

Training an Evangelistic Congregation

The three big questions

1. Where is the congregation now? This is the diagnostic question.
2. Where would you like them to be? This is the dream question.
3. What's the plan to get them there? This is the design question.

1. Where is your church plant now?

Discussion: Turn to your partner and together with them try to get an accurate analysis of where things are

2. Where do you want your church plant to be?

Discussion: Turn to your partner and describe where you'd like your church plant to be in terms of their evangelistic culture, temperature and practice.

- Do you need to address a skills issue?
- Do you need to address a knowledge issue?
- Do you need to address a motivational issue?
- Do you need to address an enemy issue?

Which of these is the issue and how might you address them?

3. What training do you need to provide?

Discussion: turn to your partner and identify what you need to do to help your church plant become proficient in evangelism.

1. Busyness: it's not what you have time for
2. Skillset: it's not what you're good at
3. Motivation: it's not what you have the inclination for
4. Energy: it's not what you have energy for
5. Resistance: it's not what will go down well

Ten Characteristics of a Culture of Evangelism

1. A culture motivated by love for Jesus and his Gospel
2. A culture that is confident in the Gospel
3. A culture that understands the danger of entertainment
4. A culture that sees people clearly
5. A culture that pulls together as one
6. A culture in which people teach one another
7. A culture that models evangelism
8. A culture in which people who are sharing their faith are celebrated
9. A culture that knows how to affirm and celebrate new life
10. A culture doing ministry that feels risky and is dangerous
11. A culture that understands that the church is the chosen and best method of evangelism

Discussion: what would you need to do differently to create this culture?

Some Practical Ideas

1. Make evangelism a matter of ongoing prayer
2. Train practical skills practically
3. Schedule time in the programme to train
4. Model evangelism from the front
5. Make it a part of preaching
6. Address apologetic questions
7. Read a book for the term

Conclusion