

# *Outreach Discipleship*

By Rev. Dr. David Mulder  
Edited by Alvina C. Becker



# Outreach Discipleship

By Rev. Dr. David Mulder  
Edited by Alvina C. Becker

---

## Overview Notes:

Jesus commands His disciples, in both the first and 21st centuries, to “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:18-20) of all nations. This resource is intended to help congregations learn what a disciple of Jesus is, what kind of leader we follow and how to best do outreach to “all nations.”

The manual is divided into five sessions. **The sessions include:** Scripture references, catechism sections and personal anecdotes. Participants are encouraged to bring a Bible, Luther’s “Small Catechism” and a journal notebook to the sessions. Sessions are designed to promote discussion, introspective journaling, and ultimately, knowledge in forming Outreach Action Teams.

One session may be studied each week for five weeks. Or, it may also be possible to cover the material in this manual in a retreat or workshop setting. A re-commissioning service is included that is to be used at the close of the sessions. I pray that God may bless you in this critical venture: “Go and make disciples!”

## Session 1:

# Gospel Blasters and Power Shapers

### Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Recognize that all Christians have been called to be disciples, making disciples.
- Acknowledge that, as Christians, we have been commanded to be Gospel Blasters and Power Shapers.
- Apply Romans 1:16 and catechism sections on Baptism and the Third Article to the understanding of God's active role in our lives.

### Huge Rock Story

I would like you to imagine that in your backyard sits a huge rock. It is approximately 3' high and spans about 5' wide. The problem: The rock is right where you want to add onto your house. So, you decide to have a rock mover come out to take a look at the situation. You say, "I want to remove this rock because I want to build here."

The rock mover says confidently, "OK, let's dig it up."

After working for a while, the two of you find out that the rock is connected to the Atlantic shelf. It goes down so far you can't even measure it. What you see above ground is just the tip of a huge, huge rock. Because it cannot be dug out, you decide you will blast it. You get six sticks of dynamite and you tie them together. You cap them, fuse them and lay them on top of the rock. Then you detonate it.

Do you have any idea what would happen next? I can tell you. You would break windows for a block or two around. There would be sirens of police coming (and, forgive me, but probably attorneys right behind them). There would be a mess. There would be lots of smoke and dust, and beneath all of this, there would still be the rock! Once the dust and smoke settled down, there would be the rock, with a black smudge on top, sturdy as ever. Nothing would have changed.

There is a wiser way to remove the rock, according to a combat engineer I met when I was an Army Reserve Chaplain. This guy was a demolition expert: a **blaster**.

One day I asked him, "What could I do with a rock like this?"

"Oh, that's easy," he said. "Tell me where you would want me to throw it."

"What do you mean?" I asked curiously.

He said, "Would you want me throw it over in the corner of the yard, in about five or six pieces and haul it off in a pay-loader? Or would you like it over in another section of the yard, in a few thousand pieces, so you could use it to rebuild your driveway? Tell me where you want me to throw it and about how many pieces you want it in and I could take care of it."

"You can move rock?" I stated in disbelief.

"No, I'm no stronger than you, Chaplain, but I know how to **shape and direct power!** I would drill holes at different angles, and at different depths, into the rock. Then I would take the equivalent of a half stick of dynamite and put it into each hole in the rock. Then I would detonate the dynamite in a sequence, nano-seconds apart, depending on where you want to throw the rock. There would be hardly any sound, very little smoke and hardly any dust. That rock would lift and would land where you want it, all depending on how I would **shape and direct the power.**"

Oh boy, a light bulb went off in my head. I started thinking. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is **[the Greek word is *dunamis* — dynamite]** the power of God, for the salvation for all who believe."

This combat engineer, the **blaster**, said, "I **shape and direct power** so that it is effective in moving obstacles. You want to build a garage? You want to add onto your house? You have something in the way? I can shape and direct power to get rid of that for you. I cannot build things. I move things."

**B**y now you may be wondering what we are going to talk about in this manual. What is the purpose of this entire course? You may have never thought of it in this sense before, but as Christians, *we are called to be Gospel Blasters!* This course is designed to teach individuals how to *shape and direct* “the power of God for the salvation of all who believe” (Rom. 1:16).

