 3-4; Isaiah 6; Acts 9:1-31

Read: Chapter 2 in Jeff Iorg's *Is God Calling Me?*

Watch: Afshin Ziafat "The Calling to be Ambassadors for Christ"

The way the word "calling" is often used in the church is a bit intimidating. Some have a dramatic experience with God, akin to what Paul experienced on the Damascus Road, and their lives are immediately changed before they are sent on mission. Others have a more private or progressive sense of God's leading. Some know exactly the type of ministry God is calling them to; others do not. Based on this week's reading material, consider the following questions: How would you define calling? What are some things God specifically calls all Christians to do? How does He call Christians in differing ways?



Integrate

Examine the way your sense of calling has changed since you began your time as an intern. In your Church Planting Intern Handbook, describe your understanding of your calling when you began this process. Why did you become an intern? What did you sense God doing in your life? Has this changed in any way since you started? These answers will be encouraging to look back on when you finish your time as an intern and notice the way God either confirmed or changed your plans.



Demonstrate

Write your spiritual life map (the instructions for this are found in your Handbook), describing the nature of God's call on your life. Be honest about the aspects of His call which you are certain and those areas in which you still lack clarity. This assignment will serve you well as you move forward through your journey as an intern. Whether you decide to plant a church, go to the nations as a missionary, serve on a church staff or volunteer your time as a meaningful member of a local church, you will be asked to share this story many times. Thankfully, it is your story, so you should know it well. In module 2.2, you'll be asked to share your story with your coach, a Christian friend or even a non-Christian this week as a way of testifying to God's grace in your life.

As mentioned, there are 10 competencies in each level. Each competency is made up of a training module. The following pages contain portions of a module in each level of the training. It also explains the components of each module for greater understanding.

Spiritual Formation

L1 2.1: The Calling of God

Each module is titled with the competency (Spiritual Formation) it comes under as well as a number (1.1) and name (Being Formed).

Goal

Each module has a stated goal that corresponds with the assignments contained in the module.

Memory Verse

There is a memory verse that helps reinforce the competency. The memory verse remains with each competency.

Learn

The learn section in each module is filled with tasks that are information driven. The goal in the learn section is to provide content through various means to reinforce the competency.

Integrate

The integrate section is intended to be more reflective in nature. It aims at allowing the intern to process what God may be saying and how that shapes the intern's mind and heart.

Demonstrate

The demonstrate section seeks to move the intern from thinking and processing to showing and proving. Whether it is an activity or a directed conversation, the goal is for the intern to show understanding and proficiency of the competency.

Church Planting

L2 1.1: Why?

Read

Quick links to articles, blogs and book excerpts of many thought leaders and authors will be a primary way of delivering content. With permissions granted from publishers, the book content referenced will be provided for each intern so that libraries of books do not have to be purchased.

Watch

There are varying lengths and topics of videos that seek to spur thought and conversation around each module topic and competency.

Write

Scattered throughout the training, the intern will be asked to answer questions, write reflection papers or fill in graphs. These tasks will allow the intern to begin forming his own thought and ministry philosophy.

Discuss

Interns will have many tasks that require them to discuss or have conversations about their work during the internship. Most of these will be with their coaches. As mentioned, coaching is not only emphasized, it is essential. Discussions will provide a quick gauge of growth in many cases.

Sample Module - Level 2

Goal: Interns will learn, integrate and demonstrate an understanding of the biblical and practical basis for church planting.

Memory Verse: *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8, HCSB).



Learn

Read: Acts 16, 19; Matthew 28:18-20

Read: Tim Keller's *Why Plant Churches*

Read: Chapters 1 and 2 in Ed Stetzer's and Daniel Im's *Planting Missional Churches*

Read: Scott Thomas' blog "Five Reasons for Church Planting"

Read: J.D. Payne's blog "Why Jesus Never Commanded Us to Plant Churches"

Read: Alan Briggs' blog "Don't Plant a Church Because It's Cool"

Reflect back on the material you just read and watched. Consider all the reasons for church planting mentioned. Which ones stand out to you? Would you add any that were not mentioned? What would you consider bad or poor reasons to plant a church? Do you sense that your calling and reasons to engage church planting to be clear and pure? Craft your answers into a one- to two-page reflection paper describing what should motivate you to plant a church or be involved at some level in the work of church planting.



