

Reclaiming Inactive and Less Active Church Members

Session #2 - Reclaiming Inactive and Less Active Church Members. Most churches have people who are on the membership roll that are not engaged in the ongoing ministry and fellowship of the church. The problem has been compounded by Covid 19. Learn about an intentional plan to reconnect and re-engage these people.

Scripture

¹At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles...⁴Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

Acts 8:1,4

“What does it mean to be an active and engaged church member?”

Big 4 for Engagement –

- Faithful in Worship
- Connected by Relationships
- Growing towards Maturity
- Outward in Focus

Some of the Challenges

Unengaged or disengaged church members is not new thing.

In what ways has the Covid pandemic exacerbated the problem?

- Apathy magnified – “I can live without God.”
- Polarization amplified – “I’m angry at decisions government and/or my church leaders have made.”
- Fear multiplied – “I’m afraid I will get sick.”

How has the separation negatively impacted reaching the lost?

- Many members have become Inwardly Focused.
- Separation has led to Fewer Opportunities to have face to face interaction with the lost.
- Some churches are Uncertain with how to engage online guests.

Greater Opportunities

How has the separation opened-up opportunities to expand the church’s view of worship, community and outreach?

- Expanded Reach
- Unchurched Viewers
- Connecting to Vulnerable Populations
- Virtual Small Groups
- Online Giving
- Mercy Ministries

Moving Forward

How can we reclaim inactive church members to reengage as fully devoted disciples?

7 Tips for Moving forward:

1. Call the church to Prayer

- Plan a prayer vigil. Set a date & time and invite members to join you for a prayer vigil at church or at home.
- Call for a 7, 30, or 40-day prayer initiative. Use a prayer resource like the KBC's, **40 Days of Prayer**.
- Invite members to prayer walk their neighborhoods. Use tools like, **BlessEveryHome.com** and the KBC's, **A Pocket Guide to Prayer Walking**
<https://cdn2.creativecirclemedia.com/kbc/files/3161310f77.pdf>

2. Expand Bible Reading (our people need Bible intake, the following are ideas to get people reading quickly)

- Launch a Bible reading initiative (i.e. read the NT through in 40 Days).
- Tie Bible reading into the prayer initiative.
- Consider preaching through a book of the Bible and provide daily Bible readings that flows from that Bible book.
- Include small groups in the initiative.
- Challenge folks to memorize key verses during the initiative.

3. Stay Connected

- Set a personal goal to call or write a card to a certain number of members every day.
- Divide up the membership role among other leaders to make daily/weekly calls.
- Visit senior adult's homes. Call them and ask them to come to the front door for a quick and safe visit. Consider taking them a small gift (i.e. fresh fruit, a card from a child or something homemade). Enlist seniors to help with ministry they can do at home.
- Have some fun. Plan an outdoor, church-wide fellowship.

4. Provide a variety of Worship opportunities.

- **In-person.** Use language that both challenges healthy members to return to in person gatherings but also lets online guests know why it's important and superior to an online worship experience only.
- **Online.** Facebook Live, YouTube, church website...
- **Parking lot/outdoor.** Use a PA system and/or FM transmitter.
- **Radio/TV.** Some stations are glad to have local programming.

5. Ramp-up the church's Digital presence.

- Digital is the new front door to the church. Today, most people begin the search for nearly everything, online, including church.
- Make sure your church's website is attractive with up to date information. The opening screen should have church location, service times, options to access worship services, and giving options.
- Consider putting more resources and staffing (paid or volunteer) into your digital presence.
- A church's digital presence doesn't have to be highly-produced, it just needs to work and be authentic.
- Other:

6. Be Strategic in your worship planning.

- Include families and children in your worship planning. Ask families to provide videos of children/teens reading Scripture, adults sharing their testimony...
- Provide goodie bags for children who attend in-person worship. Make these available for families who watch online to pick up at the church.
- Take a few minutes in every message to speak directly to those watching online.
- Offer an invitation that includes a simple way for everyone, whether in-person or watching online, to respond to Christ and take the next step.
- Consider moving worship offsite for a Sunday (park, lake, farm...).
- Other:

7. Help believers take steps towards Great Commission living.

- Members need to see examples of their leaders sharing the Gospel.
- Introduce or reintroduce Who's Your One.
- Offer online evangelism training. (SJWF, 3 Circles, G.O.S.P.E.L., Steps to Peace...)
- Provide ideas, resources and opportunities for members to serve their neighbors and community.
- Encourage members to invite family and friends to watch the church's worship service and online.

CONCLUSION:

Perhaps the words of the Apostle Paul are applicable for your ministry in the age of Covid 19, "for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

1 Corinthians 16:9