

## Lesson 6

# MINISTRY PLANNING

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the importance of planning.
- To understand the biblical basis for the planning.
- To study the practical aspects of planning.
- To learn how to set goals.

### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION
  - A. Definition of Planning
  - B. We plan in all areas of life.
  - C. In the beginning God created ...
  - D. Satan knows God has a plan so he also devised a plan.
- II. BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF PLANNING
  - A. God uses human beings.
  - B. Planning is partnership involving both a divine aspect and a human aspect.
- III. WHAT IS PLANNING?
  - A. Planning is a bridge to the future - a link from the present to the future.
  - B. Planning is a statement of faith, a faith forecast.
  - C. Planning is writing the future.
  - D. Planning is discerning what it is God has called us to do and deciding the best way to respond to God's call.
- IV. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS PLAN?
- V. FIVE REASONS FOR HAVING A PLAN
  - A. Because it gives purpose and direction. Know where you are going and you will arrive there.
  - B. Because Jesus told us to plan.
  - C. Because our choices, decisions and actions today will affect tomorrow.
  - D. Because God is replying upon us to serve Him to the best of our ability. Not to BE the best, but to be AT your best!

E. Because God has a plan for you.

VI. OUR RESPONSE TO THE FUTURE.

- A. Ignoring the Future.
- B. Some Planning.
- C. Plan, with faith that your actions will affect tomorrow.

VII. HOW TO PLAN - THE FIVE STEPS OF PLANNING.

- A. Pray for a Vision : What is Vision?
- B. Target: What you want to accomplish?
- C. Strategy : How to reach your target?
- D. Goals : When your strategies will be Accomplished?
- E. Budget : How much you need to fulfil your Vision?
- F. Other Considerations in Planning.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. *Definition of Planning:*

To consider **WHAT** to do, and **HOW** to do it.

### B. *We plan in all areas of life*

Likewise in evangelism and church planting.

We need to plan **WHAT** to do, and **HOW** to do it.

We have the SEED (Word of God).

**WHAT** do we do with it, and **HOW** do we do it.

Need to research **WHERE** to plant the seed.

Parable of sower - Matthew 13:3-8.

### C. *"In the beginning God created ..."*

Genesis 1:1

God had a **plan** from before the foundation of the earth. He knew **WHAT** He wanted to do and **HOW** He would do it.

Day 1 - Light and darkness - Morning and Evening

Day 2 - Heaven and Earth - divided waters

Day 3 - Sea and Land, and Vegetation

Day 4 - Seasons, years and days, sun, moon & stars

Day 5 - Fish and birds

Day 6 - Animals and man to have dominion

Day 7 - Rested

1. His **Plan**: Multiply, fill the earth and subdue it.
2. His **Provision**: Food.
3. God had a **plan of salvation** from the foundation of the world: Adam and Eve; Abel's offering; Tabernacle; Jesus, the Lamb of God.

*D. Satan knows God has a plan so he also devised a plan*

John 10:10a

**II. BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF PLANNING**

*A. God uses human beings*

1. Moses: to deliver Israel - e.g. 3:7-10
2. Paul: to bring Gospel to the Gentiles - Acts 9:15

*B. Planning is a partnership, involving both a divine aspect and a human aspect*

1. Genesis 6:8 - Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord:
  - a) 6:9 - Noah walked with God.
  - b) 6:13-16 - God gave Noah the plan - WHAT to do and HOW to do it?
  - c) 6:18 - God would make an agreement with Noah.
  - d) 6:22 - Noah carried out God's plan - did EVERYTHING God commanded him.
2. Exodus 3:2 - God got **Moses'** attention:
  - a) v 3 - Moses **responded** - turned and saw.
  - b) v 4 - When God saw Moses respond, He **called** him  
- God waits to see our response.
  - c) v 7 - God **shares** his burden with Moses:  
"I have seen" "I have heard"
  - d) v 8 - "I have come down to **deliver** them."

- e) v 10 - God shares His plan - GO, I **send** YOU.  
God uses man!!

3. Moses had lots of **excuses**:

- a) 11 - "Who am I?" - Felt **insignificant**.
- b) 13 - "What shall I say" - Felt **ignorant**.
- c) 4:1 - "What if they won't believe me."  
- Fear of **rejection**.
- d) 4:11 - "I can't speak well" - Felt **inadequate**.
- e) 4:13 - "Please send someone else."
- f) 4:2 - "What do you have in your hand?"  
God only asks us to bring what we **have**.
- g) 3:12 - "Certainly I will be with you" - **PARTNERSHIP**.

