

Small Group and Leadership Team Resources for Churches

This appendix gives you a few tested resources for use in churches, leadership teams, and small groups to help you lead your group to missional engagement and impact. These resources have been used through the Church Evangelism Initiative in many churches located in many contexts, including urban, suburban, and rural.

You can also download these resources on the Church Evangelism Initiative site of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. These few resources give you a taste, but we have many more for churches and leaders who join our cohorts. If you are interested in exploring joining one of our pastor and leader cohorts, which connect you to resources, coaching, and connecting to exemplar pastors and churches, you can find information on our Church Evangelism Initiative website at ceicohorts.com.

One Degree Rule Worksheet

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Use this card to fill out your temperature, write what has been encouraging for you in outreach, and think about how to increase your temperature in the next month. Then practice one-degree sharing with each other, using this card and your responses. Give each person a time limit (one to two minutes).

Evangelistic Temperature

Kevin Harney writes,

When we are a ten, we pray often, notice people who are spiritually wandering, and enjoy making time in our schedule to connect with those who are far from God. In these seasons, our lights are shining, we speak of our faith often, we share stories of what God is doing in our lives, and we share the gospel naturally. When our personal evangelistic temperature is at one, our hearts have cooled off, we are no longer praying for lost people, and we have become too busy with church programs or our personal interests to make space for people who are outside of God's family. We walk right past opportunities to let the light of Jesus shine and hardly notice. We rarely tell others about our faith, and we do not feel much urgency to communicate the gospel of Jesus. We are ice cold.¹

Developing a Prayer List

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FRANC Model

Talk through each of the following thought starters for people with whom we are in relationships and whom God may be putting on our heart to reach out to:

- 1. Friends
- 2. Relatives
- 3. Acquaintances (especially third space and compassion)
- 4. Neighbors (by geography and interests)
- 5. Coworkers

Start your spiritual influence list, your BLESS List, which you can use to begin to pray daily. God’s mission is to reach the world by blessing the world through God’s people (see Gen 12:1-3). Listen to God and journal prayers for the top five people God lays on your heart. Then pray in pairs for the Holy Spirit’s work in their life and for opportunities to share and care for them.

- 1. _____ : _____
- 2. _____ : _____
- 3. _____ : _____
- 4. _____ : _____
- 5. _____ : _____

BLESS Planning Worksheet

Give people time to fill out the planning sheet below and then take time to share and pray in pairs for personal BLESS plans, and then discuss your church's vision and next steps as a group. BLESS stands for **B**egin with prayer, **L**isten, **E**at, **S**erve, **S**tory.

1. What have you personally done this year with the five BLESS missional practices, whether you called them that or not? What worked? What didn't? What could have been improved?

2. What are your personal challenges in implementing the BLESS missional practices?

3. What are your hopes, thoughts, or dreams about what you would like to do with the BLESS missional practices this next year personally? Brainstorm possibilities!

4. Which of these possibilities excites you the most? What is your biggest barrier? What steps would you need to take to implement your top three ideas?

5. What are your hopes, thoughts, or dreams about what you would like to do with the BLESS missional practices as a church or small group community? Brainstorm possibilities!

6. What is your next step as a group in moving your church forward with the BLESS missional practices? How can you begin with prayer for your pursuit of the BLESS practices as a group, and how will you keep each other encouraged and accountable?

Discuss and pray as a group.

If you are interested in downloading and using a simple small group guide on the BLESS practices, you can download it at covchurch.org/evangelism/bless.

Church Warmth Assessment

Use the questions that follow to briefly assess the current relational temperature of your church and your worship service. The goal is not necessarily to focus your services on unchurched visitors but to practice warm and intentional hospitality toward them. Unchurched people in America still tell us that the worship service is the first place they would visit if they chose to connect to a congregation. For each statement, circle the number on the continuum that best describes your response.

1. Our website (the new front door for churches) addresses unchurched people in ways that attractively communicate acceptance and welcome wherever people are coming from.

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10**
icy Room Fireside
 Temperature Warmth

2. Parking is easy to find, clearly marked, and accessible.

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10**
icy Room Fireside
 Temperature Warmth

3. We have good signage that enables visitors to locate services and events.

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10**
icy Room Fireside
 Temperature Warmth

4. Greeters are intentional but not pushy about trying to make visitors feel welcomed and wanted when they first enter the church.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lcy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

5. The call to worship and singing intentionally address visitors in a welcoming and nonpressured way.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lcy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

6. Aspects of the service that are primarily for committed Christians (such as the offering and Communion) are led with clear and nonjudgmental instructions, and they give visitors freedom to participate or not.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lcy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

7. Sermons are clearly and intentionally crafted to include and address both unchurched visitors and committed Christians.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lcy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

8. It is easy for visitors to find a next-step opportunity quickly to connect relationally with others in the church.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
lcy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

9. Our church has thought through all the transitional moments in the whole worship experience that might feel awkward to unchurched visitors (e.g., parking and entering, finding where kids are supposed to go, the moments before the service starts, the meet-and-greet time during the service, the dismissal to another activity, food and fellowship, to retrieve kids, and to leave).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

10. It is normal and routine for the pastor, other church leaders, and congregants to share their struggles, doubts, hurts, and failures in the context of services and other events.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

11. We have done all we can to make the aesthetics of our location, worship spaces, and meeting spaces as attractive and welcoming as possible.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

12. At least 5 percent or more of our attendance at weekend services is unchurched visitors (just make your best guess here).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

13. Our people are consistently enthusiastic about inviting their un-churched friends to visit the church or to visit a key entry-point ministry of the church.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

14. Regular attenders consistently invite visitors to attend events, have meals together with them, or connect in other informal ways.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

15. First-time visitors have easy access to clear information and materials on how to take next steps to further connect with other people and opportunities at the church.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
icy				Room Temperature					Fireside Warmth

Transfer the numbers you circled for each of the questions to the chart below. Add all the numbers and write the total in the space provided. Divide the total by 15 to determine the average relational temperature (warmth factor) of your church.

- What stood out most to you about your church’s average relational temperature? For example, is it higher or lower than you thought? Or did any of the factors that contribute to warmth surprise you?
- In what areas does your church already demonstrate relational warmth well?
- In what areas does your church most need to raise its relational warmth temperature?
- If you are a small group or a leadership team, what steps could you take individually or as a group to increase the relational warmth of your church services?

My Responses	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
TOTAL	

Total ÷ 15 = average

relational
temperature

_____ ÷ 15 = _____

The key: warmth grows slowly. If we can keep cultivating warmth over time, it will happen.

You could do a similar assessment for each of your ministries and small group.

Note

¹Kevin G. Harney, *Organic Outreach for Churches: Infusing Evangelistic Passion into Your Congregation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), 118.