

LEADING A CHURCH PLANT

1. WHO PLANTS CHURCHES?



Introductions

- Who we are
- Where we are
- Why we are here this morning



OVERVIEW

- What characteristics are needed for someone to lead a church plant (or be on the leadership team for a church plant)?
- How can I spot these characteristics (in myself and others)?



A BIT OF FUN

- Please draw a church planter; *or*
- Write down 3 adjectives which best describe a church planter

WHAT IS A 'CHURCH PLANT'?

- HTB plant? Or micro-church?
- 'Come and see'? Or 'Go and be'?
- Revitalisation? Or something completely new?
- Missional activity? Or a new service?



WHAT IS A 'CHURCH PLANT'?

Plantatio ecclesiae



Denominational / confessional planting

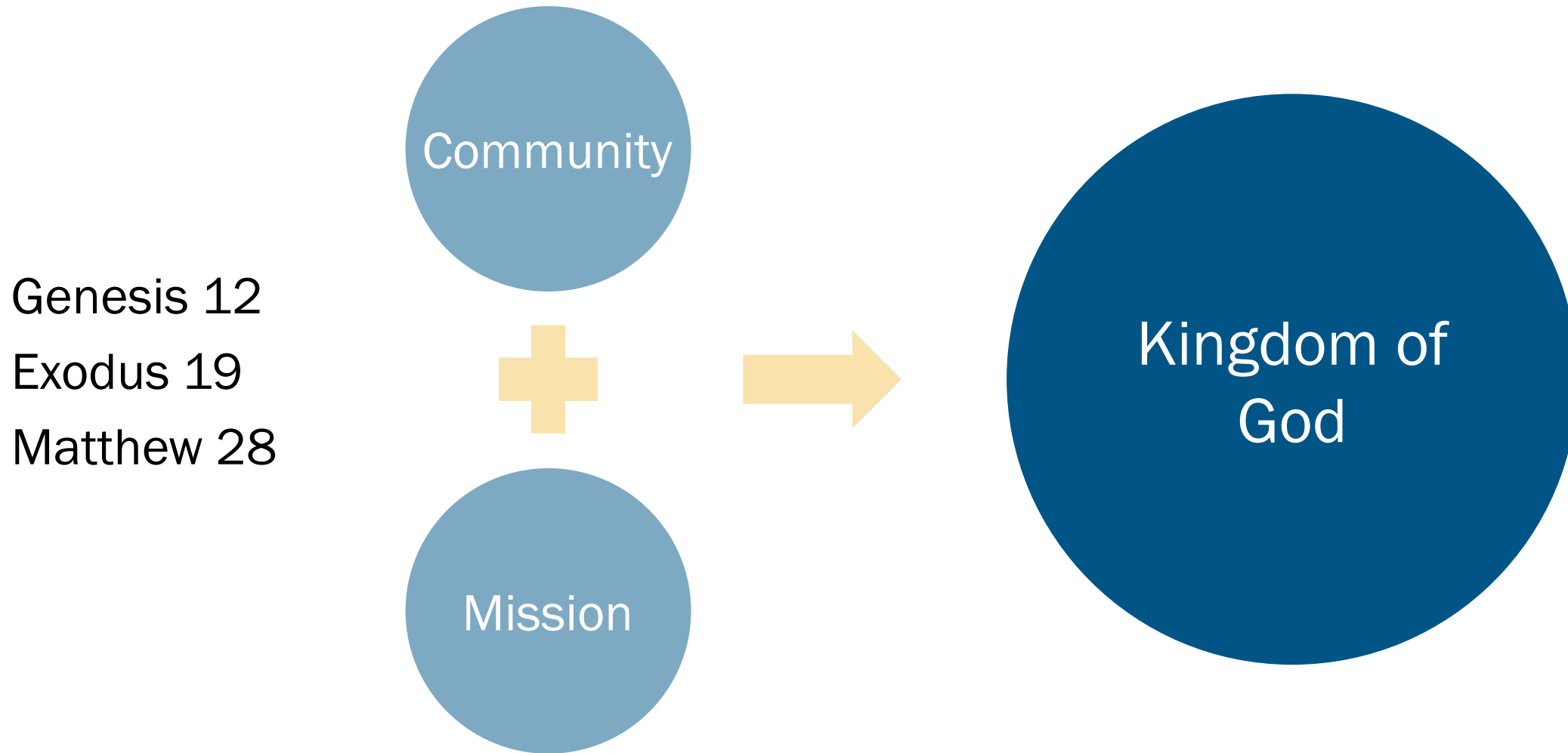


Missionary planting

SCRIPTURE

- Can we think of scriptural examples of church planting?
- What do they tell us about the church planting enterprise?
- And about the leadership of church plants?

