

FIRE AND GO

Lesson 24: Mission Teams

A Pentecostal-Charismatic Missions Course for African Pastors



THE MYTH OF THE LONE MISSIONARY

THE FICTION:



The isolated, heroic missionary working alone on a distant field.

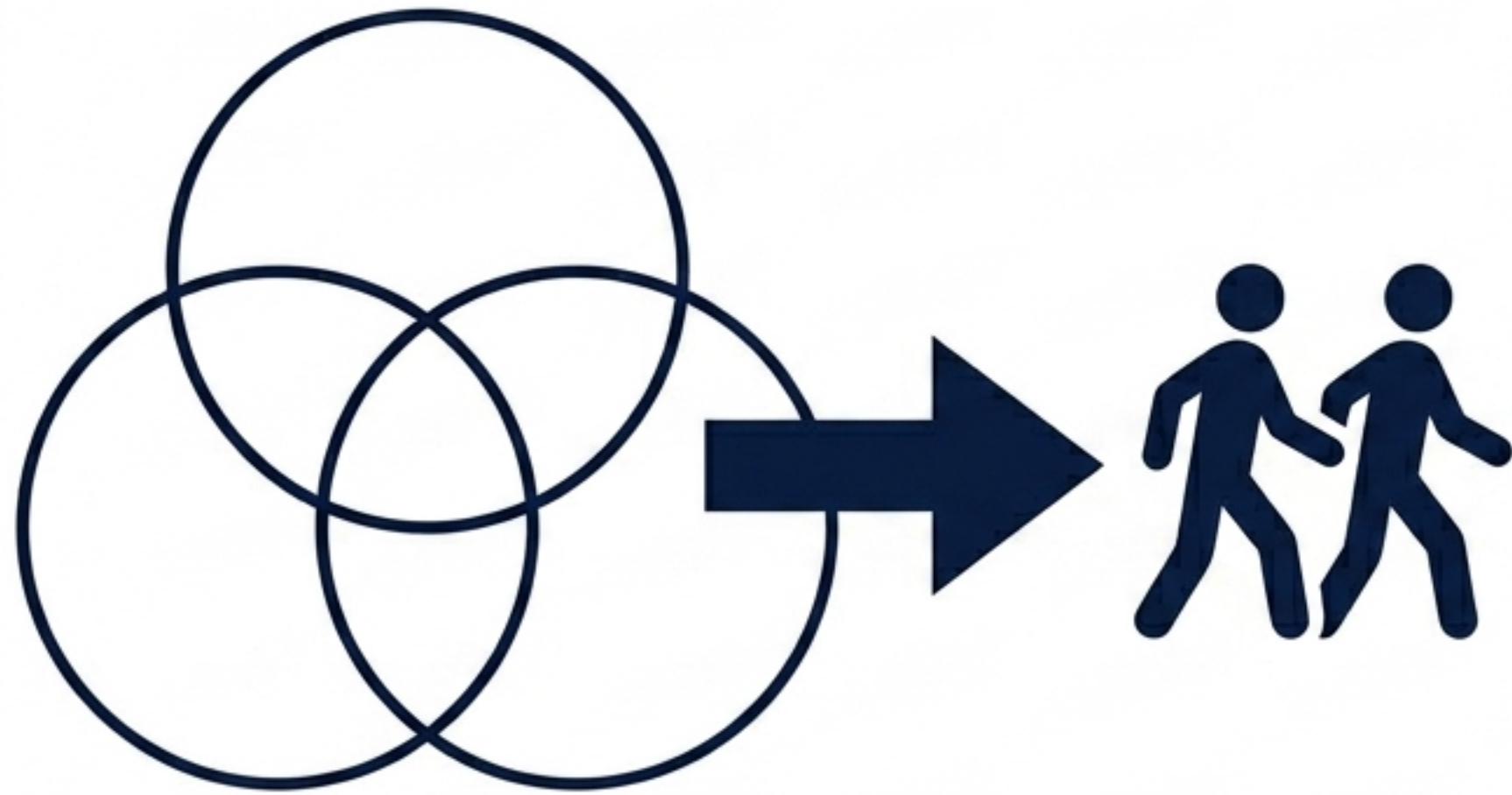
THE BIBLICAL REALITY:



Community. Missions has always been a team activity of called, gifted, and mutually accountable believers.

