

WEEK FIVE VIDEO NOTES

- 1) **WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING FROM RICH DeVOS, PART 1**
 - a) Try or Cry
 - i) Give church planting a try
 - ii) Excuses about:
 - (1) *Not having the right education*
 - (2) *Not having the right experience*
 - (3) *Not coming from the right background*
 - (4) *Being afraid to attempt something new*
 - (5) *Challenge that appears too daunting*
 - b) Try, if you fail, try again
 - i) Trying always beats crying
 - c) Be a Positive Dad or Mom to Your Church Planter Children
 - i) Make it a joy to be in a church planter's home
 - d) Facing Challenges with Great Attitude
 - i) Church planting is about keeping going
 - ii) Take rejection and any negativity in stride and keep going
 - iii) Have the capacity or personality to do whatever it takes to brush off objections
 - iv) Encourage each other through setbacks
 - e) Husband and Wife Together
 - i) Best church planters include their spouses
 - f) Walk Narrative Communications
 - i) Church planting message that flows out of your walk with God daily
 - ii) Key to public speaking is to use illustrations
 - (1) Tell stories, preferably from your own experiences
 - (2) Stories from personal experience are usually the best
 - g) Develop a Great Work Ethic
 - i) Church planting is hard work and responsibility
 - h) Walk Based Life and Church
 - i) Connection relations important in church planting
 - i) Be a Mentor and Encourage
 - i) See potential in young people
 - j) Be a Cheerleader
 - i) A church planter is "Encourager-in-Chief"
 - ii) Encourage others to have confidence and to use their talents to follow their dreams
 - k) Facing Opposition
 - i) Secular experts have discredited salvation from God
 - l) Organize Others to Help You
 - i) Raise up leaders to help you reach people
 - ii) Host meetings in your home and invite as many people as you could think of.

- (1) *Friends*
- (2) *Relatives*
- (3) *Neighbors*
- (4) *Church members*
- (5) *Coworkers*
- m) Make the Point Deeply
 - i) Church planters keep improving their public communication
 - ii) Carnegie method of public speaking:
 - (1) Tell the audience the subject of speech
 - (2) Tell the audience why we are going to talk about the subject
 - (3) Illustrate the point of the speech
- n) Keep Your Word
 - i) Keep your promises to your church and leaders
 - ii) Remember what has been promised and make sure to keep the promise
 - iii) Only promise what you can deliver
- o) Lead Out of Respect
 - i) The church planter must lead
 - ii) Effective leaders only truly gain respect by showing respect
 - iii) Key lesson about the true meaning of leadership
- p) Help Leaders Keep Proclaiming the Gospel
 - i) The gospel is central in church planting
 - ii) If your faith has been such a rewarding and fulfilling part of you life, how could you not share such good news with others
- q) Stay in the Building Stage
 - i) Church planters think like builders
 - ii) Four stages in the development of any organization:
 - (1) *Building*
 - (2) *Management*
 - (3) *Defending*
 - (4) *Blaming*
- r) Learn to be Cross-Cultural
 - i) A church planter leader learns how to get the message across appropriately
 - ii) Keep the focus on the gospel
 - iii) Do not talk about the hot topics
 - iv) Do not be political
- s) Never Forget Who You Are
 - i) Church planters need to freely connect their testimony narratives
- t) Handle Recognition Well
 - i) Recognition will encourage or kill a church planter
 - ii) A church planter has a humble approach
- u) Cultivate Stages for Others
 - i) Church planters cultivate stages for others

- ii) Honoring people who have done things that are worthy of being covered by the media, or are applauded and receive a standing ovation, is something we need to cultivate
- iii) Create stages for others to learn their gifts and then celebrate those gifts
- v) Person-to-Person Type of Business
 - i) Make lists of everyone we know and ask them to refer people they know
- w) Church Planting is About Growth
 - i) Get good at reaching out
 - ii) Many leaders in the church see the numbers dwindling and say that they are not good at bringing in new member
 - iii) Must get good at bringing in new members or the church will die
- 2) **WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING FROM RICH DeVOS, PART 2**
 - a) Church Planting is Essential
 - i) A place to share faith with a community of believers
 - ii) Join with other believers in worshipping God
 - iii) It is not a building, it is the people
 - b) Decision Making
 - i) 6 Principles of Decision Making
 - (1) Prayer
 - (a) A two-way communication with God
 - (i) Ask Him for wisdom
 - (ii) Listen for His answer
 - (2) Define the decision that must be made
 - (a) What are you trying to achieve with this decision
 - (b) What is the problem that must be solved
 - (c) What are the options
 - (d) Avoid looking at the decision in either/or terms
 - (i) Often three or more options to any decision
 - (ii) Think creatively and expand the options
 - (3) Gather information
 - (a) Get as much information as possible
 - (b) Do not wait too long to decide
 - (c) Good decision can be made with considerably less than 100% of the available information
 - (i) 50%-75% is usually sufficient
 - (4) Make a List of Pros and Cons
 - (a) Help you to think clearly and logically about the decision you must make
 - (5) Consider Worst-Case Scenario
 - (a) What is the worst thing that can happen if you decide this way or that way
 - (b) Helps identify the uncertainty and anxiety that keep you deciding
 - (c) Brings clarity to thinking
 - (6) Make a Decision

