

# “Where do I find the leaders I need to help me plant a church?”

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As Christians, whenever we have a need we look at Jesus to see what He taught us about finding a solution. Did Jesus ever start a ministry from scratch? How did he develop the leaders he needed to carry on God’s mission? He “coached” them into existence.

Coaching is quickly becoming the latest trend, but it is more than just a fad. Within only 10 years, this movement has already shown promise to be the #1 top producer at increasing people’s potential. For that reason alone, it is an important tool for you – a new church planter – to invest in. How do you learn about coaching? Find a Christian certified coach and ask for a sample session. (Contact your regional office for a list of Christian certified coaches in your area.) Christian coaches are trained to form a trust relationship through listening and asking powerful questions that help you identify their priorities, form an action plan to reach your goals. As you receive coaching, you will begin to get the big picture of how you can develop others through this important skill.

Now back to Jesus, he walked among the people and asked God to show him the ones in whom to invest himself. Then he worked with the ones God gave Him, coaching them into their new roles from disciples into apostles. Not everyone was interested in what he had to say. Many did not want to give up their comfort or lifestyle to get involved with Him. Sound familiar?

Yes, as a new church planter, you too will have to work with those who are willing to work with you. But following Jesus’ example here are four things you can do:

1. Pray for God to prepare people for their encounter with you, so they will receive your care and follow your interest in them.
2. Be out and about among the people looking for those God has prepared. You can’t find leaders sitting at home. You have to give free samples of God’s grace everywhere you go in your community. Ask good coaching questions (like Jesus did) to engage people in conversation. For example: “What do you like about our community? What would help to make it stronger?”
3. Work with the ones God gives you. Some of Jesus’ selections looked poor by the standards of his day – uneducated laborers, financial scoundrels, political roustabouts. God sees the heart, trust His judgment. Some of the worst leaders are the ones who look like they’ve got it all together. Some of the best leaders start most humbly.
4. Learn how to “coach” greatness out of your people. Jesus asked his disciples more than 120 questions. Why? Because Jesus was a GREAT COACH! He knew that involving people in discussion through questions helped them focus on what was really important. Discussion helped them remember and integrate what they learned.

You see, you are not just looking for people to help your ministry achieve the great goals you believe God wants to achieve. You are working with God to develop people for Kingdom work. Not everyone you coach will stay with you, but if you faithfully coach them toward their

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potential, it increases the chances that they will stay with God and reach their potential in His Kingdom work.

If you were to coach only 12 people for three years, and then leave, you might be tempted to say “what a waste.” But Jesus did just that, and the world has never been the same. Think about it. Coach and be coached, it is one way to help you on the road of new church planting.

To get started, read:

“Christ Centered Coaching” by Jane Creswell

“Coaching 101” by Robert Logan and Sherilyn Carlton

Check out these Web sites:

[www.valwoodcoaching.org](http://www.valwoodcoaching.org)

[www.onpurposeministry.org](http://www.onpurposeministry.org)

[www.christiancoaches.com](http://www.christiancoaches.com)

[www.coachnet.org](http://www.coachnet.org)