Someone once described what we do at Baptism as controlled lightning. It is true that the same **power** that God used to create the world—“Let there be light” (Gen. 1:3)—is also the same power that is spoken by pastors when they say, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This very power is happening right there in Baptism—it is controlled, shaped and directed for that little baby, at that moment. When a pastor preaches a sermon, or someone teaches a Bible class, or you share the faith with someone, *power is shaped and directed.*

If all we were going to do is randomly use power, we could gather on Sunday mornings; someone could read John 3:16 (that’s the Gospel—that’s power); and we could just go home.

---

*Of course, we are not called to save people. We cannot change hearts. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, but He does call on each of us to shape and direct the power of the Gospel so that it is the most effective for our audience.*

---

Instead, the *power* is shaped and directed into an order of worship: including singing, confession, absolution, the Word and the Sacraments.

This is purposefully shaped and directed for certain people in a certain time and space.

Does this sound as though *we* are doing something to help God save people? Yes, perhaps in a sense, we are. God did use Jesus to save all mankind on the cross, of course, but the communication instrument for delivering the Gospel to people, is people. It is you and me. He gave us the Great Commission to “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19) to laypeople when He said, “Go, do this!”

Of course, we are *not* called to save people. We cannot change hearts. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, but He does call on each of us to shape and direct the power of the Gospel so that it is the most effective for our audience.

If you are talking with an unchurched friend or relative, you have the ability to shape and direct the Gospel according to what they need at that time. We don’t generally hand people a tract and say, “Jesus died on the cross, just believe it, and everything will be fine.” We listen, because the most effective message is delivered and heard through the relationship. This is shaping and directing the power of the Gospel so it is most effective for reaching people!

## Scripture

Read Rom. 1:16.

## Catechism

- Read Baptism, parts 1-3.
- Read the Third Article.

## Journaling

- **React to** Rom. 1:16. How can we be Gospel Blasters?
- How can we shape and direct power?
- **Reflect on:** We are *not* called to save people. We cannot change hearts. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, but He calls on each of us to shape and direct the power of the Gospel so that it is the most effective for our audience.

## Prayer

Help us to be increasingly sensitive to those who do not know what we know—that Jesus Christ died to take away our sins—so we who have been found can look for those who have been lost and share the Good News with them. We pray this in our Savior’s name. Amen.

## Session 2:

# Outreach Discipleship: Disciples Making Disciples

### Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Identify the meaning of a disciple.
- Acknowledge and give praise for our great disciple leader, Jesus, and His work in our lives.
- Apply Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 10:33, John 8:31, John 15:8, Romans 6:4, John 15:16, John 15:3 and the Third Article to our understanding of Outreach Discipleship.

### Discipleship in the Church

**T**he Great Commission: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations [people groups], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age'" (Matt. 28:18-20).

**Disciple:** "A follower of any great leader" (Luke 14:33; John 8:31; John 13:35; John 15:8)

#### Jesus, Beautiful Savior and Great Leader

First and foremost, Jesus is the Savior of the world. He died in our place and rose again for our justification. He is the Gospel!

Second, He is also the ultimate model of a Leader who developed leaders to be like Him, who developed leaders to be like Him, who developed . . .

#### I. Jesus as Leader Himself

- He knew who He was (John 10:36, John 8:14)
- He knew His mission (John 11:23,26)
- He focused on His mission (Luke 9:62)
- He had internal anchors (John 12:42-43)
- He managed His energy (Luke 8:43-46)
- He had courage (John 18:11)
- He had passion (Matt. 21:12, Rev. 3:15, John 13:37-38)

#### II. Jesus as Leader and Developer of Leaders

- He selected individuals (Mark 3:13)
- He spent time with them (Mark 3:14)
- He modeled (Luke 11:1)
- He took time to teach them (Mark 4:33-34)
- He encouraged them (Luke 10:17-24)
- He prayed for them (John 17:6, 8-11)
- He sent them out (Mark 3:14b-15)

#### III. Jesus as Leader of a People Movement

- He invited people to walk beside Him (Matt 4:19)
- He looked at people (Mark 10:2)
- He loved people (Luke 22:61, John 21:15-17)
- He respected people (Acts 1:4-5)
- He glorified Himself in people (John 17:9-10)

**P**lease form affinity-based clusters\* of three to five people. Find a comfortable place for conversation. The person whose birthday is closest to today is asked to be the leader. The leader is asked to guide the cluster through the following questions.

