

3 Leading your Church into Growth

final course review

Opening prayer



God of mission,
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A planning process

When planning a car journey there are four important steps.

- Identify where you are starting from
- Decide where you want to go
- Work out the best route to get there
- Start driving

Creating a Mission Action Plan involves four similar steps.

- Where are we as church?
 - Reviewing church life to understand where we are
- Where do we want to go?
 - What vision do we have, where is God leading us?
- Work out the route to get to where God wants us to be
 - Identifying the priorities that need to be worked on
- Start working on the priorities that have been identified
 - Turning the priorities into a number of action points, identifying the resources that are needed and praying through the whole process

LSM3-2

Having identified your three main priorities, work out some action points. What steps will you have to take to make the desired priority actually happen? Who will have oversight over the priority?

You will also need to consider time scales for the priorities or action points. It can be helpful to use the following guidelines: short term (0-6 months), medium term (6-18 months) and long term (18+ months).

Within each priority you can have a few sub-points.

Priority 1 _____		
Action points	Person with oversight	Time scale: short, medium, long
1		
2		
3		
(4)		
(5)		

Priority 2 _____		
Action points	Person with oversight	Time scale: short, medium, long
1		
2		
3		
(4)		
(5)		

Priority 3 _____		
Action points	Person with oversight	Time scale: short, medium, long
1		
2		
3		
(4)		
(5)		

LSM3-3

Exercise: My place in God's plan



As church leaders, you have a vital part in enacting all your plans, setting an example for the rest of the church to follow. It can be very helpful to use Mission Action Planning (MAP) as the basis of the plan you develop.

Look at the comments below. Which ones are particularly relevant to you?
What could you do to make these ideas an important part of your life?
Is there anything that you need to write in the blank box?

Long-lasting
commitment

The willingness to invite and
welcome people

Prayer and discipleship

A renewed spirit of joy,
positive thinking and unity

A greater sense of
following the vision

Reviewing/increasing
your financial giving

Changes

Things that I need to
stop doing

For reflection



⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:7-9 (NIV)

And finally

1. Growing a church is not primarily about having a better church, but about reaching, loving and transforming the lives of people and the world.
2. It needs to happen within the authority and guidance of God.
3. At every step of the way we need to be empowered and led by the Holy Spirit.

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