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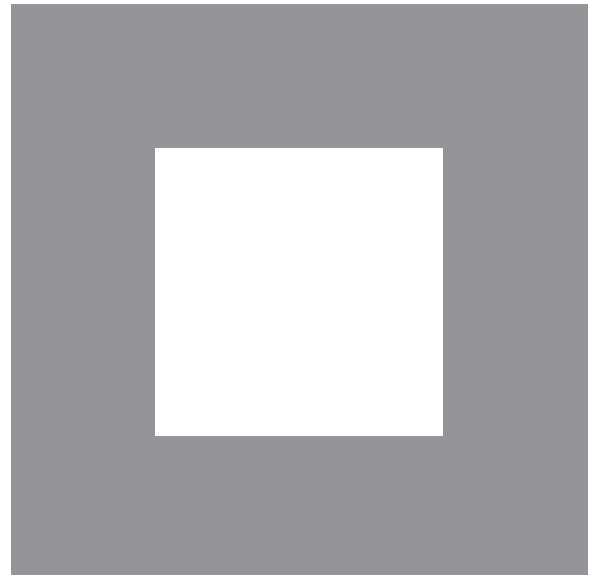
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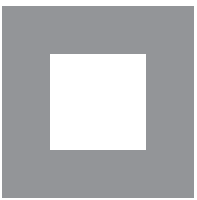




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CAMPAIGN PLANNING GUIDE





Faith in Action

CAMPAIGN PLANNING GUIDE

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faith in ACTION

A courageous, four week, churchwide campaign that will *transform* your congregation, *impact* your community and help your church *touch* the world.

faith in ACTION Partners

The Faith in Action campaign was forged through an unprecedented strategic partnership between World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization serving more than 100 million people in nearly 100 countries, Outreach Inc., the nation's leading provider of church communication resources, and Zondervan, the nation's leading Christian publisher.

In today's culture, it is often not enough to simply speak the gospel, we must live it in order to effectively share its message. Our prayer is that Faith in Action will serve to bring this "show me" gospel into the hearts, minds, hands and feet of churches in a simple, practical way, and open the door to passion, ministry and outreach in churches everywhere.





SECTION ONE CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Section One: Campaign Overview

What is the Faith in Action Campaign?

Faith in Action is a courageous, ground-breaking churchwide campaign that will *transform* your congregation, *impact* your community and help your church *touch* the world.

Faith in Action is:

- 28 daily FaithStep devotions.
- 4 weeks of small groups.
- 3 preparatory worship services.
- 1 canceled worship service replaced by a day of service in your community followed by an evening celebration service!

A Transformational Learning Adventure

After spending three weeks learning about biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need, your church will apply what it's learned on Faith in Action Sunday—worshiping through serving.

Catch Their Attention: Regular worship services are canceled!

Gone Serving: 100% of your congregation (or as close as you can get) is released into the community to participate in service projects that teams from your church have prepared ahead of time.

Reach Out: Invite people from your community to come serve with you. With a compelling, sincere invitation, you will be amazed how many people outside your church will join you in this project.

Celebrate: On the evening of your Faith in Action Sunday, invite all who served and were served to celebrate and thank God for all he did in and through your church that day.

Benefits of Faith in Action

1. Transform Your Congregation

- Increase passion to serve and grow spiritually.
- Make new friends and build closer relationships.

2. Impact Your Community

- Build relationships between your church and community organizations.
- Meet real needs.
- Reach out to people looking for a service-oriented church.
- Earn the right to be heard.

3. Touch the World

- Catch a vision for God's heart of compassion.
- Learn about global needs and ways to respond.

“do not merely listen to the word ...
do what it says.” James 1:22

Campaign Planning Guide Overview

During Faith in Action month, your congregation will be *inspired, equipped* and *mobilized* to serve. Faith in Action is designed both to help your church make a difference and to make a difference in your church.

This planning guide will provide everything you need to plan, prepare and execute the four major components of the Faith in Action campaign:

1. Worship services
2. Small groups
3. Individual daily devotions
4. Faith in Action Sunday service project(s)

Deepen Faith

This guide provides information on the sermons, small groups and devotions that will inspire and energize your congregation.

