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## **Train & Multiply™**

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052EN01A-01

# Let the Church Grow



**Pastoral Leader Training Booklet**

# 52

## **Train & Multiply™**

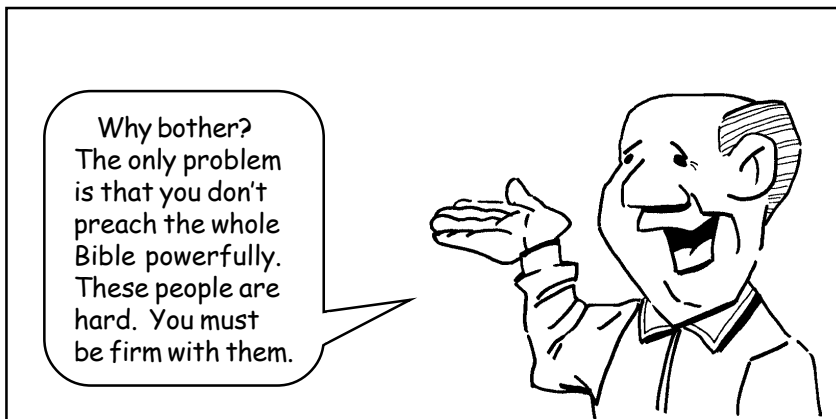


**T&M™**

Ask for the Lord's guidance as you read this study.

## LET THE CHURCH GROW THROUGH GOD'S POWER

John, the pastor of a small church, is worried:



- If possible: organize groups in each area of town, with an elder to pastor each one. You train the elders so they can help each believer to:

- obey all the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- pray for their families and neighbors.
- make a list of unconverted friends, and witness to them.

Write the names of the elders and their respective groups.

**Elder**

**Group**

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# PRACTICAL WORK

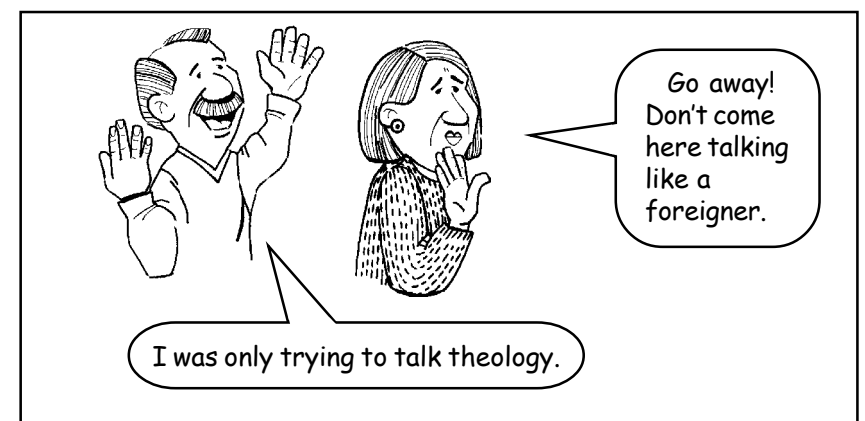
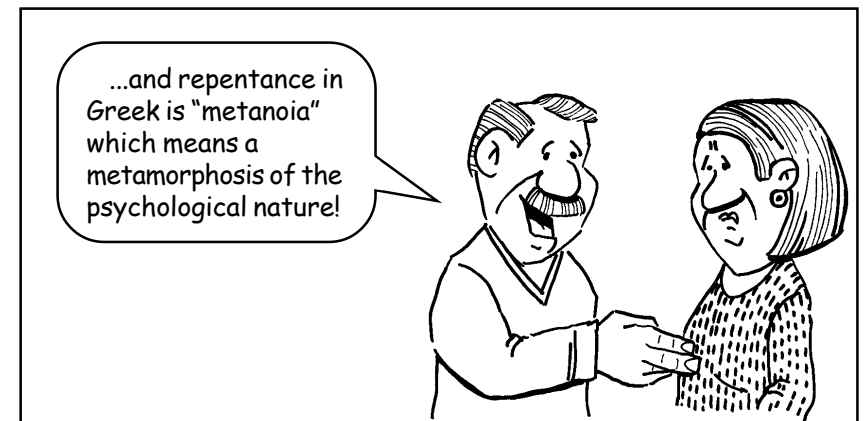
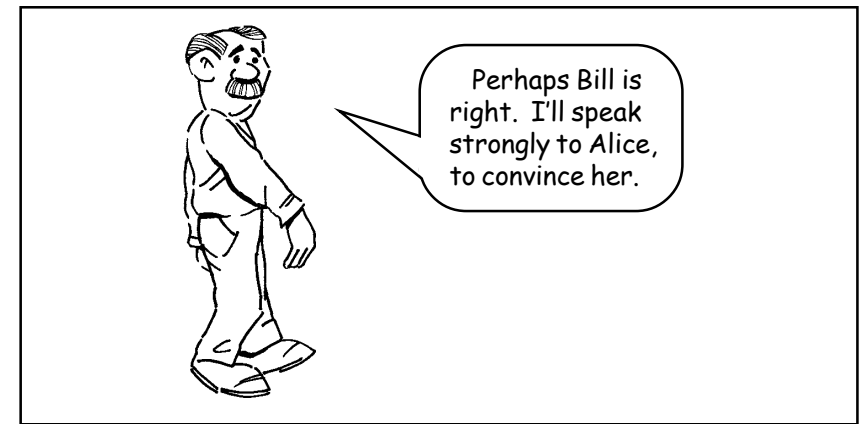
- Pray that your church will mobilize for evangelism and making disciples.
- Pray that the Lord will send workers to the harvest, in places where there are no churches.
- Visit and make disciples, taking elders with you, so that you can train them in this task.
- Write your plans for mobilizing the congregation for visiting and evangelizing their friends, relatives and neighbors.

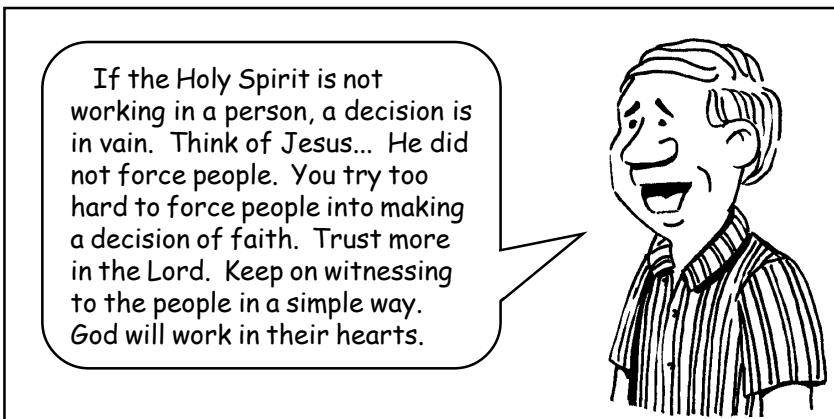
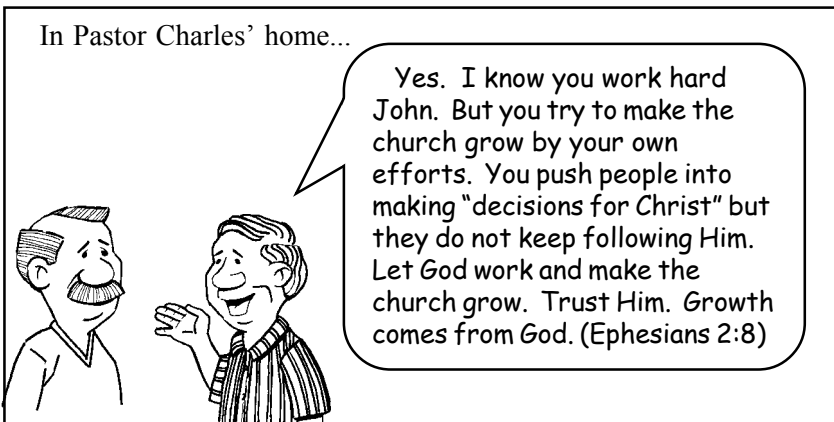
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c. What plans do you have to organize new groups?