Please spend approximately 10 minutes on the following questions in the context of your lived experience as a church leader.

\* Individuals having enough in common to allow for comfortable conversation and spiritual growth.

*Who comes to mind as a person who reminds you of Christ as Leader? What did/do they say and/or do that reminds you of Christ?*

---

---

---

*Who do you think might see you as a Christ-like leader? A follow-up question (properly understood): Who (not what) do you consider your greatest accomplishment?*

---

---

---

*What would you do with your life if you did not have to work for money? What difference could you make in the lives of other people? Who would those people be?*

---

---

---

## Important notes about motivation for outreach discipleship:

**O**utreach discipleship is about our **sanctification**, not our **justification**. This is absolutely critical.

**Sanctification** is what you do because you have been saved. It is your thankful, freely given response to God's grace.

**Justification**, you have nothing to do with it. God declares you not guilty just by reason of Jesus Christ. The Third Article states, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength, believe in Jesus Christ or come to Him. . . ." In other words, we are saved by grace. It is a gift. Think of a typed piece of text. The left side is usually justified. It always comes out exactly the same: **justified**.

From a legal point of view: Justified means you are declared not guilty, even though you are.

We have had a real struggle in the church by

trying to motivate people to do outreach in the area of justification. In other words, if you do outreach or evangelism, God will love you more. That is wrong! God cannot love you any more than He does now. He loves you perfectly in Jesus Christ. Don't let evangelism be part of your justification, because then you are saying you are saved by believing in Jesus and doing evangelism; you are saved by believing in Jesus and doing stewardship; you are saved by believing in Jesus and going to church, etc.

We are saved by grace through faith alone. This is most certainly true, yet we have a lot of people running around the church feeling very guilty and saying, "I know if I do evangelism, then God will be pleased, or even impressed."

Impress God? He who made the earth? Even our best works are like filthy rags. If you are trying to impress God, try reading Job 39.

Outreach discipleship is not about our salvation, but it is about the salvation of people around us.

### Scripture

Read Job 39; Rom. 6:4.

### Catechism

- Review the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, especially part three "The Power of Baptism" and part four "What Baptism Indicates."

### Journaling

- Write your own motivation for good works . . .
- What does it mean to have a new life?
- What does that look like in our lives?

### Prayer

God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for freeing me from the power of sin and for raising me up to a new life through the water and Word of my baptism. Pour Your Holy Spirit upon me and motivate me to live the life of a disciple, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

## Session 3:

# Church Members or Christian Disciples?

### Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Recognize that congregations in conflict can do ministry, but it is more difficult.
- Acknowledge that we are called to be both church members and Christian disciples.
- Acknowledge that the past has a big impact on the present, especially if we are not aware of unresolved conflict.

**D**oing outreach—making disciples—is impacted by the conflict level in a congregation. Congregations that have high conflict can do ministry, but it is much more difficult! When the conflict level is reduced, then the outreach can be more effective and impressive.

**Many local congregations are dysfunctional for three reasons:**

- Constant bickering over unresolved conflict.
- Fear of taking a risk.
- More church members than disciples of Jesus Christ.

---

*“ . . . among the laity there are too many church members and too few disciples and among the clergy there are too many entitled professionals and bureaucrats and too few servants.” – Bill Easum*

---

In other words, some people are all concerned about membership, not discipleship; and there are pastors who say, “I am entitled; take care of me; I am the professional.” There are bureaucrats at denomination and district level who are not serving disciples; they are taking care of their organization.

Now let’s take a look at the two lists, comparing a congregation that is all about membership with one that is all about outreach.

Bill Easum, noted church consultant, put together a comparative list of what church members and outreach disciples may look like. Take a few moments to read through the lists. This may be done antiphonally (men/women, right/left, etc). After you read the lists, we will touch on each item.

