



# A FEW CHANGES MIGHT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

COULD YOU TRY A FEW SMALL CHANGES IN EACH AREA OF YOUR CHURCH  
MINISTRY?

# WORSHIP

- ▶ Email the scripture you will be preaching on every week and ask the members to read the verses before they come on Sunday. Either email or put on your website at least 3 discussion questions to go with your sermon and ask families to discuss the questions at home after the sermon.
- ▶ If not every Sunday, see how many Sundays you can have a staff member, deacon, teacher or church member share a 1 or 2 minute testimony in the worship service.
- ▶ Recruit at least 5 greeters to walk around inside the sanctuary and have conversations with people before and after the service.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ▶ Have every class sit in a circle. It increases communication.
- ▶ Have every class choose a couple of teachers-in-training and let them practice.
- ▶ Ask every class member to read the scripture verses (not the book) before they come on Sunday and be ready to discuss what they learned at the beginning of class before the teacher “teaches”. From their reading, ask the class members to share “What did you learn about God?” “What did you learn about people?”
- ▶ Have every class plan a social every month and invite friends & family.
- ▶ Use your 5-10 discussion questions from the lesson at the end of the hour and break your class into small groups of 4-6 people to discuss them.
- ▶ The SS hour would look like this – Sharing about what they read (10 min), teacher teaching (20 min), small groups using the discussion questions (15 min), prayer (5-10 min).

# SMALL GROUPS IN HOMES

- ▶ See if you can start a new Support Group this year – DivorceCare, GriefCare, a cancer support group, an addiction group, a group for people with depression, a group for unemployed, mothers with preschoolers, single Moms, a senior adult exercise group, etc.
- ▶ See if you can choose 10 leaders who will go recruit 2 people to be in their small group (men with men, women with women) who are willing to meet every week or every other week for a year. They would do a Bible study workbook or read through a book of the Bible and talk about what they learned each week, pray and do life together.
- ▶ See if you can start a few small groups who would use about 10 discussion questions each week to discuss the sermon from last Sunday.

# DEACONS

- ▶ Give every deacon a book about ministry or leadership to read and discuss a chapter at every deacon meeting once a month.
- ▶ Choose 10 scripture verses on Salvation for the deacons and staff to memorize. Practice saying the verses to one another each month.
- ▶ Give each deacon a list of 10 church families and ask them to call three families each month and visit one family and tell about their contacts at the monthly deacon meeting.
- ▶ Take turns and have a different person each month share a testimony in the deacon meeting either about their salvation or what they have been learning in their spiritual journey.

# CHURCH STAFF

- ▶ Every September, have the ministry staff (Pastor, Adults, Students, Children, Music, etc.) turn in a calendar for the coming year (Jan to Dec) with dates of the plans they are thinking about (camps, trips, retreats, parties, mission events, VBS, revival, musical, training for leaders, etc.)
- ▶ As a staff, read a ministry book and discuss a chapter each week in staff meeting.
- ▶ Ask each staff person to choose at least 1 or 2 volunteers they are training to lead in ministry in their area of responsibility. Example: the Worship Leader might have two assistant leaders that take a turn each month leading the congregation in singing.
- ▶ Can every staff member also be in a small group Bible study each week?

# EVANGELISM

- ▶ See how many church members will commit to learn 10 scripture verses by memory about “Salvation”. Give them a paper with the verses on them. Work out a system where they can say their verses to a partner every week.
- ▶ Sign people up who are willing to tell their story of how they accepted Christ. Have a different person tell their story every week in worship or SS class.
- ▶ Choose a method or several methods of how to explain the gospel (The Four Spiritual Laws, ABC, Three Circles, Bridge, Steps to Peace, EE, CWT, FAITH). Ask church members to memorize one of these methods. Once a month, have them pair up with someone and practice explaining the gospel.
- ▶ Have 5 “worship missionaries” who are ready every Sunday. When they see a new guest walk into the worship service, they will walk over and sit beside them during the worship service, introduce themselves and have a pleasant conversation before and after the service.

# MISSIONS and MISSIONAL LIVING

- ▶ Instead of top-down planning, see if your SS classes and Small Groups can plan most of your service projects and do them together as a class once every month or two.
- ▶ Help your teachers and group leaders to make a list of 20 service project ideas that their class could do. They could start the list by taking a survey of all the ways that class members are already involved – do they help at a school, at the hospital, with Boy Scouts, at Storehouse, at the homeless shelter, do they know a neighbor who needs some help?
- ▶ It helps create a culture when the people who are doing missions can share their stories with the whole church. Could you have a “Missions Moment” every Sunday and have a one-minute testimony from a class?



# BE INVOLVED IN THE ASSOCIATION

- ▶ Attend a pastor round table every month. Get to know other pastors.
- ▶ Eat lunch with the Association Missional Strategist several times a year or, better yet, invite him and his wife to your house for supper.
- ▶ Invite the AMS to come do some kind of training with a few of your church leaders every year. (Teachers, Deacons, Staff, Student Leaders, etc.)
- ▶ Look for ways your church members can help with a joint mission project (Builders for Christ, Storehouse Food Ministry, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, Sewing Ministry, WMU meetings, Student Ministry events, others)
- ▶ Invite the AMS to come preach or share a testimony every year in the worship service.
- ▶ Put the Association in your mission budget and give something every month.

# FELLOWSHIP

- ▶ If friendships are not strong and growing, it will affect every area of your church and ministry.
- ▶ It will affect whether guests come to your church for a first visit, whether they come back again and whether they join your church.
- ▶ Encourage every SS class to have a monthly party.
- ▶ Encourage SS classes to sit together in the worship service.
- ▶ Encourage more small groups and support groups to begin meeting.
- ▶ Arrange your SS classes so that class members are talking and sharing 40 out of the 60 minutes they attend (instead of mostly lecture).

# PRAYER

- ▶ Could you have a prayer table in the foyer every Sunday where people could stop and be prayed for if they had a need?
- ▶ Instead of only 2 or 3 people sharing a prayer request in SS class, could you divide up into smaller groups and let every single person have time to share a request and be prayed for?
- ▶ Could you pass out a card on Sunday and ask members to write down 5 names of people they will pray for every week and keep the card in their Bible this year?
- ▶ Could you make a card with a list of “Ministry Prayer Requests” that are your church goals for this year and have a one-minute prayer time every Sunday where people pray for those needs. Example: 1) we want 30 people to memorize the ten scripture verses on salvation, 2) we need 3 more teachers-in-training, 3) we want to start a single adult class, 4) we want to do 20 service projects this year

# SINGLE ADULTS

- ▶ Single adults make up 40% of our city's population but they don't make up 40% of our church membership.
- ▶ Make it your goal to start a SS class for each decade of single adults – 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and older.
- ▶ Could you begin a Divorce Recovery support group?
- ▶ Could you begin a Grief support group for new widows and widowers?
- ▶ Could you begin a single mom's Bible study or support group?
- ▶ Could you sponsor a monthly fellowship with single adults from 10 different churches who share the leadership and cost? Don't make the monthly meeting a worship service, the goal is to facilitate conversation and discussion and ways to serve together in ministry to reach the community.