

Seven Things A Church Planter Should Know

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There are several things that a church planter should know; however, there are seven things that we believe are essential for every church planting pastor to have a grasp on. Through spiritual and practical preparation, a church planter can become confident in these seven crucial areas.

1. Know your calling

You don't choose to be a pastor like you choose a career. God chooses you. God equips you. God anoints you. If you are not in position because of God placing you there, but rather by your own doing, it could cause damage to you, your family, and the people in the church.

From the outside looking in, the perspective of what being a pastor is like can be incomplete. You need to know your calling so that it will help you through the difficult times.

Wrong motives for planting a church as a lead pastor:

- You like working with people
- You are discontent with another church or pastor
- You want to be in fulltime ministry
- You want the opportunity to be in charge

You can begin to prepare yourself for pastoring by getting a Bible education, ministry training, study leadership books, study staff management, study marketing and accounting, study organizational growth and development. Speak with other church planters, participate in other church plants, read books on church planting, etc.

2. Know your vision

Habakkuk 2:2 "...write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."

A pastor should write out what God has put in their heart for their church. Include the church name, a mission statement, vision statement, and core values. This will help the pastor define their vision and to communicate the vision with their leaders, their church, their supporters, and their community.

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3. Know your team

Planting a church is a team effort. You can't do it alone and be successful. The more loyal and qualified leaders you have around you, the more you are prepared for the Lord to give you increase. God will not give you more than you can handle.

Your leaders will help you to develop all the areas of ministry that need to be covered. You don't have to do all the preparation yourself. All leaders are beneficial, but the three leaders that you have to have before you launch are Worship Leader, Children's Director and Office Administrator.

The leaders that you have to help you get started may or may not be called to stay with you long term. As much as possible, surround yourself with people that have proven that they will support you and your vision, serve well with others on the team, and work hard to develop and grow the church.

4. Know your target audience

Every area is different. You need to find out about the area that you are called to and adapt yourself to reach that audience.

I Corinthians 9:22b "...I have become all things to all men that I might win some."

Find demographics of your area.

You can go to www.census.gov and to the Chamber of Commerce. Study the demographics to learn more about the people you are called to serve. Find out the average number of children in a home, the average salary that people make, the percentages of different races in your area, and other insightful information to help you know your audience.

5. Know your tactical and financial strategy

Get a strategy that includes natural and supernatural principles. Count the cost. What is it going to take to accomplish it?

- When you have a plan, you will save time, energy, and money.
- When you have a plan, it helps you to communicate vision to the team.
- When you have a plan, it creates momentum as steps are achieved.

Luke 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost whether he has enough to finish it."

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6. Know your launch date

Setting a launch date is very important. With a launch date in mind, your leaders and the people gathering around you will share your vision for reaching the community with a church plant. They will help you prepare for the target date you have set before them. Their focus will remain outward with the purpose of reaching as many people as you can for the Launch Sunday.

There are three times that are good to launch a church. These times are chosen based on your efforts to build momentum by having good attendance:

1. Around the time that school starts, usually after Labor Day. People get back from vacations and get into their routines.
2. Around Easter, with plenty of time to build momentum before the summer hits. Easter is also a time when most people are more apt to go to church.
3. Around the first of the year, after the holidays.

7. Know your location

Get God's plan for where your church is to located. Many churches that are just getting started will rent a building in a highly populated area, such as a school, community building, or theater.

Ten things to consider when choosing a building:

- Space for sanctuary, children's ministry, foyer, bathrooms
- Parking
- Longevity
- Cost
- Visibility and accessibility
- Media and lighting
- Signage
- Available equipment
- Regulations
- Storage

When a church planter knows their calling, vision, team, target audience, strategy, launch date, and location, that pastor is ready to move forward with the plan that God has for the birth of a new church.