

How to Prepare for Church Planting: Key Areas of Experience/Evaluation

1. Building Teams

- **Why It Matters:** Church planting requires rallying people around a shared vision and cultivating a sense of belonging and ownership. Building teams demonstrates a leader's ability to inspire and organize others toward a common goal.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A track record of building healthy teams that work collaboratively and accomplish meaningful goals.

2. Developing Leaders

- **Why It Matters:** Effective church planting is not about doing everything yourself; it's about raising up leaders who can extend the mission and vision of the church.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** Proven experience in mentoring and releasing others into leadership roles, with evidence of multiplication in ministry impact. The most qualified church planters have developed leaders of leaders and not just people who oversee tasks.

3. Growing a Ministry

- **Why It Matters:** The ability to grow an existing ministry demonstrates skills in vision casting, strategic planning, and executing ideas in a way that resonates with people and meets their needs. This shows your vision and execution of a plan resonates with people.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** People are attracted to the worship services you are responsible for leading. Experience growing a ministry numerically and spiritually, with measurable results such as increased participation, deeper discipleship, or broader community impact.

4. Experience Preaching

- **Why It Matters:** As a church planter, preaching is a primary way to share the gospel, teach scripture, and inspire people to follow Jesus.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** Consistent, effective preaching that inspires and challenges listeners, with evidence of growth in communication skills over time.

5. Overseeing a Budget

- **Why It Matters:** Church planting requires financial stewardship, including managing limited resources and raising funds to sustain the church. Oversight of a budget reflects the planter's ability to handle this responsibility.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** Proven ability to manage finances with integrity, meet ministry needs within budget, and communicate financial goals effectively.

6. Connecting with the Unchurched

- **Why It Matters:** The mission of church planting is to reach people far from God. Being able to connect with unchurched individuals requires genuine relational skills, cultural awareness, and a heart for outreach.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** An ability to communicate spiritual principles in a way that ordinary people can understand, not using insider church language, and a track record of engaging in outreach that leads to changed lives.

7. Living with Integrity

- **Why It Matters:** Integrity is the foundation of spiritual leadership. A church planter must model Christlike character and earn the trust of their team and congregation.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A reputation for honesty, consistency, and faithfulness in their personal and professional life. You can demonstrate respect from people in a 360-degree evaluation of your relationship with people above, beneath, and alongside you.

8. Passion for God

- **Why It Matters:** A passionate relationship with God fuels the planter's vision, resilience, and ability to inspire others. Without a deep personal faith, ministry can become just a career rather than a calling.

- **Indicators of Readiness:** Evidence of a vibrant prayer life, consistent spiritual disciplines, and a heart that prioritizes God above all else.

9. **A Shepherd's Heart for People**

- **Why It Matters:** Church planting is not just about starting an organization; it's about caring for people. A shepherd's heart reflects the compassion and relational investment needed to disciple and serve others.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A demonstrated history of prioritizing people over programs and a genuine love for the individuals God places in their care.

10. **Mental and Emotional Health**

- **Why It Matters:** The stress of church planting requires a leader to have emotional resilience and mental stability. Healthy leaders create healthy churches.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A commitment to personal growth, self-awareness, and healthy coping mechanisms for stress.

11. **Marriage and Family Strength**

- **Why It Matters:** Church planting is a family calling, and strong marriages and family relationships serve as a testimony to others. A healthy family provides stability and support during the challenges of ministry.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A thriving marriage and strong family connections, with evidence of intentionality and prioritization of these relationships.

12. **Financial Stability**

- **Why It Matters:** Financial health provides the foundation for ministry focus. Financial instability can lead to distractions or compromise in leadership.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** Evidence of personal financial responsibility, including living within means, managing debt, and saving for the future.

13. **Entrepreneurial Mindset / Initiative**

- **Why It Matters:** Church planting is inherently entrepreneurial—it requires vision, creativity, and the ability to turn ideas into reality. An entrepreneurial mindset reflects the ability to take initiative, solve problems, and build something from the ground up. Planters must thrive in situations with little structure, seeing opportunities where others might see obstacles.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A demonstrated ability to start new ministries, programs, or initiatives successfully; evidence of innovation, adaptability, and a proactive approach to challenges; and a track record of following through on ideas with measurable results.

14. **Biblical Literacy**

- **Why It Matters:** Church planters must have a solid foundation in scripture to teach, disciple, and lead their congregation with theological soundness and confidence. Biblical literacy ensures that the planter's ministry is grounded in truth and aligns with God's word. It also equips them to address doctrinal questions, provide spiritual guidance, and foster a Biblically rooted community.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A deep knowledge of scripture demonstrated through teaching, preaching, and discipling others; the ability to apply Biblical principles to real-world issues; and a commitment to ongoing learning and study of God's word. Formal biblical training.

15. **Leading with Excellence**

- **Why It Matters:** Excellence reflects the character of God and creates an environment where people feel valued and inspired. Leading with excellence demonstrates intentionality, attention to detail, and a commitment to doing everything as unto the Lord. It also sets a standard that fosters trust and credibility among the team and congregation.
- **Indicators of Readiness:** A proven ability to plan and execute with high standards, create welcoming and effective ministry environments, and consistently deliver quality in leadership, communication, and organizational practices.