

Fruitful Practices Video Series:



A guide for learning from fruitful church planters in the Muslim world

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Introduction to Fruitful Practices



**"Great are the works of the LORD; they are studied by all who delight in them."
(Psalm 111:2)**

**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful... 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.'"
(John 15:1-8)**

Important words used in this guide:

Fruitful: This word is used in the same way Jesus used it to describe his disciples in John 15:1-2. Jesus says He is like a vine and his disciples are like branches. The "fruit" that comes from the Vine and the branches is more disciples. So, in this manual, the word "fruitful" means to produce more disciples who grow in faith and practice the teachings of Christ, and disciple more new believers.

Practice: a practice is an action or behavior that is repeated regularly by a church planter or church planting team.

Fruitful Practice: an action or behavior by church planters that has been shown to result in more people becoming disciples.

See the glossary at the end for more definitions.

People who follow Christ have been working for hundreds of years to obey His command in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all nations. We have tried many ways and methods.

Church planters all over the world who work in Muslim communities have learned what practices in their work and lives are effective and bear fruit. However, the things they have learned are not always shared with other church planters and they can be forgotten. The Church wastes time and resources when we do not learn from one another.

The information in this guide came from interviews with over 1000 church planters from many different organizations, serving in many different nations and Muslim communities. We talked to men and women from many cultures and backgrounds to discover what they say are the most effective ways to start new churches and see them grow healthy and strong in Muslim communities.

This guide will explain the **68 fruitful practices** that we learned about and will help you and your team talk about how to practice them with success in your area of ministry.

Fruitful Practices are not like other programs. **The Fruitful Practices are a simple list** that describes the experiences of many church planters who want to see growing fellowships of followers of Christ in Muslim communities. Your church planting team can use this list to help you have discussions about your own practices and to consider what changes you might want to make in your practices.



What is a Fruitful Practice?

“Fruitful Practices” are actions and behaviours which many church planters have discovered are effective at producing the spiritual fruit of new believers in Muslim communities. These new believers create healthy communities for discipleship and produce even more disciples who create more fellowships.

These practices are described as “fruitful” rather than “best” or “good” because they are not just good ideas - they produce life, growth, and reproduction. This list will help start important discussion in organisations and teams about what contributes to fruitfulness, based on the real experiences of other church planters and on what the Bible teaches. How will you add to the list?

You might think the ideas listed here are obvious, but they are not always common practice in every team. This manual will help your team understand some new ideas about what is important for you in your community and encourage you to share what you already know with others.

Cooperating with God. All true ministry involves God’s part and our part. We cannot change the heart of people. That is God’s part. But we can share the gospel and demonstrate Christ’s love. That is our part.

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:5-7)

As you read this list, please understand these things:

- **This list describes the fruitful practices, but it does not tell you what to do.** You should not follow all the items on the list like rules. Instead, you should use your own knowledge of your community and prayerfully consider what will be helpful in your situation.
- **The list should be used as a whole.** These practices support one another. Each practice is fruitful in relation to the other practices, especially within a category. Your team will be more fruitful if you apply more practices together.
- **The list relies on God.** This list shows many ways we see God working through teams. These are practices that teams have found help them work with what God is doing.

Categorization

To make it easier to think about the 68 fruitful practices, they are grouped into eight categories. The categories describe different groups with whom the field workers might have relationship.

You can view the videos and discuss the worksheets in any order. We do suggest that you complete the videos in a category before moving on to the next category. So, for example work through all three Communication Methods worksheets in rather than bouncing to another category and then back to Communication Methods.

8 Fruitful Practice Categories	
Relating to Society	
Part 1 - Living Cross-culturally:	Respect, Language, Leaders
Part 2 - Foundational supports to ministry:	Prayer, Research, Tangible Needs
Relating to Believers	
Part 1 – Bold Ministry:	Networks, Boldness, Prayer
Part 2 – Discipling Seekers:	Discipling, Sharing
Relating to Believers	
Part 1 – Intentional Interaction:	Intentional, Variety, Others
Part 2 – Contextualized Discipleship:	Appropriate, Baptism, Application
Part 3 – Interacting with other believers:	Remaining, Identity, Sharing
Relating to Leaders	
Part 1 – Early & Intentional:	Acknowledge, Intentional, Local
Part 2 – Deep & Biblical:	Mentoring, Character, Bible
Relating to God	Intimacy, Prayer, Perseverance
Communication Methods	
Part 1 – Contextualized Communication:	Appropriate, Language, Reproducibility, Terminology
Part 2 – Breadth of Communication Methods:	Variety, Breadth, Bible
Part 3 – Orality Story	
Fruitful Teams	
Part 1 –Team Basics:	Vision, Everyone, Women, Adaptation
Part 2 – One Another Teamwork:	Love, Gifts, Language, Prayer
Fruitful Churches	
Part 1 – Foundational Practices:	Bible, Sacraments, Government
Part 2 –Culturally Appropriate Forms:	Worship, Forms, Women, Children, Funds
Part 3 –Building Community:	Networking, Family, Good Works, Sharing

What do we mean by “church”?

Different readers may have different ideas in mind when they read the word, “church.” The researchers for this guide used the terms “fellowship” or “fellowship of new believers” to describe local expressions of the biblical word *ekklesia*, and to mean the same as the English word, “church.”

For more information on the research and analysis of the study this manual is based on, please see the “Resources” section at the end of the guide.

Facilitator's Guide

How to Use the Fruitful Practices List

Following are 18 charts which describe the 68 fruitful practices, grouped into 8 categories and 18 videos. This facilitators guide will show you how to lead discussion with a team or interest group to better understand these fruitful practices of church planting among Muslims. The group will also discuss how they are doing with these practices. The goal is to help teams understand which practices are their areas of strength, and which areas have potential for growth.

1. Preparation:

- Share the [Promotional Video](#) with the group in advance.
- Prior to beginning this video series, **send group members the [Introduction Video](#)** and confirm whether you will do the whole video series from start to finish, or merely start with a few videos of particular interest to your group.
- Send members this document or the page related to the video you will discussing at the next meeting.

In order to maximize the benefit of your discussion, everyone **prepares beforehand by watching the video and working through the worksheet** on their own **before you meet**.

- OR -

- **Prepare printouts** of the worksheet for the video to be discussed. Have a spare print out of this document with each of the 18 video worksheets. You can use this to keep a running record of your group's insights for each of the videos.