Plan + Prepare

The service project section of this manual includes resources and ideas to help you plan your Faith in Action service weekend. Add your own contacts and plans as you go, to make this an even more valuable, working document.

Increase Participation

This guide provides you with the tools and resources you need to effectively promote the Faith in Action campaign to your congregation, creating excitement, building momentum and increasing participation in the campaign and projects.

Reach Out

Don't just speak the gospel—live it! The Faith in Action campaign is an excellent opportunity to share Christ with people in your community by inviting them to participate in service projects with you! The tools, ideas and resources you need to equip your members to reach out are all available to you in this manual.

Campaign Timeline

Buy-In

As you prayerfully consider using the Faith in Action campaign at your church, the most important first step is getting support and buy-in from the senior pastor and all members of the church's key leadership. This is a comprehensive churchwide campaign. Before the plans to execute can begin, it's critical that everyone is on board. Schedule your Faith in Action campaign, and give everyone as much notice as possible.

Three Months Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Pray.
2. Select a Faith in Action campaign director.
3. Determine a budget for Faith in Action service weekend, promotion and outreach.
4. Assemble your Faith in Action campaign team(s) (see p.7 Campaign Team).
5. Begin to plan and organize your Faith in Action service projects (see Section Five).

Two Months Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Pray.
2. Order Faith in Action campaign curriculum materials, promotion and outreach resources.
3. Make sure the preaching pastor and worship leader (service planner) are equipped with the service planning materials.

One Month Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Pray.
2. Begin your Faith in Action promotion to build excitement and participation.
3. Begin selling/distributing Participant's Guides.
4. Train your small group leaders.
5. Prepare to take sign-ups for your Faith in Action service projects.
6. Prepare to preserve your Faith in Action experience in photos and video.
7. Begin planning your Faith in Action celebration service.

One Week Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Pray.
2. Make sure all Participant's Guides have been distributed.
3. Make sure project information is ready for sign-ups.

Faith in Action Month

1. Pray.
2. Begin small groups.
3. Begin individual daily devotions.
4. Take sign-ups for Faith in Action service projects.
5. Focus weekly sermons/worship services on Faith in Action.
6. Prepare service project team leaders for Faith in Action weekend.

Follow-Up

1. Praise God and celebrate!
2. Send thank-you notes.
3. Follow up with visitors who participated in your activities.
4. Follow up and continue service projects launched during Faith in Action month.
5. Collect testimonials, feedback, photos and video to share with your congregation and others on PutYourFaithInAction.org.
6. Begin to pray about your next Faith in Action Sunday.

Faith in Action Campaign Materials

Campaign Kit:

- Campaign Planning Guide
- Campaign DVD
 - Weeks 1–4: Sermon Illustration Clips
 - Weeks 1–4: Small Group Session DVDs
- Small Group Sessions DVD
 - Weeks 1–4: Small Group Session DVDs
- Resource CD–ROM
 - Weeks 1–4: Sermons
 - Powerpoint Template
 - Bulletin Insert
 - Promotional Resources
 - Resource Links
 - Service Project Documents
- Sample Participant's Guide with *Faith in Action Study Bible Book of Luke*
- Sample Leader's Guide with Small Group DVD
- Promotional Tool Samples
- Free T-shirt
- Coupon for \$50 off qualifying order of In Reach or Outreach Tools

Participant's Kit

- Participant's Guide—FaithStep Devotionals + Small Group Discussion Questions
- *Faith in Action Study Bible Book of Luke*

Small Group Leader's Kit

- Leader's Guide
- Small Group Sessions DVD
- Participant's Guide
- *Faith in Action Study Bible Book of Luke*

Internal Promotional Tools

- Indoor Banners
- Bulletins

Outreach Tools

- Direct Mail Postcards
- Door Hangers
- Outdoor Banners

To order call 800.991.6011 or visit PutYourFaithInAction.org

Campaign Team

Prayerfully assemble a team of strong, servant-hearted people who have a passion to transform your church and community through the Faith in Action campaign. This list may vary, depending on your church's existing leadership, the scope of your project and the specific needs of your church.

Campaign Director: Coordinates the execution of the overall Faith in Action campaign and ensures that each of the project areas is being properly managed.

