

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acts of Kindness and Servant Evangelism Ideas

Community Assessment & Impact

Disciple-Making Ministries

D-Group Resources

Discipleship-Making Resources

Impacting Your Community: BLOCK PARTY

In-Reach Ministry Plan for Churches

Outreach and In-Reach Ministry for Churches

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

Acts of Kindness and Servant Evangelism Ideas

Think about who is in your community. How can you connect with them to express appreciation? How can you demonstrate Christian compassion and concern? The ideas below are meant to help you impact your community with the love of Christ. Be Creative!

City & School Employees

- Giveaway full size candy bars with scripture labels to court house workers, law enforcement office workers or law enforcement, city employees, firemen, etc.
- Bake cookies or make fruit trays for city workers or teacher's lounges in public schools . . . attach a card of appreciation, prayer and encouragement.
- Volunteer to read to elementary and kindergarten students.
- Volunteer to tutor at local schools or offer after school tutoring or homework help at your church.
- Surprise your mail carrier with a pound cake, batch of brownies, etc. with a note of encouragement and appreciation. Let them know you are praying for them.
- Offer your garbage collector a cold can drink or bottle of water...maybe a snack, attach scriptures or a note of encouragement and appreciation, let them know you are praying for them.

Community Outreach

- Go door to door offering to change light bulbs or just hand out light bulbs with scriptures on them...such as Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Light...or Jesus is the Light of the world, etc.
- Wash windshields in parking lots and place tracts from your church...with a note saying "washed with love by:"
- Take a welcome basket to a new family in the neighborhood...filled with drinks, snacks, recipes, numbers and addresses to nearest library, hospitals, clinics, post office, utilities, and your local church.
- Prayer Walk your neighborhood picking up trash.
- Have bottled water give-a-ways with scriptures at sporting events.
- Host a block party.
- Make Christian/Scripture bookmarks for a local library.

Medical Facilities

- Take laundry supplies to a medical facility that offers laundry services to families with very ill or terminally ill loved ones.
- Take goody trays to nurse's stations at nursing homes, hospitals or ambulance services.
- Make snack bags or baskets for families in the ICU or CCU waiting rooms at area hospitals...go in and ask permission with each family to pray for their loved one and then give them the snacks for their long stays in the waiting rooms.

(continued on following page)

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

- Take balloons with stickers and scriptures to children's hospitals. Also . . . many hospitals would love for you to collect character stickers for the children's wing.
- Take Christian literature to doctor's offices and hospitals.

Senior Adults/Nursing Homes

- Offer to wash house windows for senior adults.
- Clean yards/plant flowers for senior adults.
- Take a casserole to a senior adult who is sick.
- Host a nursing home birthday party.
- Offer to do hair and nails at nursing homes.
- Offer to take someone to the doctor or store.
- Go to the nursing home and take bananas with scriptures attached . . . sing, pray or just visit with residents.

Single Moms & Needy Families

- Offer oil changes, tire checks, check fluid levels, etc...at your church for and single mothers.
- Offer a hospitality/changing station for mothers at local fairs, craft shows and festivals.
- Offer a parents night out . . . free of charge.
- Make a birthday party kit for single moms. (ex: cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, balloons, etc . . .)
- Take a laundry basket of cleanings supplies to a needy family. (ex: paper products, detergent, dish liquid, cleaners, etc . . .)
- Offer a free yard sale.
- Set up a coloring station for young children to color Bible story pictures at a local laundry mat.

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

Community Assessment & Impact

1. Your church staff can contact Johnny Ervin, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3224 and request the demographics for your community.
2. Conduct an opportunity survey. Do any of the following live in your community?