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD REWARD FOR THEIR LABOUR. — ECCLESIASTES 4:9

THE DIVINE BLUEPRINT FOR TEAMS



Rooted in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working in perfect unity for a redemptive purpose. Human missionary teams reflect this divine community.

Jesus' Strategy: He called the Twelve to form a community. When He deployed them, He sent them two by two (Luke 10:1), never alone.

The “Threefold Cord” Advantage

Mutual Encouragement:
Sustaining morale in harsh environments.

Mutual Accountability:
Guarding character and integrity.



Mutual Protection:
Physical and spiritual safety.

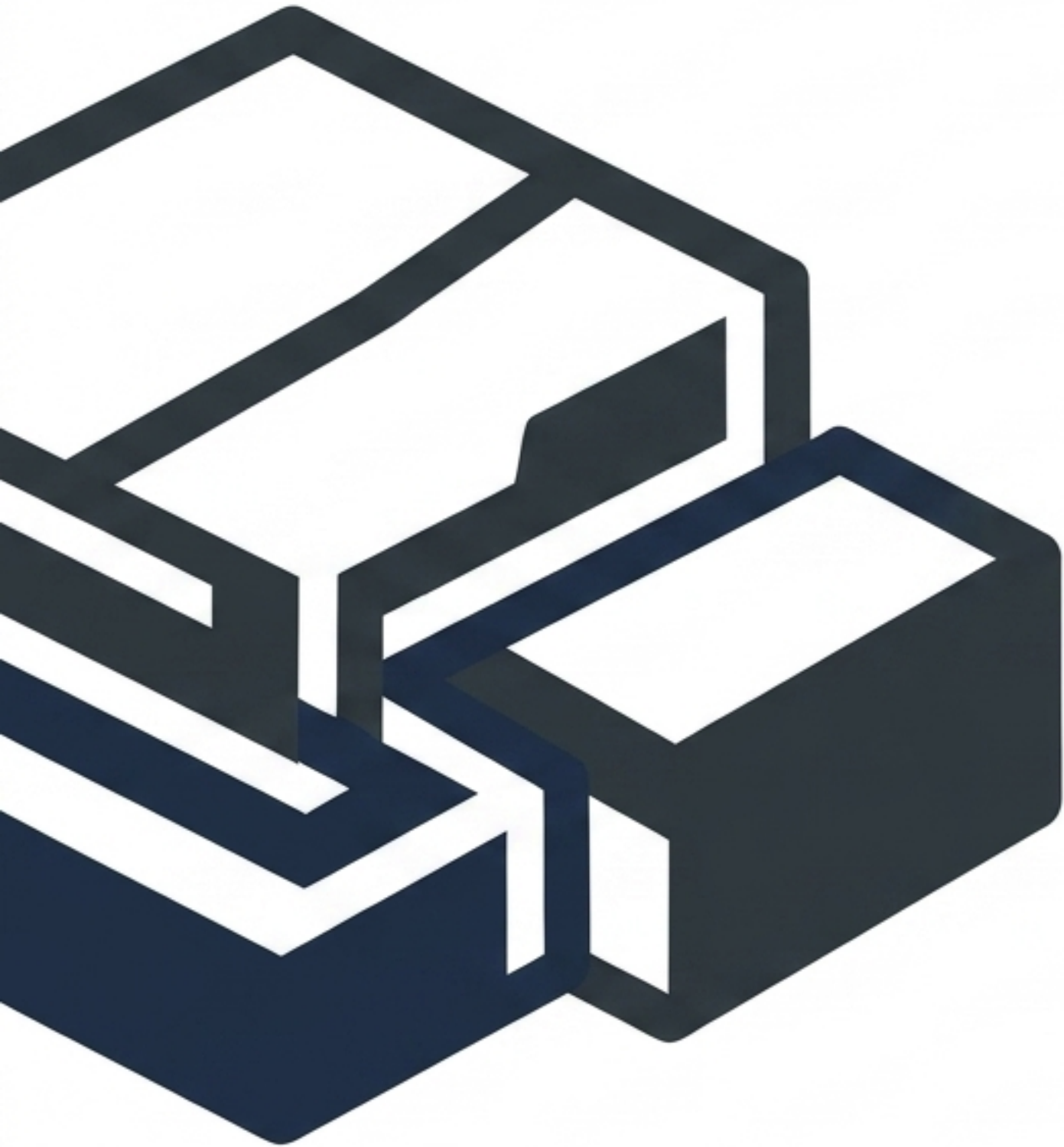
Mutual Correction:
Overcoming blind spots and errors.