Who Should Facilitate?

The facilitator should be able to make sure that everyone in the team can share their opinions, help the team come to conclusions and make sure the decisions are recorded. In some teams, the best person for this role is not the team leader – it could be someone invited from outside the teams, or another member of the team.



2. How to Introduce the Fruitful Practices

- **Begin with prayer.**
- **If the group members have not yet had the chance to see** [‘An Introduction to Fruitful Practices’](#) (6.5 minutes in length), consider playing this video for the group to introduce the overall concept and this video series.

Fruitful Practices are a list of practices which were identified in a study of many thousands of church planters working among Muslims. The church planters found that these practices are fruitful. They are called “fruitful practices” because they are not just good ideas but because they have been shown to lead to growing fellowships of new believers. These practices have been found to help more people become disciples and create discipleship movements in Muslim communities.

This study took several years and involved people from many nations and organizations. The research took place among experienced church planting teams who are doing ministry among Muslims. The research team wanted to discover what practices church planting teams have found that God is currently using to grow His kingdom among Muslims, to help others be more effective. After research and analysis, they made this current list of 68 fruitful practices.

This research process helps to understand the mystery of ministry. All true ministry involves God’s part and our part. We cannot convert people. That is God’s part. But we can share the gospel and demonstrate Christ’s love. That is our part. (See 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 for Paul’s description of this idea.) We can learn from others which practices are bearing fruit in their ministry. Their experience can help us to bear more fruit in our situation as we do our part to invite Muslims to follow Jesus.

So, in this guide, “fruitful practice” means an activity or behaviour that is effective at seeing new fellowships of believers begin, grow, and make other new fellowships in a Muslim faith community. The practices are grouped into categories for the different types of relationships that workers have at different stages of ministry.

Our aim today is to use this list to think about how our team is doing at using these practices in our ministry and discuss how we could do better with them. Today we are focusing on [the category you have chosen].

It is important to know that this list does not compare our team with other teams. No team demonstrates all the fruitful practices. It will help us compare our team with a set of principles that have been shown to lead to fruitful ministry. This is an opportunity for our team to evaluate our lives, ministry, and goals. Doing this might help us consider new ideas or encourage us in what we are already doing.

3. Discuss Your First Reaction:

- If people have not prepared ahead of time for the discussion, distribute the worksheets and watch the video together. Links to the video are embedded in this document.
- Read through the Fruitful Practices on the worksheet associated with the video and confirm people generally understand each of the fruitful practices. Ask people how they feel about the list and make sure everyone is comfortable having an honest discussion about this topic.



4. Each Person Evaluates:

Each team member should think about how well the team practices each of the activities listed in the video and evaluate how well they think the team is doing at it. If everyone prepared in advance, give people just a short time to refresh their thinking on the practice. Make time for everyone to do this on their own, so they are making their own evaluation – there will be time in the discussion to change this later, but it is important to discover what each person thinks before the discussion.

Label	Practice and Description	How well are we doing?
Society 1	Fruitful workers communicate respect by behaving in culturally appropriate ways. A worker's attitude toward the host culture sends powerful messages. Fruitful workers behave in culturally appropriate ways in major cultural domains such as clothing and food, and especially in regards to hospitality. The key is sensitivity to the local setting, not necessarily whole-hearted adoption of local practice.	4

There is space in each line to write a "grade" on a scale of 1 to 5.

This is a way to easily identify areas of strength and weakness.

- A grade of '1' means that the team does not do this practice, or that they do it poorly.
- A grade of '5' indicates that the team does this practice regularly and well.
- A team that sometimes does the practice but needs to be more intentional about it might get a '3'.

This grade is to help learn if the team members believe the activity is an area of strength or weakness for them.

Encourage each one to honestly share their observations and opinions. Some team members may not like to give a grade to the team. Encourage them to understand that the grade is only a guide to help learn which activities they think are strengths and weaknesses of the team. This will help everyone understand where they need to put more effort.

5. The Team Evaluates Together:

Now it is time for the team to discuss their evaluations and decide together how you are doing on each practice. **This is the most important part of the process.** It will help the team really understand what your strengths and weaknesses are, compared to the list of Fruitful Practices.

- Starting with the first practice, **ask each team member to share the grade they gave the team.** It should just be a short answer, not a long explanation from each person.
- Next, **give everyone the opportunity to explain their opinion.** If someone has a different answer to everyone else, let them speak first. Make sure that everyone who wants to explain their answer can do so. Listening to each other and understanding each other's answers is the most important part of this activity.
- Lastly, **lead the group to decide about how to grade the team on that practice.** This is how you agree if the practice is a strength or a weakness. Note the grade on the list, and make sure the team has copies of the group's decisions later.
- Move on to the next practice.

Some Important Advice for the Discussion:

- If a practice causes serious disagreement among team members, circle it on the list and return to it in a later discussion.
- If there are equal numbers who think the team is doing well and who think the team is not doing well, you can make an average grade and move on.
- If a description does not apply to your team, just leave it. Teams working in Muslim communities are very different so some questions may not apply to you. Other questions may be too complicated to discuss. Do what is best for your team.
- Be clear about how each person understands the description. Some people may have different understandings of some words. There is a glossary at the end of this guide.
- Some people may change their opinion about how well the team is doing after listening to others. This is fine. Do not force anyone to agree with the majority, however.

6. Discuss the Questions for Reflection:

It is good to discuss each fruitful practice addressed in the worksheet. If the grading process feels too overwhelming, you can skip to the Questions for Reflection to continue to process and discuss these practices.

7. Setting Goals:

Once you have finished all of the videos in a category and discussed the worksheets, consider how the team wants to respond to what you have learned. Each set of worksheets asks these same questions as below.

Once you approach the end of your focus on Fruitful Practices, go over all the goals you have set. Have you already begun to make progress on any of these goals? Of all of them, which three are the current priority? Copy over the goals, resources and accountability details into the chart below.

We want to grow in this Fruitful Practice:	What resources do we need to do this practice?	When do we want to see improvement in this area?	How will we hold ourselves accountable? *

* Communicate your goals to your team overseer or coach to help keep you accountable.

As you look back over the worksheets, note where the team has strengths. Are there ways to share your experiences with other teams?

1. _____
2. _____

A PRAYER TO CLOSE WITH...