Worship Service Planner: (May be the existing worship service planner or someone dedicated just to this campaign month.) Works with the pastor, worship leader, tech team, communications director and service project leaders to plan and prepare the four Faith in Action worship services, most notably, the Celebration Service that will be held on Faith in Action weekend.

Small Group Director: (May be the existing small group director or someone dedicated just to this campaign month.) Oversees the training of small group leaders, as well as the distribution of guides to all participating members and leaders.

Communications Director: Gets the word out! Responsible for engaging 100% (or as close as possible) of your regular attendees in the Faith in Action campaign and service projects, using promotional campaign materials and creative communication. Will oversee sign-ups and publicity through all of your church's normal communication channels.

Outreach Director: (This can be your existing outreach director or someone dedicated just to this campaign month.) The point of Faith in Action is not simply to serve, but to invite the community to serve with you. What a shock for your community when they hear your church say, "Don't go to church! (This Sunday)." Your outreach director is responsible for engaging as many people outside your church as possible, including the local media.

Service Project Leaders: (These can be people already involved in a particular area of service or ministry, or people who are chosen just for this campaign month.) The culmination of the Faith in Action campaign is the service project(s) that will be done on Faith in Action weekend. Each of these service projects will require a leader who will plan the project, prepare the necessary resources, information sheets, maps, water, work shifts, transportation, tools, etc., and coordinate with any outside agencies or organizations. They may also supervise assistant project leaders who will help lead work teams on site.

Prayer Coordinator: The Faith in Action campaign has the potential to transform your church, impact your community and help your church touch the world—but not without the empowerment and direction of the Holy Spirit. If God has led your church to do Faith in Action, then prayer is the essential foundation that will help it succeed. Your prayer coordinator will ensure that not only is your Faith in Action weekend covered in prayer, but the entire preparation process is anointed as well.

Organizing Your Faith in Action Campaign

Specific plans for organizing your campaign are best determined by your own leadership based on the needs and resources of your specific church and community. However, here is a checklist to get you started:

- Pray.
- Get buy-in.
- Determine your budget.
- Identify your key leadership.
- Equip your key leadership with the tools and resources they need from this kit.
- Order necessary curriculum and promotional tools.
- Identify service projects and any community, national or international ministry or service partners (e.g. local schools, prisons, World Vision, food banks, etc.).
- Get project plans, deadlines and team member lists from each campaign team leader.
- Schedule regular leadership meetings to pray, coordinate details, ensure that progress is being made, solve problems and encourage team leadership.
- Provide regular, centralized communication to keep your team members updated.
- Thank everyone when the campaign is over and be sure to document your plans to make your next campaign even better and easier.

SECTION TWO SERMONS + SERVICES

FourWeeks: Detour
Lens
Drop
Party

SectionTwo: Sermons + Services

These sermons were designed to help your congregation gain an understanding of biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need. But beyond understanding, they will be moved to apply what they've learned during Faith in Action weekend.

Overview

Enclosed are four sermons and sermon outlines complete with sermon illustration videos and service planning tips to help introduce each of the four weekly themes. Three of the sermons will be used before your Faith in Action weekend, and the fourth is designed for use with the celebration service, held the evening of your Faith in Action Sunday.

The sermon springboard video clips feature Steve Haas, vice president for World Vision, who sets the stage to help you infuse your congregation members with passion to love and serve as Christ did.

Faith in Action Weekly Themes

1. **Detour:** God uses detours to get our attention and help us see what's really important.
2. **Lens:** When we refocus our vision we will begin to see the world as God does.
3. **Drop:** God uses small things and multiplies the results. We can each make a difference!
4. **Party:** We experience joy and spiritual rewards when we put our Faith in Action.

Resources

- Sermons (included in this manual and on the Campaign Resource CD).
- Sermon Illustration Videos (included on Campaign Resource DVD).
- Service Planning Tips (included in this section).
- Powerpoint Template (included on Campaign Resource CD).
- Bulletin Insert (Can be used for sermon outline. Included on Campaign Resource CD).

Sermons + Services Timeline

One Month or More Before Faith in Action Month Begins

1. Provide the sermons, Campaign Resource DVD and Resource CD, service planning tips and Powerpoint templates to your pastor and worship planning director/team.