OPPORTUNITY SURVEY

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Single moms and dads | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Internationals/Non-English speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. School children | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Terminally ill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Homeless, hungry, unemployed, street people | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Physically handicapped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Singles (previously married, never married) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Seasonal workers (agriculture, ranching, industry, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Students | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Seasonal Residents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Senior citizens | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Tourists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Sports activities (football, soccer, baseball) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Cult members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Deaf, hearing-impaired | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Mentally impaired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Blind, sight-impaired | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Substance abusers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Illiterate | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Teen runaways |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Newlyweds/young marrieds |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. Other |

2. Conduct a special needs survey in your church and community. What are the needs?

SPECIAL NEEDS IN MY CHURCH AND/OR COMMUNITY ARE:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Unsupervised children after school/during school vacations | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Influx of newcomers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Homeless, street people | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Seasonal residents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Increase in teen pregnancies | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Substandard housing for the poor or senior citizens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Large group of singles | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Tutoring children, youth, or adults helping internationals to learn English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. City, community, or county events (fairs, rodeos, celebrations, special days) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. International students, businessmen, tourists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Shelter home, halfway house, women's shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Resort areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Baptist Student Center | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Leadership development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Weather-related natural disasters (earthquake, flood, fire, hurricane, tornado, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Other (explain) |

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

4. Now that you've thought about the people and needs in your community, conduct a site survey to determine where they live.

SITE SURVEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Apartment complexes | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Pediatricians' offices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. School/college campuses | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Day-care centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Homeless, hospices | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Juvenile detention centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Training centers | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. County/city jails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Shopping centers, malls | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Retirement homes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. City parks, recreation centers | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Adult care centers, nursing homes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Ethnic grocery stores | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Rehabilitation centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Resort areas, national or state parks | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Next-door neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Farms, ranches, packing plants, shearing sheds, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. City streets, under bridges, in vacant buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Mobile-home parks, trailer parks | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Laudromats | |

5. Conduct a church survey to discover the interest of your church members.

CHURCH MEMBER SURVEY

People in my church are, or might be interested in:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Volunteer missions projects | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Children & youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Literacy Missions Ministries
ex: ESL, ARW, CBS | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Social issues (abortion,
substance abuse, child/spouse
abuse, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Reaching the unreached | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Ministering to women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Caring for physical, emotional,
intellectual needs | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Community involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Praying for/giving to missions | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Ministering to men |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fellowship-building activities | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Ministering to students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. World hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Ministering to the military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Homeless persons/poverty issues | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Other (explain) |

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

6. Link your church members' interests to needs in your community. Determine how you will minister. Put a plan together. Use this list to guide you.

ACTION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Get it on the calendar | _____ 3. Gather resources |
| _____ Church | _____ 4. Make assignments |
| _____ Organization | _____ 5. Enlist participants |
| _____ Personal | _____ 6. Evaluate results |
| _____ 2. Budget adequate funds | |

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

DISCIPLE-MAKING MINISTRIES D-GROUP RESOURCES



DiscipleFirst

Mission/Vision: DiscipleFirst exists to empower church leaders to live, lead, and leverage their influence to ignite movements of multiplication. We succeed when churches develop a disciple-making culture, thus returning the local church back to its original purpose of making disciples who make disciples.

Founder: Craig Etheredge, Lead Pastor – FBC Colleyville, TX

Beliefs: <https://disciplefirst.com/about/who-we-are/?v=7516fd43adaa>



D-Life

Mission/Vision: D-Life is a simple, biblical, and reproducible process for equipping every believer for a lifestyle of disciple-making.

Founder: Bill Wilks, Lead Pastor – Northpark Baptist Church, AL

Beliefs: <https://nponline.org/beliefs>

For assistance with Disciple-Making Resources, contact Dwayne Parker at 601-292-3289 or email dparker@mbcb.org, Discipleship/Sunday School.

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING



Impact Ministries

Mission/Vision: Impact Discipleship Ministries exist to inspire people and churches to be and build disciples of Jesus Christ. We accomplish our mission by helping people explore the concepts of disciple-making, by educating people and churches in the principles of disciple-making, by assisting people and churches to establish disciple-making movements, and by engaging individuals and churches in developing movements of multiplication.

Founder: Ken Adams, Pastor – Crossroads Church, GA

Beliefs: www.crossroadsonline.org/baptism



Replicate

Mission/Vision: Replicate Ministries exist to equip the local church to make disciples that make disciple-makers. We do this by providing a simple, effective discipleship plan for your home, group, and church.

