

# Foundational Principles

TRAINING FAITHFUL TRAINERS & REBOOT



## BUILD ON A KINGDOM FOUNDATION

- To begin, you must create a passion for the lost, the Great Commission, and God's glory. Show people the "endvision"—what God ultimately wants to happen—and people will become excited about His Kingdom work.
- Expect miracles! Pray with people for God's power to be evident. This is God's work, and when we cooperate with God, wonderful things will happen.
- Don't give up! Failure in one group does not mean that the training process does not work. Stay with it!

## FOSTER OUTWARD MOVEMENT

- Train as much as possible. The more you train, the more you will find people to train.
- The training process demands an outward focus. Send trainers out to share the gospel and reach people rather than bringing them in.
- Help disciples start training others. Instead of bringing new disciples into the original group, encourage them to train new believers just as you train them. They can start training immediately, even before you are finished training them.
- The most effective methods will be engaging face-to-face, mouth-to-ear. Learn to sow the seed of the Gospel abundantly, but in the most personal way possible. Expect every believer to obey Jesus by sharing the Good News.
- Teach your trainers to look for receptive people. Don't spend too much time with difficult or unreceptive people at the expense of those whom the Holy Spirit has been preparing.
- Do not take new believers to established churches. Be sure to get them grounded in the disciple lifestyle, accountable to one another and learning to obey Jesus. Help each training group to become a new church that continues to meet weekly.

## DEVELOP EFFECTIVE TRAINING SKILLS

- Make teaching time interactive. Don't do all the talking! Ask questions, have them fill in blanks, read verses, etc.
- Give trainers opportunity to lead during each session. Once you have modelled what to do, let others start to participate in leading.
- Make each lesson personal. Share your own stories to illustrate the points you are teaching. Add additional verses if you wish. Share it with passion and conviction.
- Do not give all the lesson materials in one volume. Give trainers one copy each week. Make many extra copies for the trainers to take home and share with their target list.
- Do not teach from books or Bible study guides. You must let the Bible itself be your primary textbook, the Holy Spirit your primary teacher, and obedience your primary task. Train them to use participative Bible study methods as you go chapter by chapter using a simple obedience-based method such as SOS.

## USE SIMPLE STRUCTURES

- The size of the training group does not matter. It is fine to teach even one person. Ideally, aim for 4 to 8 people so they can develop accountability to one another, but don't delay training anyone who is ready to be trained.
- Abide by the "three-thirds" principle:
  - 1/3 time building Accountability by reporting, solving problems, and celebrating what God is doing.
  - 1/3 time developing Intimacy with God by listening and obeying what He is teaching you through the lesson
  - 1/3 time preparing for Multiplication by practising skills, setting personal goals, and praying for lost people

## PROVIDE STRONG ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Be firm with your trainers.** Say “you must do this,” rather than passive statements like “you should,” “God wants you to,” or “I hope you will.” Hold the bar of accountability high, or else people will become lazy and stop obeying the Lord.
- **Move on to the new lesson only if trainers have completed the previous assignment.** Sometimes you will find that many of your trainers have not shared the gospel or obeyed what God is teaching them. If this is the case, you should dedicate the entire session to problem-solving and prayer. Build their confidence and help them make plans to achieve their goals, and help them to be fruit-bearing disciples!
- **Let your trainers have 24-hour access to you.** Be sure to give each of them your contact information. Tell them they must contact you if they are afraid to share their faith or feel defeated. It is important to build their confidence!
- **During reporting time, check in on people’s spiritual life.** Ask questions like, “Have you been faithful in quiet time?,” “Do you rely on God’s power?,” and “Are you developing the fruit of the Spirit?” Be sure to spend time as a group helping trainers solve problems that may hinder their work and growth.
- **Obedience is paramount! As soon as a lesson is taught, it must be put into practice.** Use your Multiplication time to set goals for spiritual growth, reaching lost people, and mobilising leaders.
- **Each week, keep a record of how many times the Gospel is shared, how many come to faith, and how many are baptised.** It will encourage others to see how God is moving as believers grow in their obedience to the Lord.

***Remember, starting New Testament churches is very simple!***

*Pray passionately, share the gospel abundantly, baptise new disciples quickly, train them immediately, teach them to obey Jesus faithfully, gather regularly, multiply freely.*

## ENCOURAGE PERSONAL PREPARATION

- **Be sure trainers write out their personal story.** They should read it to themselves out loud several times, then practice 2 times with another trainer before they leave.
- **Trainers must keep a list of lost people** with whom they plan to share the Gospel or to train. Most people can list over 100 people they know fairly well. They must then prioritise and ask God to open doors of opportunity for them to share with the people on their list.
- **After the initial TFT lessons, start studying one of the Gospels or Acts.** Continue to lead the initial group for at least 6 months, allowing it to become a viable new church consisting of obedient disciples.

## NURTURE EMERGING LEADERS

- **New leaders arise based on their faithfulness.** They create their own streams. Qualities of trainers:
  - Focus on sharing the Gospel
  - Commit time weekly to personal spiritual growth and witnessing
  - Good track record of reaching people
  - Reliable, trustworthy, and have integrity
  - Good organisational skills
  - Ability to lead others
  - Spiritual life is a model for others
- **Invest your time in your key trainers and fruitful disciples.** Be a shepherd to them so they learn how to shepherd others. Do not do the ministry for them, unless a special need arises.
- **Every few months, have a trainer’s retreat.** Invite all fruitful disciples to a day-long meeting for encouragement, Q&A, problem solving, celebration, and a challenge for new streams to start.

Please copy freely; do not modify.

Download at [aimtrainers.org](http://aimtrainers.org).