

# DEVELOPING EVANGELISTIC LEADERS IN YOUR CONGREGATION

## The purpose of this module is to:

inspire evangelistic leaders within the local church who think, live, and lead in evangelism.

## The objectives for this module are:

- To cultivate the soil for evangelistic leaders to grow;
- To plant the seed for evangelistic leaders;
- To reap the harvest of evangelistic leaders.

If we are going to develop or grow evangelistic leaders in the church, we must follow the simple procedure used by any farmer. The growth process follows these three steps:

### I. \_\_\_\_\_ the Soil for Evangelistic Leaders to Grow

In order to grow anything, the soil must be properly cultivated. How the soil is prepared makes all the difference in the planting efforts.

There are three crucial components to preparing the soil in the church in order to produce evangelistic leaders.

- A. Leaders of the church must \_\_\_\_\_ their own hearts. The heart must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The leader must fully recognize this process is beyond human ability or talent.

Dan Reiland wrote, "How Full Is Your Net?" He makes five observations about the church:

1. The presence and power of God is not \_\_\_\_\_ in the worship services.
2. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to the personal testimony of the majority of the congregation.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ministries are anemic.
4. Significantly more effort, energy, and resources are invested in \_\_\_\_\_ the members than reaching the unchurched.
5. The leadership is not \_\_\_\_\_ outreach and evangelism on a personal level.

Examine your heart to see if you are depending more on human strength than on God.

- B. To further prepare the soil to produce evangelistic leaders, we must challenge \_\_\_\_\_ mindsets.
- C. Thirdly, if the soil is to be cultivated to produce leaders that carry a torch for evangelism, then outreach must be highlighted as a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions to Consider:**

- ◆ What percentage of the annual budget is marked for outreach?
- ◆ How much time for outreach is reflected during the month?
- ◆ When was the last time the church had an event designed to attract the lost?
- ◆ During the services how much time is devoted to highlighting the need to reach others with the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ How much time is dedicated as a body of believers to praying for the unchurched?

II. \_\_\_\_\_ the Seed for Evangelistic Leaders

Planting the seed takes the following two forms:

- A. First, individual leaders must \_\_\_\_\_ the priority of outreach in our ministry.
- B. We can also plant the seed for evangelistic leaders by the link between evangelism and spiritual growth.

III. \_\_\_\_\_ the Harvest of Evangelistic Leaders

This reaping is accomplished in the following three steps:

- A. Reaping takes place as we \_\_\_\_\_ evangelistic thinking from the church family.
- B. Take time to \_\_\_\_\_. If it is to be done right, people must be equipped. Let people know what will be expected of them.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ success.

Celebrate the lost who are won into the Kingdom. Even celebrate efforts that appear to be, at least for the moment, unfruitful. Having produced leaders in the church who are bent toward evangelism is a huge success in itself.

## SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

1. Why do churches lose sight of the priority found in the Great Commission which instructs us to make disciples?
2. Turn to Matthew 13:1-23 and review the Parable of the Sower. Identify the different types of soil and the results of the seed planted in each soil. Recognizing that churches, as well as people, have a type of soil, identify the kind of soil in your church.
3. Discuss ways to help leaders prepare their hearts to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
4. Make a list of any negative mindsets regarding outreach. Which are the most dangerous? Which are most important to change?
5. Discuss how much money is in your budget for outreach. Discuss how often you have calendared events for outreach. What does the discussion reveal about the mindset of the churches represented in the group?
6. Discuss concrete ways in which leaders can model evangelism.
7. What would be the best forum for unleashing evangelistic thinking in the church?
8. What are some additional ways to celebrate the production of evangelistic leaders and the results of their efforts?

## ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING

The homework assignment for this module is :

Work up a plan to develop evangelistic leaders in your church by following the three steps that were discussed in the module.