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d. What will these groups do?

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e. How will you train the leaders for these groups?

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- f. What should the members do so that the body may grow?  
(verse 16)

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2. Study Exodus 18:13-27.

- a. What did Moses do to pastor all the people of God well?

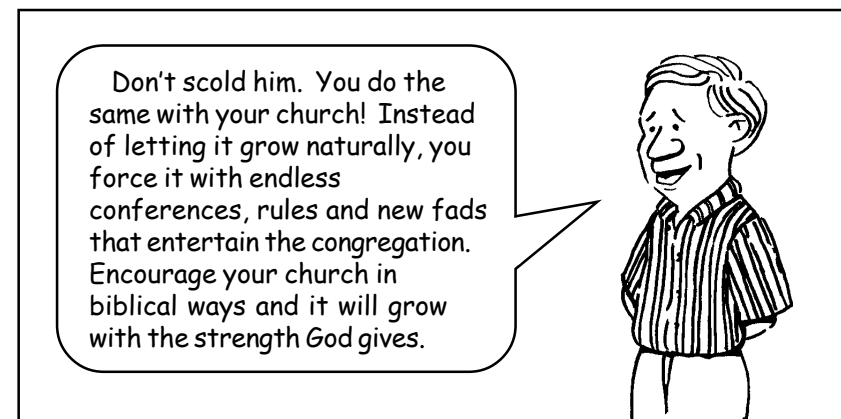
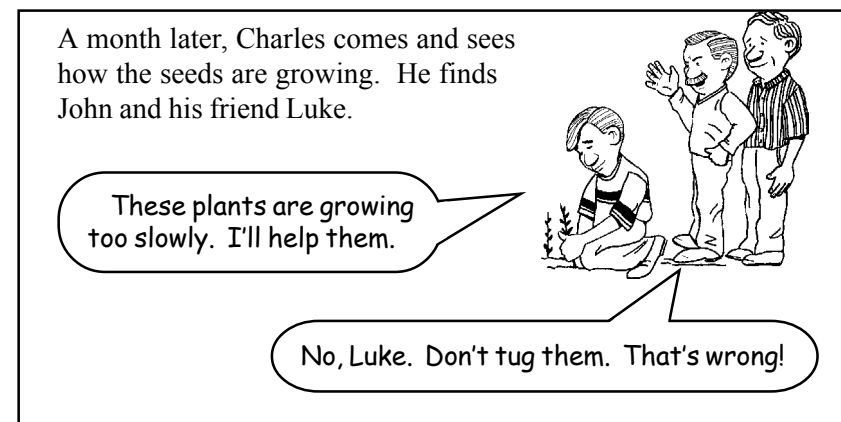
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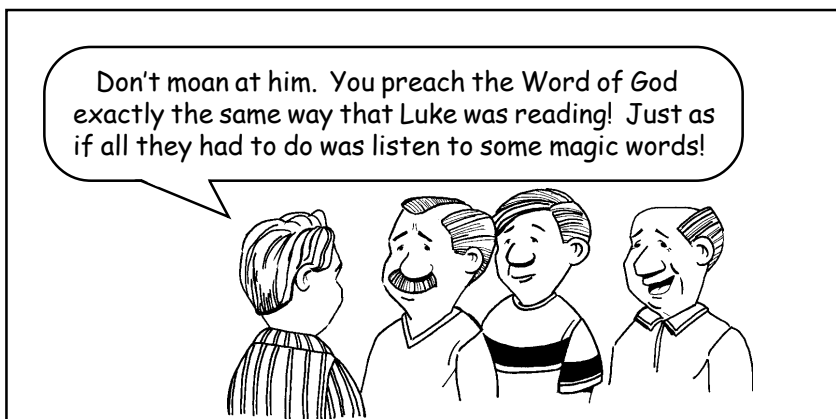
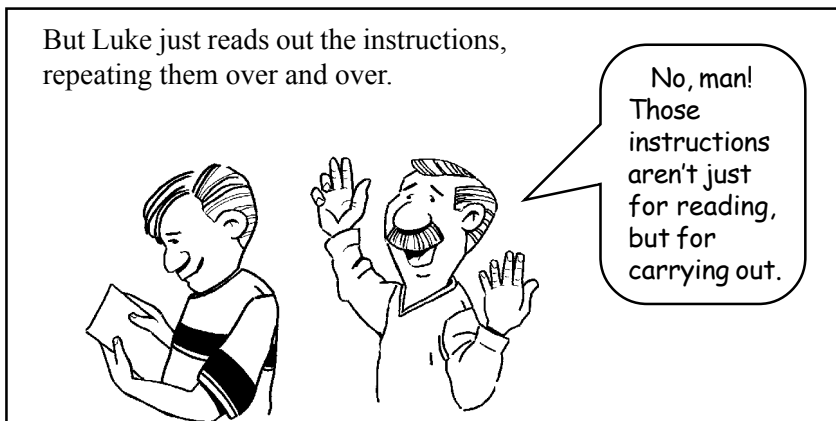
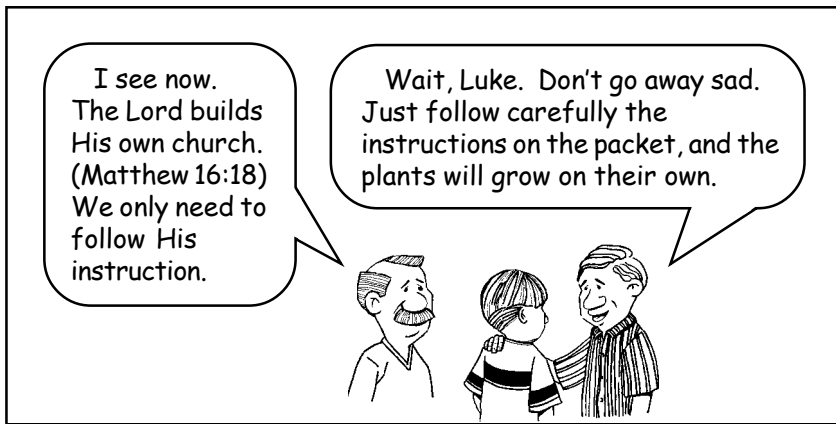
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- b. Does your church need to reorganize like this, to continue growing?