- (a) Do not stall
- (b) Do not procrastinate
- (c) Act on the decision and trust the guidance God gave you in answer to your prayer
- c) After the Decision
 - i) Boldly go forward
 - ii) Do not worry and fret about whether you are on the right track or not
 - iii) Be bold
 - iv) Be decisive
 - v) The successful person looks at a problem that every else calls “impossible” and sees only a bold decision that needs to be made
 - vi) A successful church planter may fail, but, failing is better than doing nothing
- d) Problem Solving Thinking
 - i) Church planters are proactive
 - (1) Do not wait for problems to find you
 - (2) Seek problems out
 - (3) Catch problems while they are small, before they get out of hand
 - ii) Define the problem
 - (1) Gather the facts
 - (2) Examine all of the elements of the problem
 - (3) Get a clear picture of what the problem is
 - iii) Complexity paralyzes thinking
 - (1) Simplicity brings clarity
 - (2) Once the clutter of complexity is cleared away, the simple solution to the problem often becomes clear
 - iv) Take it step-by-step
 - (1) Once a simple, practical solution is found, it is important to implement that solution in a careful, step-by-step fashion
 - (2) Stick to the basics
 - (a) Keep the process clear
 - (b) Keep the process uncomplicated
 - (c) Do everything in the proper order
 - (3) Every big problem can be solved once it is broken down into simple, bite-sized chunks
 - v) Take your time
 - (1) Rarely does a problem need to be solved in a panic
 - (2) Panic-driven solutions usually make the problem worse
 - vi) Listen to your intuition
 - (1) After defining the problem and breaking it down, ask:
 - (a) What does my intuition say
 - (b) Is there a small voice trying to get my attention and warn me
 - (c) Do my intuition and my intellect agree

- vii) Stay calm under pressure
 - (1) One of the most important qualities a problem solver needs is the ability to remain cool in a crisis
 - (2) Panic clouds the mind and paralyzes the will, making it impossible to solve problems
- e) Church Planter Leadership Principles
 - i) Vision
 - (1) Vision is the ability to imagine a bright and optimistic future
 - (2) All great leaders have the ability envision a better tomorrow
 - (3) Energize and motivate people to turn that dream into a reality
 - ii) Communication skills
 - (1) A visionary leader must be able to articulate that vision and promote that vision
 - iii) People skills
 - (1) A leader with great people skills is always respected and admired by the people who serve under him
 - (2) The ability to relate to people a talent you are born with
 - (3) An ability that can be learned, practiced, and improved
 - (4) Teach yourself to become aware of people
 - (a) Seek them out
 - (b) Greet them
 - (c) Ask them about themselves
 - iv) Good character
 - (1) A leader must have good character in order to inspire other people with his vision for the future
 - (2) “People buy into the leader before they buy into the leader’s vision” – John Maxwell
 - v) No favoritism
 - (1) Recognize that all people are:
 - (a) Warm
 - (b) Giving
 - (c) Highly complex human being
 - (d) Cast in the image of God Himself
 - vi) Boldness
 - (1) a bold leader takes risks and encourages risk taking throughout the organization
 - vii) Servant leadership
 - (1) Learn to take care of others by insuring they have the everything they need to do their jobs
- f) Develop a Great Work Ethic
 - i) Church planting is hard work and responsibility
- g) Be a mentor
 - i) Teach
 - ii) Spend time with them

- h) Take risks in planting a church
 - i) When you take a risk, you have to accept the very real possibility of failure
 - ii) Proverbs 24:16
 - i) Have an eye for communicating hope
 - i) The church planter brings the hope of the gospel into the lives of those he reaches
 - j) Help people get what they want
 - i) We flourish only by helping others to flourish
 - k) Help people
 - i) Help people help themselves
 - ii) Always put other people first
 - l) Be a doer
 - i) James 1:23
 - m) Hospitality is huge
 - i) Welcome people into your home
 - ii) Welcome them into you church
- 3) **GETTING PREPARED FOR OPPOSITION**
- a) You will face opposition
 - i) Ephesians 6:12 ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
(ESV)
 - ii) Institutional within
 - (1) Much of the opposition faced by planters comes from within the plant itself
 - (2) New attendees of a church plant are church people who have relocated to the area and find themselves in need of a church home
 - (a) They look for one similar to what they left in the former place of residence
 - (b) They evaluate the church plant based on what they left and what they need
 - (i) Not on its missional intentions
 - (c) They want the “brand” they just left
 - (i) If it is not like they want it, they try to change things
 - iii) Institutional without
 - (1) Institutional opposition also comes in the form of churches in the area that feel “threatened” by the presence of a newly forming faith community
 - (2) These church lack kingdom mindset and see this new church as the “competition”
 - (3) Affiliated church located nearby
 - (a) You and your mentor should
 - (i) Make a courtesy call on any affiliated churches already in the area of your new church plant
 - (ii) Speak to the pastor and lay leader(s) together
 - 1. Never just the pastor
 - (iii) Introduce yourself
 - (iv) Share your heart and call

