NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



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Churches for the Nations

Lesson 7 • Acts 1:8

God's *HEART* for the Nations Is Revealed in His Plan for Creation and His Promise of Redemption! *Genesis 1 – 3*
God's *HOPE* for the Nations Is Revealed at the End of His Rainbow! *Genesis 4 – 11*
God's *BLESSINGS* for the Nations Are Revealed in His Covenant with Abraham! *Genesis 12:1-3*
God's *REFUGE* for the Nations Is Revealed in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ! *Matthew 1:1-17*
God's *MISSION* for the Nations Is Revealed as a Mandate to Multiply! *Matthew 28:18-20*

The Living God is a Missionary God Whose Risen Son Sent His Spirit to Multiply CHURCHES for the Nations!

The Book of Acts Reminds Us that Jesus Sent His Spirit So Local Churches Would Bridge the Gap to Be a Refuge for All People Groups.

"I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Matthew 16:18

"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

What Does It LOOK Like When Churches Bridge the Gap to Be a Refuge for the Nations?

A Simple Answer in One Sentence:

Local churches are planted, established, and multiplied by doing evangelism, discipleship, and missions for the fame of His Name!

1. LOCAL CHURCHES Are Planted, Established, and Multiplied.

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-47

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, Acts 13:1-4

"When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed." Acts 14:23

"When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 14:27

"So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily." Acts 16:5

CAUTION | **Both** the Great Commission **and** Great Commandment are **IMPORTANT** but **not** the **same!**

The Great Commission Is our missional purpose that is accomplished in history over time. Matthew 28:18-20
The Great Commandment is our relational power that is to be obeyed at all times. Matthew 22:36-40

2. Local Churches Are Fully Devoted to Being Faithful and Fruitful in E-D-M.

SEVEN GROWTH REPORTS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS						
Report #1 2:41-47	**Report #2 6:7**	**Report #3 9:31**	**Report #4 12:24**	**Report #5 16:5**	**Report #6 19:20**	**Report #7 28:30-31**
So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls... And the Lord was **adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.**	The **word of God kept on spreading**; and the **number of the disciples continued to increase greatly** in Jerusalem, and a **great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith**.	So **the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, **it continued to increase**.	But **the word of the Lord continued to grow** and **to be multiplied**.	So **the churches were being strengthened in the faith,** and were **increasing in number daily**.	So **the word of the Lord was growing mightily** and **prevailing**.	And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was **WELCOMING ALL** who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

	What God Loves Us to Do	*What God Loves to Grow*	*What God Loves to Count*	*What God Loves to See*
E	**EVANGELISM**	His **PEOPLE**	**NUMERICAL** Growth	Churches **PLANTED**
	▼	▼	▼	▼
D	**DISCIPLESHIP**	His **WORD**	**SPIRITUAL** Growth	Churches **ESTABLISHED**
	▼	▼	▼	▼
M	**MISSIONS**	His **CHURCH**	**GEOGRAPHICAL** Growth	Churches **MULTIPLIED**

*Missions involves **many things** but the **main thing** is local churches being planted, established, and multiplied by doing evangelism, discipleship, and missions!*

What Is REQUIRED of Churches to Bridge the Gap to Be a Refuge for the Nations?

1. **The POWER of the Indwelling Holy Spirit.** *Acts 1:8; 2:1-13*

2. **The PROCLAMATION of the Gospel.** *Acts 2:14ff.; 3:12ff.; 4:1-3, 8-10, 17-20, 31; 5:27-29ff.; 7:1-2; 8:1, 4ff.*

3. **The PERSECUTION by the World.** *Acts 4:1-31; 5:12-42; 7:54-8:3*

4. **The PRAYERS of the Local Church.** *Acts 4:23-31*

5. **The PURITY of the Local Church.** *Acts 5:1-11*

6. **The PROTECTION of Gospel Priorities to Stay on Mission While Meeting Needs.** *Acts 6:1-7*

7. **The PERSISTENT Crossing of Cultural Barriers to Build Relational Bridges.** *Acts 10–15*

8. **The PROVIDENTIAL Preparation of Senders and Goers.** *Acts 8:1-4; 9; 11*

9. **The PURSUIT of Worship as the Fuel and Goal of Missions.** *Acts 2:41-47; 13:1-4*

10. **The PRACTICE of E-D-M Is Intentionally Followed.** *Acts 8:4-40; 11:19-30; 13:1-4; 14:21-28*

11. **The PERSEVERANCE of Senders and Goers to Fulfill the Great Commission.** *Acts 14:21-22; 28:30-31; Ephesians 6:18-20; 2Timothy 2:8-13*

    After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." Acts 14:21-22

    "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory." 2Timothy 2:8-10

12. **The PARTNERSHIP of the Lord of the Harvest with All Kinds of People and Churches.** *3John; Romans 16*

A Great Commitment to Christ and His Great Commission and Great Commandment Will Multiply Great Churches that Bridge the Gap to Be a Refuge for the Nations!