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c. What is the goal of our growth? (verse 13)

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d. What prevents us from growing to the measure of stature of the fullness of Christ? (verse 14)

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e. What should we do to attain this growth, without being carried away by any wind of doctrine? (verse 15)

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# SUMMARY TEST

About the normal growth of an obedient church:

1. Study Ephesians 4:11-16.

- a. What gifts does God give the church, so it can grow spiritually and in numbers? (verse 11)

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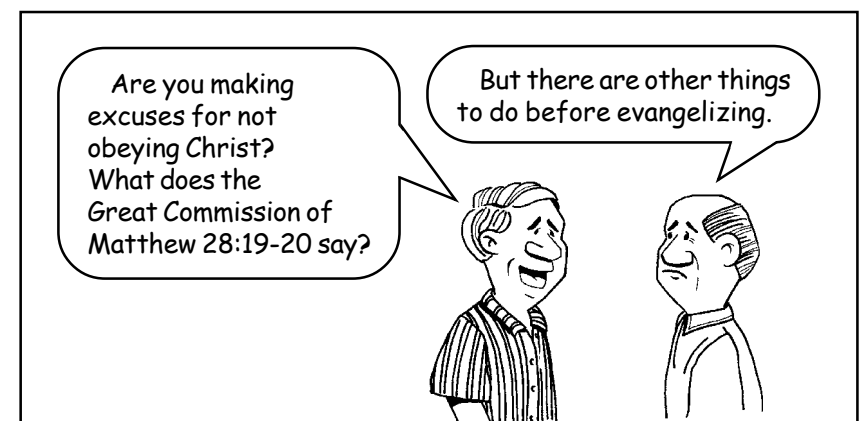
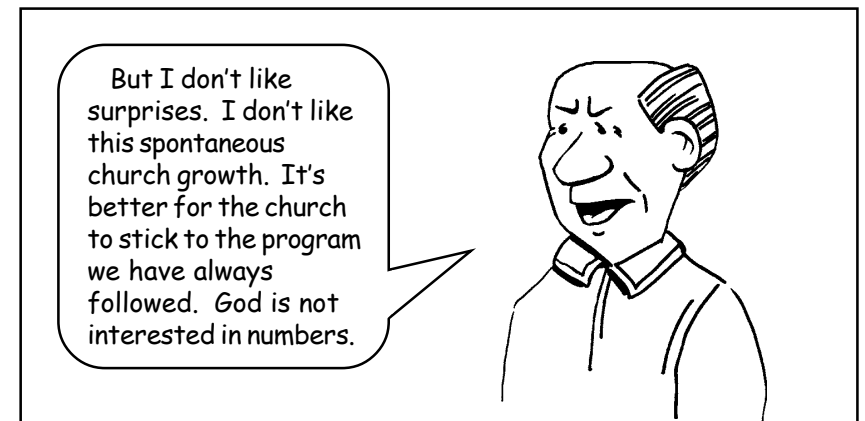
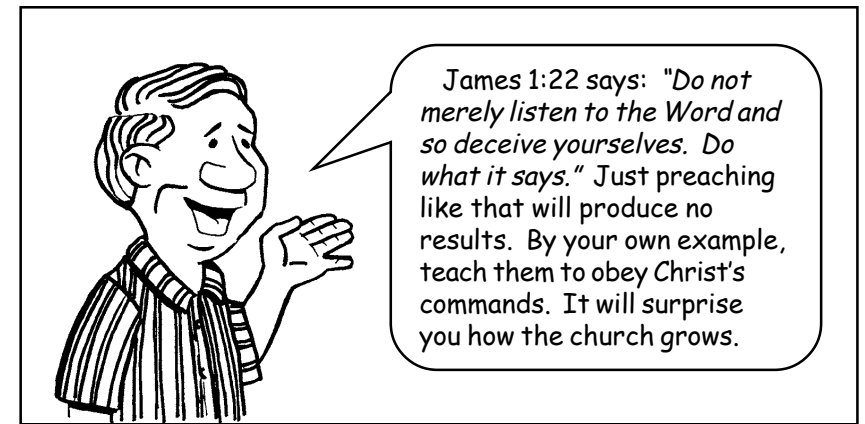
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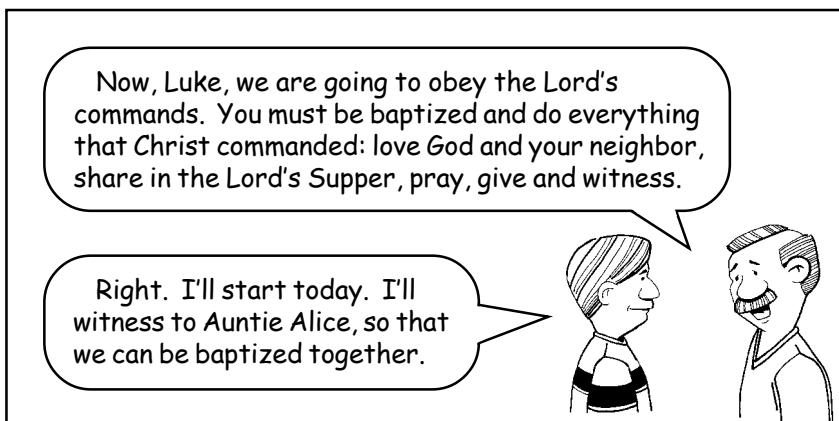
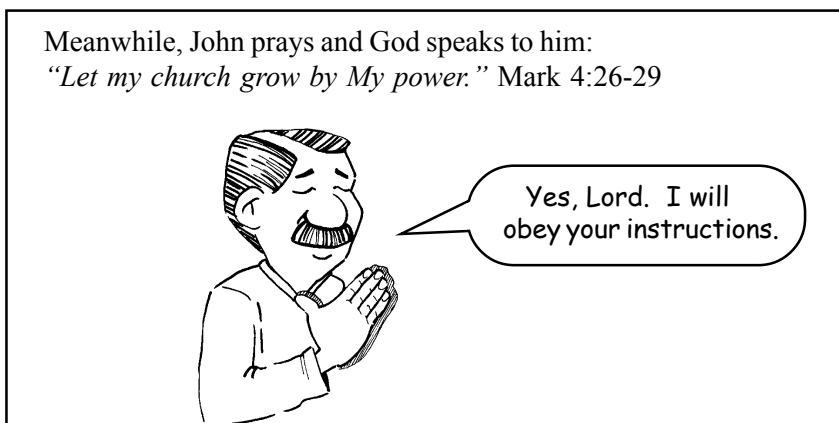
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- b. Which persons do the work of ministry, so that the church grows? (verse 12)

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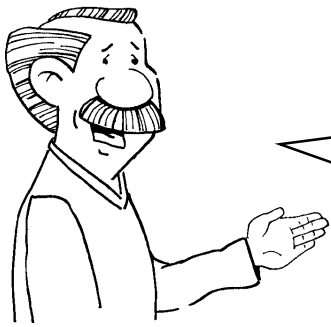




The new fellow-pastors, observing the example of the first pastor, look after their own groups. They prepare the members for their respective ministries. They report each Sunday...







We'll organize groups in our church to continue growing. We can call them "Shepherding Groups". They can meet any day they choose, each week, in different homes. Each group welcomes new members from their area, and helps them to grow in the faith. I will train the elders who will lead these groups.

How do you plan to train and supervise new group leaders for your church, and who will help do it? (Consult with the other leaders.)