- (v) Articulate your vision and style
- (vi) Follow with a time for questions and answers
- (b) Romans 12:18 ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
(ESV)
- (4) Cultural opposition
 - (a) Requests to rent or lease temporary facilities are
 - (i) Sidetracked
 - (ii) Stonewalled
 - (iii) Just plain turned down
 - (b) Multiple church planters have commented on the sense of resistance they felt from the local power, who make it impossible to
 - (i) Rent schools
 - (ii) Raise church and state issues
 - (iii) Frown on extended leases
- (5) Spiritual opposition
 - (a) Starting a church is not a benign activity
 - (b) Spiritual resistance is inevitable
 - (c) Colossians 4:3 ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—
(ESV)
 - (d) When one attempts to plant a church, it is not primarily about techniques
 - (i) Planter is venturing into “occupied territory” only to be greeted by forces, seen and unseen, conspiring to work against any movement of God
 - (ii) A battle lies ahead for anyone with a vision for a biblical, loving, Christ-centered community
 - (e) Church planting is not child’s play
 - (i) Spiritual warfare is more than just a metaphor for the conflict that occurs
 1. Emotionally
 2. Politically
 3. Philosophically
 - (ii) Church planting is critical, front-line, make or break it
 - (iii) Enemies of the coming kingdom want nothing more than to see get destroyed or help in the destruction of others
 1. Good people
 2. Sincere people
 3. Talented people
 4. Gifted people
- b) Check your calling again
 - i) Church planting is not
 - (1) A game

- (2) A challenging job
- (3) An opportunity to experiment with new forms of ministry
- ii) Starting a church, then leading it into maturity, is a calling
- iii) If you are not called
 - (1) Speak in some way to the deep, unspoken, inarticulate but clear as spring water conviction that God has spoke God’s heart to your and compelled you to this
 - (2) Run away from planting a church
- c) The fix: you need intercessors to pray for you
 - i) These are individuals who possess the spiritual gift of intercession
 - ii) Outside your circle and mission
 - iii) Hold you, and you family, up before God
 - iv) Pray for your guidance
 - v) Pray for your wisdom
 - vi) Pray for your grace to lead
 - vii) Draft an intercessory prayer team
 - (1) Need to find people who are called to pray
 - (2) Believers whose primary “ministry” in their daily Christian life is to find a quiet place to offer themselves to God in prayer and intercession on your behalf
 - (3) They are willing and able to keep praying until they have a sense that they have prevailed
 - (4) Need believers who have a track record of interceding for others and seeing answers regarding
 - (a) Protection
 - (b) Provision
 - (c) Fruit
 - viii) The intercessor team
 - (1) Needs to be outside of your plant
 - (2) Allows them to pray deeply without an agenda
 - (3) Allows them some sense of objectivity
 - (4) Allows them a sense of emotional and spiritual distance from
 - (a) What you and your team are doing
 - (b) As well as
 - (i) Fires your goals
 - (ii) Dreams
 - (iii) Struggles
 - (iv) Fears
- d) Never take it personally
 - i) Some your new neighbors will be threatened and put of by your existence
 - ii) You will find yourself confronted on every level
 - (1) Culturally
 - (2) Spiritually
 - (3) Theologically

- (4) Politically
 - iii) You will be confronted with dangers and perils you never imagined
 - iv) Doors will be slammed in your face
 - v) May discover those closest to your heart and plan are working at cross-purposes to you
 - vi) You must resist it all
- e) Supervisory comments
 - i) Supervisors set the spiritual tone for the behind-the-scenes prayer activities
 - ii) Those supervisors who fail to understand that church planting is a struggle, a battle, will be easily misled and fail to support the church planter
 - iii) The church planter needs to know the supervisor is behind them 110% instead of listening to those who are complaining about the efforts of the church planter
- f) Coaching comments
 - i) The coach must insist that one of the first actions the planter takes is to recruit an intercessory prayer team
 - ii) Have the planter tell you who each person is
 - iii) Setup the means necessary for the planter to communication prayer requests on a regular basis