

# ***FirstSteps for Planting a Missional Church***

## ***Coaching Guide #8***

### Building a Launch Team

Many church planters ask this question: What is the difference between a core group and a launch team? The differences are significant.

*A core group is a number of Christians who have been gathered as a bible study group with a goal of starting a new church. Core groups usually have a leader and a specific agenda.*

- *May or may not view church planter as leader.*
- *May or may not see themselves as followers.*
- *Usually does not have a stated purpose with definable end.*
- *Often fosters us-centeredness.*
- *Often difficult for new people to “break in.”*
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*A Launch Team is a group of evangelistic “bringers” who have been selected and trained by the church planter to assist in the first stage of the founding of the church.*

- *Launch Team established the church planter as their servant-leader.*
- *Establishes the participants as servant followers.*
- *Has clearly stated purpose and goal with a definable termination point.*
- *Fosters “other” centeredness.*
- *Helps to avoid an insider/outsider distinction.*

(Redeemer Church Planting Manual, pg.119)

### **Biblical Insights**

- Acts 1:12-23

### **Checklist**

- Leadership Team gathered.
- Evangelism happening through the key leaders.
- Launch Team location chosen and reviewed by coach.
- Launch Team teaching schedule and agenda developed and discussed by coach.
- Offering being taken during Launch Team meeting.
- Financial systems developed and reviewed by coach.

### **Reflective Questions**

- Leadership Team role determined for Launch Team meetings?
- What evangelistic and pre-evangelistic opportunities do you have for the Launch Team members?
- How are you going to take offerings during the Launch Team meetings?
- When will you know you are ready to start preview worship services?

### **Conclusion:**

Ed Stetzer offers the following warning, “When three or more pastors are present, I have found that the new church struggles with making connections with the lost community. They build close team relationships, but perhaps because they have close friendships on the team, they do not make as many evangelistic contacts and relationships.” (Planting New Churches in a Postmodern World, Pg 158)