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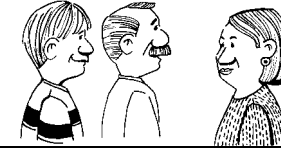
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A herdsman who takes a few head of cattle along a road can work alone. But when he has many cattle, he brings in helpers, to take care of a part of the herd!

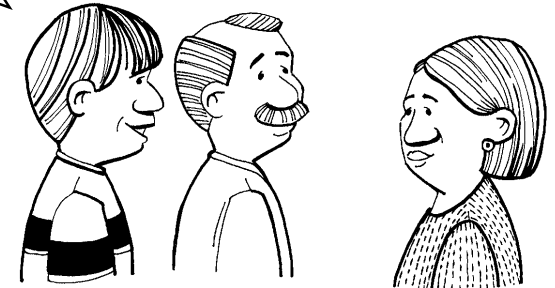
The pastor of a growing church must delegate to elders who can help him. (See Exodus 18:13-27.)

Pastor John takes Luke to speak to Alice again... he explains who Christ is and what He did...

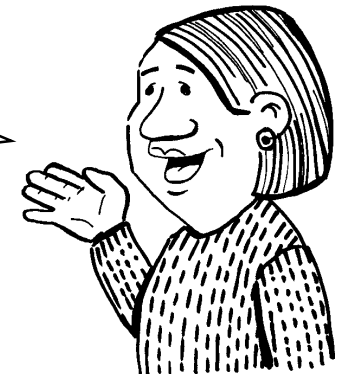
And please forgive me for having confused you with long words before. You can respond to Christ through your own faith.



And join other Christians, who love you.

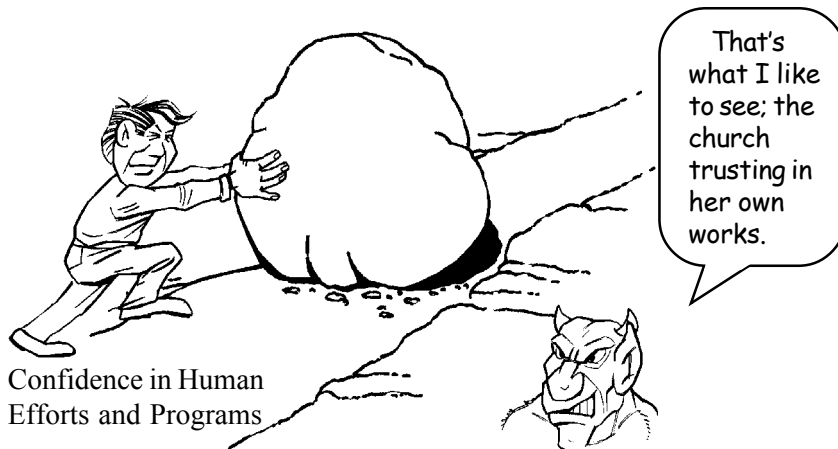


I was waiting for someone to explain it to me clearly, like that. At last, I understand. Please baptize me.

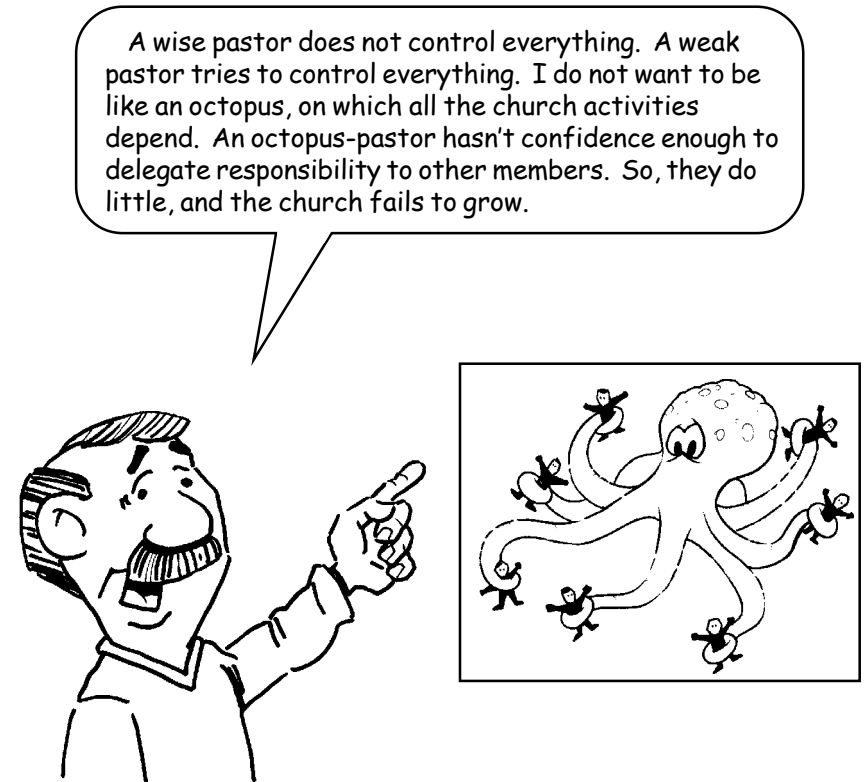


## TO SUM UP

### A. Totally Human Plans



### B. Activities Guided by God



A growing church trains new leaders. Normally, the main pastor trains and coordinates them, as they pastor new groups in the church.

Who could look after new groups in your church?

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The following Sunday, John explains the need to form more groups within the church. This is a very biblical way to organize.

When the church was small, I could look after you all. But now it's growing and we need more pastors, who will help to look after new members. In the Bible, the elders were fellow-pastors in a church. (Acts 14:23, Acts 20:17, 28, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4) To avoid confusion each elder who serves this way will shepherd his own small group.

We will organize three groups, each one with its elder as fellow-pastor. Three of the elders have agreed with me to serve as fellow-pastors of the three districts in this town. Also, there will be evangelism teams, each with its leader.



1. Why does the true church not grow through human effort?  
(1 Corinthians 3:6)  

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2. How can our programs get in the way of God's spontaneous work?  

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3. What must we do to let the church grow?  
(1 Corinthians 3:6-11)  

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4. Read Matthew 28:20. Write what we teach new believers to do:  

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## USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO EDIFY THE CHURCH

These plants need more light, just as we need the light of God. Luke and Alice! Come on! We'll evangelize your relatives.

Bill doesn't believe I'm saved. He discourages me.



Wait. Luke and Alice are too new to evangelize. Who knows whether they are really saved? First give them lessons in personal evangelism. Teach from this book.



It is easier to convince unbelievers when all members of the Body of Christ fulfill their respective ministries, in love. If we all work together in love, God will give us the harvest.



What is another way of making new contacts, when you have already evangelized your own friends and family?