One Week Before Faith in Action Month Begins

1. Make sure the DVD clips work with your church's projection system.
2. Build excitement for the upcoming message series.
3. Assemble a team of people representing each of your Faith in Action service projects to be part of the planning of your celebration service.

One Week Prior to Each Faith in Action Worship Service

1. Pre-print your bulletin inserts with your pastor's sermon outline and/or print Faith in Action service project(s) and small group sign-up sheets.
2. Personalize your Powerpoint sermon + worship slides using the provided template.

SECTION TWO SERMONS + SERVICES

Week One: **Detour**
Lens
Drop
Party



Service Planning Tips: WeekOne

Theme: Detour

Sermon: Love Takes A Detour

Text: Luke 10:25-37

God uses detours to get our attention
and help us see what's really important.

Prayerful Preparation

This week's message is designed to prepare the hearts of your congregation to be jogged out of their comfort zone and to be open to taking a "detour," sacrificing time, convenience and their own agenda to help others. Pray that your congregation members will be open to really seeing the needs of others and be willing to respond to those needs.

Creative Service Element Ideas

Real Life Detour: Arrange for an unknown single woman to have an obvious car problem (flat tire or hood up) about a quarter mile from the entrance to your church. During the service (toward the end of the sermon), ask her to come on stage and share about her experience, and if any members of your congregation stopped to help her. This report should be given in a way that honors those who did help, and doesn't shame those who did not. It would be interesting to note if any people from the community stopped.

Testimonials: Ask one or two members of your congregation to share a time when they went out of their way to help someone, and what the result was. Or, have them share a time when someone went out of their way to help them.

Suggested Worship Songs/Hymns

- "Light the Fire" – *Bill Maxwell* (Bloodsmith Music)
- "Kindness" – *Louie Giglio, Chris Tomlin + Jessie Reeves* (worshiptogether.com songs)
- "Me and My House" – *Martin Nystrom, Don Harris + Rom Brooks* (Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- "Refresh My Heart" – *Geoff Bullock* (Word Music)
- "Consuming Fire" – *Tim Hughes* (Thankyou Music)
- "Every Move I Make" – *David Ruis* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "Who Is On The Lord's Side?" – *Frances R. Havergal* (Public Domain)
- "Rise Up O' Saints Of God/Rise Up O' Men of God" – *William P. Merrill* (Public Domain)



Outline + Summary: WeekOne

Theme: Detour

Title: Love Takes A Detour

Text: Luke 10:25–37

Summary

We have opportunities in life to take our usual route or to follow God's prompting to take a divine detour. But this detour will not be easy. It will require us to disadvantage ourselves so that we can help someone else. By exploring the parable of the Good Samaritan we see that he decided to take a divine detour on his highway of life. It was a detour that took risk, personal involvement, time and money—all things we often use as excuses not to act.

Outline

Introduction

- **Illustration:** Our reaction to encountering detour signs.
- The detours of life. Are you the kind of person who will follow the sign that says “Take Your Usual Route”? Or will you decide to take the detour?

The Example of the Good Samaritan

- **Luke 10:25–28:** The lawyer's motive behind the first question was to test Jesus.
- **Illustration:** Johnny Lechner graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater after being a full-time student there for 12 years.
- **Luke 10:29:** The lawyer's motive behind the second question was to justify himself.
- **Illustration:** W.C. Fields “I'm looking for loopholes.”
- The parable isn't just about “We should help people in need.” The parable is also about excuses.
- **Luke 10:30–33:** Cast of characters. History of Samaritans.
- **Illustration:** Barna Group found that 84% of people in the United States identify themselves as Christians.
- **Luke 10:33–37:** The Good Samaritan chose to get off his usual route and decided to take a divine detour on his highway of life.

That Took a Risk (v. 30)

- **Illustration:** The town of Telluride—“to Hell you ride”.
- Explanation of road from Jerusalem to Jericho—“The Way of Blood”.
- Martin Luther King quote.
- If you are going to love your neighbor, you can't use risk as an excuse.

