



Practical Steps Every Congregation Can Take

**Specific Steps You Can Take to Get
Evangelism on Track in Your
Congregation**



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Specific steps you can take to get evangelism on track in your congregation

1. Focus on making your congregation a healthy place to be.
2. Become a healthier church by improving quality.
3. Repeat #1

Is it really that simple? Yes.

Healthy churches grow. Sick churches die. If you are not growing, it is likely that you have an unhealthy church.

1. You cannot control growth – God gives the growth.
2. You can control the quality and health of your personal life.
3. Healthy churches focus the collective effort on improving the health of their church by applying the eight quality principles:
 - **Empowering** Leadership
 - **Gift-Oriented** Ministry
 - **Passionate** Spirituality
 - **Functional** Structures
 - **Inspiring** Worship Services
 - **Holistic** Small Groups
 - **Need-Oriented** Evangelism
 - **Loving** Relationships

It is the **ADJECTIVE** that makes the difference

Every church has leadership. Is it authoritarian or empowering?

Every church has ministry opportunities (service opportunities) Are they based on Spiritual gifts or purely on human efforts and human talent?

Every church some level of spirituality. Is it passionate (hot) or lackluster (cold)?

Every church is organized in some structure. Does the organization help the congregation function, or do we do the same things every year regardless of whether it impacts our mission?

Every church has worship services. Are they inspiring or boring?



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Not every church has small groups or in-home Bible studies and regular opportunities for personal growth with other local brethren. Do we have brethren that we study with, pray with and share our lives with on a regular basis?

Most churches support some form of evangelism. Does your congregation look to address local needs and be relevant to local issues when approaching the community?

Every church has relationships. Are your church relationships characterized by love, joy and caring?

The QUALITY and HEALTH of a congregation depend on the adjective. Empowering. Gift-oriented. Passionate. Functional. Inspiring. Holistic. Need-oriented. Loving.

What about the scattered nature of the congregations and membership? What if we don't have a "big" congregation?

Scattering Works For You Or Against You:

- Against You:
 - Travel significant distances to meet
 - Disconnected from local communities
 - Where members live
 - Where members worship
 - Disconnected from host community
 - Too far to build relationships within host community
 - Too far to meet during the week with others
 - Problem of boring speakers
 - Weekly messages of quality are a challenge
 - Few truly gifted speakers
 - Speakers tend talk about what they feel are important
 - Taped messages address local needs, local concerns, local opportunities in a contextually sensitive or effective manner? (One size fits all sermons)
 - Invite new people to hear audio or videotapes?
- For You:
 - Every Christian becomes a seed
 - Small house churches or in-home Sabbath studies cost next to nothing
 - No requirement for a pastor every Sabbath
 - "Super Sabbaths" where people from a wide area can come together periodically maintain friendships and cohesion
 - House churches/Sabbath Studies keep members connected to their local communities

New Testament Evangelism

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- Every Sabbath is a reminder of the need to become more valuable to those around us and invite friends
- Lower threshold of fear
 - Invite people to dinner or over for coffee
 - A later invitation to a Sabbath study is much less intimidating than inviting them to “church.”
- Many people who have had previously bad “church experiences” or church organizations respond favorably to the idea of building a congregation from the ground up
- Sharing Bible study leadership promotes personal growth and understanding
- Laity led/Pastor coached Sabbath studies respect the maturity that God gives faithful Christians (Hebrews 6) and the balance that can come if a pastor has the vision of empowering rather than controlling
- House churches/Sabbath Studies are an antidote for Christianity as a spectator sport
- Most people really like to be more involved if they can be a real part of the decision making process

House Church/Sabbath Study Benefits:

1. No hiding – everyone is needed
2. Potential for greater intimacy, camaraderie
3. Deep bonds of friendship
4. Simpler organization, personal responsibility and accountability
5. Increased opportunities for learning leadership and spiritual maturity
6. Much greater interaction, engagement and give-and-take
7. Freedom of format to fit the group
8. A natural place to invite new people – less threatening than “church”

House Church/Sabbath Study Turnoffs:

1. Wild doctrinal swings, weird ideas, new truths that only they know and “the one and only true churchitis”
2. “Mini apostles” seeking personal followings
3. Dominating personalities – Big Cheese mentality instead of servant leaders
4. Boring church services only on a smaller scale
5. Selfish or inward focus



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Seven Ways To Transform House Churches/Sabbath Studies/Small Congregations

1. Food
2. Fellowship
3. Music/Singing
4. Scriptural Study
5. Sharing
6. Prayer
7. Service to others

Mission + Passion + Leadership + Healthy Congregations = A Place God Can Use