Heavenly Father, you have called us to work with you to make disciples of all nations.
Help us to learn from those we work with together in your harvest fields.
We commit ourselves to practices that will bear fruit for Your kingdom.
Help us to bear the kind of fruit that lasts,
and produces many more disciples to share in Your salvation,
and bring glory to Your name.
Amen.

The Fruitful Practices Worksheets

Fruitful Practice Category: Relating to Society (2 Worksheets)

A worker cannot make new disciples without having good relationships with Muslims in their own community, which includes appreciation and respect for the local culture. This category of fruitful practices is called “Relating to Society,” and it evaluates *the relationships that workers have with people in the society where they minister*. Workers will show their respect for the local culture as they become learners in the society and adapt their lifestyle in appropriate ways.

Setting Goals for - Relating to Society:

Once you have completed both Relating to Society worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Society - Part 1](#) – Video 2

Living Cross-culturally: Respect, Language, Leaders

Label	Practice and Description	How well are we doing? *
Society 1	<p>Fruitful workers communicate respect by behaving in ways that respect the culture.</p> <p>A worker's attitude to the local culture gives an important message to the community. Fruitful workers behave in culturally appropriate ways with food, clothing and especially in the way they practice hospitality. They understand and are respectful of the cultural expectations of their local community, even if they do not adopt all the local practices.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Society 3	<p>Fruitful workers respect the roles of men and women in the local culture.</p> <p>The roles of men and women, and the expectations of how men and women will behave are important in the Muslim world. Fruitful workers honour biblical teaching on these issues but also try to understand the role of men and women in their local situation and show respect for these social norms.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Society 5	<p>Fruitful workers learn the local language.</p> <p>Workers who can freely and clearly communicate in their local language(s) are much more likely to be fruitful. Fruitful workers carefully consider what languages are important to their community – such as heart or trade language, sacred or secular language. By learning the used language, they also gain a deeper understanding of culture, making this fruitful in many ways.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Society 7	<p>Fruitful workers build positive relationships with local leaders.</p> <p>By carefully building relationships with local authorities, including non-Christian religious figures, workers gain respect and good standing in their local community. Those who are intentional about choosing their relationships with local leaders are more likely to be fruitful.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5:

1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Describe our current relationship with the local society and how we hope it will look in a year's time.
2. Are there ways we can better communicate respect by changing certain behaviors?
3. What resources will grow our awareness and understanding of this society's values & how things work?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Society – Part 2](#) – Video 3

Foundational supports to ministry: Prayer, Research, Tangible Needs

Label	Practice and Description	How well are we doing? *
Society 2	<p>Fruitful workers serve practical needs in their community to show the gospel.</p> <p>Good deeds often help workers gain a good reputation in the local community. Fruitful workers make clear that their good deeds are a way to express the good message of Christ; otherwise, local people may assume that the worker is simply a good person or is trying to earn religious merit.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Society 4	<p>Fruitful workers mobilise a lot of prayer.</p> <p>Fruitful workers invite others to join them in committed and focused prayer for themselves and the people they are ministering to. They recognise that recruiting people to pray can be as important as inviting people to join the team that lives in the community they serve.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Society 6	<p>Fruitful workers learn from research about the community they are going to serve before they go, and while they are on the field, and use this learning in their ministry.</p> <p>Fruitful ministry is influenced by many types of information, including ethnography (customs of the people), linguistics (language), and history (recent and ancient). Workers who research the people they are serving and apply what they learn to their ministry are more fruitful than those who just minister according to their own ideas or those of the country or organisation they come from.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What is my and my team's part in mobilizing prayer, both broad and focused prayer?
2. What parts of this society do we need to better understand?
What resources are already available to help us do that?
3. Which specific tangible needs might God want us to address here?

Fruitful Practice Category: Relating to Seekers (2 Worksheets)

The fruitful practices in this category have to do with *the relationship between the workers and seekers* as they work to communicate the gospel in word and deed. A “seeker” is a Muslim who shows openness to the good news of Jesus. A seeker may be simply a person who is curious to learn more about the gospel or a person who has experienced Jesus and wants to learn more about Him.

Fruitful workers show their faith in the way they live their lives. Through their example and their words, they teach seekers to follow whatever they already understand about God’s truth.

Setting Goals for - Relating to Seekers:

Once you have completed both Relating to Seekers worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Seekers – Part 1](#) – Video 4

Bold Ministry: Networks, Boldness, Prayer

Label	Practice and Description	How well are we doing?*
Seekers 1	Fruitful workers are bold in witness. Boldness means different things in different situations. Some workers take great risks just to live in dangerous places. Others need courage to speak openly about Jesus in hostile places. Fruitful workers are not reckless, and they do not put themselves or others in danger. However, they are bold in knowing that they have God's power to share the message of Christ, even when there is opposition	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Seekers 2	Fruitful workers pray for miracles as a sign that confirms the gospel. Miracles have been important in helping many Muslims who have come to faith in Jesus Christ. Because of this, many fruitful workers pray for God to provide dreams, healing, deliverance from evil spirits, and other miraculous signs to confirm the truth of the gospel.	Me: We:
Seekers 3	Fruitful workers pray for the needs of their friends in their presence. Fruitful workers show that they care about the needs of their friends by praying for them in their presence and not just in private. No matter how God answers, the worker who prays with others shows that God cares about our daily needs and is the source of blessing and provision.	Me: We:
Seekers 4	Fruitful workers share the gospel through existing social networks. It is easier when people from a Muslim community come to faith in a group with others. New believers who share their faith with their family and community cause the witness to multiply and make it easier to be a disciple.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5:

1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Does my lifestyle encourage seekers to ask me spiritual questions?
2. Do I believe God will work supernaturally in the lives of my Muslim friends?
3. How can I nurture my friend's faith in a way that spreads to their family and their friends?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Seekers – Part 2](#) – Video 5

Discipling Seekers: Discipling, Sharing

Label	Practice and Description	How well are we doing?*
Seekers 5	Fruitful workers begin discipling seekers as part of the process of coming to faith. Fruitful workers recognize that not all seekers will become mature disciples of Jesus. It is wise to be cautious, but fruitful workers follow Jesus' example by helping anyone who is interested in Him to hear and follow His teaching.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Seekers 6	Fruitful workers encourage seekers to share what God is doing in their lives. The woman at the well in John 4 told her fellow villagers about Jesus right away. Fruitful workers encourage seekers to talk with others about what God is doing for them in the same way.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5:

1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How can I prepare for discipleship conversations with my seeking friend?

