

multiplyvineyard™

DISCOVER SERIES

Facilitator Guide

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How to use this Guide

The purpose of this series is to help you process with potential planters whether God is calling them to plant Vineyard churches by answering the questions, “What is God calling me to do *in the larger sense?*” and “What might God be calling me to *in relationship to church planting?*” This will be accomplished through your teaching the material, and just as importantly, through the building of relationship in their interaction with you and others present, under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

We want to see healthy Vineyard churches planted throughout the United States and the world. The purpose of this Series is to help current and potential church planters understand and implement basic principles that will help their church take root and thrive in the environment in which it is planted.

This leader guide is designed to give you a tool to use in your own ministry environment to: 1) train potential church planters or 2) develop your church planting team.

Format

The Discover series consists of four modules that combine video clips with student interaction and exercises. The modules can be presented over a weekend (Friday evening/ Saturday), in two successive weekends, or however your ministry schedule permits

For all video referenced in this video go to <https://multiplyvineyard.org/course-category/discover/>.

How to Prepare

1. Review the guide to get the flow of the material.
2. Plan how to use the material depending on:
 - a. How much time you have?
 - b. Which modules are most pertinent to your church?
 - c. How in-depth you want to go?
3. Decide how to use the discussion questions and exercises.
4. Watch the videos beforehand.

Training Tips

The video training clips provide the content; you as the facilitator create a healthy learning environment.

Planning a Healthy Learning Environment:

- Prayerfully prepare.
- Use the videos and accompanying exercises in a way that fits your culture.
- Thoughtfully guide discussion and answer questions.

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- Debrief learning.
 - Be available between modules to interact with participants.

Above all, cooperate with the Holy Spirit as you serve those who participate in this training.

Module One: Figuring Out What God Wants Me to Do

Module One Overview:

1.1 The General Call of God

1.2 The Specific Call of God

1.3 Five Aspects of How God Made You

1.4 Six Ways to Find Out What God Wants

Total Module Time 2 hours

Learning Outcome: Participants will gain some practical tools for discovering God's will for their life.

Welcome

- Introduce yourself briefly if needed.
 - Share personally why you are offering this course and what you hope they will gain (you may review the course objectives for ideas on this).
 - Give brief overview of the class-time structure: warm up + video clips + exercises + wrap up
 - Encourage them to ask questions and have fun!
 - Pray.
- (5 min)

Warm Up

- Take a moment to consider why you are here and what you want to get out of this training. Write it down.
 - Share your name and what you hope to learn through this training with the rest of the class.
- (10-15 min)

VIDEO 1.1 The General Call of God (3:09)

- **Read** Matthew 22:37-40 aloud. Discuss: How does it (or should it) impact your life that your primary call is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and to love your neighbor as yourself?
(5-10 minutes)
- **Read** Matthew 28:18-20 aloud. Discuss: How does it (or should it) impact your life that Jesus tells each of us to go and make disciples of all the nations with specific instructions to baptize and teach those new disciples?
(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO 1.2 The Specific Call of God (5:00)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk?
(5 minutes)

Exercise: Listening to what God is saying...

- Have one person read Proverbs 3:1-12 aloud slowly. Follow that with a few minutes of silence. Let it soak into your mind.
- Read the passage again (either the same person or another person), and each person should note any word or concept that God seems to be emphasizing to them and write the word down.
- Read the passage aloud once more. Before you begin reading, ask God to reveal to each person the significance of the word that was emphasized earlier. Allow another 3 to 5 minutes of silence.
- Share your responses with each other, either as a group or in pairs.
(15 minutes)

KEY QUOTE

“God has special work for every single human being to do.” — Michael Gatlin

VIDEO 1.3 Five Aspects of How God Made You (3:51)

- What thoughts or questions do you have?
(5 minutes)
- Take a few minutes to jot down a few thoughts in response to the following questions:
 - When you think of your own unique shape (spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experience), what is one of your strengths, and how do you see God using that?
 - What is one way you want to grow (either in spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, or experience)?
- Get in groups of 2-3, and share your response with one or two other people.
(15 minutes)