4. Acts 1:8

**YOU** will receive power    **YOU** are to be My witnesses ....

They were to act upon His Word to spread the Gospel. God would provide the power; we are to use that power to spread the Gospel.

5. Ephesians 1:4 - God **chose** YOU before the foundation ...

6. Ephesians 2:10 - We are His **workmanship** ...

7. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7:

**Paul** planted the seed. **Apollos** watered it. **God** made it grow.

Same principle for evangelism and church planting.

God has a plan but He works through YOU!

- a) God uses **humans** .
- b) It is a **partnership** with God.

### III. WHAT IS PLANNING?

#### A. *Planning is a bridge to the future - a link from the present to the future*

Things as they are → **PLANNING** → Things as we want them to be

1. Nehemiah 1:1-4 : Heard walls of Jerusalem were broken down and gates burned with fire -  
**THINGS AS THEY ARE.**
2. Nehemiah 2:5 : Send me to Jerusalem that I may rebuild it -  
**THINGS AS HE WANTED THEM TO BE.**

#### B. *Planning is a statement of faith, a faith forecast*

Hebrews 11:1 : "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Don't **limit** your planning to what **man** can do, but to what **God** wants done. And not just to what you are doing now.

e.g. Abraham - Genesis 13:14-15:

"Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you **SEE** I will give to you and your offspring forever ..."

1. What do you **SEE**?
2. **WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!**
3. **WHAT YOU DON'T SEE YOU DON'T GET!**
  - a) Noah and Ark - a boat when there's no water?!

4. What do YOU see? Don't be locked in to **smallness**?

a) Isaiah 54:2-3

2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,  
And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings;  
Do not spare;  
Lengthen your cords,  
And strengthen your stakes.  
3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left,  
And your descendants will inherit the nations,  
And make the desolate cities inhabited.

- ENLARGE - STRETCH
- DO NOT SPARE
- LENGTHEN
- EXPAND
- INHERIT
- INHABIT

**C. *Planning is writing the future***

We can confidently predict that the future will be different from the past and the present. Our idea of the future affects what we do in our ministry.

1. What is Jesus' idea for the future?

a) Matthew 28:18-20 : Great Commission:  
Make disciples of all nations

b) Phil 2:10 : Every knee shall bow

c) Revelation 7:9 : Every tribe, people and  
language standing before the  
Throne.

2. What we do, and decide to do today, actually creates the future.

**William Carey** changed INDIA

**Hudson Taylor** changed CHINA

**Adoniram Judson** changed BURMA

YOU can bring about change amongst your people.

**D. *Planning is discerning what it is God has called us to do and deciding the best way to respond to God's call***

Proverbs 24:3-4: By WISDOM a house is built

Planning involves:

- a) **KNOWLEDGE** - knowing the facts
- b) **UNDERSTANDING** - interpreting the facts
- c) **WISDOM** - applying the facts

**IV. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS PLAN?**

*"Where there is no **vision** the people will wander aimlessly."*  
Proverbs 29:18

Sometimes our planning can be different from God's leading. Therefore it is very important that planning be done in a spirit of prayer.

*"In his heart a man **plans** his course, but the Lord determines his steps."*  
Proverbs 16:9:

NOT to plan is a plan in itself.

**V. FIVE REASONS FOR HAVING A PLAN**

**A. *Because it gives purpose and direction. Know where you're going and you will arrive there***

*Paul: "I do not run like a man running aimlessly, I do not fight like a man beating the air."*  
1 Corinthians 9:26

Planning saves time.



Proverbs 13:16 (LB): "A wise man THINKS AHEAD ..."

**B. Because Jesus told us to plan**

Luke 14:28-3:

Building a tower - sit down and **calculate** cost  
Going to war - sit down and **consider** if have enough soldiers  
and military might.

**C. Because our choices, decisions and actions today will affect tomorrow**

"A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7

**D. Because God is relying upon us to serve Him to the best of our ability. Not to BE the best, but to be AT your best!**

If you aim for nothing, that's what you will hit! Dartboard

**E. Because God has a plan for you**

"For I know the **plans** I have for you," declares the Lord, "**plans** to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans** to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

He doesn't reveal the whole plan. We need to take the little step before the big step. Sometimes we want to arrive at the end first! Trees were made before birds, animals before people.