Founder: Robby Gallaty, Senior Pastor – Longhollow Baptist, TN

Beliefs: <https://longhollow.com/about/beliefs>

For assistance with Disciple-Making Resources, contact Dwayne Parker at 601-292-3289 or email dparker@mbcb.org, Discipleship/Sunday School.

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

DISCIPLE-MAKING RESOURCES

BOOKS

Deep Discipleship | J.T. English
DiscipleShift | Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington
Inviting Along | Jason C. Dukes
Real-Life Discipleship | Jim Putman
Rediscovering Discipleship | Robby Gallaty
The Disciple-Making Parent | Chap Bettis

DISCIPLE-MAKING STRATEGY/D-GROUP MATERIALS

Disciple First | disciplefirst.com
Disciple Life | livingthelife.com
Impact Ministries | <https://impactdisciples.com/>
Replicate Ministries | replicate.org

OTHER ONLINE HELPS

discipleshippathwayassessment.com
discipleship.org
navigators.org
noplacelleft.net/four-fields
rdn1.com
seeingjesustogether.com

PODCAST

The Disciple Maker's Podcast

*For assistance with Disciple-Making Resources, contact Dwayne Parker at 601-292-3289
or email dparker@mbcb.org, Discipleship/Sunday School.*

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

Impacting Your Community: BLOCK PARTY

Block parties can create unique ways to meet people and build relationships in your community. Block parties can be large or small and can happen in a variety of settings.

Below are a few things to consider in planning a Block Party (BP):

Purpose: Start planning a BP by first prayerfully considering your purpose. Knowing your purpose makes decisions easier and helps to evaluate the success of your event. Whether you are doing a fundraiser, trying to register children for VBS, introducing your church to the community or creating opportunities for evangelism . . . knowing your purpose is an essential first step.

Planning Team: The size of the team depends on the size of the event. While smaller events can be planned by 2-4 people, larger events may need 6-8 people. Responsibilities of team members may include: team leader, publicity, food, games, prizes, entertainment, security, evangelism, enlistment of volunteers, baby care stations, city logistics, prayerwalking and etc...

Budget: At your first planning meeting, you need to determine the budget for your BP. Think creatively about resources that may be available to you in the community . . . a fire truck from your local fire department may not cost you money and children enjoy meeting firemen (policemen or military). Are you going to charge anything for attendance, food, etc . . . ?

Date, Time, Location: The date, time and location of a BP should be determined based on your purpose. To avoid competing events, collect as many calendars as you can (schools, local community, church). For your purpose, is the BP better situated at a local park or your church parking lot?

Logistics: Consider the logistics for your event. Do you need permits, special event insurance, security, lights, electricity, garbage cleanup, etc . . .

Promotion: How will you promote your BP? Create any flyers, signage, social media items. Determine a timeline for publicity. What is the best approach for communicating with your target audience?

Registration: Purpose can help you know what type of registration process you need. The registration area needs to be easy to find and quick. Be creative and make registration a fun part of the event. Ex: use the registration cards for door prizes.

Games & Attractions: Determine the space you will have for games. How many games will you need? Based on your purpose and target audience, you may need games for *(continued on following page)*

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

multi-age groups (preschool, children, youth, senior adults). What kind of prizes will you give away (candy, small toys from Oriental Trading...)? There are lots of games that can be created using household items and easy on the budget. Ex: treasure hunt in a bucket, go fishing with a clothespin, string, stick and blanket Be creative! In addition to games, what other attractions may be available to you? Inflatables, petting zoo, horses, tractor, etc...

Entertainment: Will you be including entertainment? Speakers, Testimonies, Ministry Spotlights, Music, Clowns, Puppets, Local School Bands, Singing Groups, Flag Core, etc...

Food: Keep your purpose in mind when deciding on food. Hotdogs may be just right, but people can easily walk around with them. If you want to talk to people (whether to get to know them or to share Christ with them) you need them to sit down. A flimsy paper plate with messy spaghetti or red beans & rice may be the right choice!