Paul's Apostolic Team Architecture

A masterclass in diverse, complementary team building.

Team Member	Unique Contribution to the Mission
Barnabas	Pastoral warmth and the gift of encouragement.
Timothy	Youth, flexibility, and genuine pastoral care.
Luke	Intellectual gifts and communication/recording skills.
Priscilla & Aquila	Business skills, tent-making, and hosting capacity.
Silas	Prophetic gifts and Jewish cultural credibility.

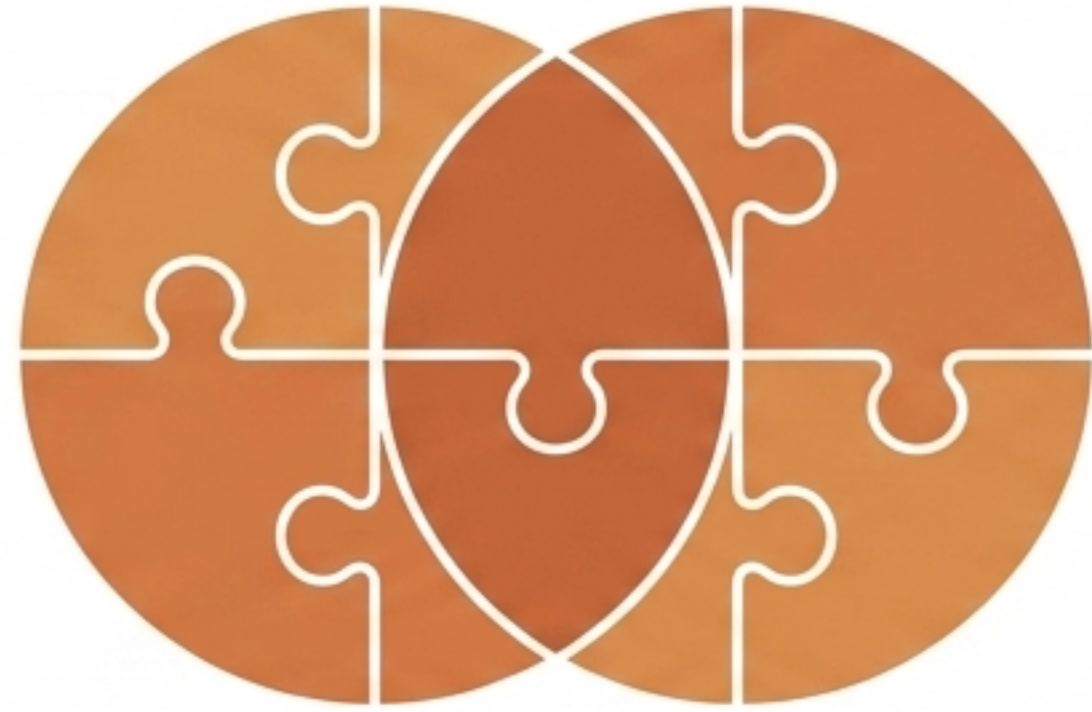
The Non-Negotiables: Call & Character



A Genuine Personal Call: An invitation is not enough. Without a personal call, a team member will not survive the hardships of cross-cultural ministry.

Spiritual Maturity (1 Tim 3): Character matters more than raw gifting. An immature team member will destroy team effectiveness faster than the team can disciple them.

The Strategic Power of Diversity



The Danger of Homogeneity

Teams made of people with the exact same background and gifts share the exact same blind spots.

The Strength of Complementarity

The most resilient African missionary teams intentionally combine different genders, ages, ethnic backgrounds, and spiritual gifts.

Unity of purpose, diversity of perspective.

