

How to Be Missional

(Accepting the call to reach your mission field)

Matthew 9:37-38 "Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

We want you to be on mission! A leader engaged in being missional is a leader with their eyes open, who values people in their community and neighborhoods, and helps break down the barriers to building bridges that connect people to a passionate life in Christ. A missional leader is also a person who has a passion to live for Christ, who is fully committed to discipleship and helping lead others to becoming missional.

Here are some suggestions for **BEING MISSIONAL**:

Get to Know Your Neighbor

Many times, we can live right next to someone and never get to know them. This is the time to "invest and invite", invest in their life – get to know them, ask questions, learn their names, job, kid's names, take them cookies, bake a cake, especially if they just moved in. Then invite when the time is right!

Cookout

Everyone loves a cookout! Start your first meeting off with a cookout and invite the neighbors, do your best to provide all the food for the first meeting. Let your friends who attend FFC and are already in your group know that neighbors will be attending and you plan to keep things low key - not very churchy. We want to build bridges to the unchurched. Share with your neighbors – "I have some 'neighbors' coming over for a cookout and we wanted to invite you"

Parking

Parking could be a problem at your home, so let your neighbors know that there will be extra cars parking in front of the house each week due to your Bible study and simply say "and you are invited too, each Thursday night at 7"...this is a great way to share a non-threatening or casual invitation.

Block Party

Invite your neighbors about 3 – 4 weeks in advance to attend a Block Party in your neighborhood on a Saturday night early evening - you decide when and where. Gather your members in your group and encourage all of them to bring food and build relationships with those who attend. Have games and fun competitions; in conclusion make an announcement that you are having a Bible study at you home (give day/time) and you're all are invited (another low-key invitation).

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Christmas party, Halloween party and hand out candy, Thanksgiving Dinner, Movie night on the lawn, etc.

Additional Small Group Missional Project Ideas

Begin praying for God to show you more opportunities in our community where your group can “Be The Church” by showing the love of God to others; think outside the box and ask your group members for their input.

PROJECT IDEAS

Below you will find two lists of projects ideas subdivided into *Levels of Interaction* and *Categories*. Before you select an idea, begin by asking your group members the following questions; hopefully, the answers will help you develop a project that is a perfect fit for your group.

- Who in your neighborhood or community has a need?
- Which business or organization within your sphere of influence could use a blessing?
- What project types best suit your group’s ages and abilities? (Prayer, worship, teaching, physical labor, etc.)

Missional Opportunities Subdivided into Levels of Interaction:

LEVEL 1 = Missional projects that all of your members can participate in, requires limited interaction with others

Suggestions

- Prayer walk the neighborhood of your Small Group
- Give out free sunscreen at a city park
- Minor car repairs for elderly, widows and/or single mom’s
- Minor yard work for elderly, widows and/or single mom’s
- Do a community trash clean up
- Make back to school backpacks
- Create food boxes for homeless kids or adults
- Write cards to church leaders, police, first responders
- Angel tree
- Shoeboxes
- Fun basket for foster families
- Mission partner support, cards, gifts
- Manna on Wheels, serving food ministry (East Brandon - 767-5708)
- Lighthouse Ministries Thrift Store (Brandon - 377-3977)

LEVEL 2 = Missional Projects that all your members can participate in but may require some interaction with people:

Suggestions:

- FishHawk Park Square events
- Clean up a widow's or single mom's yard
- Meals for sick, shut-in, grieving
- Serve/support single mothers
- Give out free bottled water
- Plan a "Back to School Bash" for foster care children. Have free food, games, and a backpack/school supply giveaway
- Volunteer at one of the local schools during a special event or sporting event, ask the school how your group could serve them
- Be the prayer contact for your child's team/club
- Volunteer in schools
- LifeCare of Brandon, <https://www.lifecarenetwork.net/> (Pregnancy Center), 654-0491 (FFC Mission Partner)
- A Kid's Place, <https://akidsplacetb.org/> (Brandon, 381-3839)
- Everyday Blessings, <https://www.everydayblessingsinc.org/> (Lithia, 982-9226)
- **Nursing Homes**
 - Deliver fresh flowers to the residents
 - Host a worship service at a nursing home (offer worship, devotions, prayer, and fellowship)
 - Throw a Tea Party for residents
- **Special Needs/Youth Home**
 - Identify a family with a special needs child and give the family a Mom & Dad's day out
 - Adopt a group home for the day and throw a party for the residents

LEVEL 3 = Missional Projects that all your members can participate in but may require a great deal of interaction/confrontation with people:

Suggestions:

- Serve hot meal for the homeless in your community
- Host a "Block Party" with free food, games, music, etc. for families
- Go on a mission trip together, local, national, or international
- Hand out meals or book bags with supplies to the homeless
- Echo, <https://echofl.org/> (Brandon, 685-0935)
- Women's Resource Center, <http://www.wrctampa.org/> (Brandon, 309-3357)

Missional Opportunities Subdivided into Categories:

Prayer/Encouragement w/cards

Prayer walk schools, student rooms at church; coaches: fields
Start of school, during final exams
Students: gain their identity in Christ
Coaches: before practices, games
Parents & mentors: lead like Jesus

Elderly/Shut-in

Prayer/Encouragement
Personally, Interactive Activities
Individual Personal Interaction
Physical Work / Service
Yard service/project
Evangelism
Financial

Widows/Grief

Prayer/Encouragement
Personally, Interactive Activities
Individual Personal Interaction
Physical Work / Service
Evangelism
Financial

Single Parents

Gift cards: Gas, oil change, kids' haircuts,
Prayer/Encouragement
Personally, Interactive Activities
Individual Personal Interaction
Physical Work / Service
Evangelism
Financial

Evangelism

Decision counselor during youth events - Uncommon Weekend

Neighbors

Prayer/Encouragement
Personally, Interactive Activities
Individual Personal Interaction
Physical Work / Service
Evangelism

Financial

Civil Servants/Emergency Relief/First Responders - Samaritan's Purse, Red Cross, etc.

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work / Service

Evangelism

Financial

Foster Care parents & children

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work / Service

Evangelism

Financial

Financial

Scholarship student for camp, *Uncommon Weekend*, etc.

Contribute to mission trip

Back to school supplies/backpacks

Back to school shoes, clothes, haircuts

Gift cards for gas, fast food, coffee shop, ice cream

Military

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work/Service

Evangelism

Financial

Missionary partners

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work/Service

Evangelism

Financial

Personally Interactive / Personal Interaction:

School principals & teachers: coffee/doughnuts; lunch or sweet treat

Homeless/Unemployed/Addicts

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work / Service

Evangelism

Financial

Physical Work/Service:

Low income school: work projects, contact principle for need

USF: Make cookies for CRU ministry to give students during finals

Sex Trafficking Victims

Gift cards: coffee shops

Amazon: select *Not for Sale* ministry as benefactor (smile.amazon.com)

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work / Service

Evangelism

Financial

Prison employees/inmates

Prayer/Encouragement

Personally, Interactive Activities

Individual Personal Interaction

Physical Work / Service

Evangelism

Financial