

# STRONGER CHURCHES

## MODULE 1

### 7 Paradigm Shifts to Fulfill the Mission

#### FACILITATOR GUIDE



#### FACILITATOR

**DO:** Welcome your group to Stronger Churches. Thank them for desiring to help their church become the church that Christ desires it to be.

**DO:** Spend a bit of time getting to know one another. Ask participants to share their name, the name of their church, and its location.

**SAY:** We have an exciting number of modules ahead of us. Modules that will challenge our way of thinking as well as to help us.

Today's module is called 7 Paradigm Shifts to Fulfill the Mission. At the end of the module, you will be able to:

1. Evaluate one's paradigm regarding God's mission.
2. Explain the "7 shifts" to another using the charts contained in this lesson.

#### TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

– Romans 12:2 (NIV)

1. What should we do as believers?
2. What shouldn't we do as believers?

#### TIME FOR SHARING & PRAYER

As you will notice, before we get too far in the module, we want to spend some time in God's Word, give opportunities for testimonies, and prayer. Let's begin.

**ASK:** Who would like to read Romans 12:2?

**ASK:** 1. What should we do as believers?

*Let God transform me into a new person by changing the way I think.*

2. What shouldn't we do as believers?

*I should not copy the behavior and customs of this world.*

**SAY:** In this module, we will make some shifts in the way that we view and respond to our part of God's mission. We call that a paradigm shift. Through 7 paradigm shifts, we see the importance of transformation regarding how we live out our faith to accomplish the mission of God in this world.

Would anyone like to share a testimony on how God has transformed you or another?

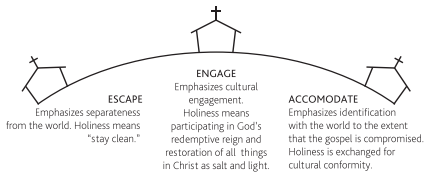
## Session 1: Biblical Foundation

### The Gospel Message:

*If you declare with your mouth,  
"Jesus is Lord," and believe in your  
heart that God raised him from the  
dead, you will be saved.*

– Romans 10:9 (NIV)

### 1. FROM EXTRACTING TO INCARNATION



### 2. FROM AUTHORITARIAN TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Read Philippians 2:5-8

**DO:** Pray.

## Session 1: Biblical Foundation

**SAY:** **The Gospel Message.** Read Romans 10:9

**SAY:** The resurrection is the basis of the Gospel message. It is the source of its power. Many people in leadership have diverted from this fundamental and central message and instead have depended on trusting themselves, their technical ability, or even technological advances to seek strength, sustenance, and the inspiration required. The result of this reality is the inability to see how the transformation God can work in our context.

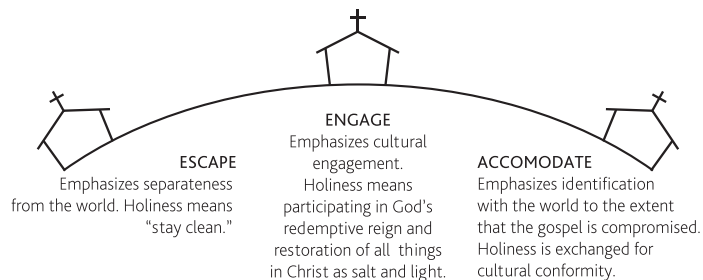
Nevertheless, when we make a paradigm shift, changing our leadership's thinking in these 7 key areas based on the power of the resurrection, we can experience meaningful advancement in the mission.

### 1. FROM EXTRACTING TO INCARNATION

The Gospel is not about making everyone go to church (extraction)... It is about getting the Church to go to the world! In this way, the Church participates in God's mission in the world, thus being "sent" out. That is incarnating the Gospel in the world.

A healthy church will actively participate in God's great mission of redeeming and restoring every aspect of life in Christ, through Himself.

**DO:** Review the Model



### **SAY:** 2. FROM AUTHORITARIAN TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP

What distinguishes Christian leadership from worldly leadership is the foundation of serving others.

