

The Christian Arsenal

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REACHING OUT TOGETHER

40 Days of Community

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Part 2 of 7

Two things we want to do:

- Deepen the sense of community within our church
- Reaching out to the community around our church

“... you are standing together side by side with one strong purpose--to tell the Good News.” Ph. 1:27b (LB)

“You’ve been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ.” Ph. 1:5 (NLT)

HOW CAN OUR SMALL GROUP “PARTNER” TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH OTHERS?

PRAY TOGETHER

“Pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people His message.”
Col. 4:3 (NCV)

Action Step: Make a group prayer list.

APPEAL TO COMMON INTERESTS

“Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ.” 1 Cor. 9:22-23 (LB)

Action Step: Discover the common interests in your group.

REACH OUT IN LOVE

Why not just focus on us?

1. We have the greatest news in the world to share.
2. Out of a heart of gratitude.
3. The Bible says, “God is love.”

“Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives.” 1 Th. 2:8 (NCV)

“It is not my business to judge those who are not part of the church.” 1 Cor. 5:12 (NCV)

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PRINCIPLE: Never expect an unbeliever to act like a believer until he is one.

“Whatever we do, it is certainly not for our own profit but because Christ's love controls us now.” 2 Cor. 5:14 (LB)

Action Step: Ask God to give you a deeper love for others.

TELL YOUR STORY

“You are ... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you.” 1 Peter 2:9 (Mes)

“Listen, and I'll tell you what God has done for me.” Ps. 66:16 (NCV)

The point is: Friends don't keep good news from other friends.

Action Step: Write out your story & share it with your group

NURTURE FRIENDSHIPS

“Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.” Rom. 12:16 (CEV)

“In his home Levi (Matthew) gave a big dinner party for Jesus. Many fellow tax collectors and other guests were also there.” Luke 5:29 (CEV)

Christians have a tendency to fall into one of two extremes:

- Imitation
- Isolation

We need:

- Insulation
- Infiltration

“The Holy Spirit does not want you to be afraid of people, but to be wise and strong, and to love them and enjoy being with them.” 2 Tim. 1:7 (LB)

Action Step: Bring a friend to your group. Plan a party.

EXPECT GOD TO ACT

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Heb. 11:1 (NIV)

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’” Luke 5:20 (NIV)

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Action Step: Never give up on anyone.

If you put a little faith in a Big God, you're going to get big results.

REPRESENT CHRIST WITH YOUR LIVES

We need audiovisual Christians.

"Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus." Col. 3:17 (NLT)

"Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care of your own business, and do your own work. If you do, people who are not believers will respect you." 1 Thes. 4:11-12a (NCV)

Action Step: Pray to God, "Use me"