Church Members	Outreach Disciples
Committed to the church	Committed to Christ
Managing committees	Deploying missions
Holding offices	Doing hands-on ministry
Making decisions	Making disciples
Trained for membership	On a life-long quest for quality
Serving at the church	Serving in the world
Preoccupied with raising money	Preoccupied with rescuing people
Doing church work	Finding personal fulfillment
Retiring from church work	Pursuing constant personal growth
Surveying internal needs	Sensitized to community
Eager to know everyone	Eager for everyone to know God
Loyal to each other	Drawn to the unchurched
Building faith on information	Build faith on experience with Christ
Perpetuating a heritage	Envisioning a future

In general, if a congregation is really preoccupied with the characteristics on the left, it will be more like a private club. If a congregation is really preoccupied with the characteristics on the right, it will probably fall apart within a few months, because there is not enough structure or organization to make it work. Ideally, you should not be one extreme or the other, but there should be a balance between them.

### **Committed to the Church vs. Committed to Christ**

There is absolutely nothing wrong with loyalty to a church, but the emphasis should be on commitment to Christ, the Head of the church. He is the one we are committed to, not the organization itself.

### **Managing committees vs. Deploying missions**

In many congregations, considerable time is spent on managing committees or boards. Some think that many meetings makes for ministry. Church meetings are like the huddle in a football game. You don't score in the huddle. You gotta snap the ball and go!

### **Holding offices vs. Doing hands-on ministry**

Lay leaders serving in elected positions is obviously a good thing. But when it becomes too much about being an officer in the church and less about doing real hands-on ministry, the result is membership maintenance, not disciples making disciples.

### **Making decisions vs. Making disciples**

It is good to make God-pleasing and affirming decisions, but too often our decisions are to withhold permission if we don't like exactly what is going on. A little negative can go a long way to stifle things, especially during times of conflict.

### **Trained for membership vs. On a life-long quest for quality**

To those who say, "I've been confirmed, I don't have to do anything more to be a Lutheran," we might ask, "Do you then have an eighth-grade understanding of your faith? Do you also have an eighth-grade understanding of your profession or anything else in life?" Disciples are life-long learners and strive for excellence.

### **Serving at the church vs. Serving in the world**

The Lord did not say, "Build it and they will come." He did say, "Go, and make disciples." Much work needs to be done to have a church ready for new people, but we need to focus on the people out there.

### **Preoccupied with raising money vs. Preoccupied with rescuing people**

It takes a substantial amount of money to keep a church and programs going successfully. Raising money is definitely needed and we should not be afraid to ask for money for His mission. But the emphasis is raising money to rescue people, not to preserve an institution.

### **Doing church work vs. Finding personal fulfillment**

Give people a chance to do what they want to do in their church. Ask yourself, "What do I enjoy doing? What is my passion?" Then, after determining this, do church work in your passion area. This is the most fulfilling way to serve the Lord: Ministry laced with passion.

### **Retiring from church work vs. Pursuing constant personal growth**

It is a great sadness to me when I hear older folks say, "Been there, done that. Let the younger ones take their turn. I'm burned out. I don't want to do church work anymore." I encourage you to pursue constant personal growth, constant serving of the Lord. Do it with all of your might and with great joy. Do what you enjoy and then dedicate it to Jesus.

### **Surveying internal needs vs. Sensitized to community**

There is a tendency to say, "We need to work on internal needs and our own members. After we take care of our own, we will get to community outreach later." If we only focus in here, we will never get out there.

### **Eager to know everyone vs. Eager for everyone to know God**

If you have more than one worship service, then you actually have more than one congregation at your church. Our heart's passion and goal is that everyone know God in Christ Jesus and therefore we are willing to give up some of that "knowing everyone."

### **Loyal to each other vs. Drawn to the unchurched**

While it may be helpful to be loyal to our fellow church members, our emphasis should be on touching the unchurched. You can say, "This is a friendly church." It may be to you, or to the particular group you identify with in your congregation, but it may not be to a visitor or even another

member. You have to shape and direct friendliness and warmth. It does **not** just happen. It needs to be intentional.

### **Building faith on information vs. Build faith on experience with Christ**

Lutherans tend to focus on education—a great attribute—but sometimes at the expense of experience. We seem to think if we can pour enough information into the brain, we can change people's behavior. The new life in Christ includes a personal experience with Jesus Christ. It is both knowledge and experience with the living Lord that changes lives.