To reach a significant advancement in mission, we need to modify our secular thinking of "lording over people" and substitute it with the concept of "mobilizing teams according to their gifts."

**DO:** Read Philippians 2:5-8 and review the table.

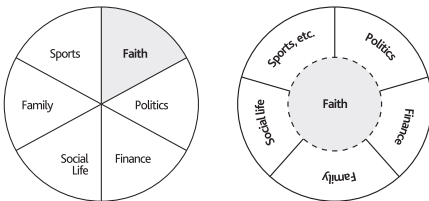
AUTHORITARIAN LEADER	SERVANT LEADER
Says: "Follow me"	Says: "Let's follow Jesus!"
Decides what is their mission and objectives for the church.	Works with other leaders in order to discern the vision and objectives God has for the church.
Does not delegate, only gives orders.	Gets others cooperatively involved.
Makes decisions independently.	Encourages others to participate in the decision-making process.
Complains of the weaknesses of the congregation.	Strengthens the congregation in their weaknesses.
Does everything by themselves — preaches, visits, prays, teaches, leads worship, etc.	Trains others for ministry and affirms them in their respective tasks.
Sees other leaders as competition and a threat.	Sees other leaders as companions and a blessing for their life.

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### 3. FROM SEGMENTED TO INTEGRATED FAITH

*"There's not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is Lord over all, does not exclaim, 'Mine!'"*  
- Abraham Kuyper

Read Galatians 2:20

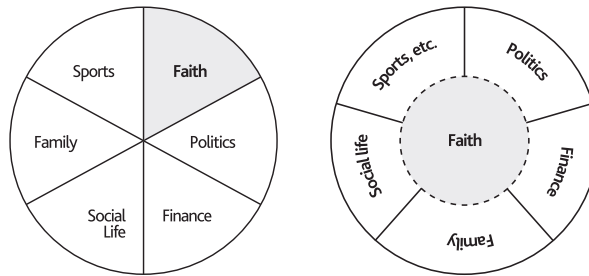


### 3. FROM SEGMENTED TO INTEGRATED FAITH

**SAY:** True discipleship means a change of worldview, a new way of interpreting reality. Worldview from a biblical standpoint covers all areas of life and does not cause faith to be fragmented.

*"There's not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is Lord overall, does not exclaim, 'Mine!'"* -Abraham Kuyper

**ASK:** Will someone read Galatians 2:20?



**DO:** Have participants look at the circle on the left. Note that each activity is separate from the other. However, the circle on the right shows that faith touches each activity.

**ASK:** According to Galatians 2:20 – how should faith impact our lives? When you think about your life and activities, does your faith touch each one? Or are you more like the circle on the left? If the left, what do you need to do today?

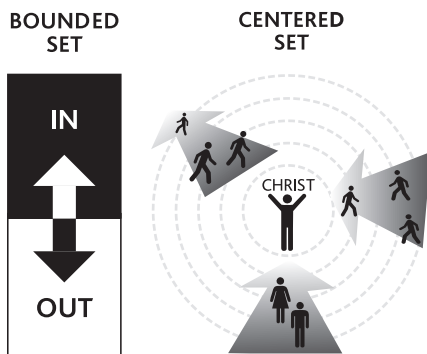
#### 4. FROM BUILDINGS TO COMMUNITY

Read Ephesians 2:21-22

Where did the Church meet in the first century?

Acts 2:46 & Acts 5:42
Acts 8:3
Acts 10:22
Acts 12:12
Acts 16:29-32
Acts 16:40
Acts 18:7
Acts 20:20
Romans 16:3-5 & 1 Corinthians 16:19
Romans 16:11
Philippians 4:22
Colossians 4:15
2 Timothy 4:19

How does 1 Peter 2:4-5 describe believers?



#### 4. FROM BUILDINGS TO COMMUNITY

**SAY:** One of the revolutionary differences between the early church and other contemporary religions is that Christians used to gather in houses. They didn't have their own building and all of them were part of the priesthood. The thinking was, "We don't go to church; we are the Church." A place is simply a resource utilized to gather for liturgy and prayer, all of which can be done anywhere!