Equipment: Make a checklist of all the equipment you will need. Ex: tables, chairs, sound system, garbage cans...

Volunteers: Enlist and train volunteers as needed. Ex: if sharing Jesus is your purpose, train volunteers how to share their faith in the context of the BP.

Follow-up/Evaluation: How will you follow-up on contacts/decisions made during the BP? Take time to evaluate the event. What are the take-a-ways from the event (what did/didn't work)? THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED . . . CELEBRATE!

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

In-Reach Ministry Plan for Churches

A vital part of ministry in our churches that leaders need to consistently be involved with is "In-Reach." Outreach is ministry seeking to reach out to people outside of the church in our community in evangelism and ministry to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In-reach is the process of consistently identifying and staying in touch with members of our church family to ensure they are remaining active in growing in their faith and serving in God's Kingdom through the ministries of the church. This has especially become a very important activity for churches to engage in after the impact of COVID on our churches since too many people have become disconnected from their churches or physical church involvement. To effectively and steadily conduct this ministry, churches and leaders need a simple plan and strategy, such as this suggested process:

- In-reach ministry is a concerted, intentional effort to stay connected with or reconnect with the current members on our church rolls or small group/Sunday School ministry group rolls.
- First, get your current church resident membership roll or small group/Sunday School ministry group rolls and sit down and do a thoughtful review of this list noting the people who are "actively" engaged in the church and those who are not. For this effort, you may need some assistance and help from those who know the church and community well.
- Make an organized list of those who are not actively involved in the life and ministry of the church, either in age-group divisions, alphabetic order, or geographic locations.
- Make sure to do the same activity with your Sunday School/small group ministry group rolls, producing unique in-reach lists for these groups so those classes and groups can lead and assist the in-reach effort to those on their rolls.
- Organize your in-reach effort of contacting these people and families and ministering to them seeking to get them reconnected with spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry in the life of the church.
- You may organize this in-reach effort utilizing church staff and deacon family ministry groups or assignments; Sunday School/small group ministry group efforts; geographic locations; personal relationships; and fellowships.
- This can be done as an effort of the ministers and deacons; Sunday School/small group ministry group teachers and leaders, church outreach team, a church-wide ministry focus, or a combination of all of these possibilities.
- It is really important that an initial contact with these individuals be done through a personal visit or contact.
- When the in-reach visit is made, make sure:
 - 1) to let them know how much the church has missed them, loves them, and is concerned about them, and let them know that is the motivation for the visit;

(continued on following page)

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

- 2) spend personal time with them asking how they are doing and seeking to rebuild and reengage a loving fellowship and friendship with them;
- 3) ask them if there is anything wrong or any concerns they have that has led them to not attend church; and be ready to hear and lovingly minister to any concerns, anger, frustrations, or confessions they may share.
- What might we hear? How should we respond?
 - 1) they are mad about something;
 - 2) they feelings were hurt about an issue;
 - 3) there is a strained relationship with someone in the church;
 - 4) there have fears and concerns after COVID about being in crowds, maybe due to a health issue;
 - 5) they have become spiritually lazy apathetic, or disconnected from church;
 - 6) they enjoy simply watching the church livestream and worshipping from home;
 - 7) they have connected with and started attending another church;
 - 8) they have spiritual problems or doubts related to true salvation in and submission to Christ as Lord; and others?
- If they share any of these issues, be ready and loving to minister to their need or issue to show them you care about them and your eagerness to have them come back and get involved in spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry through the life of the church.
- Make sure as you conclude to:
 - 1) thank them for the chance to visit with them;
 - 2) share with them the love of the church for them and their family;
 - 3) let them know you would love for them to come back to church and reengage in spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry with the church family again; and share a time of prayer with them for issues and needs related to their family.
- You may want to consider making definite plans for them to come back to church by agreeing to pick them and bring them to church; or meet them at the church and sit with them in Sunday School/small group/ministry group and worship; and take them out to lunch after church.
- After this initial personal visit, use various means to stay in touch with them to encourage and minister to them, including phone/Facetime calls, emails, text messages, cards and letters, return visits, and ensuring they are receiving publicity and information materials from the church, both digital and physical.
- Continue to develop a growing friendship with them in life and church, and minister to them in personal needs or issues and in spiritual decisions, commitments, growth, and ministry.