2. What can I do or say to help my friends begin to notice God's hand in their lives and share these stories with their own friends?

Fruitful Practice Category: Relating to Believers (3 Worksheets)

This category has 14 practices about relating to believers in a Muslim community. These practices are about *the relationship between the worker and the new followers of Jesus from within the Muslim community*.

This category focuses on being intentional about encouraging new believers to follow the teaching of Christ. Fruitful workers are also sensitive of a new believer's culture and personal needs and relationships. Fruitful workers encourage new believers to obey the Holy Spirit and God's word and are careful not to push their own assumptions.

Being fruitful in training disciples requires living the Christian life together. The fruitful worker is an example of obedience to Christ in everyday relationships with believers. They show how to live in the home, at work, at school, in business, in relating to the opposite sex, in dealing with authorities, etc. This way of training disciples, by living your values, is more effective than just teaching.

Setting Goals for - Relating to Believers:

Once you have completed the three Relating to Believers worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Believers – Part 1](#) – Video 6

Intentional Interaction: Intentionality, Variety, Others

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing? *
Believers 1	Fruitful workers are intentional in their discipling. Jesus said to train His disciples to obey all that He commanded. Discipleship takes time and effort. Fruitful workers are intentional about guiding and encouraging disciples to grow in spiritual maturity and obedience to Christ.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Believers 6	Fruitful workers encourage healthy relationships with other believers. Seekers and believers need to know they are not the only ones in their society or family who follow Jesus. Fruitful workers help seekers and believers live in unity by obeying the New Testament commands to love, serve and honour one another. Fruitful workers help believers to overcome sins that divide them such as revenge, jealousy, and gossip.	Me: We:
Believers 7	Fruitful workers pursue intentional relationships with believers, like Jesus did. Fruitful workers know that discipleship happens through relationship. They spend lots of time with seekers and believers. They talk about their own faith journey. Fruitful workers find ways to share relevant stories from the Bible or teachings from the life of Jesus. Their goal is to show their faith is important in all areas of life and to encourage new disciples to do the same.	Me: We:
Believers 11	Fruitful workers give an example of service to others and teach believers to serve others as well. Fruitful workers intentionally serve others in everyday activities, explaining that this is how to live as a disciple of Jesus. They encourage disciples to do the same, explaining that faith and good deeds go together. By combining teaching and practice, they help the disciple to live faithfully before their community so that the community sees the goodness of Jesus.	Me: We:
Believers 12	Fruitful workers use a variety of ways to disciple. Fruitful workers use a variety of experiences and resources while making disciples. For example, a group of disciples may see the Jesus film, experience prayer for healing, and participate in Bible study.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5:

1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

- List ways discipleship can be intentional.
- If I am currently relying on a single approach to discipleship, what are some ideas for increasing the variety a bit.
- Spend a few minutes praying for specific believers and their relationships with other believers.

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Believers – Part 2](#) – Video 7

Contextualized Discipleship: Appropriate, Baptism, Application

Practice and Description		How are we doing? *
Believers 2	<p>Fruitful workers train disciples in ways that are suitable in the local culture and can be reproduced.</p> <p>Disciples are more likely to share their faith and make new disciples when all the needed resources (such as Bibles, books, audio tools) are locally available. Fruitful workers avoid using discipleship manuals that must come from abroad, electronic equipment that is unaffordable for local disciples or training that is only offered elsewhere.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Believers 3	<p>Fruitful workers disciple others in environments that fit the situation.</p> <p>When meeting with disciples, fruitful workers are thoughtful about the location, time, and circumstance. They know that these factors influence the if the disciple is available and ready. For example, it may be more appropriate for women to disciple women in homes during the day. Workers use every opportunity, both unplanned as well as planned (shopping at the bazaar, or meeting for Bible study) for discipleship. Finally, they look for ways to engage with more than one disciple at the same time.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Believers 8	<p>Fruitful workers encourage believers to follow the Holy Spirit in applying the Bible to their situation.</p> <p>Rather than telling seekers and believers how to understand and apply the scripture, fruitful workers help seekers and believers to ask for God's help as they think about biblical truth and apply it to their situation. They encourage seekers and believers to trust that God will answer them when they ask for His help.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Believers 13	<p>Fruitful workers encourage baptism by other believers with a Muslim background.</p> <p>The most common method of baptism is an arranged event witnessed by Muslim background believers and sometimes seekers. Cross-cultural workers do not usually perform the baptism but may be present. Fruitful workers recognise that baptism strengthens the sense of community among believers. Among emerging fellowships, the most common practice is believer's baptism by immersion.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Believers 14	<p>Fruitful workers deal with sin in biblical ways that are culturally appropriate.</p> <p>Fruitful workers understand that the biblical principles of correction of sin and restoration, (as described in Matthew 18 and Galatians 6:1-2) must be applied within the local culture and worldview. In applying biblical teaching, fruitful workers consider local cultural dynamics such as honour and shame, gender roles, community standards, family and clan status, and social standing.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection: (Use the back of the page to note your answers.)

1. List some of the benefits to choosing discipleship settings and practices that are appropriate and reproducible.
2. Is there an MBB that would be appropriate to perform future baptisms in my context?
3. List differences between home culture and host culture and how that might influence the specific ways biblical principles are applied and how sin is handled.

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Believers – Part 3](#) – Video 8

Interacting with other believers: Remaining, Identity, Sharing

Practice and Description		How are we doing? *
Believers 4	<p>Fruitful workers help disciples find appropriate ways to identify themselves as followers of Jesus, without pushing their own preferences.</p> <p>Fruitful workers help seekers and believers to consider the best way to identify as a follower of Jesus in their community. They ask questions that help disciples to consider the different ways they could identify. They do not presume or decide this identity for others.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Believers 5	<p>Fruitful workers help believers find ways to remain within their social network.</p> <p>Many seekers and believers live in strong communities with family, social and religious relationships. The gospel is more likely to spread quickly when it travels through these communities. Fruitful workers encourage seekers and believers to maintain these relationships, to share their faith journey with family and friends and to bring new seekers and believers into fellowships within those communities.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Believers 9	<p>Fruitful workers encourage believers to share their faith.</p> <p>Fruitful workers know that part of discipleship is being a witness for Christ. They encourage seekers and believers to tell others what God is doing in their lives. Believers are more likely to make new disciples when they begin sharing right away what they are learning from the Bible, how God answered their prayers, and what they are learning about Jesus.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Believers 10	<p>Fruitful workers prepare believers to explain why they believe.</p> <p>Seekers and believers often hear arguments that raise doubt in their hearts when they share their faith with others. Fruitful workers strengthen disciples by helping them to explain their reasons for believing in Jesus, using the Bible, scientific evidence, or the Quran. The worker's goal is for the disciple to understand and own their faith.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How could I explain the wisdom to stay to an MBB friend who is contemplating leaving?
2. What could I say to a friend who is feeling rejected and persecuted?
3. List some creative ways MBBs share their faith and explain why they believe.

