

# LIFT

## Ministry Group November Resource

### Define the purpose of each outreach.

There is nothing more disappointing than walking away from an outreach and feeling as if it didn't accomplish everything that you intended. Part of the problem may be that you did not identify the purpose of the outreach before it began.

Was the purpose of the outreach to win souls, meet a need, raise awareness, or public relations?

Defining the purpose can help you avoid the pain of unmet expectations for both you and your team.

Here are three focal points to consider:

#### Compassion

Outreach that is compassion driven looks to meet the physical and emotional needs of a community.

#### Evangelistic

Outreach that is focused on highlighting people's spiritual need for salvation.

#### Public Relations

Raises awareness of the church's presence and mission within the community.

**Do you take time to discuss and define the purpose of your outreaches?**

**How would you gauge success in each of these approaches?**



### Shop Talk

Outreach is a platform by which a church, missionary, or ministry interacts with its surrounding community. A well defined outreach effort can accomplish three important tasks.

First, it connects the community with the church's overall mission. Jesus declared that He came to seek and save those who were lost. At the heart of our outreach efforts has to be a commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Secondly, outreach is a way of broadcasting the church's core values by communicating our root beliefs in practical ways to those in need. Much of a church's vision and values become lost in translation when there is no real effort to engage the community outside the four walls of the church.

#### **What are some core values that can be communicated through our outreach efforts?**

Lastly, outreach builds relational equity with the community. When we are intentional and consistent with our outreach efforts, the community will begin to see the church as a resource. When tragedy strikes, whether it is the untimely death of a teenager or navigating the aftermath of a tornado, churches with proven track records are called upon to minister to the needs of the hurting.

**Share with each other how the relational equity that your church has built led to an opportunity to minister to your community.**

## Compassion Vs. Evangelistic Outreach

**Are the outreaches of your church primarily compassion or evangelism driven?**

Truth is, for many, it is much easier to pass out bottles of water than it is to share the Gospel with someone. However, outreach that is packed with compassion but devoid of evangelism misses the point.

“Apart from evangelism, compassion can only offer temporal comfort. But humanity needs more than comfort. It needs salvation. And we declare that salvation best when we preach the good news and engage in good deeds.”-Ron Sider, *Good News and Good Works*

**How often when you are planning an outreach do you set aside time to train your congregation on how to share the Gospel?**

Here are a few ideas of how to train your church for an upcoming outreach:

1. Begin a sermon series on evangelism prior to the outreach.
2. Train them how to memorize and share the Romans road.
3. Have trusted individuals get up and model how to share their personal testimony.

## Youth Convention



Dates: Nov.11-12

Guest Speaker: Austin Westlake

Location: The Warehouse 1525 South Rodgers St., Bloomington, IN.

Register:

<https://www.indianaag.org/ministries/youth-convention>

## Big Effort = Big Impact

**The size of the impact you make on your community is not dictated by the size of your church, but by the size of your effort.**

With that in mind let's discuss some ways a church of any size can begin having a big impact on their community.

### • Stop imitating and start initiating!

One trap churches fall into is, rather than becoming intimately familiar with the needs of their own community, they simply try to imitate what another church or ministry is doing. Big impacts begin with knowing the needs within your community.

### • Don't over-commit

Scale your outreaches to reflect the volunteer base and finances you have on hand. Rather than over commit and under perform, do what you can do with excellence.

Here are some outreaches that any size church can accommodate:

1. Fill A Bag Food Drive to bless a local food pantry.
2. Provide lunch for the teachers at your local school.
3. Host a movie night at the church & provide popcorn.

**Discuss other ideas among yourselves that have been effective in reaching your community.**



### What does outreach look like in a missional context?

In what ways do missions and outreach mirror one another and in what ways do they differ?

What organizations have you partnered with that have enabled you to do outreaches you could not have done on your own?

Share ideas about practical ways missionaries can engage in outreach.

Discuss dilemmas you have faced when attempting to reach into your cultural setting.