For assistance with In-Reach Ministry Plan for Churches, contact John Pace at 601-292-3308 or email jpace@mbcb.org, Leadership.

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

Outreach and In-Reach Ministry for Churches

1. In-Reach Ministry

- In-reach ministry is a concerted, intentional effort to stay connected with or reconnect with the current members on our church rolls or small group/Sunday School ministry group rolls.
- **This has become a very important activity to engage in especially after the impact of COVID on our churches since too many people have become disconnected from their churches or physical church involvement.**
- First, get your current church membership roll (resident) and sit down and do a thoughtful review of this list noting the people who are "actively" engaged in the church and those who are not. For this effort, you may need some assistance and help from those who know the church and community real well.
- Make an organized list of those who are not actively involved in the life and ministry of the church, either in alphabetic order, age-group divisions, or geographic locations.
- Do the same activity with your Sunday School/small group/ministry group rolls, producing unique in-reach lists for these groups so preferably those classes and groups leading the in-reach effort to those on their roll.
- Then organize your in-reach effort of contacting these people and families and ministering to them seeking to get them reconnected with spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry in the life of the church.
- You may organize this in-reach effort utilizing church staff and deacon family ministry groups or assignments; Sunday School/small group/ ministry group efforts; geographic locations; personal relationships and fellowships.
- This can be done as an effort of the ministers and deacons; Sunday School/small group ministry group teachers and leaders, church outreach team, a church-wide ministry focus, or a combination of all of these possibilities.
- It is really important that an initial contact with these individuals be done through a personal visit, making sure to follow any COVID contact protocols or concerns currently in place, either by the CDC, the church, or the individual being visited.
- When the in-reach visit is made, make sure 1) to let them know how much the church has missed them, loves them, and is concerned about them, and that is the motivation for the visit; 2) spend personal time with them asking how they are doing and seeking to rebuild and reengage a loving fellowship and friendship with them; 3) ask them if there is anything wrong or any concerns they have that has led them to not attend church; 4) be ready to hear and lovingly minister to any concerns, anger, frustrations, or confessions they may share.
- What might we hear? How should we respond? 1) they are mad about something; 2) they feelings were hurt about an issue; 3) there is a strained relationship with someone in the church; 4) they have fears and concerns after COVID about being

(continued on following page)

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

in crowds, maybe due to a health issue; 5) they have become spiritually lazy or apathetic, or disconnected from church; 6) they enjoy simply watching the church livestream and worshipping from home; 7) they have connected with and started attending another church; 8) they have spiritual problems or doubts related to true salvation in Christ 9) others?

- If they share any of these issues, be ready and committed to minister to their need or issue to show them you care about them and your eagerness to have them come back and get involved in spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry through the life of the church.
- Make sure as you conclude to thank them for the chance to visit with them; share with them the love of the church for them and their family; let them know you would love for them to come back to church and reengage in spiritual growth, fellowship, and ministry with the church family again; and share a time of prayer with them for issues and needs related to their family.
- You may want to consider making definite plans for them to come back to church by agreeing to pick them and bring them to church; or meet them at the church and sit with them in Sunday School/small group/ministry group and worship; and take them out to lunch after church.
- After this initial personal visit, use various means to stay in touch with them to encourage and minister to them, including phone/Facetime calls, text messages, cards and letters, return visits, and ensuring they are receiving publicity and information materials from the church, both digital and physical.
- Continue to develop a growing friendship with them in life and church, and minister to them in personal needs or issues and in spiritual decisions, commitments, growth, and ministry.

