

RISING TIDE: Episode Two – Preparing to Plant

“The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for:

- *the numerical growth of the body of Christ in any city, and*
- *the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city.*

Nothing else — not crusades, outreach programs, para-church ministries, growing mega-churches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes — will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting. This is an eyebrow raising statement. But to those who have done any study at all, it is not even controversial.”

Dr. Timothy Keller in “Why Plant Churches?”

1. What were some of the cross-cultural challenges faced by the missionary team?
2. Dan Iverson shares about his struggle with pride and trying to accomplish things in his own strength. What did God use to re-shape his life (2 Cor. 12:9)? How is God trying to re-shape your life for His glory?
3. One of Japan’s cultural values is conformity to the group. How is this value a significant challenge to Japanese people becoming a Christian? How might this also be a unique opportunity for the gospel?
4. What strategy did the Chiba Team use in choosing where to plant new churches? (2 Cor. 15:20-21) Why?
5. What did this strategy require of members of the team? Why was this necessary, but also challenging? Have you ever been tempted to give up on something God has called you to do? Why? What encouragement do you need from the Lord and others to keep going? (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:9)