

Stadia Pre-Conference Session 3

How do you plant a church as a team, not as an individual?

Speakers: Sam Chacko, Josh Benadum

Session Overview

In this interactive session, Sam Chacko and Josh Benadum explored the biblical, strategic, and practical reasons why planting a church as a team—not as an individual—is not just wise, but essential. Drawing from personal experience and scriptural examples, they helped attendees consider how to build, lead, and sustain healthy church planting teams that share vision, leadership, and responsibility for long-term impact.

Key Takeaways

- **Church planting is a team effort by design.** Jesus and Paul modeled team-based ministry, and the early church was built on diverse communities using their unique gifts together.
- **Start with who you know and trust.** Josh's team included 40 adults—many with prior ministry experience and relational history—who relocated with him to plant a church in Orlando.
- **Discerning team members requires clarity.** Look for spiritual health, theological alignment, practical ministry experience, and emotional maturity. Avoid recruiting those with unresolved conflict or bitterness toward prior churches.
- **Vision must be shared—and written.** Josh and his team developed a two-year vision prospectus and used shared language, teaching, and written agreements to keep everyone aligned.
- **Form a leadership core.** Even within the team, a smaller leadership group helped carry and multiply the vision.
- **Build unity intentionally.** Use assessments like APEST and CliftonStrengths, read team-oriented books (like *The Barnabas Factors*), and meet regularly to pray, learn, and build trust.
- **Conflict will happen—plan for it.** Conflict resolution, counseling resources, and regular one-on-ones helped address issues early and maintain health.
- **Health is spiritual before it's strategic.** Programs and structures help, but long-term sustainability depends on each person abiding in Christ and owning their spiritual growth.

Notable Quotes



“Team planting isn’t just sharing the workload—it’s sharing the mission, the vision, and the weight of leadership.” — Sam Chacko

“At some point, the church planting team needs to die like a seed so the church can truly live.” — Josh Benadum

“Discernment isn’t just about skills—it’s about spiritual health. Bitterness is one of the great killers of spiritual life.” — Josh Benadum

Next Steps with Stadia:

- **Learn how Stadia can help you start thriving, growing, multiplying churches:** stadia.org
 - **Have a vision for multiplication but lack a strategy or services?** Join a Stadia Vision Trip to see our work up close: stadia.org/visiontrips
 - **Exploring or discerning a call to start a new church?** Learn more about how we can help: stadia.org/discovery
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