

**Discuss and decide solutions**

Do you have a memorable mission statement that sums up the calling of your church?



Does it reflect the twin purposes of making and growing disciples?

Does its phrasing reflect the character and context of your particular church?

In the light of your discussion so far, does your mission statement need to be rewritten?

**Discuss and decide solutions**

Ideas for prayer feature in every 'solutions' section of the Because Approach. But how will you make prayer the powerhouse of your planning process, as it was for Nehemiah?

study guide **1.**

# Preparation.

'Because behind every great plan there's got to be a great intention.'



**Discussion starter**

What makes your church different from a social club?



**Study Scripture** 1 Corinthians 7:17–24

What does Paul say our attitude should be to our current situation?

**Study Scripture** Matthew 28:16–20

What is the church's reason for being?

**Apply:** What is your church doing to fulfil this mandate? Are there things that you should be doing? Are there things that you could stop doing?

**Study Scripture** Zechariah 4:1–8

God says don't rely on 'physical ability or military might'<sup>3</sup> (v. 6) when facing opposition (the mighty mountain of v. 7). In what ways are we drawn away from relying on God?

**Apply:** How can we ensure that reliance on God is at the heart of our plans?

**Study Scripture** Nehemiah 1

What is the content and purpose of Nehemiah's prayer?

Why is prayer the first and foremost activity of any strategic planning process?

**Analyse your setting**

What is your church's current situation?

Identify who you are, who you know and what you do as a church under the 'SWOT' headings (See solutions page 30)

Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats



**Analyse your setting**

What is your attitude to the situation you've just identified?

In the light of 1 Corinthians 7:17–24, what should your attitude be? It may be far from perfect, but in what ways can you see your situation as a calling to remain within?

**Analyse your setting**

List your current outreach activities under the 4 stages of Relationship, Respect, Relevance and Response building. Where do you already have enough activities? Where are the gaps? What areas should be a focus for development? Which items don't fit anywhere and why?

Relationship building.

Respect building.

Relevancebuilding.

Response building.