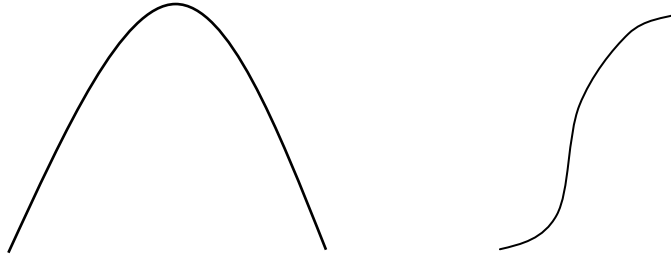


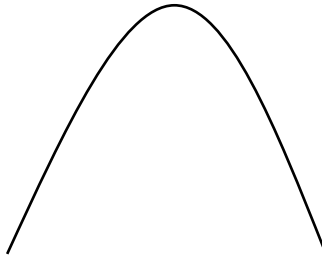
B) Leading through change

Its about the gospel



Its about people

Its about wisdom



Session 1

A) A Growing Church— ‘tunnels of chaos’ and the book of Acts

Acts 2:1 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. *Suddenly...*”

Acts 6:7 “So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Acts 9: 31 “Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.”

Acts 12:24 “But the word of God continued to increase and spread.”

Acts 16:5 “So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.”

Acts 19:20 “In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.”

Acts 28:30, 31 “For two whole years Paul stayed there...Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.”

B) A Busy Church—how additional numbers make things more complicated

A conversation of three people =	6	lines of communication
A church of 50 people =		lines of communication
A church of 100 people =		lines of communication
A church of 300 people =		lines of communication
A church of 400 people =		lines of communication
A church of 1,000 people =		lines of communication
A church of 6,000 people =		lines of communication!

Some other 'Cs' to think about:

1. Growth causes change
2. Change causes complexity
3. Complexity causes chaos
4. Chaos causes concern
5. Concern causes conflict

"This conflict comes in eight different forms. With each form, a person or a faction of people want something they perceive that they have lost due to change. They fight to preserve what they have lost and in so doing oppose change. Their efforts focus on gaining or regaining one of eight forms of church currency that they value... Such change can be perceived by some as a loss of power, remuneration, preference, information, visibility, role, sustainable pace, or control..."

Or, it can be viewed as an opportunity to share those things with others for the sake of Jesus' gospel and his church...

In summary, for a church to grow it must accept the pain that accompanies change. Because we want more people to worship Jesus as God, we must be willing to accept the inevitable conflict that change brings."

Mark Driscoll

C) A Groaning Church—growing pains and what to do about them

A crucial (and often overlooked) passage—Acts 6:1-7

Context: Three threats

Content:

Pain	i)	ii)	
Priorities	i)	ii)	
Plans	i)	ii)	
	iii)	iv)	
Performance	i)	ii)	iii)
Pointers	i)	ii)	

Conclusion:

Session 3

A) Going for Growth — Acts 16 and the gospel in Europe

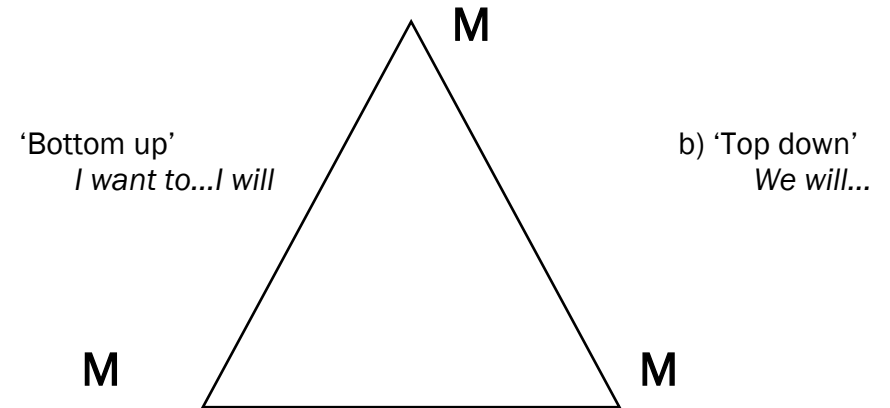
Acts 16 and growth 'tactics' in more detail

A Woman reached by...

A Slave reached by...

A Man reached by...

