

# **Basic Training For Church Planters FAQ**

## **What is Basic Training?**

Basic Training for Church Planters is an intensive and comprehensive training to help church planting teams learn how to plant a church. Most Basic Trainings are done over two consecutive weekends that include Friday evenings and all day Saturday. This schedule allows most planters to bring an entire team. There are other schedule formats available.

## **Who Should Attend?**

Basic Training is most effective when it is attended by the church planter and 3-7 other key leaders or the church planting team. If possible, the church planter spouse should attend as well. Most of the teaching units are built around team group work that allow for a church planting team to develop a rough draft or refine existing plans and strategies. While a church planter may attend alone, we have learned that it is difficult for the planter do to the activities alone and the planter also has a difficult time taking the work back to the church plant, telling others about it, and implementing.

## **When and Where is Basic Training Offered?**

Basic Training is offered approximately ten times in various places throughout California. It is typically only offered once a year in each part of the state. It is also offered in most other states. A list of upcoming Basic Trainings available is posted on <http://www.churchstartinggroup.com/>. You can also ask your local California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) Church Starting Strategist, your local Associational Director of Missions, Barbara Kreighbaum at the CSBC state office at 559-229-9533, ext. 263 [bkreighbaum@csbc.com](mailto:bkreighbaum@csbc.com) , or Howard Burkhardt at 707-746-8782 [hburkhart@csbc.com](mailto:hburkhart@csbc.com).

## **Is Basic Training Available In Other Languages?**

Yes, Basic Training is offered in English, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese. This includes the presenters and materials. We also have materials available in Vietnamese and in Russian.

## **What Is The Cost?**

The cost is:

1-3 people, \$50 per person

3-5 people, \$150 total for the team

5 or more people, \$150 for the first 5 people, \$25 additional per person.

## **What Does This Include?**

The fee includes the materials and meals (depending on the schedule). If the Basic Training is offered on the two-weekend format, dinner on Friday night and lunch on Saturday for both weekends is also included.

## How Do I Register?

It is easiest if you register online

at: <http://www.churchstartinggroup.com/message2.php?formID=215&churchID=866>

You can also contact your local CSBC Church Planting Strategist, Director of Missions or contact Howard Burkhardt directly at: [hburkhardt@csbc.com](mailto:hburkhardt@csbc.com) or 707-746-8782

## How Will This Help Me Plant a New Church?

During a Basic Training your church planting team will:

- Identify the steps and process needed in starting a new church.
- Identify and clarify your Core Values
- Identify and understand your Ministry Focus Group
- Be able to envision the end result and design a strategy to get there.
- Identify the mileposts the church start must achieve along the way
- Design a small groups ministry
- Develop a discipleship strategy
- Learn how to deal with the significant administrative and legal issues
- Design an overall process that will move people from lostness to a fully-devoted followers of Christ
- Have focused teamwork time to develop a rough draft of many of the components and strategy for your church start
- Benefit from presenters who are experienced planters and strategist who provide a wealth of experience and observations.
- Meet other planting teams and participate in peer learning.

## What Are the Topics Presented?

### **Basic Training for Church Planters - Overview**

Thank you for participating in Basic Training for Church Planters. We will cover 16 units in our intensive time of study together.

Each unit has three parts: church planting concepts, spiritual transformation and skills to learn. The sixteen units are listed and summarized below.

## **UNIT ONE: Foundations for Church Planting**

Basic Training defines two foundational concepts, the kingdom of God and the church, and detail their significance to church planting. The church planter will learn to minister in light of these foundations.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will identify key foundational issues in church planting.

## **UNIT TWO: Priority of Prayer for Church Planting**

Prayer is primary in planting a new church. God is building His church, communicating with the church planting team through the prayer link.

Basic Training details the church planter's prayer life – personally, with spouse and with family. The church planter/team will select a prayer partner and build an intercessory prayer team. The church planter/team also will strategize to develop a praying church.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will start an intercessory prayer team, including a team member list, an invitational piece, a covenant agreement and an ongoing communications plan.

**UNIT THREE:** (This unit is no longer presented)

## **UNIT FOUR: Vision**

Basic Training defines the concept of a Bible-based vision, with examples to clarify vision and its application to leadership and the church.

The church planter/team will examine common characteristics of a vision statement. Study activities will probe the impact of vision on a church plant and factors hindering vision.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will develop a clearly written vision statement for the new church.

## **UNIT FIVE: Core Values**

This unit helps the church planter/team define core values that become the DNA of the growing church.

The church planter/team will determine what core values are significant for their new church and write a first draft of these values. All the Basic Training participants will help the team evaluate their core values and measure them by the Bible.

**Learning Outcome:** The church planter/team will formulate three to seven core values for the new church.

## **UNIT SIX: Understanding Target Area and Ministry Focus Group**

The church planter/team must develop an accurate grasp of the community's culture and determine what people group to reach.

This unit provides principles and tools for the church planter/team to explore the community in which the new church is started. This process will enable the church planter/team to develop an accurate summary of the culture and people group to be reached. This summary will allow the team to choose appropriate ministry opportunities.

**Learning Outcome:** The church planter/team will use demographics and lifestyle studies to develop a community silhouette. They will then develop a "Saddleback-Sam" model for the people group on which to focus.

## **UNIT SEVEN: Mission Statement**

A mission statement answers the question, "According to the Bible, what should we be doing?" This unit stresses the importance and content of a good mission statement.

