

## Session Four

### Step Up: Our Impact

**Matthew 5:14–16 (NLT)** *“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

Our call by God is to go into all the world and Make Disciples and Releasing Ministers. **Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT)** *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

**Kingdom Advancement operates with the collaboration of numerous dynamics.**

- A. Governance that provides visional direction, oversight and accountability to ministry operation.** We accomplish this through our Elders, Deacons and Executive Directors. **We’re not leading in secret.**
- B. Making Disciples through preaching and teaching the word of God.** We do this through our corporate worship gatherings and Connect Groups for adults, Thrive students and Kidz Konnection for our children.
- C. Outreach Objectives to lost world.** Which we do through Going Global.
- D. Family and Personal ministry.** Through our Care Team we provide such things as marriage counseling and benevolent assistance.
- E. Financial Management-** Through Collection and Distribution of finances for properties, staff and ministry operations.

**The Kingdom advancement is made of two types of ministries.**

- A. Full Time Minsters:** The one whose full time focus is strategizing, preparing and overseeing the ministry advancement.
- B. Volunteer Ministers:** Those who give their time, talent and resources through volunteering to serve in varying capacities.

**Step Up our Impact: Acts 2:44–47 (NLT)** *And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

The early church was known not only for the power of God and the message of great news in Christ, but generosity was a keystone. I’ve heard many people say through the years- lets get back to the church of Acts. Most only want the miracles. But living in community and being extremely generous is what created the long-term impact.

Look at what they did:

- A. They met together in one place. Like us on Sunday mornings.
- B. Sold possession in order to give and help those in need.
- C. In addition to corporate gatherings at the Temple, they had Connect Groups.

The Result was the Lord brought increase through saving many.

With Impact Comes Responsibility:

1. **Throwing a Net:** You can’t allow people to fall through the cracks. **Acts 6:1 (NLT)** *But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.*
2. **Empowering Others- Acts 6:2–3 (NLT)** *So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. <sup>3</sup> And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility*
  - A. **Acts 4:33–35 (NLT)** *The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God’s great blessing was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.*
3. **Focused Leaders- Acts 6:4** *Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”*
4. **Releasing Ministers- Acts 6:5–6 (NLT)** *Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit), Philip,*

*Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).<sup>6</sup> These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them.*

### **Close:**

What is also exciting is that we get to be used by God to fulfill the calling that He has put on someone to serve in **occupational** ministry. There are people out there right now on whom God has placed a calling to serve in **occupational** ministry. We get to be that place where God will send them to do His work. We get to be a part of fulfilling the call to **occupational** ministry on someone's life by God Himself.

As we step up with staff and resourced volunteers we will see the ministry make an Impact like never before.

### **Another Level of Impact:**

- A. Stephen- Acts 6:8 (NLT)** *Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.*
  
- B. Philip- Acts 8:4–8 (NLT)** *But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.<sup>5</sup> Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah.<sup>6</sup> Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did.<sup>7</sup> Many evil\* spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed.<sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.*