VIDEO 1.4 Six Ways to Find Out What God Wants (5:25)

- **Discuss:** What thoughts or questions do you have?
(5 minutes)
- Take a few minutes to jot down a few thoughts in response to the following questions:
 - How have you sensed God’s call on your life up to this point? (If it’s helpful, think of the six ways Michael shared: God’s word, God’s voice, God’s reasons, God’s people, God’s signs, and God’s peace)

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- How is your relationship with God?
 - When you look at the big picture of your life, what do you sense that God is calling you to? (This should be something that can be fulfilled regardless of your location or vocation.)
 - Get in groups of 2-3, and share your response with one or two other people.
(15 minutes)

Wrap Up

- Pray with each other for a clear sense of God's call.
(10 minutes)

KEY QUOTE

"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." — John 17:4

Module Two: Developing the Characteristics of a Church Planter

Module Two Overview:

2.1 Developing Church Planter Characteristics

2.2 Sense of Call

2.3 Faith-Driven Mission

2.4 Disciple-Making Skills

2.5 People Gathering Skills

2.6 Healthy Communication Skills

2.7 Creative Evangelistic Skills

2.8 Intentional Planning

2.9 Financial Management Skills

2.10 Vineyard Values and Methods

2.11 Marriage/Single

2.12 Emotional Maturity

2.13 Vital Spiritual Life

Total Module Time: 2.5 hours

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be introduced to the 12 characteristics of successful church planters, identify where their strengths and weaknesses lie in relation to them, and consider a next step for personal growth.

KEY QUOTE

“The three areas of ability, desire, and opportunity are all ways that you can grow into the characteristics of a church planter.” — Michael Gatlin

Personally classify each of the 12 Characteristics as an Ability, Desire, or Opportunity.

After each video clip you will be prompted to classify whether that characteristic is an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue. Follow your gut feeling as you decide which column to place that characteristic under. Don't think too much about it. As we watch each video clip about each of the twelve characteristics, consider:

- Do you already have ability in this area (is it one of your strengths)? If so, put it in the first column under "Ability."
- Is this something you'd really like to learn to do (or are you currently pursuing learning this with joy)? If so, put it in the second column under "Desire."
- Is this something you probably won't work on until you need to (or are you currently in a situation where you need to develop this)? If so, put it under "Opportunity."

After we have watched all the video clips, you will have an exercise related to the chart you have created.

| ABILITY | DESIRE | OPPORTUNITY |
|---------|--------|-------------|
| | | |

VIDEO: 2.2 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Sense of Call (1:44)

- Is this an ability of yours (you already have a clear sense of call), a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- **Write** a 2-3 sentence response to this question, then share your response in pairs: What has God called you to? (This may be the same thing you wrote down in the previous module, or you may have some new thoughts.) (5 minutes)

VIDEO: 2.3 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Faith-Driven Mission (1:54)

- Is this an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- What do you want to invite others into? (5 minutes)

VIDEO: 2.4 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Disciple-Making Skills (1:54)

- Is disciple making an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- **Write** answers to the following questions, then discuss as a group:
- What is your definition of a disciple? Have you experienced a healthy disciple making process? How do you hope to make disciples of Jesus? What might a clear process to make disciples include? (15 minutes)

VIDEO: 2.5 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – People Gathering Skills (2:30)

- Is gathering people an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- Jot down a response to the following questions: What can you currently gather people into? Who are the next people you want to gather? (2-3 minutes - no discussion necessary)

VIDEO: 2.6 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Healthy Communication Skills (2:20)

- Is communicating Scripture in a way that helps people apply it to their lives an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)

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- Jot down a response to the following questions: Do you occasionally teach a class? Do people listen to you? Do you have a sense for what God wants to say to people? Have you filled in preaching? Can you go to the Bible and put together a sermon?
(5 minutes - no discussion necessary)

VIDEO: 2.7 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Creative Evangelistic Skills (2:25)

- Is helping people who don't know Jesus become fully devoted followers of Christ an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)
- Jot down a response to the following questions: Who have you introduced to Jesus recently? Can you name some people you influenced who were far from Christ but now are walking with him? Are you comfortable around to those who don't yet know Jesus?
(5 minutes - no discussion necessary)

Break if needed, or you may end the first module here if you are devoting more time to processing the material as you go along.

