

## DEACON MINISTRY

1. In some churches, deacons function as elders. If that is the case in your church, please make sure they are qualified and spiritually mature. Treat them like the leaders they are and provide leadership and discipleship training every month when you have a meeting. There is nothing wrong with asking deacons to memorize scripture, learn to share the gospel, lead a small group and be involved in community outreach ministries if they are leaders of the church.
2. In some churches, deacons are not elders, they have a serving ministry. They are either leading a serving ministry or they participate in one or several. Some churches have a deacon for each day of the week to make a visit to the hospital if there are church members there.
3. In some churches, deacons do family ministry. The church is divided up into care groups with a deacon responsible for visiting and calling the families in their care group. Depending on the size of your church, a deacon may have 5 to 20 families in their care group. Churches ask the deacon to make one or several visits each month to have conversation with and pray with their families. In case of sickness, a hospital stay, or some other concern, a deacon will visit the hospital or the home to pray with the family.
4. Some churches use the deacons to make an appointment with a person or family that wants to join the church. The deacon will talk with the person about their testimony and the gospel and give them information about the church and the date of the next New Member Class.
5. Monthly Deacon's meeting. If a deacon is supposed to visit a family every month, then it is logical for each deacon to tell about their visit at the monthly meeting. When there is no accountability, many pastors are frustrated because the deacons don't make their visits. If you want deacons to learn how to share the gospel, then have one deacon every month take five minutes in the meeting to explain the gospel to the group. A different deacon could share their salvation testimony at each meeting. If you are memorizing one verse a month, then the deacons can pair up and say their memory verse to one another. If deacons are key leaders of your church, then it is logical to have training every time you meet.
6. Some churches see I Timothy 3 referring to deacons and their wives as a team as they serve the church. They man and wife couple do their ministry together as a team whatever that ministry is.
7. Some churches see deacons as a ministry that never ends – once a deacon, always a deacon. Others have rotation system, like maybe two years on and then rotate off.
8. Mentoring and discipling the next generation. Some churches ask each deacon to choose a younger man or another man to go with them when they make home and hospital visits or do whatever their assigned ministry is. This is a great strategy for men to mentor other men.
9. A yearly deacon retreat. Many churches do a Friday night and Saturday retreat for deacons (and their wives?) as a way to share the vision for your church for the coming year, do discipleship/leadership training and remind everyone about the goal of deacon ministry.
10. Look for ways to strengthen the bonds between deacons and the staff members of your church. Some deacons never interact with the Children's Ministry, the Student Ministry or the Music ministry. What could you do to help those staff leaders get to know individual deacons in a deeper way?