Fruitful Practice Category: Relating to Leaders (2 Worksheets)

The practices in this category apply to *choosing, appointing, preparing, and reproducing leaders* in the emerging church. Fruitful workers closely follow biblical teaching to identify and train leaders. They understand the godly characteristics which the Bible describes for leaders and they ask, “What does godly leadership look like in this culture?” They also encourage leaders to rise from among the believers early on. They have a plan to empower recognized leaders and are careful not to appoint people based on their own cultural preferences.

Following the biblical model of Paul and his training of Timothy (2 Timothy 2:2), fruitful workers expect the leaders they train to train others – making it easy for natural leaders to encourage the gift of leadership in others.

Setting Goals for – Relating to Leaders:

Once you have completed both Relating to Leaders worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Leaders – Part 1](#) – Video 9

Early & Intentional: Acknowledge, Intentional, Local

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing? *
Leaders 1	<p>Fruitful workers acknowledge emerging leaders early when starting a local church.</p> <p>Fruitful workers acknowledge the leaders who emerge naturally when a new faith community forms. They support those who are recognized by the community rather than choosing leaders based on their own cultural understanding of leadership.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Leaders 4	<p>Fruitful workers are intentional about leadership development.</p> <p>Leadership development should be intentional, but it often happens informally. Fruitful workers provide leadership development that is personal and happens naturally, rather than in classrooms.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Leaders 6	<p>Fruitful workers prefer to develop leaders locally.</p> <p>Fruitful workers prefer to develop leaders as locally as possible. If it is not possible to train leaders who live close to the developing church, then it is more fruitful to train leaders who are in the local culture and community. When leaders are sent to be trained outside of the local setting, they can find it difficult to return. The further their training is from their community, the less likely it is that they will return and readjust well.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why do workers sometimes hang onto church leadership too long?
2. How can we reduce the risks that come with recognizing leaders early?
3. What are some creative ways leaders can be trained locally?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Relating to Leaders – Part 2](#) – Video 10

Deep & Biblical: Mentoring, Character, Bible

Practice and Description		How are we doing? *
Label		
Leaders 2	Fruitful workers mentor leaders who in turn mentor others. A mentor passes on skills, character, and wisdom to a developing leader. Fruitful workers also guide the mentored leader to mentor others as described in 2 Timothy 2:2.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Leaders 3	Fruitful workers encourage leadership based on godly character. Fruitful, expanding communities select their own leaders from those who show the godly character described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Fruitful workers support and encourage the community by looking for emerging leaders with godly character.	Me: We:
Leaders 5	Fruitful workers use the Bible as the main source for leadership development. Fruitful workers do not depend on outside resources to develop leaders, as these usually do not apply to the local context, they are not easy to pass on and they do not have the authority of scripture. Instead, fruitful workers use scripture as the main source for leadership development. This requires a thorough understanding of the local culture.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How is leadership perceived and expressed in my home culture verses this host culture?
2. List some effective and reproducible approaches to encouraging and mentoring leaders in my context, as well as any that might need adapting or discarding.
3. How can I foster leadership development resources that emerge out of the local context?

Fruitful Practice Category: Relating to God (1 Worksheet)

This section has to do with *the workers' relationship with God*. Fruitful workers are committed to staying close to God, as the source of life and inspiration. It is the most important thing they do. Jesus made it clear that we can only be fruitful if we abide (stay closely connected) in Him. He makes a wonderful promise to us – as we persist in abiding in Him, we will bear much fruit, and this fruit will last (John 15:7).

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing? *
God 1	Fruitful workers practice walking closely with God. Fruitful workers make their relationship with God a priority and work on being more responsive to Him. They talk to Him and listen to Him, especially in busy or stressful times. Their relationship with God is not based on religious behaviour, but on daily honest interaction with Him.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
God 2	Fruitful workers engage in regular, frequent prayer. Fruitful workers say that prayer, whether in groups or alone, has been very important to them. They dedicate time and attention to prayer.	Me: We:
God 3	Fruitful workers persevere through difficulty and suffering. Fruitful workers remain with their local community, enduring through suffering and difficulties.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How is God prompting me to improve my intimacy with Him?
2. What are some ways I can grow my prayer life?
3. How can I prepare my own heart to survive and thrive in the midst of difficulty and suffering?

Setting Goals for – Relating to God:

Once you have completed this worksheet, are there any additional specific goals in the way you relate to God? Consider if you need to pursue additional resources and define how you will recognize improvement and you can set goals using the questions below. How can you hold yourself accountable to these goals?

Fruitful Practice Category: Communication Methods (3 Worksheets)

Workers want the gospel not only to reach the ears and eyes of Muslims, but also to reach their hearts. This category focuses on the *effective communication of the gospel*.

Effective communication requires that the right message be sent but also that the message is correctly understood by the other person. Effective communication can happen in many ways, which allow the gospel to be heard by as many people as possible. It also happens by sharing one-to-one in ways that travel through families and social networks. Fruitful workers use communications tools that can be reproduced locally so that the believers and the growing faith community can use them in their own outreach efforts.

Effectively communicating the gospel may even include presenting the scripture in styles and forms that are appealing and acceptable to the Muslim audience. In this way, fruitful workers show a good understanding of both the Bible and the local culture.