Integrate

Imagine the following scenario:

You feel like God is calling you to plant a church in the United States. This sense of calling is confirmed by the pastors of your current church, and your spouse also feels confident that this is what God has for your future. After prayerful consideration, you take your parents out to dinner to share the news with them. You expect your parents to respond with joy, but they do not. Instead, they present a litany of reasons why you should not plant a church—you lack the experience needed, there is no financial stability and there are hundreds of churches around that need a pastor. Why not just get a job at one of these churches? Your parents' reservations are matched by the response of the pastor of your home church who argues that the United States has plenty of churches, and most of the church planters he's met are just out to have their own church and do things their own way rather than doing the hard work of pastoring an existing congregation. You soon begin to question your passion for church planting. Are they right? Is church planting something you should pursue? How should you respond to their objections?

Record your thoughts in your *Church Planting Intern Handbook* and be prepared to discuss them with your intern coach this week.



Demonstrate

Interview three church planters using the list of questions below. Ideally, these three planters would be pastors in the city in which you are serving as an intern. If you do not yet know three planters, ask your pastor to put you in contact with three of his fellow planters, or simply search online. Attempt to meet with the pastor, either in person or on the phone, to talk about their motivation for planting a church.

- › How did you know God was leading you to start a church?
- › What motivated you to become a church planter?
- › What motivated you to become a church planter in this city?
- › Why do you encourage others to consider the work of church planting?

Sample Module - Level 3

Goal: Nurture the health of your relationships with your current or future spouse and children.

Memory Verse: *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church* (Eph. 5:31-32, HCSB).

Introduction

No greater catalyst for the development and maturity of a church plant exists than the health of the church planter's marriage and family. This month, you will be asked to consider God's design for the family, assess the health of your current relationships and develop a plan to effectively nurture these relationships as you move forward in your church planting journey.

Before you begin, set up a time to meet with your church planting coach. Discuss your current relationships with this person. Describe the unique blessings and challenges that come at this season of life and spend some time dreaming together about how you hope to grow over the course of this month. Conclude this time with prayer, asking that God would give you an obedient heart to act on anything He tells you to do in the days ahead.

Objectives: What are the major areas of growth you should see?

1. Develop a biblical understanding of the need for a healthy marriage and determine the current reality of your existing relationships with your spouse or other key friends;
2. Determine specific ways to utilize your season of life and existing relationships to serve the church and engage in mission;
3. Understand the unique needs of the relationships you currently have in your life;
4. Articulate a mission statement for the family that will be used to define the trajectory of the family and the priorities it should embody;
5. Assess the primary sin propensities that would destroy relationships and hinder the work of church planting.

Outcomes: What will you develop as a result of your study?

1. A holistic assessment on the health of your current relationships;
2. A family mission statement that describes the way your current or future marriage and parenting will serve God's mission;
3. A resolutions list of commitments you, and, if married, your spouse agree on to prioritize in the years ahead;
4. A personalized plan for establishing and maintaining relational intimacy and enjoyment in the marriage and family context.

By now you've likely heard the horror stories of the stressors of church planting on all of your relationships. The bad news is that they are all true! There's no denying the fact that pastoral ministry in general, and church planting in particular, will test your friendships, marriage and parenting like few other things ever will.

Up to this point, you've likely experienced a taste of this reality, as leadership in the church has put pressure on your existing relationships, your love for your spouse, your time with your family and your emotional energy to engage at home. This tension will only grow as you move into your next stage of church planting. It's important that you are realistic about these pressures at the outset.

It's also critical that you don't believe the hype. Church planting will not necessarily destroy your marriage. Church planting won't make you a terrible parent, steal all of your free time and drain every last bit of energy you have. You can engage in this season with great intentionality and find that church planting and pastoral ministry can be a valuable catalyst to mature you as a single man or woman, spouse or parent. In fact, you can look back on this season as one of the most significant times of growth in your home.

God's intentions for marriage are clear. By looking at the mirror of God's Word, we are able to see His holy standard, our need for grace and the practices that followers of Jesus should pursue.

L3 - Family Dynamics (overview)

L3 will be a *bit* different in format than L1 and L2, as it will tackle one competency in one module.

Goal

Each module has a stated goal that corresponds with the assignments contained in the module.

Introduction

This section will be a simple introduction of the competency to the intern. It will give a short overview to help prepare the intern for what's ahead.

Objectives

Each module will have clear objectives for the intern to accomplish. The objectives are the tasks and work that lead to the stated goal of the module.

Outcomes

The outcomes are the demonstrable tasks of the intern to show proficiency of the competency. Outcomes are visible through what the interns "do" as opposed to what they "know." Outcomes will be measured and discussed with the intern's coach upon completion.