CHURCH PLANTING - THEOLOGY



SCRIPTURE

Acts 16: 11-40: Planting the church in Philippi

- . . . The leading city of the district . . . (v. 12)
- . . . a Roman colony . . . (v. 12)
- . . . On the sabbath day . . . (v. 13)
- . . . outside the gate . . . (v. 13)
- . . . where we supposed . . . (v. 13)
- . . . a place of prayer . . . (v. 13)
- . . . The Lord opened her heart (v. 14)
- . . . to what was said by Paul . . . (v. 14)

A (GOOD!) WORKING DEFINITION

‘[CHURCH PLANTING IS]
CREATING NEW COMMUNITIES
OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AS PART
OF THE MISSION OF GOD TO
EXPRESS GOD’S KINGDOM IN
EVERY GEOGRAPHIC AND
CULTURAL CONTEXT’

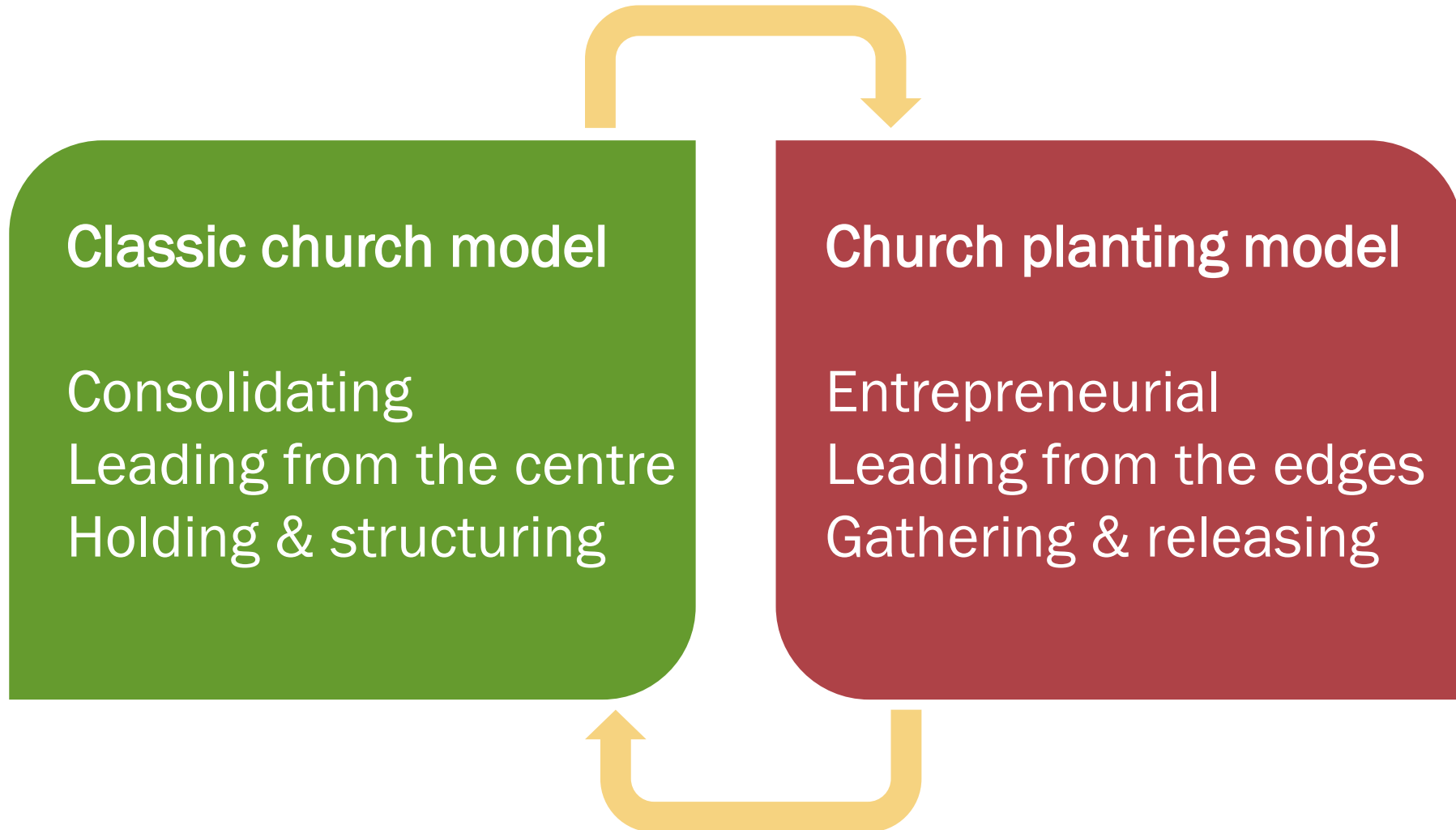
BOB HOPKINS

CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Creating new communities’

