

## Practical Ways to Plant Seeds

Luke 8:5, “A sower went out to sow his seed.”

*Introduction:* The Parable of the Sower teaches us many basic lessons. 1) Sowers must sow. 2) Not all seed falls on good ground. 3) Yet, some does. 4) The seed is God’s word! But, of course, the most basic lesson of all is that no seed ever makes it into the soil of man’s heart if man does not sow it! So, how do we go about doing so? In literal sowing, there are a number of ways to do it—hand-planting, hand-casting, broadcast spreader, horse-drawn planter, tractor-pulled planter, etc. All of these means are used to do, essentially, the same job. What are some practical ways we can start planting seeds for God’s kingdom today?

### I. “Go” House to House (Matthew 10:12-14; John 4:5-10)

- A. This is the hand-planting, one seed at a time, method but it can be effective, especially in our local neighborhoods, for people to put a face with the church building they drive by!
- B. Like Jesus with the woman at the well, good can come from a spontaneous conversation.

### II. “Go” Using Gospel Meetings/Lectureships (1 Corinthians 14:23; Acts 19:9-10)

- A. We have several meetings, studies, lectureships planned for this year—what impression will visitors get as they “come in” to our assembly (cp. 1 Corinthians 14:23)?
- B. The consistent use of such teaching can do some good as it did with Paul (Acts 19:9-10).

### III. “Go” Using Home Bible Studies (Acts 5:42; 10:33).

- A. If we only using “inviting people to church” as our method of teaching, we may very well miss out on what is needful for those visiting—not every sermon preached from the pulpit will be what the random visitor needs to hear!
- B. So, we must be willing to meet people where they are to help answer their specific needs and questions and teach them more effectively—this can happen in home studies!

### IV. “Go” Using Public Venues (Acts 17:16-34)

- A. Paul did not always expect people to come to him—he often went to them (Acts 17:17).
- B. Fairs, parks and other public venues can be places where we can create opportunities to reach out to people we may not ordinarily reach with the gospel.

**V. “Go” Using the Written Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).**

- A. People do read and there is great value in writing something down which can be passed along (Exodus 17:14; 1 Samuel 10:25; Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Isaiah 30:8-9; Revelation 1:11).
- B. If a specific question arises, a tract or written article may be helpful to share and a bulletin or blog article from the web site may be a good conversation-starter.

**VI. “Go” Using Public Debate (Matthew 21:23-46; 22:15-46; Jude 3)**

- A. Yes, there is such a thing as foolish discussions (2 Corinthians 12:20; Titus 3:9).
- B. However, Jesus and His apostles often “contended for the faith” through oral discussions with their opponents in order to persuade and win them to Christ (Jude 3; Acts 19:8).

**VII. “Go” Using Video Conferencing (Romans 1:12-13; 15:29-32)**

- A. We can teach people of the opposite sex, people on opposite sides of the city and people on opposite sides of the world via video conferencing technology today!
- B. This, when others can use this technology, makes teaching outside of our community easier than ever!

**VIII. “Go” Using Internet Evangelism (Mark 16:15)**

- A. Internet evangelism via our web site, social media pages, youtube, meetup.com, etc. will have a useful effect in both a local and worldwide sense.
- B. Yet, it makes our net broader than ever as well and there will be challenges.

**IX. “Go” On Overseas Preaching Trips (Acts 13:2-5)**

- A. Opportunities abound overseas and travel is easier than ever.
- B. We need men serving in our local communities—but there is a need abroad that we must not neglect as well.

Conclusion: Some people are more comfortable with some methods here than others. Some are better speakers, other better writers. Some are more comfortable in a crowd, others one on one. Some are more comfortable in person, others prefer to hide behind a screen. Some are more comfortable arguing the finer points, others would rather just share a verse or truth via Social Media in a less confrontational way. Yet, what can you do to help this planting? Are you willing to do job 1 in the Parable of the Sower—go out “to sow?”