
Assessing Your Assimilation

Rediscovering our Process for Finding
and Keeping unchurched children,
youth and young families

Updating our Maps

- Post-Christian Implications--We must reinterpret the place, purpose, and outcomes of the Church and faith.
- Micro-assimilation--the strategy and activities of the centralized church which focuses on incorporating the unchurched and new attendees of a worship service and congregation (parking, welcome, ushers, new member classes, etc..)
- Macro-Assimilation--the strategy of the church to connect with unchurched people in their world, and the processes by which the decentralized church disciples and releases them into God's mission.

Updating our Maps

- centers of presence--where people hang, spend their time, give their energy, and live out their values.

What is Assimilation?

- It is the process, steps and strategy that a ministry uses to ensure that all unchurched people discover, join new and feel that they are apart of the ministry.
- It moves the unchurched from an awareness of our church and ministry to active membership and Christian mission.

Assimilation Step 1—Finding Them

- Presence
- Proclamation
- Progression

Developing Presence

- This answers the question of how are people exposed to our ministry.
- Is our Ministry Visible to the unbelieving community?
- Is our Ministry relevant to the needs of the community that God is calling us to reach?
- Is our Ministry Assessable? Can those who are in need get help from us?
- When considering our presence, do we have the following:
 - A relevant, active, and effective web presence
 - Do you have a list of local day cares, schools, campuses in which you serve
 - Do you have any commitments to the local parks, museums, and recreation centers
 - Are there any free or paid services that you provide to the community consistently that can be highlighted in a secular publication or medium?
 - Do you have a writing and Communication team that works in conjunction with Public Relations?
 - What Felt Need Programs do you provide?
 - Do you have an relationships with local agencies, services and campuses?

Proclamation: Communicating the Gospel

- This form addresses how people will hear the gospel from our congregation.
 - What are the means by which the gospel will be communicated outside of preaching?
 - relationally
 - physically--testimony tracts written by children.
 - visually--creative arts
 - Where is the gospel presented?
 - Is the gospel presented clearly to the unchurched?
 - Who would find it difficult to understand our gospel presentation?
 - What is the likelihood that the average, family, student and child communicates the gospel well and regularly?
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Ten Assimilation Questions

Five Questions the Prospective Member is Asking?

1. Do I fit here? A question of acceptance.
 2. Does everyone want to know me? A question of friendship.
 3. Am I needed? A question of contribution.
 4. What is the advantage of joining? A question of benefit.
 5. What is required of believers? A question of expectations.
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Five Questions The Church and Ministry Must Ask

1. What does God expect from members of His Church?
 2. What do we expect from our believers right now?
 3. What kind of people already make up our congregation, and how will that change in the next five ten years?
 4. What are new student's greatest needs?
 5. What do we owe our students?(what resources or services should we offer them?)
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Progression: How are People led to Greater Commitment in our Church?

- How do we challenge unbelievers or how are new believers challenged to depend on Jesus Christ?
 - How are believer's challenged to commit to the Body?
 - What is the Discipleship process used to motivate people to grow in their walk with Christ?
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Testimony of a Regular Attendee

- Can you find questions that this attendee had when he came to our church?
- Age—16
- Gender—Male
- Status—Single
- Work—Student
- Period at Church—10 months
- Relationship with God—unsaved
- Home Life— Inactive unbelieving Family

The Benefits of a Sound Assimilation Ministry

- It will aid new members in becoming mature disciples of Christ
- It will cause new believers to feel accepted among the body of Christ
- It will surround new believers with spiritual support
- It will help long standing members understand when new people are truly apart of the body of Christ
- It will provide new believers an opportunity to serve

Assimilation Part 2: Keeping Them

- How Does Our Church Assimilate Those We Find?
 1. Help People Make F.R.I.E.N.D.
 2. Help Believers take on roles and tasks
 3. Help Believers Become Accepted in the Body
 4. Challenge Believers in Christian Service
 5. Help Them Assess their Spiritual Growth

Are We Setting An Atmosphere of Intentional Relationship?

- Can new believers find F.R.I.E.N.D.S
 - F—un to be with (while focused on Christ's Call)
 - R--elational
 - I--Inspiring
 - E--ncouraging
 - N--urturing
 - D--evoted

How do we Communicate New Student Believers are needed?

- What ways are people helped to identify their gifts and become involved in Christian mission?
 - Are ministries easily accessible for new members?
 - Are they intimidating? Are they inviting? Are they recruited? Are they neglected?
 - Is there a flexible spirit that allows (even encourages) the beginning of new ministries?
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Do Believing Students know what is required of them?
How are they challenged in these expectations?

- Where are we going as a ministry?
 - What is our vision of ministry? (The Great Motivator)
 - What is our expectation for every believer?
 - How do we help the believers reach the expectation?

What is in Place to Ensure Spiritual Growth Among New Converts?

- Who is responsible for the spiritual maturation of a new student believer?
- What ministries are intentionally set up for the growth and nurturing of the believer?
- Who teaches the believer to study the bible?
- Who Supports the believer in times of struggle?
- Who does the believer share his/her testimony with regularly?
- Who holds the student accountable for service and lifestyle?

Suggestions for Assimilation

- Develop and Implement Small Groups
 - Sharing
 - Studying
 - Supporting
 - Serving
- Implement New Members Class
- Tighten Up Lay Pastor Ministry
- Establish a Specific and Intentional Curriculum for the purposes of Spiritual Growth and Christian Service
- Establish Follow-Up System
- Develop a Retreat for new members for the purpose of spiritual cleansing and Spirit Infilling

Assimilation Director

- Coordinates the call team
- oversees the hospitality table
- Develop the Welcome Center
- trains the hosts and greeters
- Track the Participation

Assimilation Director

- Develop and Oversee the Assimilation Process
 - **How to Belong Class**
 - Accept Christ, Be Baptized, Commit to Body
 - **How to Grow Class**
 - How to Study, Give and live in Community
 - **How to Serve Class**
 - Understand Your Spiritual Gifts, Personality Type, Abilities, and Experiences
 - **How to Tell Class**
 - L-ove for God and others
 - I-nvitation to Body life
 - F-aith in Jesus Christ
 - E-xperience of God