Readiness for the Field

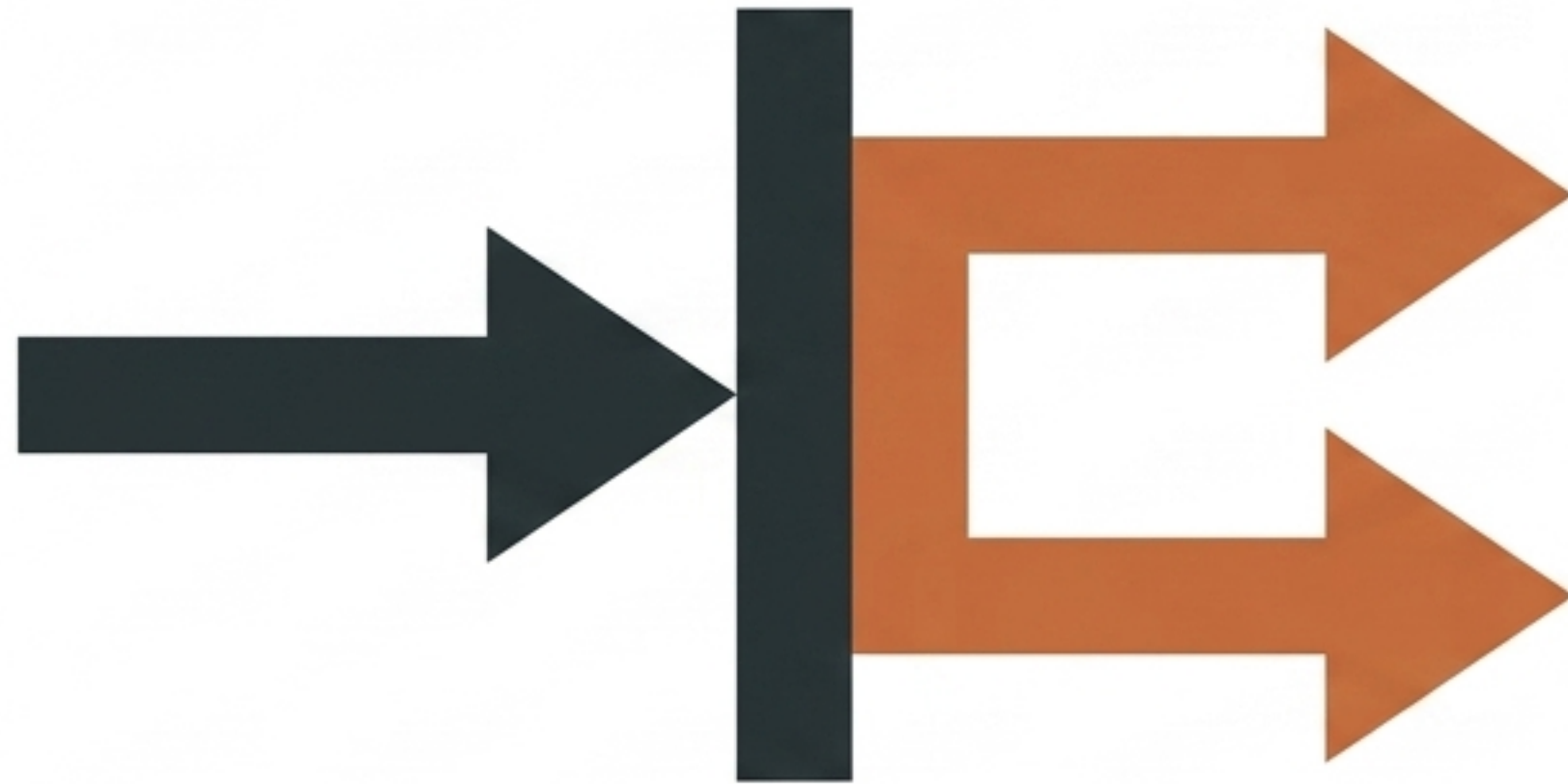
The Antioch Model (Acts 13:3)



Effective teams do not form automatically. They require deep investment before deployment:

- 1. Theological & Cultural Training**
- 2. Language Learning**
- 3. Conflict Resolution Protocols**
- 4. Spiritual Warfare Preparation**

Navigating Inevitable Conflict



The Case Study: Paul and Barnabas over John Mark (Acts 15).

Conflict on teams is inevitable; how it is handled determines the outcome.

The disagreement was sharp, but God redeemed it: Two missionary teams went out instead of one.

Prevention: Regular, honest communication, clear decision-making processes, and a team culture of grace.

Guarding Against Hidden Pressures



Cultural & Personality Clashes: African missionaries from different ethnic backgrounds must actively cultivate cross-cultural understanding within their own team.