### **Perpetuating a heritage vs. Visioning a future**

We have a very beautiful heritage in the Lutheran church. There are a whole lot of wonderful things that have happened in our rich history to be pleased and proud of. Our church body did not just merely evolve. It did not come to be overnight. It took the hard work—blood, sweat and tears—of many individuals who carried the torch, over many decades and even centuries to bring us to where we are now. It was built by people, with God's gracious blessings and yes, even His forgiveness. However, we **do not want to live in the past**. Someone once said, "The past is an excellent classroom, but it is a lousy place to live."

I fervently pray that each church can see its best days in the **future**, not in the **past**. Yes, the future may be quite different than what we are used to, what we have grown comfortable with, but envisioning the future and building for it is the way we can keep our church alive in Jesus.

## **The Five-Monkey Illustration**

**A** number of years ago, a group of scientists took five monkeys and put them in a room. The scientists leaned a ladder against the wall and hung some bananas at the top of the ladder. It didn't take long for one of the monkeys to see the bananas, and of course, he was created by God to desire that which was good for him, so he headed up the ladder to get the bananas. The scientists, who were watching closely, immediately hosed down this monkey and the other four monkeys with cold water. They rolled that one off the ladder and got all the monkeys totally wet.

Every time one of monkeys headed up the ladder toward the bananas, they, along with the other four, would be hosed down with cold water. This continued until the five monkeys stopped climbing the ladder. Then the scientists put the hoses away. They were no longer needed.

Then they took out one of the wet monkeys and replaced him with one dry monkey. The dry monkey looked around and spied the bananas at the top of the ladder. He headed up the ladder to get the bananas, but an interesting thing happened. He was immediately attacked by the other four wet monkeys and was knocked off the ladder. This continued to happen until he also stopped climbing the ladder.

Then the scientists took out another wet monkey and replaced him with another dry one. That monkey quickly started up the ladder to get the bananas; he was also immediately attacked by the three wet and one dry monkey, and knocked off the ladder. They didn't know why, but they did know this, "You don't do that here."

This experiment continued until eventually, all the wet monkeys had been exchanged for five dry monkeys. Amazingly, they would not climb the ladder, and they made sure that no one else climbed the ladder either.

**L**earnings that come from significant changes in people's lives are like quantum leaps. They form the very identity and core values of a person or group. In every congregation's history, there have been significant key events that cause behav-

ioral changes and have helped establish identity and core values. These core values develop a culture—a historical context. Events can affect change positively or negatively. These key events, along with the congregation's identity and core values, all help us in deciding if we will be church members or Christian disciples.

Are you personally ready to risk climbing the ladder . . . in order to bring Christ to people and people to the Church?

### Scripture

Read Luke 22:61; John 21:15-17; Mark 4:33-34; John 17:6, 8-11; John 13:37-38; Luke 9:62; Mark 3:14-15; Luke 11:1.

### Catechism

- Review the Third Acticle.

### Journaling

- After studying the two lists from Bill Easum, write down some thoughts as to where you see yourself along the continuum between church membership and Christian disciples. Where do you see your church? What things can be done to move your congregation to church members who are also disciples making disciples?

### Prayer

O God, our Father, by the cross of Your Son You reconciled the world to Yourself, enabling me to live in love and harmony with others. I thank and praise You for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help me to forgive others and to establish a healthy spirit in my congregation, beginning with me. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.

## Session 4:

# What Types of Outreach Disciple Has the Word Shaped and Directed You To Be?

### Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Recognize that we are witnesses.
- Acknowledge that we want to be positive witnesses.
- Acknowledge that it is time to make a commitment.

**Y**ou will be my witnesses." This is not an order that Jesus gave to the disciples. He is merely stating a fact. As Jesus' followers, they would be His witnesses, His testimonies, representatives of who He was and what He had done. The question that they no doubt had to come to grips with was: "What kind of witness will I be?"

We too, as followers (disciples) of Jesus, are all witnesses as well. The question that we also need to grapple with is: "What kind of witness will I be?" Every Christian can become a positive witness or a negative witness for Jesus Christ.

There are five different things people can do as part of outreach, based on their gifts, abilities, talents and personalities:

### 1. Tellers

These are individuals with the spirit of Philip (Acts 8:35). They tell the Good News about Jesus.