## **VI. OUR RESPONSE TO THE FUTURE**

People respond to their ability to change the future in different ways:

**A. Ignoring the Future**

“I’m not responsible for the future.” If we adopted this attitude there is no need for us to get out of bed in the morning, or to feed ourselves! Why pray? Why evangelize?

**B. Some planning**

“If I do all the planning I’m not leaving God any room to work. I’ll just share with a few people and see what happens.”

**C. Plan, with faith that your actions will affect tomorrow**

We pray in order to change the future.

We evangelize in order to change the future.

Remember, what you decide today creates the future!!

## **VII. HOW TO PLAN? - THE FIVE STEPS OF PLANNING**

- STEP 1.     **PRAY** for a *VISION* : What is vision?  
A mark on which to fix the eyes, as a runner who is looking towards the goal (Philippians 3:13-14).
- STEP 2.     **Target:** *WHAT* you want to accomplish.
- STEP 3.     **Strategy:** *HOW* to reach your target.  
The steps to take you from where you are now to where you want to be.
- STEP 4.     **Goals:** *WHEN* your strategies will be accomplished.  
Put them in time slots. When they should begin and end.
- STEP 5.     **Budget:** *HOW MUCH* you need to fulfill your vision.  
People, equipment, time, information and money.

A. **PRAY for a VISION of what God wants you to do. (not what you think you can do)**

1. **PRAYER** is the key

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."*  
Proverbs 16:3

Nothing happens until someone has a vision for it.

2. Three parts to getting God's vision:

a) God shows us **WHAT** He is going to do.

b) God shows us **HOW** He is going to do it.

c) God shows us **WHEN** He is going to do it.

(i) <b>Noah:</b>	Genesis 6:13	WHAT
	6:14-17	HOW
	7:1	WHEN

(ii) <b>Abraham :</b>	Genesis 13:14-15	WHAT
	16	HOW
	17	WHEN

First step: GO - 12:1; 13:1.

What is God speaking to you about?

Don't just copy what others are doing. God has a special plan for you.

3. Vision comes from **God**.

Eg. Paul - Acts 26:19:

*"I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision."*

What was that vision?

Acts 9:15: *"Carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings."*

Galatians 2:7 - *"Entrusted with the Gospel to the Gentiles."*

Paul kept his eyes on the finishing line.

4. Vision is to be **written** down - Habakkuk 2:2-3.

We need to share our vision with others so they will join us in reaching our target.

a) In seeking vision, ask yourself these two questions:

(i) Do I have a vision - a burden?

(ii) Do I recognize a need?

b) Example: Nehemiah

(i) Nehemiah **RECOGNIZED A NEED** (1:1-4)

Up until then he had no burden for anything. But when he received a report of the distress of the people in Jerusalem he recognized a need.

(ii) Nehemiah **GOT INVOLVED.**

He began to **PRAY, THINK, PLAN.** He didn't leave straight away.

"What does God want me to do?"

(iii) Nehemiah **TOOK THE BURDEN TO THE LORD** (1:5-11)

He prayed, and identified the need to talk to the King (v.10) - prayer and action go hand in hand. Faith without works is dead.

(iv) Nehemiah **MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE** (2:5) - Send **ME** to the city.

(v) Nehemiah **PLANNED.**

It was four months from the time that he recognized the need until he launched the plan. The King asked (2:4): "What is it you want?"

5. What destroys vision?

a) Looking at the problem instead of the vision.  
Nehemiah - so much rubbish!

- b) Tradition we've always done it this way.
- c) Fear of failure. Get up and try again!
- d) Looking at the power of the enemy instead of God's power. Nehemiah had many enemy attacks.
- e) Listening to negative words instead of faith words. Nehemiah: People became discouraged. eg. Spies into Canaan - Numbers 13:28-33.

Practical : Pray in two's for each other to have a vision, or to enlarge their vision.

**B. TARGET: WHAT it is that you want to accomplish.**

Once you have a vision, the next step is to set the goal - the end result. WHAT is it that God wants me to accomplish.? Should be based on what we believe God can do, not on what we think we can do.