2. Outreach Ministry

- Outreach ministry (evangelism) is the activity of faith where Christians seek in daily life and through ministry of the church to follow and obey the Spirit's conviction to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our testimony to family, friends, and divine encounters in an effort to lead them to surrender in repentance, faith, and Lordship to Jesus Christ and become a Christian.
- All Christians should faithfully invite people they encounter who are unsaved or unchurched to come to church with them. A recent survey found that 82 percent of people who are not involved in a church said they would be **LIKELY** to attend church if invited by a friend.
- Make sure the church is keeping an updated record of the names and contact information of people the church discovers who are not saved or are not actively involved in a church.
- Group these contact records in age-group categories.
- Make sure to encourage and receive guest/information cards in worship, classes,

(continued on following page)

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

- events, and personal contact by church staff, deacons, and members, and record these names in the outreach contact lists as soon as possible.
- Make these lists available monthly or quarterly to church ministers, deacons, and Sunday School/small group ministry group classes and organize and encourage them to do their own outreach to these people.
- Train your church family regularly through some method on how to be more effective, informed, and consistent in sharing their faith in daily life and through the ministry of the church. (See the evangelism training model at the end of this document, or use another training plan, such as FAITH Witness Training, Evangelism Explosion, Christian Witness Training, etc.)
- Provide regular times of outreach visitation for the church, and consider and plan events throughout the year designed to reach people for Christ and discover new people that the church needs to minister to with the love and Gospel of Christ.
- At special events at the church and community, set up tables where church people can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people, and hand them free Biblical and spiritual resources.

Sharing My Faith in Christ – Witness Training

1. The Biblical Command and Call to Witnessing

- **Matthew 28:16-20** – The Great Commission – Expects disciples to witness “as you go” and trust that God is with us to empower us.
- **Acts 1:8** – When you receive the Holy Spirit, you WILL be a witness.
- **Ezekiel 33:7-9** – We are a “watchman” to those in our lives, responsible for them and to God to share His Word and warning.
- **Mark 1:17** – Jesus called disciples to be “fishers of men” not keepers of the aquarium.
- **John 1:35-42** – Follow Andrew’s example – Disciples are burdened to share Jesus with those who do not know Him.
- **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** – Power is in God and His message, not the messenger.
- **Luke 19:10** – Jesus’ mission statement; should be our devotion as His disciples as well.

2. Common Myths and Excuses of Failure in Witnessing

- **Fear, too scared** – Wrong focus, have faith in God’s power.
- **Witnessing is not my spiritual gift** – Witnessing is a command for all Christians, even though some do have a unique ability.
- **Don’t know what to say** – If saved, testimony; share simple Gospel; trust the Holy Spirit’s power and equipping.
- **Don’t know any lost people** – Not honest and intentionally looking.
- **Don’t like failure or rejection** – If faithful, we are not a failure because we either

(continued on following page)

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

(continued from previous page)

plant, water, or harvest; if we are faithful to serve in witnessing, we are a success; Jesus said expect to be rejected, but don't be discouraged.

- **People don't want to hear** – NO, people are looking for answers.

3. Correct Spiritual Attitudes and Commitments of a Christian Disciple and Witness

- **Prayer** – For a spiritual burden to be a witness; for opportunities; to be alert to chances; for our obedience; for God's power, boldness, and wisdom in sharing; for the saving work of the Holy Spirit in our encounters; victory over our personal fears and weaknesses; for specific unsaved/unchurched people and their brokenness unto salvation; for them to make a decision of salvation, for the binding and defeat of Satan over his attempts to discourage.
- **Intentional commitment to witness and awareness of opportunities** – anticipate and respond in obedience.
- **Be willing and excited to do our part as a witness** – Whether it is planting the Gospel, watering the Gospel to greater conviction, or harvesting by leading people to faith in Christ.
- **Readiness to be obedient** – Don't doubt and reject.
- **Total trust and faith** – In God's power, will, and equipping.
- **Be Christ-like in daily living** – If we are not living for Christ and loving others in our life, people will not respect or listen to our verbal witness.
- **Be loving in ministry to others** – May need to meet a physical/personal need first to have the opportunity to share Christ.
- **Always invite to church, but be bold to share Christ** – Seek spiritual decisions as priority.
- **Always be praying and growing spiritually in boldness, knowledge, ability, and effectiveness** – have regular witness training as part of church discipleship.
- **Know that the Holy Spirit has preceded us** – In the witnessing encounter, and is working for God's will in the encounter.
- **Witnessing experiences are usually better than one imagines** – expect a blessing and reject pessimism.

