

Becoming the Church God Builds



Instructor Guide

Church Renewal Resource
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region
Church of the Nazarene

Acknowledgments

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Preparation Checklist

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to ensure the following materials are available:
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials:
 - Pens and/or pencils
 - Other material you want to use
- Check the classroom for:
 - Projector
 - Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- Arrange the room so each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.



Becoming the Church God Builds

Module at a Glance

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Introduction	5 mins.	P. 5	Introduce module, purpose, and objectives.
II. Lecture	25 mins.	P. 6	The facilitator presents information to encourage participants to become the church God builds.
III. Small Group Activity	20 mins.	P. 12	Participants determine how to offer hope to unchurched people
IV. Discussion	5 mins.	P. 13	Participants share thoughts about how the insights will assist their leadership.
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	15 mins.	P. 13	Participants determine when and how to develop essential church building characteristics.
VI. Module Wrap-Up	5 mins.	P. 14	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 75 mins.			



I. Module Introduction

(5 minutes)

Notes

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes.

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

The purpose of this module is:

To encourage Christians to become the church God builds.

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The objectives for this module are:

- Choose to declare God’s truth openly
- Learn to differ with society purposefully and gently
- Resolve to discern God’s voice continually

II. Lecture

(25 minutes)

Notes

The UNDERLINED text represents the blanks in the participant booklet.

The scripture passage for this module is Matthew 16:13-20. You may choose to read the passage yourself or ask one or more participants to do so for you.

- A. God grows churches through HUMAN leadership.
1. God CHOSE to build His church first on Peter (Matthew 16:18).
 2. God realized Peter had WEAKNESSES.
 - a. Peter had a violent temper. He cut off a man's ear (John 18:10).
 - b. Peter spoke first and thought thirdly. In Matthew 16:21-23, he rebuked Jesus for predicting His own death.
 - c. Peter covered before a teenage girl as he denied Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75).
 - d. Peter cursed when challenged. Peter denied he knew Jesus with an oath (Matthew 26:72).
 - e. Peter had little education. He was a fisherman (Matthew 4:18-20); he was an unschooled, ordinary man (Acts 4:13).
 - f. Peter possessed good intentions, but little follow through. Peter declared he would never deny Christ (Matthew 26:33).
 - g. Peter is known for his faltering faith. He began to sink while walking on the water toward Jesus (Matthew 14:28-30)
 3. Peter DEMONSTRATED a character change (Matthew 16:16, 18).
 - a. Simon was the fisherman who became a DISCIPLE (Matthew 4:18).
 1. Simon was a "LEADER in the rough."
 2. The name Simon means "SANDY" with shifting allegiances.
 3. Simon knew he NEEDED a character transformation (John 13:6-9).

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II. Lecture (cont.)

Notes

- b. Peter became a church **BUILDER**.
 1. First, Simon made an **OPEN** confession of Christ (Matthew 16:16).
 2. Then, Jesus blessed Simon with the new name of Peter, which means “ROCK” (Matthew 16:18).
 3. Peter became a church leader **AFTER** he boldly confessed Christ.
 4. God sees **BEYOND** our limitations.
 - a. God **STILL** selects people with weaknesses.
 - b. God saw Peter’s faults and yet recognized Peter’s **STRENGTHS**.
 - c. Let’s consider Peter’s strengths in light of our own **POTENTIAL** as people upon whom God wants to build His church.
- B. Peter **DECLARED** the truth (Matthew 16:16).
1. Peter spoke **INITIALLY**.
 - a. Though Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?” was directed to **ALL** of the disciples, Peter was the first to respond (Matthew 16:15-16).
 - b. Peter did not seek **VALIDATION** from the other disciples.
 2. Peter spoke **PUBLICLY**.
 3. Peter spoke **KNOWLEDGEABLY**.
 - a. Peter **IDENTIFIED** who Jesus was when he said, “You are the Christ”.
 - b. Peter **CLARIFIED** who Christ was when he said, “You are the Son of the living God.”
- C. Peter **UNDERSTOOD** the culture.
1. Peter **IDENTIFIED** three major beliefs about Jesus in his society (Matthew 16:14).
 - a. “Some say John the Baptist.”
 - b. “Others say Elijah.”
 - c. “And still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

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II. Lecture (cont.)

2. Peter spoke in a **CULTURAL** context (Matthew 16:13); he understood what and how secular people thought.
 - a. Peter's confession of Christ took place in the especially pagan region of Caesarea Philippi.
 1. The city of Caesarea Philippi was originally called Pnias in honor of the Greek god Pan.
 2. Prominent high cliffs near the city featured a cave dedicated to the god Pan, and numerous rock-cut alcoves featured statues of the Nymphs.
 3. Peter contrasted secular beliefs with godly beliefs.
 - a. Peter said, "You are the Christ." In contrast, Pan was the only one of the many Greek gods.
 - b. Peter said, "You are...the Son of the living God." In contrast, Greek gods are dead gods.
 4. Today, Jesus still asks, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
 - a. We need to know what non-Christians believe.
 - b. We need to develop relationships with people outside of our church family to know what they think.
 - c. Conversations can give insights into people's belief systems.
 - d. We need to know what our culture believes.
 - i. What belief system does the majority of the media endorse?
 - ii. What conclusions can we draw from current trends in education, music, etc.?