A strategic 'mental map' that may come in handy



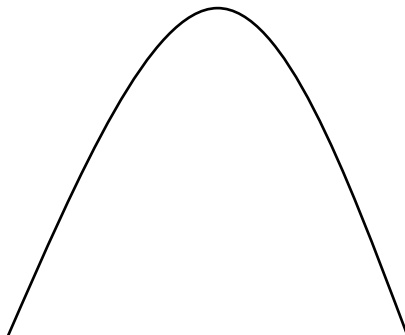
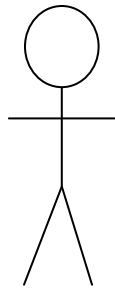
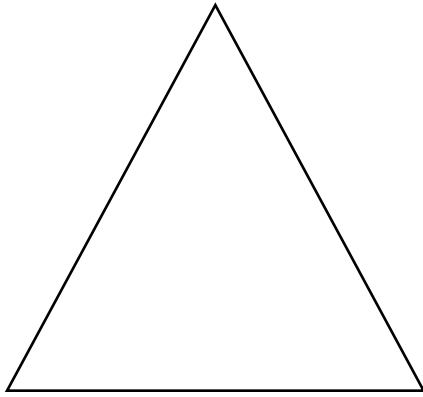
Encourage Maturity – large, small, specialist

Empower Ministry – Teams, Leaders, CARE, and SHAPE

Enable Mission – Prepare for ...
Provide ...
Promote ...

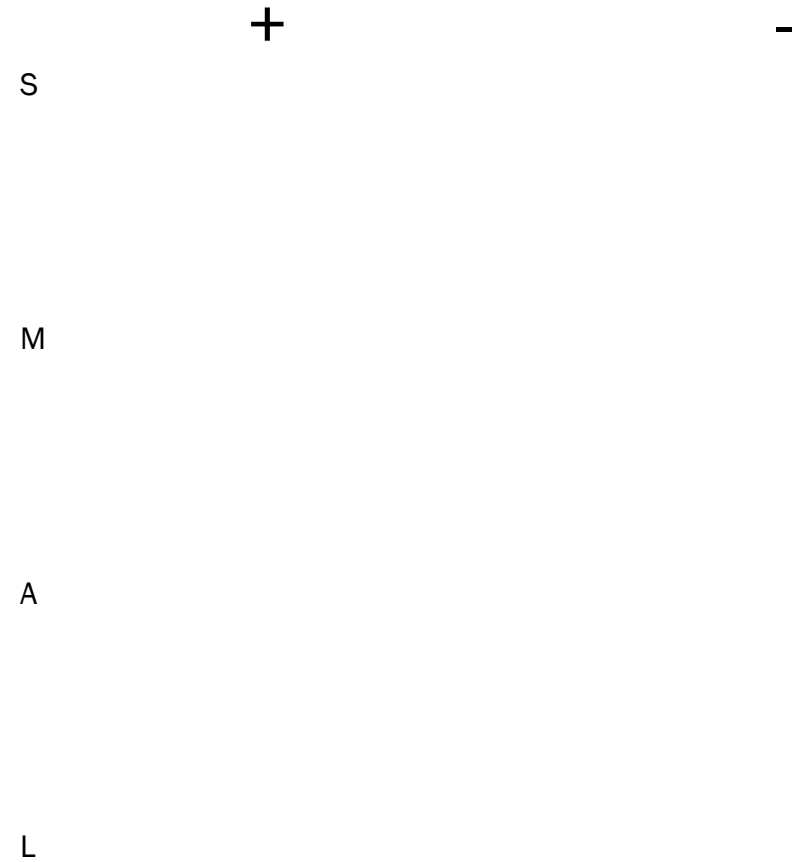
C) Reporting back — common barriers to growth

Three common problems



Session 2

A) SMAL— Churches of four sizes



“One of the most common reasons for pastoral leadership mistakes is blindness to the significance of church size. Size has an enormous impact on how a church functions. There is a “size culture” that profoundly affects how decisions are made, how relationships flow, how effectiveness is evaluated, what its ministers, staff, and lay leaders do. We tend to think of the chief differences between churches mainly in denominational or theological terms, but that underestimates the impact of size on how church operates.”
Tim Keller

B) Discussion — What is stopping your church growing?

First, identify some common barriers to growth that churches in the UK face today

Can you identify particular ones that affect your church?

How aware are your church leaders of these barriers?

How aware are your church members of these barriers?

How do these barriers make you think, feel, and react

Why might you, personally, not tackle barriers to the church growing?

Why might your church not tackle barriers to growing?

How are you attempting to overcome the barriers to growth that you face?

What are some of your success stories in overcoming barriers to growth?

What do you think you have learned so far in your ministry about 'church growth' and all the challenges it presents to you?