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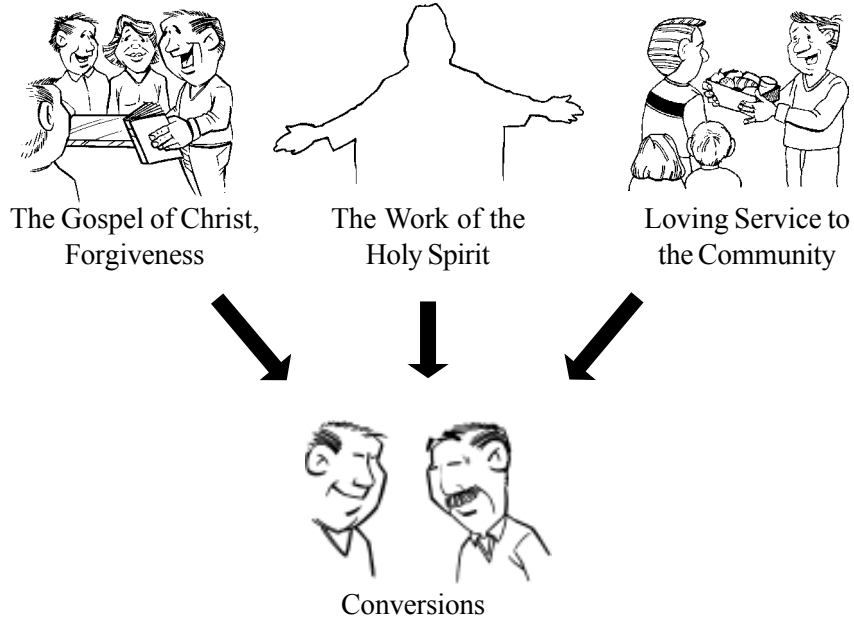
Why should a pastor not do all this by himself?

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## CONVINCING WITNESS - Christ working in the world through His body the Church



A sinner seeks forgiveness when he feels the love of the Body of Christ, hears of forgiveness through His blood, and is enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

Why does the Word, alone, without love born of the Holy Spirit, seldom convince the sinner? (1 Corinthians 13:1)

John spends a long time teaching from the big book.



That's not natural!  
Here's the cause. This bright light attracts them. Who put it here?

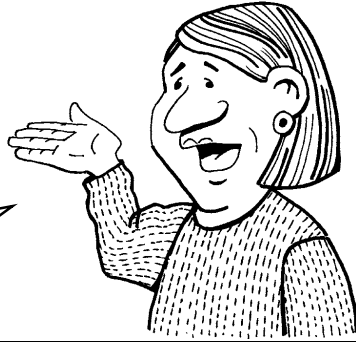


I put it there. The instructions said they needed lots of light. So...

But it's sunlight they need. That artificial light twists them.



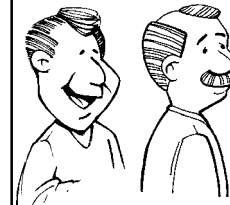
You do the same to us, with the artificial light of your big books and commentaries. They leave us twisted and confused.



The pastor, by his own example, shows other elders how to make new friendships. They visit a neighbor. The pastor listens carefully to the family's needs. Christian love is genuinely interested in people:



You're right. Books written by wise men help us to understand the Bible. But no other book takes the Bible's place, for convincing sinners and sanctifying believers. Well, I'm going to start a long course on the Bible.

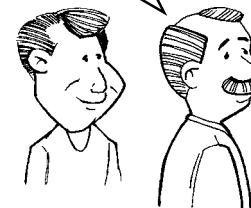


...You have shown a genuine concern for my family. Here we have to work hard to survive. Besides, we don't know how to read.

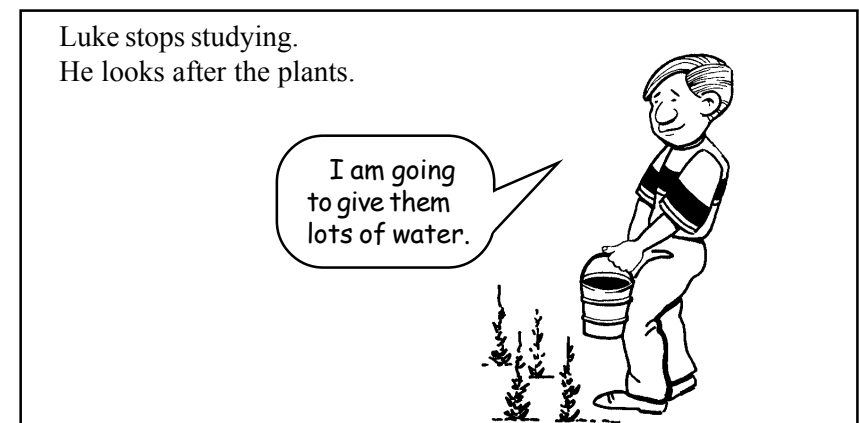
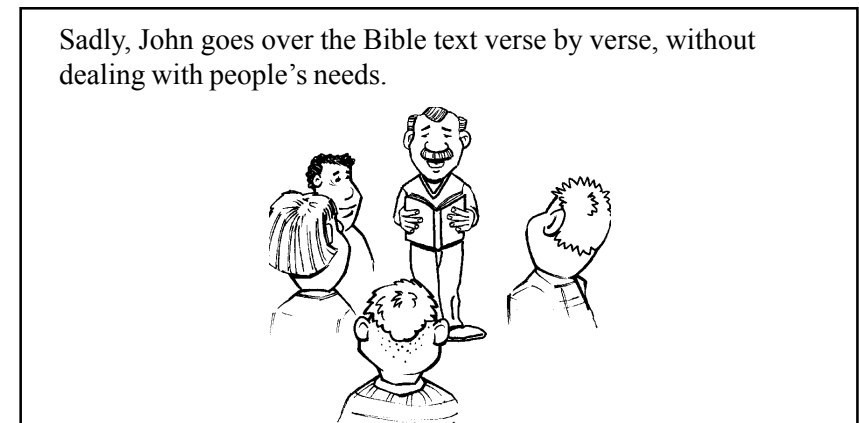
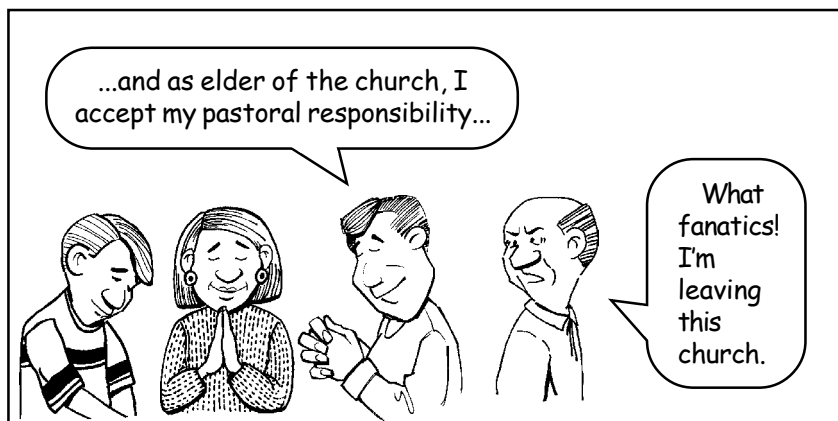
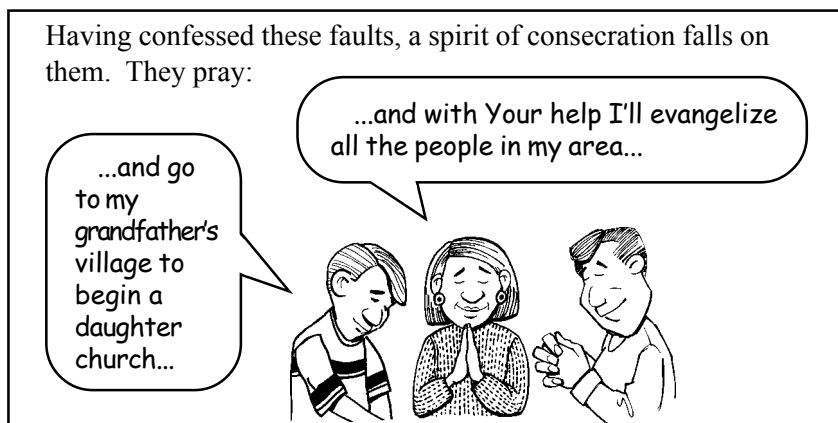
It needs to be very long. They're very ignorant.