VIDEO: 2.8 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Intentional Planning (2:08)

- Is executing well-thought-out plans an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)
- Jot down a response to the following question: What is something that you can plan and see through to success in your present circumstances?
(2-3 minutes - no discussion necessary)

VIDEO: 2.9 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Financial Management Skills (2:20)

- Is managing money well and helping others to do the same an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)
- Jot down a response to the following questions: How comfortable are you talking about money with others? Who can you look to for financial advice? What are your areas of strength and weakness in regards to finances?
(2-3 minutes — no discussion necessary)
- Practice talking about money with the person next to you. Ask each other the following questions, and answer honestly: Do you tithe? Why or why not? How do you feel about your current level of financial giving?
(10 minutes)

VIDEO 2.10 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Vineyard Values and Methods (2:26)

- Does your current ministry flow out of Vineyard values and methods (ability), or is it a desire you have or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?

(5 minutes)

- Turn to the person next to you, and briefly discuss: What are one or two Vineyard values that you value the most?

(5 minutes)

VIDEO 2.11 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Marriage/Single (2:54)

- Does your spouse fully support you in your decision to plant if you are married, or do you have a healthy lifestyle in your singleness (ability), or is this a desire you have or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?

(5 minutes)

VIDEO 2.12 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Emotional Maturity (2:34)

- Does your spouse fully support you in your decision to plant if you are married, or do you have a healthy lifestyle in your singleness (ability), or is this a desire you have or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
- Can you think of someone who models emotional maturity well? What about them demonstrates emotional maturity?
- Can you think of a situation you are currently in that is requiring you to develop emotional maturity? What are you learning from it?

(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO 2.13 The 12 Characteristics of Church Planters – Vital Spiritual Life (3:15)

- Is having a vital spiritual life an ability of yours, a desire you have, or an opportunity you will need to pursue?
- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
- **Discuss:** What is one thing you do to keep yourself spiritually healthy?

(5 minutes)

Evaluating your strength and weaknesses in the characteristics

- Give participants 5-10 minutes to answer the questions below, encouraging them to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying through this.
- After they seem to be done writing their responses, have them gather in groups of three or four to share their answers and pray for each other.

(30 minutes total)

Questions

- A. Which do you think is your strongest ability? Circle it.

- B. Which of your desires *or* opportunities do you think is most critical to pursue at this point? Circle one.

- C. What would be a good next step for you in pursuing either the desire or the opportunity you circled above?

- D. Look at the balance of the three columns.
 - 1. Which column has the most characteristics?

 - 2. The least?

 - 3. Do you see any significance or patterns in which characteristics are in each column?

- E. What does this exercise teach you about how prepared you are for church planting? (On a scale of 1 - 10, how prepared do you think you are to be a church planter?)

- F. Do you hear God saying anything to you in relation to this module? Or what's one thing you've learned?

- G. Talk over your answers to the last question with two or three other people. Pray for each other.

Wrap Up

- Take time to bless each other in a time of prophetic encouragement. One idea is to focus on one person at a time, and say to them, “When I look at you I see...” Have others fill in the sentence with what they see in that person or what they sense that God sees and wants to communicate.

(10 minutes)

Module Three: Growing in Your Calling

Module Three: Overview

3.1 Learning from Paul's Call to Ministry

3.2 Paul's Initial Call

3.3 An Encouraging Mentor

3.4 An Unexpected Command from Jesus

3.5 A Pivotal Mission Juncture

3.6 Emerging from the Shadow of His Mentor

3.7 Bobby Clinton's Stages of Leadership Development

Total Module Time: 2 hours

Learning Outcomes: Participants will realize that just as the Apostle Paul grew in his call over time, God's call on their life will become clearer with time. They will also identify their next step in hearing or responding to their call.