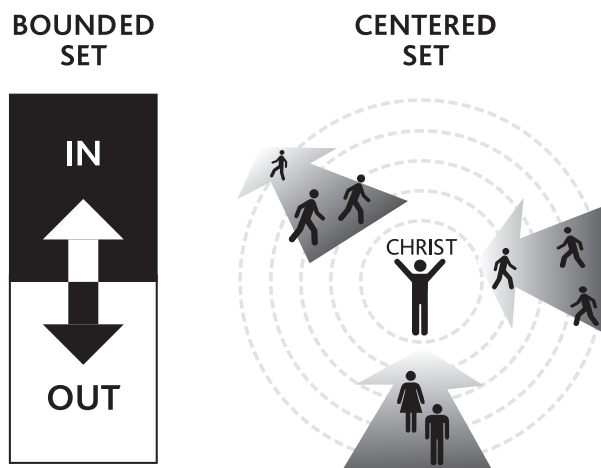
**ASK:** What are some examples of places the church can meet? Will someone read Ephesians 2:21-22?

**DO:** Have people divide into groups of 2 or 3. Assign groups a section of the table. Then have them come back to share their findings.

Acts 2:46 & Acts 5:42	Temple courts and in homes
Acts 8:3	From house to house
Acts 10:22	Home of Cornelius
Acts 12:12	Home of Mary
Acts 16:29-32	Home of prison guard
Acts 16:40	Home of Lydia
Acts 18:7	Home of Titius Justus
Acts 20:20	Public settings and private homes
Romans 16:3-5 & 1 Corinthians 16:19	Home of Priscilla and Aquila
Romans 16:11	Home of Narcissus
Philippians 4:22	Caesar's household
Colossians 4:15	Home a Nympha
2 Timothy 4:19	Home of Onesiphorus

**ASK:** How does 1 Peter 2:4-5 describe believers?

#### 5. FROM A CLOSED TO AN OPEN SYSTEM



**SAY:** Systems are sets made up of interconnected components that allow them to accomplish one or several tasks.

For example, think about cattle in a pen. The cattle are given everything they need within the pen; there is no need to go outside the pen. It is a *closed* system.

However, think about ranchers driving the cattle to a water hole to get watered. The cattle are in an *open* system, whereby they leave the system in which they are grazing to go to another place/system on the ranch.

In the sorting between open and closed systems, the open system has strong links with the outside, while closed systems are characterized by working regardless of the surrounding cultural and sociological ethos.

A church, a community of believers, is a system. It is important that the community of believers remains strong and attracts people to its system. It is also important that the church looks outside its system to meet the needs of its community. The local church must consider this context as the base element for its programs and projects. If a church remains closed, looking to and only serving the needs of the church, it will die.

## 6. FROM OWNING AND CONTROLLING TO MANAGING AND SENDING

What does the Bible say about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:12?

According to Ephesians 4:1-16, what is the responsibility of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers?

As we stop owning and controlling and seek to steward and release, how will you release people in your church to contribute to the vision of the church?

## 6. FROM OWNING AND CONTROLLING TO MANAGING AND SENDING

**SAY:** The focus of the leadership, in many cases, is on the "self." Our ego makes little difference to others, and even less to the "lost." It is a type of control.

Instead, a visionary leader awakens and implements the dreams and visions of the members of the community.

**ASK:** What does the Bible say about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:12?

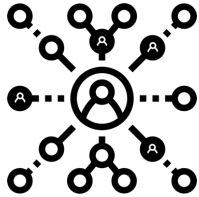
According to Ephesians 4:1-16, what is the responsibility of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers?

**SAY:** It is necessary to redirect our perspective. An "owning and controlling" attitude is normally subject to fear. A "managing and sending" attitude of equipping and empowering the saints. When one equips a believer, the believer is given the tools and resources needed to witness to others. When one empowers a believer, the believer is given the authority/power to share.

**ASK:** As we stop owning and controlling and seek to steward and release, how will you release people in your church to contribute to the vision of the church?