*"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus."*

### 2. Encouragers

These are individuals with the spirit of Barnabas (Acts 11:22-24). They encourage fellow members to tell the Good News about Jesus.

*"News of this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence to the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."*

### 3. Inviters

These are individuals with the spirit of the wedding banquet servants (Matt. 22:8-10). They invite those around you to your church in order to hear the Good News of Jesus.

*"Then He said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests."*

### 4. Welcomers

These are individuals with the spirit of Christ Himself (Luke 15:2). They welcome all who respond to the invitation. Individuals with this gift instinctively know what to do and how to make people feel warmly welcomed.

*"But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'"*

### 5. Disciplers

These are individuals who can assist the pastor with adult catechesis (Acts 2:42). They serve as adult facilitators for the new members. They befriend and assimilate these folks until they feel at home.

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

## Scripture

Acts 1:8; Acts 8:35; Acts 11:22-24; Matt. 22:8-10; Luke 15:2; Acts 2:42.

## Catechism

- The First Petition
- The Second Article—Our Response

## Journaling

- After reading about the tellers, encouragers, inviters, welcomers and disciplers, comment on where you think your gifts and passions fit.
- Why is each important in outreach?

## Prayer

Previous Lord, thank You for the honor and humbling responsibility to be Your witness. Grant me the grace to be a positive witness in all that I do and say, so that others may see a glimpse of Your glory. Amen.

## Session 5:

# How About Climbing Up the Ladder?

### Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Recognize that Jesus has given each of us gifts and abilities and a passion to do them.
- Discover your personal passion area.
- Learn how to join with others to form an affinity cluster (Outreach Action Team) and share this passion as ministry to others as outreach.
- Be affirmed that outreach action teams are a tremendously effective means of reaching out with Jesus Christ. Groups share celebrations with the church.

This session is where we finally get to the **heart** of this manual. In the previous sessions, we studied Jesus, the master leader and discipler. We analyzed ourselves and our own personal mission. We studied how important it is to be effective witnesses for Jesus—shapers and directors of the Gospel. We even analyzed the different roles, gifts and personalities needed in the local congregation to build family and a future.

In this session, we take a closer look at how we can actually reach out and disciple others: Outreach Discipleship. The model that will be presented in this session is called “Outreach Action Teams.” We will decipher what that actually means; we will gain understanding on how the teams can be formed and operated; and we will hopefully catch the vision for implementation in our local congregations.

### Outreach Action Teams

An Outreach Action Team is made up of people with a **common passion** or affinity that can be the basis of “intentional acts of compassion” (servant events) in the community that demonstrate the love of Christ and create opportunities to share the Gospel with people.

**Passion** is the key for the success of this approach. Finding your passion and then working alongside others with the same passion is extremely gratifying and provides the life and spirit for this ministry.

What do you enjoy doing more than anything else in the world? What wakes you up in the middle of the night, but you don’t mind? What would wake you in the morning without an alarm clock? What would you do if you did not have to work for a living?

The answer to these questions is what makes you come alive. It is your primary passion!

The whole idea behind this approach is have Christ-like people discover their passion and recruit three to five other people with this same passion into an affinity group. This group then does a servant event, an intentional act of compassion in the community and you have an “Outreach Action Team.”

### Outreach Action Team

#### Coach Job Description

1. Determine your greatest passion.
2. Recruit three to five people who share your passion or hobby.
3. Arrange to have the team meet with the pastor, DCE, DCO or lay leader to review the basics of justification by grace through faith in Christ. *(You will not be asked to preach, but you will be asked questions by those impacted by the act of compassion and will want to be prepared to give a simple, personal account of your faith.)*
4. Lead the team in the performance of an intentional act of compassion *(related to your common passion)* for someone or an organization in the community each month.
5. Gather the team for a time of “play, pray and plan” each month. *(This is very important for the growth and bonding of the team, and to maintain the clarity of ministry purpose—shaping and directing the Gospel.)*
6. Encourage the team to sit together in worship once a month. *(This is critical; it offsets the danger of the group leaving the church and launching off on its own. It also can draw the group—which may be made up of members, and non-members, and even unchurched into*

worship. It is also a visible sign to others about O.A.T.'s when they see the team in worship.)