Warm Up

- Each person respond to this prompt: Sum up your experience up to this point of the Discover Series in three words.
(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.1 Learning from Paul's Call to Ministry (6:00)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from this clip or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)
- **Read** Acts 9:1-19 then discuss these questions.
 - What was Saul's call to ministry and how did he receive it?
 - In what ways did Ananias minister to Saul?
 - What else stands out to you in this story about how God calls people to leadership and ministry?(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.2 Paul's Development as a Leader - Paul's Initial Call (9:00)

- **Read** Acts 9:26-30 and 11:19-30 then discuss these questions:
 - In what ways did Barnabas invest in and develop Saul?
 - What are some things that Saul might have learned from Barnabas when he served on the Antioch church leadership team with him?
 - What are key learnings for us to learn from the story of Barnabas and Saul about how leaders are called and developed?

(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.3 Paul’s Development as a Leader - An Encouraging Mentor (10:10)

- **Read** Acts 22:17-22. Then discuss these questions.
 - What was Paul doing when he “fell into a trance”?
 - Based on his own reasoning and passion, who was Paul wanting to minister to?
 - Who did Jesus tell him to minister to?
 - Why do you think Paul felt called to minister to the first group?
 - Why do you think Jesus redirected him to a different group?
 - What might we learn from this part of Paul’s story about our own passions, reasoning, and God’s call on our lives?

(5-10 minutes)

Break if needed. (5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.4 Paul’s Development as a Leader - An Unexpected Command from Jesus (7:17)

- **Read** Acts 13:1-5 then discuss these questions:
 - In verse 1, assuming that the leaders were listed in order of rank or importance with the most important being listed first (as was Luke’s custom), who would the “senior pastor” of the church in Antioch have been? Who was the junior associate or possibly the youth pastor? Who was perhaps the pastoral intern (verse 5)?
 - Did Barnabas and Saul receive a call, or an affirmation of a call?
 - What else stands out to you about how Barnabas and Saul were sent out?
 - Why might Barnabas and Saul have chosen to take their mission trip specifically to the island of Cyprus and eastern Asia Minor—modern day Turkey (see Acts 4:36; 22:2-3)?
 - What are some lessons for us to learn from this passage and story?

(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.5 Paul’s Development as a Leader – A Pivotal Mission Juncture (5:05)

- Relevant Scripture passages include: Acts 13:6-12, 42, 46, 50; 15:36-41, Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11
- **Read** Acts 13:6-12. Barnabas’ name consistently is mentioned before Saul’s name in all passages before Acts 13:9. Then things abruptly shift and the story is about “Paul and his companions” and “Paul and Barnabas.” Discuss the following questions.
 - What do you think happened?
 - Considering that Barnabas was from Cyprus and Paul was from Tarsus in Cilicia, how might geography or “turf” have played a part?
 - How might Barnabas have felt when his leadership began to be eclipsed by Paul’s?
 - How does Paul feel about John Mark in Acts 15:36-41? How does he feel about him years later when he is writing the second letter to Timothy (see 2 Timothy 4:11)?
 - What are the most important lessons for us about leadership development and calling from the story of Barnabas, Paul, and Mark?

(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.6 Paul's Development as a Leader – Emerging from the Shadow of His Mentor (3:27)

- **Discuss:** What stands out to you from the teaching and discussions on Paul's development as a leader?
(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 3.7 Bobby Clinton's Stages of Leadership Development (10:43)

- **Discuss:** What stood out to you from this video clip or what questions did it raise?
(5-10 minutes)
- **Answer** the following questions individually then find one or two other people to share your responses with.
 - Which stage(s) of leadership development are you in right now (Sovereign Foundations, Inner-life Growth, Ministry Maturing, Life Maturing, Convergence, or Afterglow)?
 - What is one thing that God is teaching you or developing in you?
 - What are one or two lessons that stand out to you from Paul's life?
 - What are the next one or two steps for you to apply that lesson or lessons to your life?(10 minutes)