That Took Personal Involvement (v. 33–34a)

- **Illustration:** From BBC News, 65-year-old Clive Collins fell into a manhole on a crowded street and no one stopped to help him.
- If you are going to love your neighbor, you can't use personal involvement as an excuse.

That Took Time (v. 34b)

- **Illustration:** Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Tipping Point* tells of an experiment where two Princeton University psychologists showed that the words ‘Oh, you're late’ had the effect of making someone who was ordinarily compassionate into someone who was indifferent to suffering.
- If you are going to love your neighbor, you can't use time as an excuse.

That Took Money (v. 35)

- **Illustration:** John Michael Jasset, hit by a car, had to pay \$1.04 for ice at a fast-food restaurant because they wouldn't give it to him for free.
- Margaret Thatcher quote.
- If you are going to love your neighbor, you can't use money as an excuse.

Jesus changed the focus of the question from “Who is my neighbor?” to “How are you as a neighbor?”

- Would you want yourself as a neighbor? Would you stay on your normal route and not take a divine detour?
- We have the privilege to disadvantage ourselves to advantage others.

Conclusion

- Get off your normal beaten path of life. Visit someone in the hospital. Take a plate of spaghetti to a widow. Be open, be ready and decide to take a divine detour!

Sermon: WeekOne

Theme: Detour

Title: Love Takes A Detour

Text: Luke 10:25–37

How do you feel when you see this sign?



Note to Pastor: *If your church size and style accommodates it, try to get people involved by responding to the question (rather than just stating it as a rhetorical question).*

You probably aren't saying to yourself, "Oh, good! I get to take a detour." Instead, you might feel a little anxious because you're not sure where this detour will take you. Or you might feel frustrated because you are pressed for time and this detour will mess up your schedule.

Note to Pastor: *If possible, tell a story of when you took a detour that made you late or lost. Or if you don't have a story like that, tell how you feel when you are forced to take a detour.*

But what if you were driving and saw two road signs—one said "Detour Ahead" but the other said, "Take Your Usual Route." It was completely your choice. Which would you take? You would probably take your usual route—especially if you knew that the detour would cost you time, money and personal frustration.

Today we're going to talk about detours. Not necessarily detours that you might encounter while driving—but we are going to talk about detours when you are traveling the highway of life—life detours. Some detours in life come at you, and you can't choose to take your normal route—an illness, a layoff from your job, a spouse that walks out of your marriage.

But there are other times in your life when you have a choice to get off your normal path and take a detour—a detour that can help someone. Are you the kind of person who will follow the sign that says "Take Your Usual Route" or "Detour Ahead"?

We are going to look at a person in the Bible who decided to take a detour on his road of life. You've probably heard of him. He is known as "The Good Samaritan."

Open your Bibles to Luke 10:25–28. We are going to look at the context of this story. As I read verses 25–28, I want you to notice the motive behind the question that is asked of Jesus.

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" He replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." (NIV)

Sometime during the Judean part of Jesus' ministry, he encounters a person called a Nomikos or an "expert in the Law." The people of that time respected these lawyers as community leaders and professional interpreters of the Law. They had at least three areas of professional duty. First, they explained the requirements of the Law (the first five books of the Old Testament, also called the Pentateuch) to ordinary people. Secondly, they kept alive the memory of past leaders like the prophets. And thirdly, they trained others in knowledge of the law.

In this encounter between Jesus and the lawyer, the Bible says that the lawyer had an underlying motive.

Did you catch the motive behind his question?

Note to Pastor: *Encourage your church to respond with the answer.*

Yes, the motive was to test Jesus.

The expert called Jesus "teacher," but he was trying to give the teacher a test. This properly schooled lawyer was testing the popular, but unofficial, teacher to see if he could expose to the crowd that Jesus couldn't handle a tough theological question. Jesus didn't go for it though; and since He was a teacher, He gave the test back to the expert.

Jesus asks him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” In other words, Jesus says, you’re the expert; don’t you know the answer?

The lawyer can’t resist the temptation to show off his theological sophistication. He answers: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”, and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

His answer actually shows a lot of insight. Jesus then reveals his authority over the man by essentially giving him a grade. He says in effect, “You’re right. You get an A+ for that answer.” But Jesus doesn’t stop there. He says “Do this and you will live.”