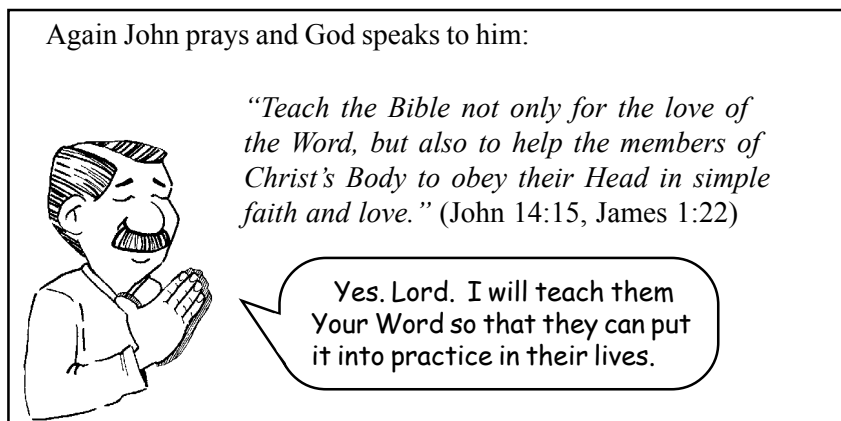
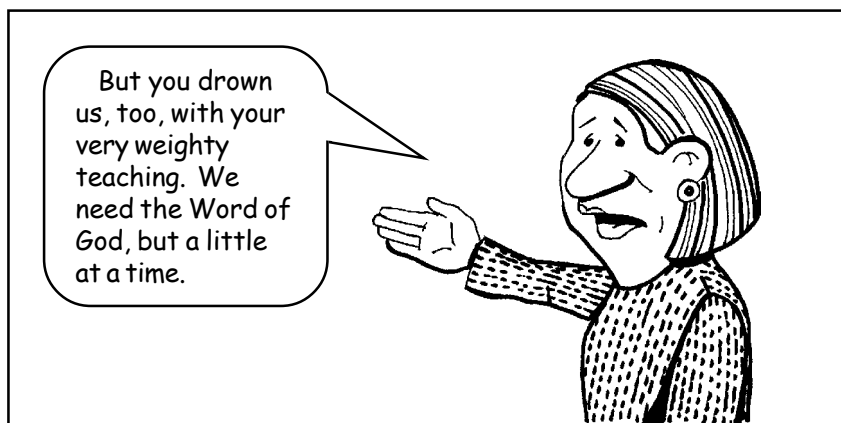
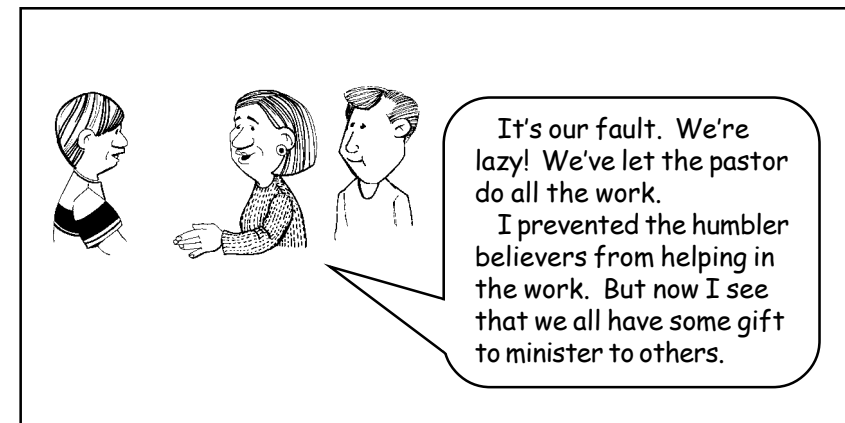


A member of our church teaches adults to read. Also, a deaconess can give your wife some helpful ideas for the home, if she wants.

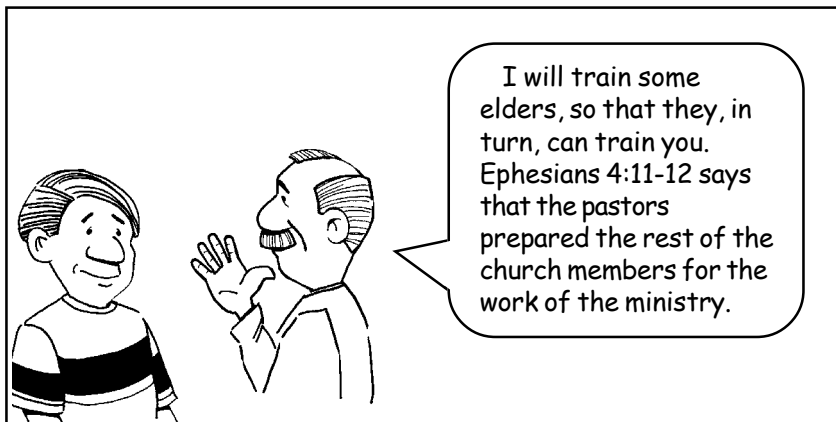
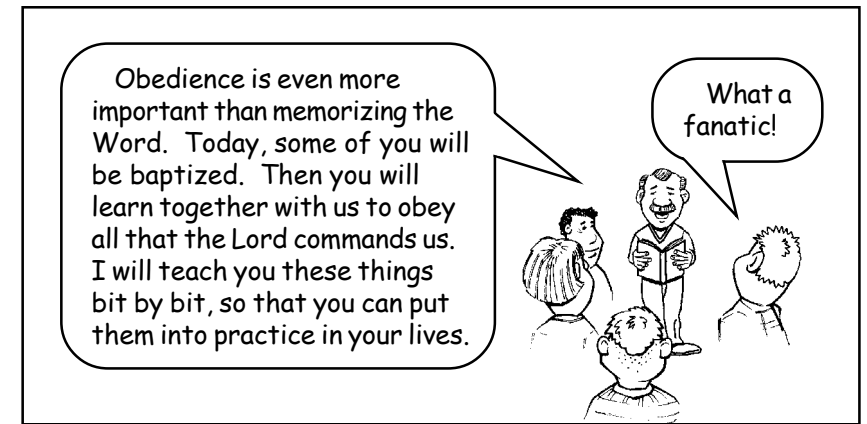


Fine. Let them come. Explain the Gospel to us.