## 7. FROM ADDITION TO MULTIPLICATION

Read 2 Timothy 2:2



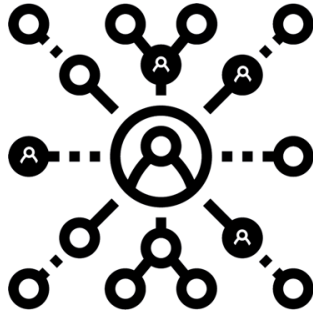
**A FULL-TIME WORKER**

**A SEMINARY STUDENT**

**A CHURCH BUILDING**

## 7. FROM ADDITION TO MULTIPLICATION

**ASK:** Will someone read 2 Timothy 2:2?  
What do we learn from this passage?



**SAY:** There are three systemic obstacles that can hinder multiplication when they become requirements:

**A FULL-TIME WORKER |** It is necessary to change the expectation of full-time workers to church planters with more than one vocation.

**A SEMINARY STUDENT |** In most seminaries, students are trained academically trained in theology and doctrine with few courses in pastoral care or practical skills. It is necessary to consider a more practical teaching strategy that requires training/internships while studying, thus providing more practical skills for the church planters.

**A CHURCH BUILDING |** We need a change in our mentality to comprehend that a sacred space turns sacred when two or three gather in Jesus' name and that all the cosmos is holy land and, therefore, ideal for the praise our Lord.

**ASK:** How has this impacted you and your church?

## Session 2: Tools

The following tool uses a 1-10 scoring system, in which 1 represents complete disagreement or the lowest score, and 10 represents excellence or strong agreement.

**SAY:** Let's review our Take Your Church's Pulse measurement result for this healthy characteristic. Was this an area of strength for our church or is this an area of weakness? Are there certain questions from the survey that we should pay special attention to as we prepare our action plan?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>FROM EXTRACTING TO INCARNATION</b>									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>FROM AUTHORITARIAN TO A SERVANT LEADERSHIP</b>									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>FROM ADDITION TO MULTIPLICATION</b>									

### Session 3: Action Plan and Goals

**SAY:** In upcoming modules we will be asked to develop an action plan in order to strengthen each of the characteristics of a healthy church. We will be asked to report our results from the action plan at the beginning of each module using the *Healthy Church Report*.

**SAY:** Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

**SAY:** Look at how we answered the questions for the Seven Paradigm Shifts to Accomplish the Mission in Session 2 of this module and let's review our overall measurements.

Look at the 7 Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) questions for this module (Session 2) and review your overall measurements.

What are your areas of strength (scores greater than 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are areas for growth (scores equal to or fewer than 7)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Begin to develop an action plan. An action plan for implementing today's materials into your respective ministries is important and should be a habitual process for every step forward in your ministry. Based on what you learned in this module, create an action plan with clear goals for you and your local church.

An acronym that is helpful in planning is to develop **SMART** goals:

**S**pecific: It describes specifically what I plan to do.

**M**easurable: I will be able to tell whether it was done or not.

**A**ppropriate: Is it in line with God's will?

**R**ealistic: It considers my limitations and availability.

**T**ime-bound: It mentions an exact time period.

Example:

- By the end of the month, I will preach a sermon on integrated faith so that people will realize that God should be a part of every portion of life.
- By the end of the year, financial giving will increase by 5% from the previous year.
- In 6 months, 12 new believers will be saved.
- By next week, we will develop a plan for small groups that will start next fall.

Write your desired goal here: \_\_\_\_\_

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Steps to reach it: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write your present-day reality here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write your outcome at the top. Write your present-day reality at the bottom. Write the first one or two steps/actions you know you need to take towards the outcome.

At step #5, write what needs to be in place or happening immediately before the desired outcome is reached. Work backwards. What should step #4 be—to reach #5? As you work from the bottom up and from the top down, fill in the middle steps. This process helps you to think about all steps/actions involved to accomplish your outcome.

## Coming Up: Stronger Churches Module 2

The following module will guide the church to discern (Analysis), define (Knowledge) and communicate (Application) the vision of God in its own context and reality.

### APPENDIX 1

If you desire to delve further into any of these *changes*, we recommend the essay “*7 Shifts in Mission for a Harvest Breakthrough*.”