4. Develop a Life Strategy for Witnessing

- **Lifestyle witnessing** – "As you go" look for the opportunities, be ready for divine spontaneous encounters, involve yourself in contexts for witnessing (Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, Paul, and Agrippa).
- **Relational witnessing** – Look at existing relationships, build relationships through work, school, neighborhood, family, etc.
- **Assignment witnessing** – Through church and small groups evangelism, keep outreach lists (Annanias to Saul).
- **Resource witnessing** – Use your personal blessings and spiritual gifts and blessings as an opportunity to open doors and witnesses.

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

5. The Power and Importance of Our Personal Testimony

- **DEFINITION:** Each person's account of their experience of new life in Jesus Christ.
- A genuine, concise personal testimony is a vital and powerful part of being an effective witness.
- **Why is a personal testimony so important?** It has authority (see what Jesus has done in our life); it communicates (practical truth); and it relates (to people's personal lives).
- **The three sections of a good personal testimony** – My life before commitment to Christ; the details of when I trusted Jesus as my personal Savior and Lord; and the blessed difference that Jesus made in my life.
- It doesn't have to be a "Damascus Road" experience to be effective.
- **Guidelines for an effective testimony** – Keep short and simple; stay on point; avoid focusing on self; don't use "churchy" or unclear words; relive it as you tell it; look for opportunities to share and use.
- All Christians should have a testimony to share! If not, then we have a spiritual problem or need to confront.

6. Guiding a Conversation to a Gospel Conversation and Presentation

- A simple plan to lead conversations to an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people. The plan helps to develop a friendship, greater understand of a person's personal and spiritual situation, and provide a smooth transition into a Gospel presentation.
- Remember the acrostic **"FIRE"**.
- **FAMILY** – Find out about their family situation and background; transition question – "Do you have any special interests or hobbies?"
- **INTERESTS** – Engage in a conversation about their personal interests and activities; in the midst of this discussion, transition question – "Do you attend church anywhere? Where do you attend church?"
- **RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE** – Find out who they are where they are spiritually in relation to Christ and His Word; may be a good time to share your personal testimony. ("Thank you for sharing your experience with me, my spiritual experience is . . ."; transition question – "Can I talk to you about something spiritual and very important?")
- **EXPLORATORY QUESTION** – Two possibilities: "Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain that you have eternal life in Jesus and that you will go to Heaven when you die?" OR "Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, 'Why I should let you into Heaven?', what would you say?"
- **TRANSITION TO THE PRESENTATION** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – "Can I share with you what the Bible teaches about how we receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?"

RESOURCES FOR REACHING & DISCIPLING

7. The Presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Four things that people need to hear and understand theologically and respond in faith – “Eternal Life” tract (North American Mission Board) is a good resource help.
- **FIRST**, God has a **PURPOSE** for all of our lives – abundant life and eternal life.
- **SECOND**, But we all have a serious **PROBLEM** – our fallen sin nature and our resulting separation from God.
- **THIRD**, The Good News is that God made **PROVISION**, gave the solution to our sin problem – sent Jesus into the world to redeem us.
- **LASTLY**, to receive His salvation and become a Christian we must make a **PROPER** response to Jesus – **repentance, faith, and surrender to the Lordship of Christ.**
- At the end of the conversation, “draw the nets” and encourage them to respond in faith to Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
- Three key questions and discussions in concluding the Gospel presentation: “Does what you heard make sense to you; anything you do not understand?”; “Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God’s gift of salvation and eternal life in Christ?”; and “Are you ready now to place your faith in Jesus and surrender to Him as Savior and Lord?”
- Responding to possible reactions: YES; no; uncertainty.
- **PRAY** for salvation for those who resist or reject.
- **DISCIPLE** those who place faith in Christ – baptism, church, small groups, encouragement, spiritual growth.