Setting Goals for – Communication Methods:

Once you have completed all three of the Communication Methods worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Communication Methods – Part 1](#) – Video 12

Contextualized Communication: Appropriate, Language, Reproducible, Terminology

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Communication 1	<p>Fruitful workers use culturally appropriate parts of the Bible to communicate God’s message.</p> <p>The Bible is central in the communication of God’s message. Using it effectively requires cultural understanding. Fruitful workers help seekers find the parts of the Bible that are about the issues most relevant to them. It is important to have a good knowledge of the Bible to be able to connect biblical truth to the issues of life. It also requires God’s wisdom.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Communication 2	<p>Fruitful workers communicate the gospel using the heart language, except in situations where it is not appropriate.</p> <p>In most situations, the heart language is the best way to meaningfully communicate the gospel. However, in areas where more than one language is in common use fruitful workers seek to understand the way language is used locally and use the language that will be most effective for their communications.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Communication 4	<p>Fruitful workers share the gospel using tools or methods that can be locally reproduced.</p> <p>For faith communities to grow easily, the members must have access to all the tools they need. For this reason, fruitful workers use methods for sharing the gospel that require only tools and resources that are readily available in the local community.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Communication 8	<p>Fruitful workers are aware of Islamic terms and ways of thinking and use these as a bridge to sharing the gospel.</p> <p>Many workers find it fruitful to use common expressions, words, and ways of thinking from Muslim culture. This helps workers show how biblical truth is similar to traditional Muslim understanding, or how it is different. Fruitful workers may mention passages from the Qur’an, but they do not focus on them.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What key words or phrases could be bridges to sharing the gospel with my Muslim friends?
2. Who could help me learn which Bible passages are most relevant to my host culture?
3. Can local believers easily repeat the way I do evangelism and discipleship? Why or why not?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Communication Methods – Part 2](#) – Video 13

Breadth of Communication Methods: Variety, Breadth, Bible

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Communication 3	Fruitful workers use a variety of ways to share the gospel. No one method of gospel communication meets every need and will always be the most effective. The best method depends on the audience and the situation. Fruitful workers learn to use a variety of different methods and apply them as appropriate in different situations.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Communication 5	Fruitful workers sow widely. We don't know in advance where we will see the most fruit. Fruitful workers communicate the gospel to as many people as possible and pray for wisdom to know where to pursue more serious personal relationships. They balance time spent sharing God's word widely with time developing individual relationships.	Me: We:
Communication 6	Fruitful workers use Bible study as a means of sharing the gospel. Studying God's word allows seekers to discover God's truths for themselves. Sometimes, fruitful workers may simply read the Bible with a seeker and talk about the text. At other times, they may tell Bible stories and ask questions to help seekers discover how to apply the stories to their lives.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.

5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How widely am I sharing right now? Do I communicate only one-on-one or also to groups?
2. Do my current ministry patterns fit all of my ministry contexts?
3. What are some new ways I can help Muslims encounter God's word?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Communication Methods – Part 3](#) – Video 14

Orality Story

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Communication 7	Fruitful workers share the gospel in ways that their audience prefers. Some cultures use a lot of written media (books, websites). Others use oral communication (storytelling, songs). Good communicators understand how their audience prefers to learn and they communicate in that way.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How does the community I am trying to reach prefer to communicate spiritual truths?
 How does this differ from my own culture?
2. How can I use storytelling to bridge between different languages in my context?

Fruitful Practice Category: Fruitful Teams (2 Worksheets)

There are many ways to define “team.” One helpful definition is: *a small group of people committed to a common purpose, goal, and method which they hold themselves accountable for*. This category explores this definition with nine practices that describe fruitful church planting teams ministering among Muslims. Working as a team, rather than all alone, can itself be a fruitful practice. It is certainly a biblical one. Teams model the body of Christ. But what has proven to be fruit-bearing within teams?

Fruitful teams have common purpose, goals, and method. This shared team “vision” is the reason that the team exists. Being clear about the vision helps a team to move forward, focus on essentials, strengthen one another, and accomplish their goals by God’s grace. As they move forward, fruitful teams take time to evaluate and change their strategy to be more fruitful.

Setting Goals for – Fruitful Teams:

Once you have completed both Fruitful Teams worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Fruitful Teams – Part 1](#) – Video 15

Team Basics: vision, Everyone, Women, Adaptation

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Teams 1	<p>Fruitful teams are united by a common vision.</p> <p>Fruitful teams are made up of members who share a common goal and strategy. Less fruitful teams have many members who are pursuing different goals – focusing on different people groups or different outcomes.</p>	<p>Me: (for personal reflection)</p> <p>We: (for group discussion)</p>
Teams 3	<p>Fruitful teams have effective leadership.</p> <p>In healthy teams, effective leaders manage the different gifts of the members so that they can work together toward the team's goals.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Teams 5	<p>Fruitful teams adapt their methods based on careful evaluation and new information.</p> <p>Teams bear fruit when they intentionally evaluate their progress. They change their methods and strategies when necessary. They adapt their methods based on the experience of informed local experts and other efforts to build God's kingdom.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Teams 8	<p>Fruitful teams expect every team member to be involved in sharing the gospel.</p> <p>Within fruitful teams, all team members see themselves as someone God can use to communicate his truth and love to the people they are trying to reach. The members will have different personalities, gifts, and daily job descriptions – from the mother of young children to the businessperson. But they all use their interactions with the community as opportunities to reveal Jesus Christ. Less fruitful teams expect that only a few members will carry out the task of evangelism.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>
Teams 9	<p>Fruitful teams value their female members as essential partners in ministry and help them to be actively involved.</p> <p>Fruitful teams recognize the need for women to reach women in Muslim communities with the gospel message. They help women on the team to give energy and time to developing relationships and contributing their gifts. Less fruitful teams see their male team members as the main workers.</p>	<p>Me:</p> <p>We:</p>

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why does your team gather, what is your common vision for ministry?
2. If you have teammates that are struggling to keep up with ministry and ministry friendships, how can you respond in love?
3. List a few ways your team attempted to reflect and evaluate the team's activities and ministry practices?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Fruitful Teams – Part 2](#) – Video 16

One Another Teamwork: Love, Gifts, Language, Prayer

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Teams 2	Fruitful teams build one another up in love. The members of fruitful teams develop supportive relationships with one another. They learn to affirm and respect one another's gifts and efforts, resolve conflicts honestly, and bear one another's burdens.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Teams 4	Fruitful teams encourage the different gifts of their members to serve the task. Fruitful teams affirm the different gifts of the members and encourage them to grow in them. Team members are more fruitful when their gifts are used in ways that serve the team vision rather than on other projects.	Me: We:
Teams 6	Fruitful teams have at least one person who is very skilled in speaking the heart language. Fruitful teams prioritise learning the heart language of their local community. They make sure all members are working to be more fluent in the local language and value the members who have strong language skills and cultural understanding.	Me: We:
Teams 7	Fruitful teams pray and fast together. Fruitful teams know prayer and fasting together is important and they make time for it.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What are some ways I could build up my teammates in love?
2. How can my team make the most from the current distribution of language skills on the team?