This man was an expert in knowing, but not in doing. Jesus is saying that it isn’t enough to know the right answer, you must do it.

There are many people who are good at talking the talk, but not walking the walk. Recently, 29-year-old Johnny Lechner graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater after being a full-time student there for 12 years. Lechner said he would stay longer if he could. “I’m just broke. I’ve got no more money. Trust me, if I had the money, I’d stay longer ... The schedule’s laid back, you’re around all kinds of educated people. And we’re all just broke college kids, too. It’s not like the real world.”

Source: *Badger Herald*, April 20, 2006, Kate Maternowski

What would you do if Johnny were your son? You’d probably advise him to grow up, join the real world and contribute to it. But when it comes to Christianity, a lot of people do exactly what Johnny Lechner did. They stay in the safe environment. Do their Bible studies. But they never go out into the real world and put into practice what they know.

Now let’s read verse Luke 10:29. This is an important verse, and I want you again to notice the motive behind the question. This is key to unlocking the meaning of the rest of this passage.

²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In a characteristic lawyer fashion, he wants to defend himself by narrowly defining a word. What is your definition of “neighbor,” he asks Jesus. The classic interpretation for “neighbor” by the Jews at that time meant “one who is near,” near in terms of race and religion. To the lawyer “love your neighbor” meant love those of your own race and religion, and you have fulfilled the law. If the person doesn’t fit these qualifications, then he or she isn’t a neighbor, and the law doesn’t apply.

The Bible tells us that the lawyer’s first motive is to “test” Jesus. What is the word the Bible uses to reveal his second motive?

Note to Pastor: *Encourage your church to respond with the answer.*

Yes, his motive was to justify himself.

In the Bible, the word “justify” normally means to be made right with God. But that’s not what it means here. This expert isn’t trying to make himself right with Jesus. The word “justify” in this passage means that this man was trying to excuse himself. He was excusing himself from following the command to love his neighbor.

He meant the same thing W.C. Fields meant when he was found reading the Bible on his deathbed, and he said, “I’m looking for loopholes.”

Fields was looking for a loophole. He wanted to know how little he could do. He was trying to justify his inaction.

And this is the key to understanding Jesus’ response. The problem with the man’s question was that he was trying to justify himself from not loving his neighbor, even though he knew it to be the second greatest commandment. Contrary to what most people think, the parable of the “Good Samaritan” isn’t just about “We should help people in need.” The parable is also about excuses. It’s about self-justification.

This isn’t just the lawyer’s problem. It’s our problem too. We often justify ourselves from not helping others. We tell ourselves that we can’t help someone because it’s too dangerous, too involved, too time-consuming or we don’t have enough money.

Note to Pastor: *You may want to ask your congregation to call out excuses people use to not help someone. Share a time when you justified (excused) yourself from helping someone.*

Let’s now read Luke 30–37. ³⁰In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the

other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.”

Before we keep reading the rest of the story, I want you to notice the cast of characters. We have a group of robbers. We have a man who gets robbed and beaten so badly that he is half dead. Then we have the three main characters. The first character is a priest. The office of priest in Israel was of supreme importance and of high rank. They represented the people before God, and offered the various sacrifices prescribed in the law. The second character is a Levite. Levites weren't quite as honored as the priests, but they were nonetheless a privileged group in society, and responsible for the liturgy and protecting the Temple.

So far Jesus has mentioned a priest and a Levite. Who would you expect to be mentioned next? The original hearers would have expected to hear that a Jew came down the road. But the third character is a big surprise. Jesus said a Samaritan came. It's like saying, there's Papa Bear, Mama Bear and a skunk.

Samaritans were despised by Jews. Some 700 years earlier, Israel was invaded by Assyria. Assyria exiled tens of thousands of Israelite captives, and they resettled the area with people from other parts of the Assyrian empire (2 Kings 17). The Jews that remained and the foreigners that moved in lived together, had children and became a new people. Their descendants were the Samaritans of Jesus' time. Though Samaritans believed in the law, they worshipped at Mt. Gerizim rather than Jerusalem (John 4:20–22). They were considered to be half-breeds and heretics by the Jews. The racial and religious contempt between these two groups was intense and at times even violent.

