



Have a discipling mindset

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Text: In Proverbs 20:5 we read, “*Though good advice lies deep within a person’s heart, the wise will draw it out.*”

Our goal here this evening is to:

- To engage you to stir up your mind regarding leadership to see the need for making discipling **a journey rather than an event**. The church must recognize that to effectively bring about change, discipling activities cannot take place solely in an event, rather in a journey. This requires ongoing coaching leadership.
- God’s universe is designed to run on **systems**. Ezekiel calls it a wheel within a wheel. Systems engage all levels of its existing environment to work effectively and to the degree any element of that system is not functioning the entire system is kilted and subject to crash.
- Coaching is a discipline that recognizes this fact and intentionally engages each person to function in their God-given abilities. It assumes the presence of the Holy Spirit for maximum benefit of all. While mentoring is the other side of the coin. The coin is defaced if it tries to sell itself as one-sided. Why? Mentoring pours into people, while on the other side Coaching assumes the power to the Holy Spirit embedded in every heart, to help people think, act, and develop wholistically and responsibly.
- God GROWS leaders through coaching.



Please answer these Questions:

What are your views on how God can use you through each year, Thrive/2025?

What is the systems approach is needed to be implemented in each church?

Recall how you were first got connected to Christ? Ink It Here:

What stands out in your mind that attracted you to Jesus and the Adventist church? Identify the said and actions that drew you over the line?

The above expressions will be used to begin to build a system that works for any church.

Connecting

Connecting with prospective disciples is a crucial aspect of effective ministry and outreach. Here's a list of **Ten Do's** and **Ten Don'ts** to keep in mind when engaging with individuals interested in learning more about faith and the church.



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Ten Do's

1. **Build Genuine Relationships:** Take the time to get to know people personally. Show genuine interest in their lives, feelings, and experiences.
2. **Listen Actively:** Practice active listening. Show empathy and understanding by being attentive to what prospective disciples are saying without interrupting.
3. **Be Authentic:** Share your own faith journey and experiences honestly. Authenticity fosters trust and openness.
4. **Create Welcoming Environments:** Ensure that your church is a welcoming place for newcomers. Make it easy for them to feel at home.
5. **Share the Gospel Clearly:** Present the message of the Gospel in a straightforward manner, tailoring your approach to the individual's background and understanding.
6. **Encourage Questions:** Foster a safe space where prospective disciples feel comfortable asking questions about faith, the Bible, and spirituality.
7. **Follow Up:** After initial connections, follow up with individuals to see how they are doing, and invite them to church events or Bible studies.
8. **Involve Them in Community Activities:** Encourage prospects to participate in social activities and outreach projects to help them feel part of the church community.
9. **Pray for Them:** Regularly pray for prospective disciples, asking God to guide and open their hearts to His message.
10. **Equip Them with Resources:** Provide them with materials, such as books or study guides, that can help them learn more about their faith and spiritual growth. Create an irresistible offer. Get personal with your customers. Make your clients your best friend.

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Ten Don'ts

1. Don't Be Overbearing: Avoid pressuring individuals or overwhelming them with information about faith. Allow them to express their own pace of exploration.
2. Don't Assume Knowledge: Don't assume that everyone has a background in Christianity or understands church practices. Avoid jargon and explain terms when necessary.
3. Don't Criticize Their Beliefs: Avoid negative comments about their current beliefs or backgrounds. Respect their journey and encourage open dialogue.
4. Don't Neglect Follow-Up: Failing to follow up can lead to disconnection. Don't assume that they will return without your encouragement.
5. Don't Isolate Them: Avoid having conversations that exclude others or make newcomers feel left out during gatherings.
6. Don't Compromise Values: While being accommodating, don't compromise the core beliefs and teachings of your faith.
7. Don't Rush the Process: Discipleship is a journey. Don't rush individuals into decisions or commitments; allow them to explore their faith at their own pace.
8. Don't Focus Only on Attendance: Avoid making church attendance the primary goal. Focus on building spiritual relationships instead.
9. Don't Ignore Their Needs: Pay attention to the personal and spiritual needs of prospective disciples and show compassion and support.
10. Don't Lose Your Passion: Maintain enthusiasm and passion for your faith. Your genuine joy in Christ can be contagious and attractive to others.