Fruitful Practice Category: Fruitful Churches (3 Worksheets)

Our goal is not just to share the gospel or to see a few individuals enter the kingdom of God. *Our purpose is to establish communities of believers who follow Jesus and naturally multiply.* These new churches will eventually transform their own society and send out messengers to other nations.

The local church shows God's truth, power, character, and purposes and changes lives. The most fruitful church plants begin and strongly identify within their own culture. They are sustainable, attractive witnesses to the wider Muslim society. This might seem obvious, but it is not always common practice. Cross-cultural workers often do not realize the subtle ways they can influence an emerging fellowship to develop in foreign ways that cannot be reproduced.

A new community of believers needs to clearly show the surrounding Muslim society that the kingdom of God has come, to powerfully transform individuals and society. This is very good news to Muslims who spend their lives longing to please God, but often feeling that they fall short of what he wants of them.

This new community of faith is the longed-for fruit of our ministry efforts. If it is established well, this community will remain long after the original church planters have left. It will continue to multiply spontaneously, blessing the community and affecting other cultures as God calls out apostles and church planters to go out from it to those yet unreached.

Setting Goals for – Fruitful Churches:

Once you have completed all three Fruitful Churches worksheets, you can set goals using the questions below:

Which practices deserve increased focus?

What resources do we need to do this practice?

When do we want to see improvement in this area?

How will we hold ourselves accountable?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Fruitful Churches – Part 1](#) – Video 17

Foundational Practices: Bible, Sacraments, Government

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Fruitful Churches 1	Fruitful churches use the Bible as the main source for life, growth, and mission. In a culture where many books are viewed as holy, a fruitful church views and uses the Bible as the central source for their understanding of God and how to live their life as followers of Jesus.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Fruitful Churches 3	Fruitful churches practice baptism. Baptism is practiced in a variety of ways by the worldwide body of Christ. Whether it is full immersion or a sprinkling of water, at the beginning of a faith journey, or as a milestone in an ongoing journey, baptism is a common practice in a fruitful church.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 8	Fruitful churches share the Lord's Supper in culturally appropriate ways. Fruitful churches find a way to share the Lord's Supper that makes the most sense in their cultural context. In the West, bread and wine are commonly used. But in many cultures, bread is not available, and wine is forbidden. There are also many ways to distribute communion, either during a meal or as a separate service.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 13	Fruitful churches govern themselves. Fruitful churches make their own decisions about direction, leadership, priorities, and practices. They take responsibility to build and manage their own church as a community of faith. Fruitful workers step out of direct leadership as soon as multiple local leaders are prepared take the lead, though they may offer counsel or support.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

List a few ways we can help local churches:

1. Value engaging with the Word.
2. Practice baptism and the Lord's supper in culturally appropriate ways.
3. Be self-governing.

Fruitful Practice Category: [Fruitful Churches – Part 2](#) – Video 18

Culturally Appropriate Forms: Worship, Forms, Women, Children, Funds

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Fruitful Churches 2	Fruitful churches worship using indigenous forms of expression. Fruitful churches worship in a way that uses indigenous music and other forms of expression that reflect their cultural heritage, including the way they pray, the way they are seated, and the kinds of food they use when sharing the Lord's Supper.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Fruitful Churches 6	Fruitful churches redeem traditional festivals and ceremonies. Life cycle ceremonies (such as weddings and funerals, traditions surrounding birth and death, and festivals that mark various events in a culture's historical identity) are important to any society. Rather than forsake all tradition or remove themselves from all association with traditional festivals, fruitful churches seek ways to redeem them as an expression of their faith in Jesus.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 10	Fruitful churches involve women in culturally appropriate forms of ministry. Understanding that the Lord calls both men and women to participate in ministry, fruitful churches seek to involve women in ways that are appropriate for the cultural context. In some areas, this may be limited to hospitality. In others, it may be appropriate for a woman to serve the Lord's Supper or to lead other women in studying the Bible.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 11	Fruitful churches involve their children in worship and ministry. Children are not only the future of a church; they are its present as well. Fruitful churches actively involve their children, teaching them by example and giving them opportunities to grow in discipleship through worship and ministry.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 14	Fruitful churches manage and account for their use of money. Whether the funds come from foreign or national sources, fruitful churches are directly responsible for the use of funds and are accountable for how they use them.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 15	Fruitful churches generally meet in homes or other informal settings. One of the most essential signs of a fruitful church is its ability to reproduce. As a new community of believers forms, the important thing about them is being together, not where they meet. Fruitful churches commonly encourage meetings in informal settings instead of requiring worship or study to take place in a specific building.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection: (Use the back of the page to note your answers.)

1. Does the feel of the church fit well with local culture in terms of worship songs, venues for worship, and participating in local holidays and festivals?
2. Are all members of the church valued, including women and children?
3. How are church finances being handled?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Fruitful Churches – Part 3](#) – Video 19

Building Community: Networking, Family, Good Works, Sharing

Label	Practice and Description	How are we doing?*
Fruitful Churches 4	Fruitful churches value networking together. Fruitful churches place a value on building trust and support with other local churches to know they are part of a larger Body of Christ. Fruitful churches find ways to do things like fellowship together, train leaders together, or pray for one another.	Me: (for personal reflection) We: (for group discussion)
Fruitful Churches 5	Fruitful churches are committed to one another as family, practicing the biblical “one another” commands. Jesus’ commandment to “love one another as I have loved you” challenges churches to reach beyond their families and come to understand other followers of Jesus as brothers and sisters in Christ. Fruitful churches practice this command as they build relationships within their community.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 7	Fruitful churches share meals and practice hospitality. Sharing meals and practicing hospitality are honourable customs in any culture. Jesus demonstrates that these are not only ways to gain honour but are also ways to love one another and to love neighbours. Fruitful churches seek to bless others and provide a witness to Jesus’ love through their fellowship and generous hospitality.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 9	Fruitful churches seek to bless their wider community. One way to show the truth of the gospel and build trust is to find ways to bless a community. Fruitful churches consider the needs in their community and seek to bless those who are outside their own church, whether through building a well, providing childcare, conducting a medical clinic, or some other means.	Me: We:
Fruitful Churches 12	Fruitful churches equip their members to share their faith in effective and culturally appropriate ways. Believers share their faith in many ways. What is effective in some cultural settings may be unhelpful in others. Fruitful churches encourage their members to share their faith and equip them to do so in ways that are appropriate for the situation.	Me: We:

* Write a grade from 1-5: 1 means your team does not practice this or is weak at this practice.
 5 means your team is practicing this description regularly and very well.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How are MBB churches around me practicing ‘one another’ commands?
2. What opportunities do these churches have to network with other churches?
3. How are the churches engaging in outreach? How could they be helped to grow in this area?