By using a Samaritan as the hero, Jesus is pointing out that it doesn't matter what you call yourself. It's the same today. Lots of people call themselves Christians who aren't. A recent poll conducted by the Barna Group found that 84 percent of people in the United States identify themselves as Christians. But ask yourself, do more than eight out of ten people in the U.S. live their faith as followers of Christ?

Source: *“How Americans See Themselves,” The Barna Group, 2006*

Let's continue reading, starting again at Luke 10:3: ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. “Look after him,” he said, “and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.”

³⁶Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?

³⁷The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Jesus uses the example of the “Good Samaritan” to show us a person who looked past excuses to stop and help.

The Good Samaritan chose to get off his usual route and decided to take a divine detour on his highway of life.

1. A Detour That Took a Risk

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. (Luke 10:30)

The town of Telluride in southwestern Colorado is known for being a great resort and ski town. But it didn't always have that reputation. Back in the wild west days, the road to Telluride was so full of robbers that the town got its name from the contraction “To Hell You Ride.”

The 17-mile road from Jerusalem to Jericho had the same kind of reputation and a similar kind of infamous name. Because of the number of robbers along this road, it was known as “The Way of Blood.”

This road descends some 3,300 feet through desert and rocky country that could easily hide robbers. The robbers on this road were dangerous. Even if a person didn't have much, they would rob him just for his clothing. That's what happened to this man in the story that Jesus told. But they didn't just rob him; they beat him, leaving him half dead.

When the Samaritan stopped to help, he knew he was on a dangerous road. He maybe even thought that the robbers might be near and that they might get him next. But the Good Samaritan didn't use risk as a justification not to act.

Sometimes, we justify ourselves not helping someone in need because we are afraid of the risk to us. Now, I'll admit there are times when taking a risk just may not be smart. For example, if you are driving through the

desert and you see a sign that says, “Don’t Pick Up Hitchhikers,” then you see a man in an orange jumpsuit with his thumb out, stopping to pick him up isn’t just risky, it’s dim-witted.

But most of the time, our problem isn’t that we take too many risks; it’s that we don’t take any risks. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “the first question the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But ... the good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

If you are going to love your neighbor, don’t use risks as an excuse to hold back.

Note to Pastor: *If you can, give an example of someone in your church who took a risk to help someone.*

2. A Detour That Took Personal Involvement

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. (Luke 33–34a)

When the Samaritan sees the wounded man, he doesn’t walk over to the other side of the road. Instead, he has sincere compassion for him. He bandages up the man’s wounds, perhaps using his own headcovering or by tearing strips from his garment. He also pours oil and wine on the wounds. Olive oil was used to keep the cut skin supple, and the wine was used to help clean the wound and to help keep it from getting infected. The traveling Samaritan wasn’t afraid to get personally involved.

Unfortunately, 65-year-old Clive Collins didn’t have someone like the Samaritan around. Collins was opening his car trunk in a parking lot in Boscombe, England, when the manhole cover tipped, and he slipped down the five-foot hole.

Collins told the BBC News, “Probably about 15–20 people walked by. The more I called out, the less they seemed to notice me. What surprised me is that they didn’t make eye contact. A woman actually parked alongside my camper and put the hood up on her car. I said, ‘Can you please call me an ambulance’ and she refused to acknowledge the fact that I was there.”

Collins said one shopper did acknowledge him but did nothing to help. “One chap looked straight at me in his car driving very slowly by and I waved. He waved back and then carried on.”

Despite suffering broken ribs, he managed to get his mobile phone out of his pocket and call 999 (England’s version of 911) himself. He needed 47 stitches and treatment for two broken ribs, a chipped tooth and a strained groin.

Source: *BBC, September 14, 2006*

The BBC didn’t report on whether most of the shoppers were priest and Levites, but there were apparently no Samaritans.

Some people use the excuse of not wanting to get personally involved in helping someone in need. But the Samaritan did not use that excuse. He didn’t wait for someone else. (He didn’t just call 911 or phone the pastor to get involved. He didn’t just write a check.) He got involved. He was moved with compassion toward action. He got in the ditch with the man. He got close and bandaged the man’s wounds. He probably came out of the ditch looking dirty and bloody too.