7. Meet quarterly with the pastor or leader and other coaches in order to prepare a celebrative report to the congregation. (*It is so important to tell the church what is going on—celebrate the ministry!*)

## Outreach Action Team Ministry

### Master Coach

1. Work with the pastor to establish a list of Christ-like people.
2. Recruit team coaches from this list, help them establish their primary passion and encourage them to recruit their team.
3. Schedule the pastor or other staff person and OAT's personal-testimony training sessions.
4. Arrange for and lead the quarterly meetings with pastor and teams.
5. Be a cheerleader for the team coaches.
6. Keep the process going by constantly recruiting team coaches.

### Key Training Tools

- The Bible: For every obvious reason.
- Luther's "Small Catechism": Less obvious, but a wonderful witnessing tool.

### Conclusion

If unchurched people are not convinced by your action that you care for others, they will not care what you have to say. (Jesus went around doing good, performing miracles, meeting people's needs. Then they would say, "Who is this man?" This gave Him and the disciples an opening to shape and direct the Gospel for each particular audience.)

Teams are usually more effective in witnessing than one individual. (Jesus sent them out two-by-two; I recommend four or five.)

Teams with an affinity based on a common passion are easier to recruit, will stay together longer and be more effectively than any other common bond like the same age, gender or nationality.

If a group falls apart, don't worry about it. Don't try to force it to stay active. This is God's work. Just praise Him for the time that they

were at it. Groups sometimes last a month, sometimes years—let them be creative and try! Keep the organization to a minimum. Recruit, recruit and report celebration stories. Don't try to administer these cluster groups. Because passion is the common thread, they need to operate with passion. Give yourself and the groups permission to mess up. Forgive the mistakes, free them to go on and try something else.

Acts of compassion are very powerful Christian signs that give opportunity to share the Good News about Jesus. (People will ask why these groups are out there. Be prepared to answer—the reason is because we care; Jesus cares for us; we are simply passing that on.)

**One final note:** Don't worry about the cost of these ventures. He will provide. There is no shortage of resources in the Kingdom of God.

### Journaling

- Write down some of your passions. How might you be able to use them on an Outreach Action Team?
- Confess your fears and possible road-blocks to getting started. Ask God to help you move forward.

### Prayer

Savior, grant me a deep passion for the lost. Please give me a longing to reach out with your love to those around me, in my church and my community. Forgive my shortcomings and fill me with Your zeal. Amen.

# A Re-Commissioning for Outreach Disciples

---

## Invocation

- L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
R: Amen.

## Confession, Absolution and Re-commissioning

- L: When we honestly look at ourselves, we realize we have failed to share the Good News about Jesus as we should. We also know that we have not done all we should as leaders to equip and support others for this task. For these failings, in particular, we make confession to the Lord.
- R: **Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I am, by nature, sinful and unclean. I have failed to share the Good News about Jesus as You expect me to. I have also failed to do all in my power to help and lead others in this important task. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, I ask You to restore to me the new life I received through Holy Baptism. Wash me, renew me and enliven me for future service as an outreach disciple.**
- L: I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I also give you permission and encouragement to go forth in joy to be an outreach disciple for Jesus.

## The Response

- L: We are born anew through the free forgiveness from Jesus.
- R: **We will go forth as baptized children of God to share the Good News about Jesus.**
- L: Our Lord wishes for all to hear the news of salvation.
- R: **We will go forth with zeal to support others in this task.**

## The Word of the Lord

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. ... But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ... Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ... and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Refs: Matthew 28:19-20a; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 10:23-24; Matthew 28:20b*

## Prayer

- L: Dear Jesus, we rejoice in your precious gift of Holy Baptism;
- R: **We are born anew to live for you.**
- L: We also praise you for rebirth this day through your Holy Absolution;
- R: **We are born anew to live for you.**
- L: Move our lips to tell the Good News about you, for . . .
- R: **We are born anew to live for you.**
- L: Help us equip and lead fellow believers as they also say . . .
- R: **"We are born anew to live for you."**
- L: May millions more be reborn to say . . .
- R: **"We are born anew to live for you."**
- L: In Your most holy name we pray,
- R: Amen.