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Connecting Summary

Connecting with prospective disciples requires a balance of authenticity, empathy, and respect. By adhering to these Do's and Don'ts, individuals and churches can create an environment that fosters growth, understanding, and meaningful engagement in spiritual journeys.

When connecting with prospective disciples, language plays a critical role in shaping interactions and building relationships. Here are words and phrases to avoid (avoidance words/phrases) and those that can help draw people to you (connecting words/phrases).

Avoidance Words or Phrases

These terms can create barriers, misunderstandings, or discomfort for those you're trying to reach.

1. You should.....: Implies obligation and can feel condescending.
2. "Only if you believe this...": Puts conditions on acceptance and can be alienating.
3. "That's not how we do it here.": Suggests exclusivity and can make newcomers feel unwelcome.
4. "I don't think that's right.": Can come off as judgmental and dismissive of different perspectives.
5. "To be a part of this church, you must...": Implies that there are prerequisites to belong.
6. "You don't know this?" or "Haven't you heard?": Can make individuals feel embarrassed or belittled for their lack of knowledge.
7. "This is how it's always been done.": Closes the door on new ideas and experiences, suggesting resistance to change.
8. "It's just a... (simple, easy) thing.": Can minimize someone's difficulties or questions.
9. "I'm busy, but...": Signals disinterest; even an excuse can come off as dismissive.
10. "You have to be perfect to join.": Implies that imperfection makes someone unworthy of community or faith.



Connecting Words or Phrases

These terms can foster an inviting atmosphere, encourage open communication, and build relationships.

"I'd love to hear your thoughts on...": Invites participation and values the other person's perspective.

"Let's explore this together.": Emphasizes collaboration and mutual discovery.

"How can I support you?": Shows a willingness to help and a commitment to their needs.

"Everyone has their own journey.": Acknowledges individual experiences and fosters acceptance.

"I find that really interesting.": Validates their feelings or experiences, which can deepen connection.

"You're not alone in this.": Offers reassurance and creates a sense of community.

"What questions do you have?": Encourages open dialogue and shows readiness to engage.

"I've experienced something similar...": Shares personal experience, promoting relatability and trust.

"We're all learning together.": Highlights the shared nature of the faith journey and that growth is ongoing.

"You belong here.": Affirms inclusivity and welcoming attitudes, crucial for connecting with newcomers.

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Icebreakers

These are general that you can format to be more specific:

Certainly! Here are 15 icebreaker lines you can use to re-engage prospects on your evangelism list who attended services in 2024:

1. "Hi there! It's great to reconnect! What was your favorite moment from our services last year?"
2. "Hello! I hope you've been well since we last connected. Did any message from 2024 resonate with you?"
3. "Hey! As we step into 2025, I'm curious—what are you most looking forward to in your spiritual journey this year?"
4. "Hi! It's wonderful to reach out again. If you could describe your experience with us last year in just one word, what would it be?"
5. "Hello! I've been reflecting on our time together last year. What's a takeaway from 2024 that you still think about?"
6. "Hey there! As we prepare for an exciting 2025, I'd love to hear what you'd like to see more of in our services this year!"
7. "Hi! I hope your new year is off to a good start. Did you have a favorite sermon or event from last year that still inspires you?"
8. "Hello! It's been a while! What's one thing you learned last year that you're applying to your life today?"
9. "Hey! As we enter 2025, I'm excited to hear your thoughts—what would you like to explore more deeply this year?"
10. "Hi there! Looking back at 2024, what's a memorable moment you'd like to share? I'd love to hear your perspective!"
11. "Hello! I hope you're excited for what's ahead. If we could plan an event for 2025 based on your interests, what would it be?"
12. "Hey! It's great to touch base again. What's one goal you have for your spiritual life this year, and how can we support you in that?"
13. Do you have a few minutes to share?
14. I wanted to connect with as we enter this new year, wishing you the best.
15. At our church this year we continue to involve the community in personal building activities. Would you mind if I share some of them with you.



Conclusion

Using the right language can significantly impact how prospective disciples perceive the church and their willingness to engage. By avoiding exclusionary or judgmental phrases and adopting inviting, supportive language, you can create a valuable connection with individuals seeking spiritual growth and community.

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