

Theological Equipping Class – How to Plant Churches
“Delight. Display. Declare: The Mission of The Parkway Church”

The Parkway Church exists to Glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who: Delight in Him, Display His Love to one another, and Declare Him to the World

Why Plant Churches

God’s design for accomplishing the Great Commission:

- Matthew 28:18-20 – *“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*
- “Making Disciples” is impossible without the local church

The Disciples respond to Jesus’ command by planting churches

- Acts 2:42-47 – *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*
 - Acts 11:22 – *“The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem”*
- Acts 11:19-26 – *“Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord... ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”*
- Acts 13:1-3 – *“Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers... While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”*



- Acts 14:21-23 – *“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”*
- Titus 1:5 – *“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you”*

Jesus’ Great Commission is calling His disciples to plant churches

- “Virtually all of the great evangelistic challenges of the New Testament are basically calls to plant churches, not simply to share the faith. The Great Commission is a call not just to “make disciples” but to baptize. In Acts and elsewhere, it is clear that baptism means incorporation into a worshipping community with accountability and boundaries. The only way to be truly sure you are increasing the number of Christians in a town is to increase the number of churches.” – Tim Keller

Local Church’s role in Jesus’ Mission:

- Disciples new converts into Christ-like maturity
- Gathers Disciples for Christian fellowship and worship

- Stands as an “Embassy” of the Kingdom of God in a particular city
- Puts deep Gospel roots in a community
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 – *“for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*
- Evangelizes a city
- Sends out Disciples (near and far) to plant other churches
 - Romans 10:14-17 – *“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*
 - 1st century:



- 2nd century



○ 3rd century



Why Parkway should Plant Churches

To obey the Mission of God

- “When the apostles and disciples heard the Great Commission, we might consider what they did in response. They did not just evangelize. They *congregationalized*. When the disciples heard the Great Commission, they planted churches. So should we.” - Ed Stetzer

To reach the Unreached

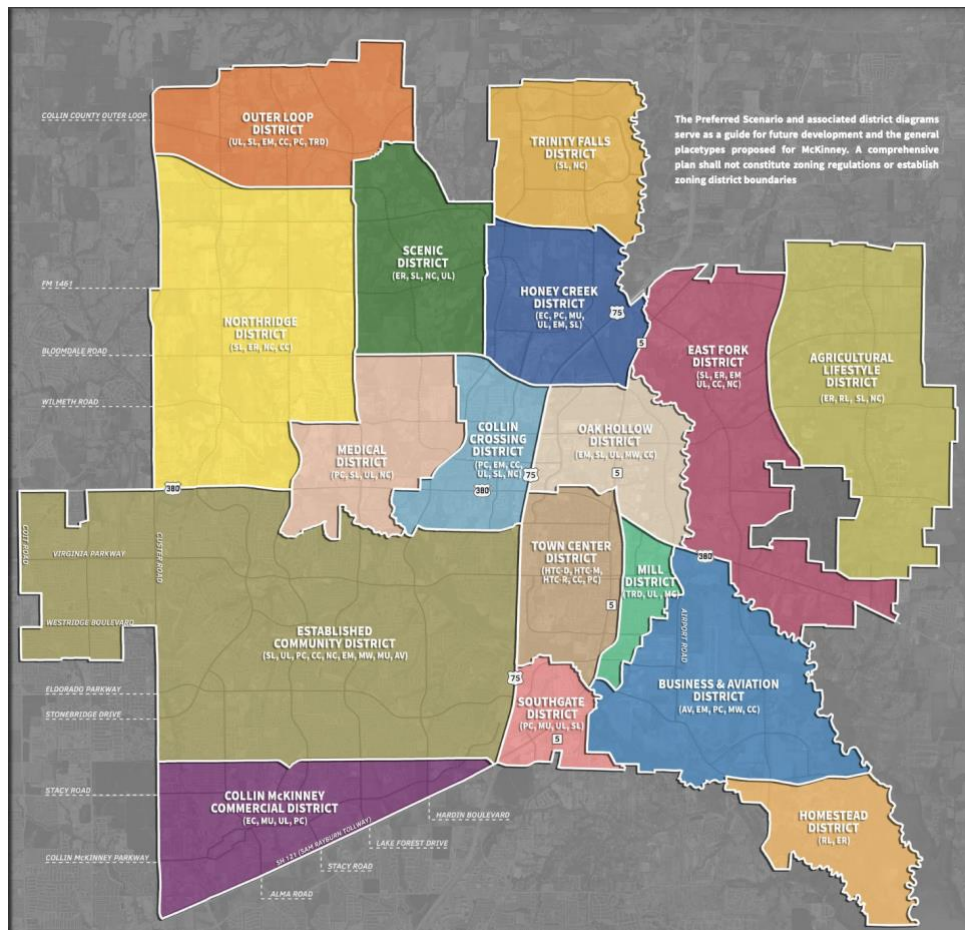
- Acts 13:48 – “*And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*”

- Acts 18:9-10 – “And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”
- “Planting churches isn’t enough. The goal of the missionary task is to plant *healthy, strong,* and *biblical* churches. That’s how they portray the manifold wisdom of God and establish a long-standing, faithful witness to the gospel in our community.” – Matt Rodgers
- “There are no cities with too many churches.” – Ray Ortlund

For Parkway’s own spiritual renewal

To take advantage of the time and place God has placed us

- McKinney Population: 200,000 → 400,000 by 2040



- Collin County Population: 1.1 million → 3.5 million by 2050
- DFW is currently the 5th Fastest growing metro area in the US
 - Demographers project DFW will reach 10 million people in the 2030s, surpassing Chicago is the 3rd largest metro area
 - Many demographers are predicting by 2100 DFW will be the largest metro area in the US

How to Plant Churches

- By catching the Biblical vision
- By spending time with Jesus
- By caring for and spending time with the lost
 - “You plant by engaging the lost, not by immersing in church culture... You cannot live and love like Jesus without spending significant time with the people who don’t know him.” – Ed Stetzer
- By discipling
- By evangelizing
- By praying
- By living sacrificially
 - “Church-planting, admittedly, can be hugely disruptive to the life of the body. It’s not easy to cut off an arm. But the pattern of the *entire Bible* tells me that God isn’t afraid to do a little disrupting from time to time to provoke his people into the obedience of mission. Thomas Jefferson famously said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.” When it comes to the Great Commission, I dare say, God has a similar philosophy. Should we, therefore, seek to preserve the safety of our church cocoons at all costs?” – Jonathan Leeman
- By sending
- By going
- By helping other planted churches