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prepared to follow Him. It is an important part of the process to get prepared for a task ahead of us. We are prepared for doing His work and ministry by the process of gathering data or doing research. Thus, it is important to view a research project as a preparation process for the work that God wants you, the ministry, mission or Church to do.

To summarise this part, we are only discovering what God is busy doing (Missio Dei) so that we can take His hand and be part of His plan and not follow our own plan.

Important steps and Elements in a Research Process

The following is just a few aspects and elements that could form part of a research project. Some of these will always be part of any project, other aspects will depend on a project, goal and methodology:

- Home research • Analysis
- Field Research • Questionnaires
- Documentation • Security
- Interpretation • Prayer
- Interviews • Getting others to pray

Is Research Biblical?

God is using information and research principles through all of scripture to reveal Himself and His plan. One example of a specific research project and its results are in Numbers 13 and 14 when the 12 spies were send out by Moses. Luke 1:1-4 describes the research methodology Luke used to write his research report. A number of census operations are recorded in the Old and New Testament. The history of what happened in Ai (Joshua 7 and 8) shows that the facts are not as important as obedience to God.

There is no strategy recorded in scripture that was applied twice by Israel in taking the Promised Land. Every research project, every outreach strategy requires fresh marching orders from our Commander, Jesus Christ that will guide us as He promised in Matt 28:18-20.

Let us be ready to grow in our relationship with God, gather the information required and allow the Father to prepare us for the tasks He

wants us to use for reaching the unreached.

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