Wrap Up

- **Share** with the group in one sentence: My next step is to....
- Close with a prayer of blessing.
(10 minutes)

KEY QUOTE

"What you see as you look at the life of Paul, is that God is constantly at work in your life." — Jim Egli

Module Four: Navigating the Emotional Side of Finding God's Call

Module Four: Overview

- 4.1 The Process of Finding Your Call
 - 4.2 Dream and Honor
 - 4.3 Relationships
 - 4.4 Fears, Courage and Obedience
 - 4.5 The Vineyard Discernment Process
- Total Module Time 2-2.5 Hours

Learning outcomes: Participants will learn healthy ways to process and walk out God's call on their lives.

Warm Up

- Each person take 2-3 minutes to share with the group one thing you can really get excited about or something you're looking forward to.
(10-15 minutes)

VIDEO: 4.1 The Process of Finding Your Call (3:19)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)

Optional: Take time after each of the following three video clips to do a self evaluation related to the information on that clip. After responding to video 4.4, take time to share what is significant from the reflection time in groups of 2-3.

VIDEO: 4.2 A Few Things to Remember – Dream and Honor (3:23)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise?
(5 minutes)
- Questions for self evaluation:
 - What is one dream you have that is worth pursuing? (This may be something you are already pursuing or something you are just now considering, and it may or may not directly relate to church planting.)
 - What is one thing concerning the church you are presently in that you can give honor to?
 - What pastor are you talking with about potentially planting a church? (Or who would you like to start talking with?)
 - What do you need to talk over with your sending pastor?

(5-10 minutes)

VIDEO: 4.3 A Few Things to Remember – Relationships (3:09)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- Questions for self evaluation:
 - How likely are you to seek help when you are feeling low? Who can you go to for support? Who are peers that you can process both the good and the bad with?
 - Who are your closest friends? What will it take for you to develop and/or maintain healthy friendships?
 - How are you doing emotionally in dealing with your shortcomings?(5 minutes)

VIDEO: 4.4 A Few Things to Remember – Fears, Courage and Obedience (3:40)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- Questions for self evaluation:
 - Up to this point, how have you handled complexities in life?
 - What is your greatest fear or insecurity? What is your next step in facing it? Who can help you overcome it?
 - Would you classify yourself as cautious, willing to take healthy risks (courageous), or a daredevil? What implication does that have for walking out your call in church planting?
 - How willing are you to obey God no matter what?(5-10 minutes)

Optional: Share Your Responses

- Look through your responses to the self evaluation questions. Which of these do you think is the most significant for you at this point in your journey? Share this with one or two other people. (10-15 minutes)

KEY QUOTE

“How you work with God in the process is more important than the outcome of the process.” — Michael Gatlin

VIDEO: 4.5 Discerning Your Calling – The Vineyard Discernment Process (3:57)

- **Briefly discuss:** What stood out to you from that talk or what questions did it raise? (5 minutes)
- **Briefly share with the group:**
 - Where are you in the Vineyard Discernment Process?

- Are you sensing that it is time to take a next step in the process? If so, what would that step be? If not, what is another possible next step for you to take now (maybe something you talked about earlier in the series)?

(5 minutes)

Listening to what God is saying...

- Have one person read Isaiah 55:8-13 aloud slowly. Follow that with a few minutes of silence. Let it soak into your mind.
- Read the passage again (either the same person or another person), and each person should note any word or concept that God seems to be emphasizing to them and write the word down.
- Read the passage aloud once more. Before you begin reading, ask God to reveal to each person the significance of the word that was emphasized earlier. Allow another 3 to 5 minutes of silence.
- Allow time for each person to share what they sensed God saying to them through those verses.

(15-20 minutes)

Wrap Up:

- Share with the group: What is one insight you gained from this series?
- Pray for and bless each other.

(20-30 minutes)

THANK YOU

Thank you for completing the Multiply Vineyard Discover Series.

To take another course, go to <https://multiplyvineyard.org/courses/>.

Please contact us:

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