- The ability to start something
- The ability to gather people

CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP



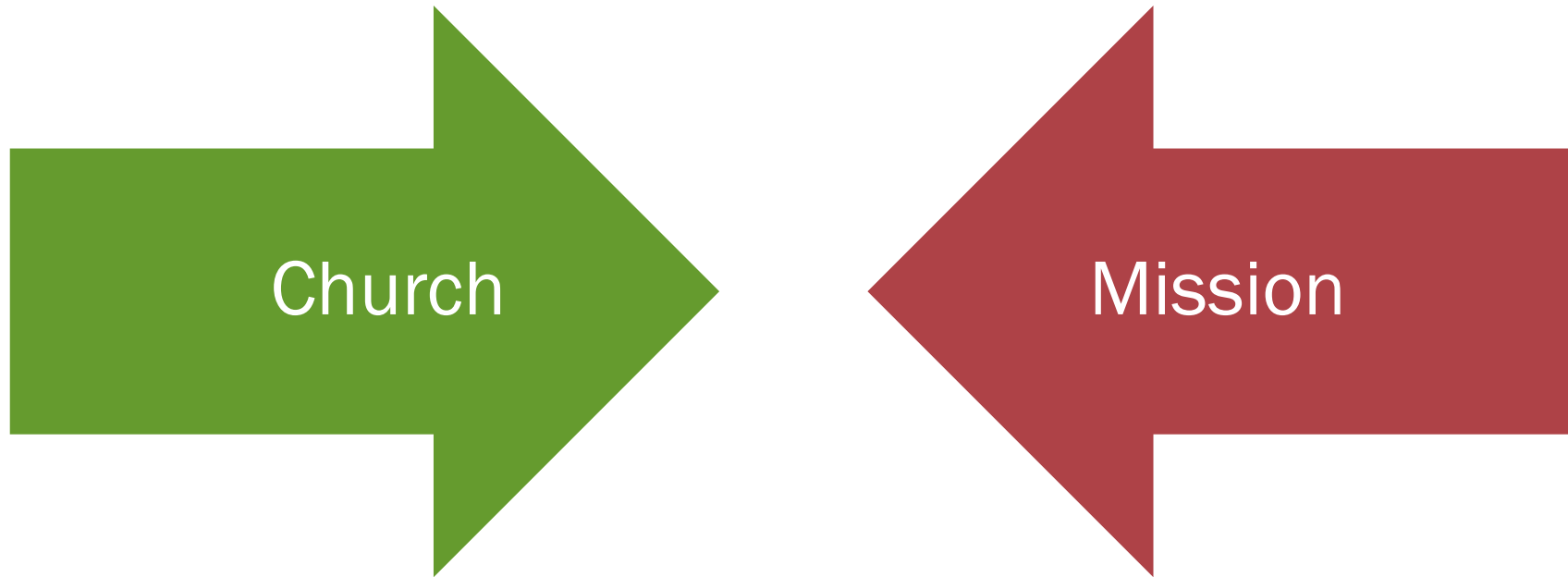


CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Creating new communities of *Christian faith as part of the mission of God*’



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Those who start with questions about the relationship to the existing church have already made the most common and most dangerous mistake. Start with the church and the mission will probably get lost. Start with the mission and it is likely that the church will be found’

Mission-shaped Church, Church House Publishing 2004, 116



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Fresh Expressions theorists call us to separate the Church and her mission – to downplay the first and concentrate on the second. This is a false distinction, not least because the Church is central to what she proclaims in her mission. We cannot write the Church out of the gospel’

Andrew Davison and Alison Milbank, *For the Parish: A Critique of Fresh Expressions*, SCM 2010, 60



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Creating new communities of Christian faith as part of the mission of God *to express God’s kingdom*’

- Faith and prayer and the Holy Spirit



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

‘Creating new communities of Christian faith as part of the mission of God to express God’s kingdom *in every geographic and cultural context*’



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

- Starting something
- Gathering others ('stickable people')
- At home 'outside' and 'inside' the church
- People of faith
- Culturally aware
- A certain flexibility

CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

- What strikes you as most significant?
- What do you object to, and why?
- What is most important for your context?
- What is missing from this list?

CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

Mission



Church



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

How do we spot and encourage this
(in ourselves and others)?



CHURCH PLANTING & LEADERSHIP

How do we spot and encourage this
(in ourselves and others)?

- The 'Voice of the Planters' report
- The 'awkward squad'
- Vision-casting
- Prayer and action



2. HOW DO CHURCHES ACTUALLY GET PLANTED?

Tuesday, 10 May

3. COMMON CHALLENGES

Tuesday, 14 June

9:30-11:30am

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