Fruitful Practice Category: [Learning Communities](#)

Now that you have gone through the video series, you can take the next step and form a fruitful practice learning community. It might be that your team is an effective learning community for one another. Team normally has a broader focus on ministering together and caring for one another and often will include aspects of the stimulating discussion of a learning community. Although a learning community focuses on thinking through ministry concepts, learning communities do not expect members will be directly involved in each other's ministries.

The value for gathering in learning communities is fundamental to the Fruitful Practice research project. If you have gone through this video series with your team or with a small group that strives to hone your church planting ministry practices, then you could consider this your learning community.

If you have been working through the series on your own or want to pursue these topics more completely, pray about forming a fruitful practice specific learning community. Such a group would gather intermittently to think together about the broad range of Fruitful Practices, focus on one of the eight Fruitful Practice categories, focus on one or two of the individual Fruitful Practices, or pick some other aspect of church planting ministry among Muslims.

As you work together, you can repeat this video series for a deeper dive into each discussion, use the Fruitful Practice User's Manual, that takes a bigger picture approach to each of the 8 categories of the Fruitful Practices, or read together through one of the books from the book list in the Additional Reading and Resources appendix. Consider ways to share what you have learned with other workers.

Questions for Reflection:

1. List ways my team is already functioning as a learning community and where there is potential for growth.
2. In my ministry, what fruitful practices might warrant the extra attention that a learning community can provide?

Glossary:

Please use this list to help you understand how these words are used in this guide.

- **Fruitful:** this word is used in the way Jesus described his disciples in John 15:1-2. Jesus describes himself as a vine and his disciples as branches. As a part of the vine, the fruit that Jesus' followers produce is more disciples. So, in this manual, the word fruitful means to produce more disciples.
- **Practice:** a practice is an action or behaviour that is repeated regularly by a church planter or church planting team.
- **Fruitful Practice:** an action or behaviour that church planters have learned results in more disciples.
- **Disciple:** someone who is, or is becoming, a follower of Jesus.
- **Discipleship or "to disciple":** the process of encouraging and teaching others how to become a disciple of Jesus.
- **Church planter:** a follower of Jesus who is trying to help others become followers of Jesus and create fellowships. Especially in communities where there are no other Christians. A missionary.
- **Field worker/worker:** a missionary, church planter, or any believer who lives in a Muslim community and participates in efforts to create new disciples and build fellowships of believers in places where they did not exist before.
- **Facilitator:** the person who will lead the church planting team through the guide.
- **Intentional:** doing something with a purpose. Trying to create a certain outcome.
- **Emerging:** new, growing, beginning to be recognized.
- **Reproduce:** this refers to when a fellowship of new believers has disciplined enough other new believers that they begin a new fellowship. It is when disciples and fellowships multiply and create new disciples and fellowships.

Video # Lower-resolution videos

1	Fruitful Practices Introduction
2	Relating to Society - Part 1 Living Cross-culturally: Respect, Language, Leaders
3	Relating to Society – Part 2 Foundational supports to ministry: Prayer, Research, Tangible Needs
4	Relating to Seekers – Part 1 Bold Ministry: Networks, Boldness, Prayer
5	Relating to Seekers – Part 2 Discipling Seekers: Discipling, Sharing
6	Relating to Believers – Part 1 Intentional Interaction: Intentionality, Variety, Others
7	Relating to Believers – Part 2 Contextualized Discipleship: Appropriate, Baptism, Application
8	Relating to Believers – Part 3 Interacting with other believers: Remaining, Identity, Sharing
9	Relating to Leaders – Part 1 Early & Intentional: Acknowledge, Intentional, Local
10	Relating to Leaders – Part 2 Deep & Biblical: Mentoring, Character, Bible
11	Relating to God Intimacy, Prayer, Perseverance
12	Communication Methods – Part 1 Contextualized Communication: Appropriate, Language, Reproducible, Terminology
13	Communication Methods – Part 2 Breadth of Communication Methods: Variety, Breadth, Bible
14	Communication Methods – Part 3 Orality Story
15	Fruitful Teams – Part 1 Team Basics: vision, Everyone, Women, Adaptation

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| 16 | Fruitful Teams – Part 2
One Another Teamwork: Love, Gifts, Language, Prayer |
| 17 | Fruitful Churches – Part 1
Foundational Practices: Bible, Sacraments, Government |
| 18 | Fruitful Churches – Part 2
Culturally Appropriate Forms: Worship, Forms, Women, Children, Funds |
| 19 | Fruitful Churches – Part 3
Building Community: Networking, Family, Good Works, Sharing |
| 20 | Learning Communities |

Fruitful Practice Video Series - [Promotional Video](#)

*The links in this document allow you to stream each video. Write to info@fruitfulpractice.org to receive links that will allow you to download the videos. Please specify which videos you are requesting and whether you prefer high-resolution or low-resolution videos.

Additional Reading and Resources

For more information about Fruitful Practice Research, and for access our many resources, please contact:
info@fruitfulpractice.org.

For more information about the background of fruitful practices and examples from field situations see:

From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues Among Muslims,
ed. by Dudley Woodberry (Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2008).

Fruit to Harvest,
ed. by Gene Daniels, Pam Arlund, Jim Haney (William Carey Press, 2019)



For an [online certificate course](https://www.dasko.org) based on these videos, visit [dasko.org](https://www.dasko.org). The course is available in multiple languages and provides additional ways to interact with Fruitful Practice concepts.

The Fruitful Practices team would value your feedback on this manual.

Please tell us what you think about it, how it helped your team, or what you would change. Email feedback to: info@vision59.com