

CHURCH PLANTING VALUES

Acts 17. The pioneering and stirring adventure of the Church continues. The Spirit leads, everyday-people step out in bold action, and the world is changed forever. The movement of multiplication couldn't be and won't be stopped. The values of Southland's vision to catalyze a church planting movement across Kentucky can be discovered and applied throughout this chapter.

1. Christ-Centered

This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ. (Acts 17:3)

2. A World-Changing Movement

Jesus came to turn the world upside down. And now, "these men who have turned the world upside down have come here also." The spread of the gospel throughout the Roman Empire was the beginning of a movement that would change the course of history forever. (Acts 4:16-17, Acts 17:6, 1 Thessalonians 1:8)

3. Every Day is a Mission Trip

Day by day. Town to town. Share the gospel wherever God leads. (Acts 17:10, 17)

4. Ordinary is More Than Enough

All people are welcomed. No status, formal titles, influence, or formal education required. Common people are sharing Jesus, gospel stories, and serving each other.

5. Truth

Bereans examined the scriptures for themselves. (Acts 17:10-11) Once they understood it to be true, these and other believers were not afraid to step and speak out.

6. Context Is Key

Paul leveraged the context "where he was" to share the gospel. Especially to people who love to talk about and listen to the latest ideas. (Acts 17:21, 2 Timothy 4:3)

7. Missional Is A Must

The gospel message is carried to all points between the synagogue and marketplace. It doesn't shy away from any location. Especially where culture is being made and where the bad characters hang out. Often truth means that not everyone will want to join where God is leading. (Acts 17:33)

8. Squad Goals

Planting is a team sport. A belonging and calling. The community of believers shared all they had. (Acts 2:42) It's all gifts, all backgrounds, varying levels of financial abilities, perspective, and both men and women (Acts 17:12, 17). We are strongest when we are together.

9. Tension Is Coming

The movement of the Church will have opposition. In Acts we see believers being stoned to death, mobs being formed, crowds being stirred, riots starting, and even the passive-aggressive stuff—like sneering. Tension will come, but not all tension is bad. Once we experience the tension, we begin to see affirmation of gospel effectiveness. For us, planting is not an exercise in novelty.

10. All Of Us

Jesus died for people of every nation, culture, and language. A real movement is multicultural and welcomes everyone. (Acts 17:26)