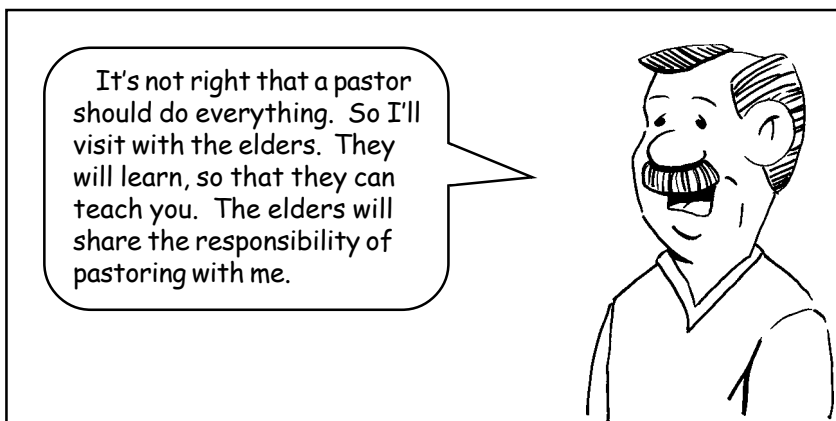






**TO SUM UP:**

**Our knowledge should not be used  
to impress or confuse others.**



Why should a teacher not use his theological education as a weapon, acting like a dictator towards his congregation?

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Who, only, has the right to control the church? (Matthew 28:18)

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Do you teach believers to obey all the Lord's commands?

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Have you dedicated your knowledge to Jesus Christ so that God can use it for His own glory?

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An obedient church keeps up loving contacts with unconverted people. It does not separate from the community (only from its sin). If it stops witnessing, it will also stop growing.



Bill organizes a meeting to ask for the pastor's resignation.

So it has been days since any new members were received. Of course we need another pastor.



Just a minute. They shouldn't evangelize until they've studied theology. Read these books. They tell you all about false sects.



But Bill, I will explain why we haven't received any new members lately.

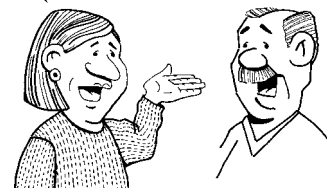


No, Bill. These believers are keen to follow Jesus Christ. Why discourage them again, with so many studies about false sects?



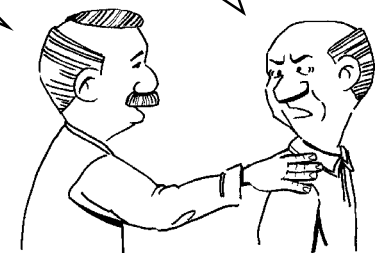
The church should forbid evangelizing until they have finished this doctrine course.

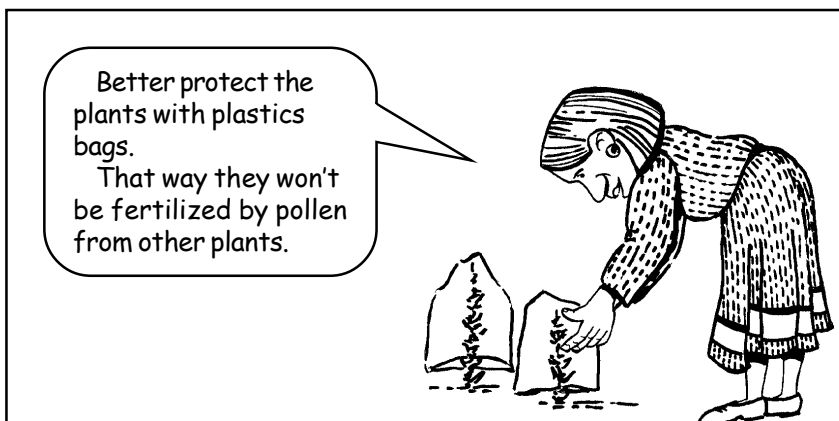
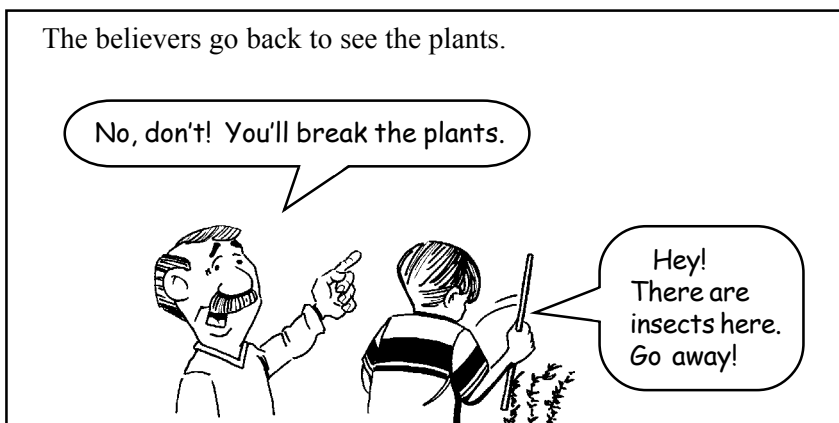
We have already witnessed to our relatives and friends. We have won nearly all of them, and they, too, have witnessed to their families. So, now all our friends and relatives are believers. We have few friends among the unconverted now. That's why we have stopped witnessing. That's why the church doesn't grow now.



Don't prevent these new Christians from obeying the Lord.

You are sowing weeds!





Matthew 6:5-15 (2 things):

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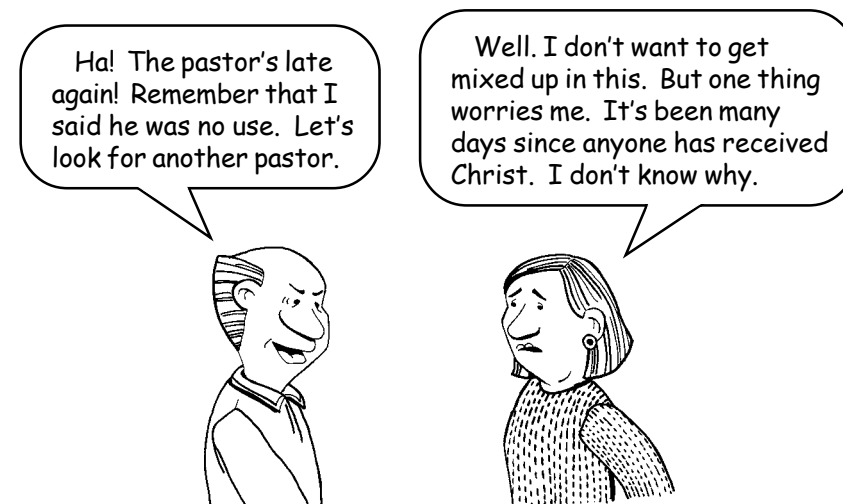
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Luke 6:38:

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## REORGANIZE TO CONTINUE GROWING

The church, through visiting members' friends and relatives, has grown considerably. John is working very hard. He becomes ill, and gets depressed. Bill, who does not like him, takes advantage of the situation:



3. Jesus Christ commanded certain things in the Gospels that His disciples are to do. Read the following and write what Jesus commanded:

Mark 1:5 (2 things):

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Matthew 28:19-20 (2 things):

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Matthew 22:37-37 (2 things):

