

“And the lord said unto the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

Luke 14:23

Step 1 – Come to terms with your present reality.

What am I doing now to reach out to the lost and connect with my community?

How is it working? Are our methods now considered compelling to our community?

Step 2 – Change your perspective of outreach and community.

There is nothing “wrong” with traditional methods, but everything is wrong with being stuck in a rut. Sometimes we can box ourselves in due to a skewed perspective (this is the only way, the community just isn’t interested, we don’t have the help...) We need to think outside the box! Maybe it’s not completely doing away with what you’re doing now, but you may need to switch things up and get a shot in the arm. Would doing something EXTRAVAGANT be worthwhile to reach a lost soul?

How many kids come to your church that aren’t from your community? **CONNECT WITH THE KIDS AND FAMILIES THAT ARE ALREADY COMING AROUND – THEY ARE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY.**

The church is working within the walls of community. The community does not work within the walls of our church. The community is not there for the church. The church is there for the community. Don’t get frustrated or annoyed with the community due to a lack of response. Find something that will work within your community! Learn and become a student of your community to figure out what makes them tic.

Outreach: an act or instance of reaching out. The church’s reason to reach out is to meet the need of a lost world by connecting people to God’s love and truth!

How can I connect with my community? _____

Step 3 – PLAN (Behind the Scenes)

Meetings do have a place in Apostolic ministry, but our meetings-to-action ratio should be balanced. Have a brainstorming session with your staff and highlight specific ideas that may connect most with your community. Make sure you plan details and delegate!

Events (complex or simple), VBS, promos and rewards, emphasizing to the community the great things about your Kids Ministry you're already doing, and getting your Sunday School kids involved in outreach are just a few ideas to reach out and connect with your community.

How will we promote this event? Do we have a budget to work with? What will be the staff requirements? WHEN and WHERE is this going to take place? Who will commit to taking care of certain key components? If printed or digital promotional materials are necessary, who's going to take care of it (have someone proofread the flyer before publication)? Consider safety and security. Realize your limitations, but think out of the box of how to get it done. Give deadlines!

Start Brainstorming: _____

Step 4 – EXECUTE, COMMIT!

Promoting the event is part of the actual event, not separate from it. Facebook Ads, posters around town, personal evangelism challenges, and banners are just a few ideas to reach out to your community. Be passionate and genuine! Make sure the people are the focus and not the details of the event. Be prepared enough to give yourself to the people more so than the event. Stir up excitement with the general assembly of your church. Be patient and let God use your efforts! Make sure you're "delivering the goods." Be ready to shift at any given moment (staff changes, weather conditions, unexpected numbers, etc.)