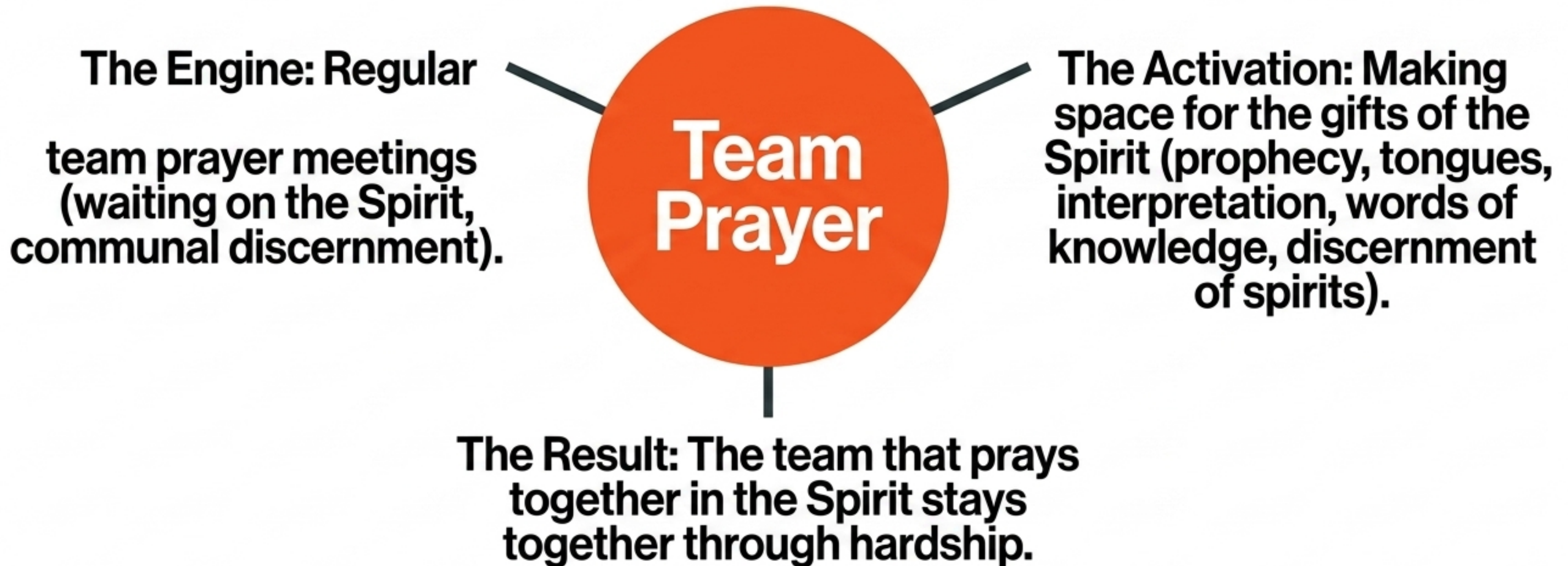
Care for Marriages: Teams must create intentional structures that support, rather than undermine, the marriages of their members.



Third Culture Kids: The children of missionaries face unique identity challenges and require specific pastoral care.

The Spirit-Empowered Team

The Holy Spirit provides spiritual intelligence that human planning cannot match.



Reflection Questions

- 1. Why did Jesus send His disciples out in pairs rather than alone? What does this tell us about the importance of community?**
- 2. What gifts would you bring to a missionary team? What gaps would you need others to fill?**
- 3. How did God redeem the conflict in Acts 15? What conflict-resolution principles can you draw from this?**
- 4. What structures would you put in place to maintain the spiritual and family health of a team you were leading?**



Prayer Focus

Ask God to bring together the right people to form genuinely effective missionary teams from your church and network.

Pray for each person by name whom you believe God may be calling to cross-cultural missions.

Ask the Holy Spirit to gift, equip, and unite these individuals into a team that reflects the diversity and unity of the Body of Christ.

Action Step: Your Acts 13 Moment

Identify 3 to 5 people in your church or network who:

- 1. Have a genuine missionary call.**
- 2. Represent a complementary range of gifts.**

The Action: Invite them to a specific prayer meeting to seek God together about forming a missionary team. Begin in worship, prayer, and fasting, and see what the Holy Spirit says.