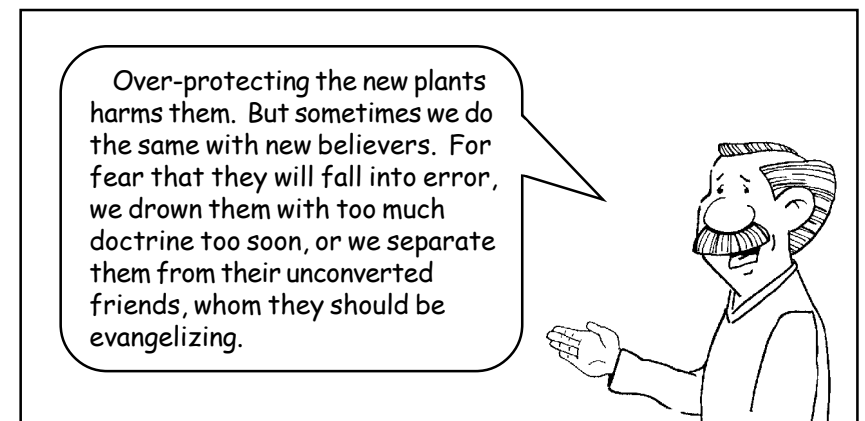
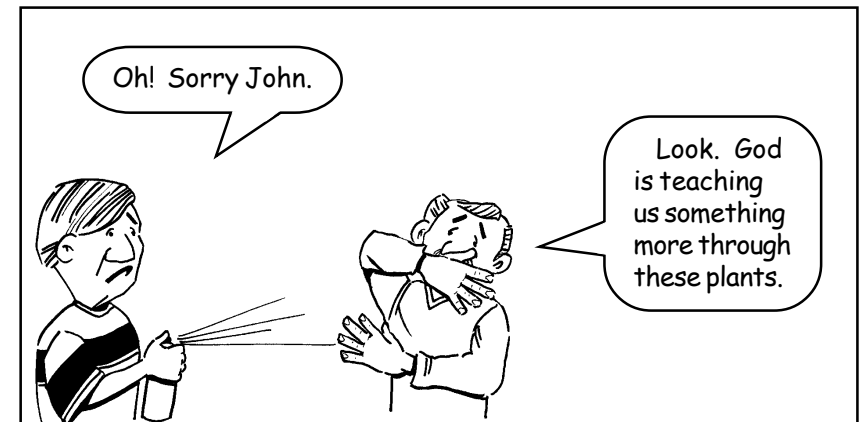
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Matthew 26:26-28:

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Again, John prays, and God speaks to him through Scriptures:

*“Start now to teach My new disciples to obey My commands.”*

(Matthew 28:19-20)



Yes, Lord. I didn't rely on Your grace in them. But now I trust Your Spirit to finish your work in their hearts. (Philippians 1:6) I will baptize them and take them to witness. They will obey You first in everything. I won't teach them loads of doctrine before they start obeying.



The first months are the most important, in teaching a new believer to obey.

It is more difficult to teach obedience when they have already got used to only learning doctrine.



Huh! God isn't interested in having many people. He only wants more holiness.

No, brother. There is no holiness where there is no obedience. Obedience, holiness and evangelism are inseparable responsibilities of the church. They must go together.

1. For an obedient church, evangelism is not something “special.” It is the normal, daily task. Why?  

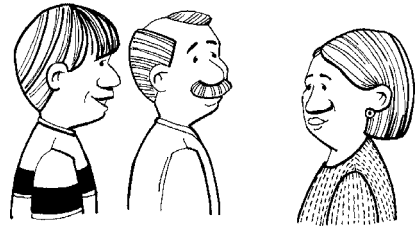
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2. Some churches seem to grow, but they do not save lost souls. Rather, they attract members of other churches. This does not help the church of Christ to grow. Why not?  

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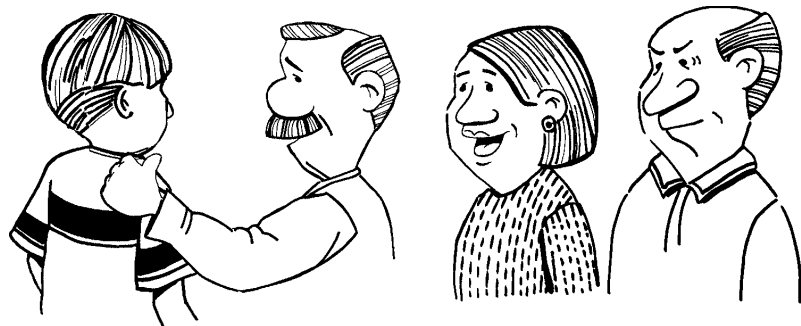
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But many churches are growing without evangelizing. They have entertaining services, which draw in members from other churches. That's fine isn't it?



The devil makes a bad program appear successful for a while, so that churches stop evangelizing. They think that if they only present a good program, people would come and be converted. They stop going out as Christ commanded.

Let's not stop witnessing for Christ! But let's not have meetings for evangelism every night. If we overdo meetings, the quality of the service drops, attendance falls off, and evangelism in homes stops. We won't have any more special evangelistic meetings with outside preachers. Rather, we will develop the witness of all members, to their own contacts.



Why is it difficult?

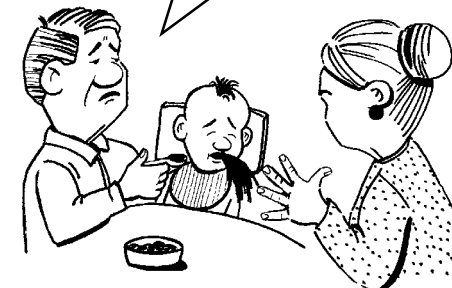
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## New Believers are Like Babies

Let us give them the food they need.

(1 Corinthians 3:2, 1 Peter 2:2)

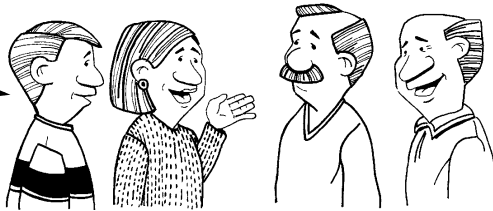
Eat up! Don't you want to grow?



He'll choke! Give him milk!

## EVANGELIZE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Look, John,  
nearly all my  
relatives have  
repented and  
been baptized.



And my neighbors want to know the Gospel,  
too. When can we go to evangelize them?

Just a minute.  
If we are going to  
evangelize, we  
must bring a  
preacher who can  
do it well. I'll  
invite the one who  
does campaigns in  
the city.



You win your families to Christ,  
without big campaigns. You witness  
for the Lord in simple love and faith.

The Holy Spirit uses those sincere  
testimonies to convince sinners! Let's  
trust in the convincing power of a  
humble testimony, and not only in  
special methods and grand sermons.



Another thing: that preacher only  
attracted women and children. But  
you reach whole families. It is more  
difficult for someone to be  
converted to Christ if his family  
doesn't believe, too. Keep on  
witnessing to the whole family of  
each friend and relative; God will  
add many to His church.



Let's not allow any program, or building plans, to  
delay church growth. If we're short of space, we  
can separate into several smaller churches, meeting  
in homes. They could all get together once a month,  
even if we have to use the sports field!