The church planter/team will learn the benefit of a focused mission statement and formulate the new church's unique mission. Learning activities will guide the team to develop a mission statement and test it for clarity.

**Learning Outcome:** The church planter/team will write and evaluate their mission statement for the new church.

## **UNIT EIGHT: Building Relationships**

Church planting rises or falls on relationships. "*The Bible is first and foremost a book about relationships,*" says Henry Blackaby. This unit stresses the importance of making Jesus the starting point for all relationships.

The church planter/team will examine the different persons and partnerships they expect to connect with. They will detail the various relationships the church planter must develop in order to see a church grow.

**Learning Outcome:** The church planter/team will

- write a covenant agreement with his mentor.
- recruit a potential church planting team and define their roles.
- identify partnerships needed for a successful new church start.

## **UNIT NINE: Evangelism – People Strategies**

This unit examines ten evangelism assumptions influencing the church planter/team and the new church. These assumptions for impacting people with the gospel enable the team to accomplish their vision and mission statement.

The planter/team will develop a strategy, enabling the new church to reach unsaved and unchurched people.

***Learning Outcome:*** The team will

- develop an evangelism strategy to penetrate the new community, using such models as servant evangelism and friendship evangelism
- identify lost people to pray for and witness to

## **UNIT TEN: Developing a Core Group**

A core group is the new church in embryo, a distinct collection of persons drawn by God into His vision for a new church. This unit addresses the question, “How do we gather a core group?”

The church planter/team will study core group formation and its significance to the public launch of the new church. They will formulate the guiding principles for a healthy core group.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will list potential core group members and assess the level of commitment of each member.

## **UNIT ELEVEN: Leadership Development**

This unit examines the discipling process that helps a Christian grow from infancy to effective ministry. The unit also gives leadership models in areas of evangelism, follow-up, discipling and mentoring.

The church planter/team will develop a strategy to mature newborn Christians, in order to develop capable kingdom workers.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will accept the role as leadership trainers and set a strategy for discovering and developing leaders in the new church.

## **UNIT TWELVE: Developing Worship Style**

This unit expands on two dimensions of authentic worship: believers worshipping in spirit and truth, and nonbelievers seeking to become true worshippers. Elements of worship, effective worship formats, and evaluating criteria are examined.

The church planter/team will consider worship principles and style suitable to the focus group they seek to reach.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will define the style of worship complementing their vision, values, mission and ministry focus group.

### **UNIT THIRTEEN: Small Groups**

Small groups close the church's "backdoor," enabling the new congregation to retain and involve Christians. This unit probes small group dynamics, in order to identify the small group model that best fits the new church.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will choose a small group structure to use in the new church start.

### **UNIT FOURTEEN: The Master Plan**

This unit provides an organizational system to effectively keep and involve persons coming into the congregation. It includes a snapshot of the church at a given point in time, and explores the implications of the system on the future growth of the church.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will design a church system, showing the inter-relationship of different aspects of the church.

### **UNIT FIFTEEN: Administrative, Financial and Legal Issues for the New Church**

This unit gives the "nuts and bolts" details of planting a church. The issues include financial management, postal requirements, insurance, tax policies, screening workers, constitution, and incorporation. This is a critical, often-neglected component of church planting.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will identify key administrative issues to be considered in starting a new church.

### **UNIT SIXTEEN: Mileposts**

This unit helps the church planter/team list "mileposts" (progress indicators) as the church develops. The mileposts will stretch into the future 12 to 18 months from the Basic Training date.

The church planter/team will brainstorm the mileposts they deem necessary to launch the new church.

***Learning Outcome:*** The church planter/team will plot the new church's development using a strategic planning process called Mileposts.

## **GLOSSARY:**

Basic Training uses a distinct vocabulary. The glossary below defines some of the terms used more frequently.

**Church Plant:** *the birth of a brand new congregation in a specific place, primarily comprised of persons presently unconnected to an existing church*

**Church Planting Team:** *a group of leaders who come together to start a new congregation*

**Core Group:** *the small group that forms the nucleus of the new congregation*

**Core Value:** *an essential principle on which the church will be formed; a key conviction of the leaders and the new congregation (e.g.: persons are lost and need the salvation gift of Jesus Christ)*

**Demographics:** *the statistical study of a community, leading to an understanding of the culture – who are these people, and why do they act like they do?*

**Discipling:** *the intentional process of assisting a new Christian to become more and more like Jesus Christ*

**Launch/public launch:** *the time when a new church has full visibility in the community, enabling persons to participate in worship, study and ministry activities*

**Lead Church Planter:** *the person called by God to give leadership to the church plant*

**Master Plan:** *the system of ministries, relationships and decision-making that enables a church to function effectively*

**Milepost:** *a goal or event the new church must accomplish in order to start and grow (e.g.: secured a location for public worship)*

**Ministry Focus Group:** *the particular segment of a community the new church will concentrate on, seeking to bring them to Jesus*

**Mission Statement:** *a concise rationale for starting and growing a new church*

**Partnerships:** *the persons and groups that assist the new church in starting and becoming self-sufficient; includes Christians and churches, as well as non-Christians*

**Pre-Launch:** *the momentum-building stage of a new church, before the general public is invited to worship, study and minister with the congregation*

**Vision:** *the ability to express a future reality in terms that motivate a group to vigorously pursue it together*