1. Target needs to be *specific*, not broad.  
eg. All Akha evangelized - too broad.  
5 villages - name them - saved - specific.  
  
eg. Make disciples - too broad.  
Disciple 10 people this year.
2. Two mistakes in setting a target:
  - a) Set it too **low** - no challenge. Needs to be big enough to extend your faith and abilities.
  - b) Try to reach it too **quickly** - become discouraged, exhausted.

Our TARGET needs to be very clear before we take Step 3.

**C. STRATEGY: HOW you can reach your target.**

The steps to take you from where you are now to where you want to be.

1. Steps to take from where you are to where you want to go.

a) **Research:** Nehemiah 2:11-15.

You don't need to be in a hurry. Use time for research.

- (i) **Where do** we have churches?
- (ii) **What** are our next target areas?
- (iii) **How** many in each village?
- (v) **What** are their needs?
- (vi) **How** best to reach them with the Gospel?
- (vii) **Are** there any Christians there?
- (viii) Do we have any **contacts**?

b) **Communicate** your plan to others - Nehemiah 2:17-18:  
People's response: "Let US start rebuilding".  
Nehemiah couldn't do it on his own. He needed an  
army of dedicated soldiers.

c) **Write** down all ideas.

d) Start to plan **steps** to take.

- (i) Research
- (ii) Share vision with leaders
- (iii) Train 5 leaders - what to teach them
- (iv) How to start - children's ministry, praying for sick?
- (v) Start with small house meeting
- (vi) Teach Word of God and how to evangelize
- (vii) As group grows, split in to two groups
- (viii) When 4 groups bring together and form church
- (xiv) Train up leaders to go to other villages

**D. GOALS: WHEN your strategies will be accomplished.**

Put them in time slots. When they should begin and end.

Once you have written down your target, and your strategy to reach the target, determine what time is required to accomplish it. Work on a one-year calendar.

*Nehemiah 2:6 : The King asked, "How long will your journey take and when will you get back." Nehemiah set a time.*

In setting target, strategy and goals, be:

1. **Specific** Rebuild wall
2. **Measurable** Visible structure
3. **Attainable** Each group take one section of the wall
4. **Realistic** Completed
5. **Time-dated** Record of 52 days

**E. BUDGET: HOW MUCH - people, equipment, time, information and money?**

1. How much **MONEY** will it cost? Food, Accommodation teaching materials, transportation, stationery etc.
2. How much **TIME** will it involve? 10 days for program  
6 months for planning
3. What **PEOPLE** do I need? Administrator, teachers, leaders
4. What **TYPE** of people? Able to teach, counsel, help
5. What **EQUIPMENT** do I need? Overhead Projector, tables, chairs, whiteboard, pens, stationery, nametags etc.
6. How do I get it? Buy, rent, borrow

Look at resources available now:

- a) Begin with yourself : ministry experience, studied in GCI, contacts in villages

- b) Resources available : local co-ordinator, pastor.

Then look at other resources needed.

## F. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN PLANNING

Once you know how to plan, there are several other points you will find useful to know.

A PLAN MUST NEVER BE RIGID, but **flexible**.

1. Give **glory** to God.

*1 Corinthians 10:31 - "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."*

In order that God will receive the glory make sure our plan is beyond what we can do in our own strength.

eg. Gideon and 300 men.

2. Be **sensitive** to God's leading.

e.g. Paul's Macedonian call. He tried one door and it didn't open, and another, until the right door opened.

3. **Evaluate**. Expect your plan to change. It's not the 10 Commandments etched in stone. Update. GCI - constant change.

4. **Use** the Plan.

Don't make a plan for the sake of making a plan so you can graduate from GCI, and then put it on the bookshelf to gather dust!

5. **Communicate** your plan to others. Impart your vision so others can be involved. Nehemiah inspired others to also do the work.

6. Your plan needs to enlarge God's **Kingdom** not yours: Ephesians 4:11-16.

7. Realize your plan may be opposed. As soon as Nehemiah shared his vision, there was opposition.

2:19 - mockery, ridicule.

4:8 - plotting against him, stirring up trouble.



Even for opposition, Nehemiah had a plan: posted a guard day and night; v.14 - encouraged people.

**List of References:**

1. Peter Brierley, *Planning, Priorities and Paperwork*.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. *Vision Building*.