## Blessing

- L: The Lord bless you in all your ways from this time forth and even forevermore.
- R: Amen.

# Outreach Discipleship Resources

---

*The following are some resources available if you would like to strive for excellence in outreach discipleship, either in lay witnessing and/or lay leadership. Some are LCMS and some are not. We have confidence that our professional church workers are trained to discern what is useful and proper for Lutheran churches and schools.*

## ■ Lutheran Central

[www.lutherancentral.com](http://www.lutherancentral.com)

Lutheran Central is a network of numerous topics that connect to useful Lutheran web resources.

## ■ Easum, Bandy and Associates

[www.easumbandy.com](http://www.easumbandy.com)

EBA trains leaders in growing disciples of Christ, and provides resources, services and networks to equip Christian ministries.

## ■ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

[www.lcms.org/theway/jesus.htm](http://www.lcms.org/theway/jesus.htm)

This site is one in a series of five sites that describe the basics of Christianity to a person who does not know Jesus Christ.

## ■ Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod:

### Tell the Good News About Jesus

[www.lcms.org/TTGN](http://www.lcms.org/TTGN)

TTGNAJ encourages and equips congregations to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. It provides training materials, devotions, worship materials, etc., to help a congregation share the Good News.

## ■ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: District and Congregational Services

[dcs.lcms.org](http://dcs.lcms.org)

DCS contains many valuable resources for congregations in the areas of outreach, family, children, youth and stewardship. DCS helps districts and congregations do develop and foster vibrant ministries.

## ■ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: Pentecost 2000+

[www.pentecost2000.com](http://www.pentecost2000.com)

Pentecost 2000+ is an effort that involves LCMS districts, congregations and mission-active people across North America to start 1,000 new cross-cultural ministries. The site is a network of valuable resources and contacts to help reach out to people cross-culturally with the Gospel.

## ■ The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: World Mission

[www.lcmsworldmission.org](http://www.lcmsworldmission.org)

World Mission includes many missionaries and Christians across the world who partner in God's mission by praying, giving, volunteering, writing, learning and offering other kinds of support. The site also offers prayer resources, devotionals, publications, etc.

## ■ Lutheran Hour Ministry

[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

LHM provides resources and support in the areas of international ministry, North American ministry, volunteer opportunities, etc. Materials included: broadcasts, daily devotions, Bible research tool, topical messages, newsletters; an available response center.

## ■ Lutheran Hour Ministry: Living for Tomorrow

[www.lhm.org/lft.htm](http://www.lhm.org/lft.htm)

Living for Tomorrow targets unchurched North Americans facing challenges in family life and other relevant life problems. The program is a traveling multi-media outreach tool connecting people in need of emotional and spiritual support with a local congregation.

## ■ Lutheran Hour Ministry: Parish Media Teams

[www.lhmpmt.org](http://www.lhmpmt.org)

PMT provides training for congregations learning to use broadcast, print and other forms of media to help promote Lutheran Hour Ministry and its resources.

## ■ Roller Coaster Press

[www.rollercoasterpress.com](http://www.rollercoasterpress.com)

Roller Coaster Press is designed to be an outreach encourager and supporter. The site includes devotions, books, an E-column, free stuff, etc.

## ■ Spiritual Gift Discovery Tool

[www.cforc.com](http://www.cforc.com)

Designed to use computer technology to support Christians and share the Gospel. Resources available on the site include spiritual growth materials and links to Web sites and organizations.

## ■ Mission Growth Ministries

[www.missiongrowth.org](http://www.missiongrowth.org)

Mission Growth Ministries helps congregations, judicatories (districts and synods) and denominations get to the next level of ministry. It customizes its activities to the situation.

## ■ Acts 1:8 Ministry

[www.acts18.org](http://www.acts18.org)

Acts 1:8 is an effective program created to provide churches with a complimentary P.A.C.K. (Planned Acts of Christian Kindness) kit and consulting services, thus helping to reach lost souls for Jesus Christ.

## **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

District and Congregational Services

### **Outreach Ministry**

1333 S. Kirkwood Road

St. Louis, MO 63122

1-800-248-1930, Ext. 1720

[dcs.lcms.org/evangel](http://dcs.lcms.org/evangel)