II. Lecture (cont.)

ILLUSTRATION:

Christ met unbelievers where they were. According to one count, the gospels record 132 contacts Jesus had with people. Six were in the temple, four in the synagogues, and 122 were out with the people in the mainstream of life. –J.K. Johnston

- D. Peter **DISCERNED** God's voice (Matthew 16:17).
1. Peter sought answers from the right **SOURCE**—Jesus.
 - a. Peter led the other disciples in **QUESTION** asking.
 - b. Peter asked for a parable explanation (Matthew 15:15).
 - c. Peter asked where Jesus was going (John 13:36).
 2. Peter **LISTENED** for God's voice (Matthew 16:16-17).
 - a. Peter learned to **DISCRIMINATE** between divine revelation and worldly opinion.
 - b. Peter did not **SPEAK** until he had heard from God.
 3. God **REVEALED** Himself to Peter (Matthew 16:17).
 - a. God's revelation gave Peter a personal **BLESSING**.
 - b. God's revelation gave Peter a greater **PURPOSE** (Matthew 16:18).
 - c. Jesus **COMMISSIONED** Peter to build His church.

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ILLUSTRATION:

Rev. King Duncan tells of a time when a revelation from God changed his definition of church building.

Rev. Duncan was getting dressed one Sunday morning to speak at old First Church—a high-steepled church with a rich history. The radio was on. The early morning service from a fast growing church in the neighborhood was being broadcasted. Rev. Duncan knew the radio preacher had a reputation for reaching people no one else could reach.

Then the radio preacher said, "Before we begin this morning, I want to say a couple of things to you. First of all, I want to say that there is far too much moving around in the service while I am preaching. It's distracting.

II. Lecture (cont.)

And another thing: I would appreciate it if you would wait until after the service is over to go out to the restroom. I have to wait and so can you!”

Rev. Duncan laughed out loud, and thought smugly to himself, “That’s not the sort of thing most of us would broadcast as part of a worship service! How unsophisticated!”

Then the voice of God spoke to King’s heart. “King,” God said, “the reason that pastor has to tell his people how to behave in church is that a year ago many of them were not in a church. Some of them were having serious problems with alcohol and drugs. Some of them were going through painful divorces. A few were even in jail. That’s why they don’t know how to act in church. They haven’t been in church very long.”

Then God said, “Don’t worry, King, you won’t have that difficulty at old First Church.”

And King thought to himself, “God help us, we won’t. Everybody at old First Church will know exactly how to behave in church.”

- E. God **CHOOSES** to build His church on us (Matthew 16:18).
1. God does not build **ALONE**; He works through human leadership to build His church.
 2. God promises Hades will not possess enough **POWER** to be successful against us, the church.
 3. God gives keys to **UNLOCK** the kingdom.
 - a. Jesus first gave Peter the keys to unlock the kingdom for the Jews and Gentiles alike.
 - b. Jesus then gave the rest of His disciples the authority to unlock the kingdom.
 - c. Jesus grants us the authority to unlock the kingdom for the unsaved.
 4. What we do on earth will have **ETERNAL** impact.
- F. Today Jesus asks, “**WHO** will build my church?”
1. Disciples who speak **INITIALLY** with God to receive divine revelation.

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II. Lecture (cont.)

2. Disciples who speak **PURPOSEFULLY** with unbelievers.
 - a. To discover belief systems.
 - b. To win unbelievers to the Lord.
3. Disciples who speak **KNOWLEDGEABLY** about their culture.
 - a. To compare and contrast secular beliefs with godly beliefs.
 - b. To bring unbelievers to the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION:

A study was made focusing on churches that have shown consistent gains year after year. In fact, these particular churches have grown continuously, and often at a rapid pace, for nearly two decades. Besides steady growth, each of these thriving churches has at least one thing in common: pastors who regularly challenge their congregations to bring people to Jesus.

Notes

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III. Small Group Exercise

(20 Minutes)

How can we learn what people think about Jesus? By developing relationships with people and then listening carefully to what they have to say, we can draw conclusions about people's beliefs. Then the time will come when we will have an opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel with them.

Answer the following questions in small groups of three to four people.

- Identify some of the values in our society that bring people together.
- What are reasons people come to worship in a local congregation for the first time?
- Recently your coworker told you, "There is no hope for my marriage. We can't possibly forgive each other after all the damage that's been done." As a Christian, how could you compassionately identify with your coworker's personal hurt? Draft a sample conversation that communicates how God helps us forgive each other when we are hurt.
- Now recall an actual conversation with a non-Christian in which you had an opportunity to constructively share the Gospel. In the space below, outline what you would say if you could have another discussion with that same non-Christian.

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IV. Discussion

(5 Minutes)

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about building God's church.

If you're ahead of schedule, the discussion can go a few extra minutes. However, it's easy to lose track of time so watch the clock. Open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, refer to any of the questions in the small group exercise.

V. Action Planning/Reporting

(15 Minutes)

This module has focused on a few of Simon Peter's church building characteristics. When we decide to join in building God's church, we can also decide to cultivate the very characteristics that prompted Jesus to choose Peter as a church builder.

Work individually for the next few minutes. Place a checkmark beside the church-building characteristic(s) that you need to exhibit in your life right now. Then note specifically "how" and "when" you will do so.

Church Building Characteristics	Check	How?	When?
Takes initiative with others			
Readily professes Christ			
Speaks knowledgeably in a societal context			
Listens, then speaks			
Speaks purposefully			

Now meet in church groups of 4-5 individuals. Discuss how you can encourage your home congregation to develop the church-building characteristics from the above table.

VI. Module Wrap-up

(5 Minutes)

Notes

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Remind the participants to record their results and be prepared to share the progress at the next session.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.

Notes