If you are going to love your neighbor, don’t use not wanting to be personally involved as an excuse to hold back.

Note to Pastor: *Here is an scenario. My wife and I are foster parents for drug-exposed babies. The most common response we get from Christians when they find out that we do this is, “Oh, I could never do that. I would love the babies too much, and it would be too hard to let them go.” They use the excuse that they love too much to help. You may want to use this example of how people justify themselves in not getting personally involved. If you can, give an example of someone in your church who got personally involved to help someone.*

3. A Detour That Took Time

Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him (Luke 10:34b). The Samaritan didn’t use a time schedule as an excuse not to help. He took the time to stop, and then he slowed his progress by putting the man on his donkey. There wasn’t an emergency room where the Samaritan could take the man. Instead, he took him to an inn and cared for the man himself that night.

Sometimes, we use our schedules to justify not helping people in need. In fact, this may be the most common excuse of them all.

In Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, he tells of a fascinating experiment: "Some years ago, two Princeton University psychologists, John Darley and Daniel Batson, decided to conduct a study inspired by the biblical story of the Good Samaritan.

"Darley and Batson decided to replicate that study at the Princeton Theological Seminary ... Darley and Batson met with a group of seminarians, individually, and asked each one to prepare a short, extemporaneous talk on a given biblical theme, then walk over to a nearby building to present it. Along the way to the presentation, each student ran into a man slumped in an alley, head down, eyes closed, coughing and groaning. The question was, who would stop and help? Darley and Batson introduced three variables into the experiment, to make its results more meaningful. First, before the experiment even started, they gave the students a questionnaire about why they had chosen to study theology. Did they see religion as a means for personal and spiritual fulfillment? Or were they looking for a practical tool for finding meaning in everyday life? Then they varied the subject of the theme the students were asked to talk about. Some were asked to speak on the relevance of the professional clergy to the religious vocation. Others were given the parable of the Good Samaritan. Finally, the instructions given by the experimenters to each student varied as well. In some of the cases, as he sent the students on their way, the experimenter would look at his watch and say, 'Oh, you're late. They were expecting you a few minutes ago. We'd better get moving.' In other cases, he would say, 'It will be a few minutes before they're ready for you, but you might as well head over now.'

"If you ask people to predict which seminarians played the Good Samaritan (and subsequent studies have done just this) their answers are highly consistent. They almost all say that the students who entered the ministry to help people and those reminded of the importance of compassion by having just read the parable of the Good Samaritan will be the most likely to stop. Most of us, I think, would agree with those conclusions. In fact, neither of those factors made any difference. 'It is hard to think of a context in which norms concerning helping those in distress are more salient than for a person thinking about the Good Samaritan, and yet it did not significantly increase helping behavior,' Darley and Batson concluded. 'Indeed, on several occasions, a seminary student going to give his talk on the parable of the Good Samaritan literally stepped over the victim as he hurried on his way.' The only thing that really mattered was whether the student was in a rush. Of the group that was, 10 percent stopped to help. Of the group who knew they had a few minutes to spare, 63 percent stopped.

"What this study is suggesting, in other words, is that the convictions of your heart and the actual contents of your thoughts are less important, in the end, in guiding your actions than the immediate context of your behavior. The words 'Oh, you're late' had the effect of making someone who was ordinarily compassionate into someone who was indifferent to suffering—of turning someone, in that particular moment, into a different person." (pp. 163–166)

When it comes to helping those in need and loving our neighbors, the greatest ability is availability! If you are going to love your neighbor, don't use time as an excuse to hold back.

Note to Pastor: *If you can, give an example of someone in your church who took time out of his or her schedule to help someone.*

4. A Detour That Took Money

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." (Luke 10:35)

If you read between the lines, it seems that the Samaritan was a merchant who regularly traveled this road and had stayed at this inn before. He gives the innkeeper money to take care of the man, who stays there awhile. Then he promises the innkeeper, who apparently knows he can trust the Samaritan, that he will reimburse him for any additional costs when he returns from his trip. The Samaritan didn't use money as an excuse not to act.

John Michael Jasset, a teenager, staggered into a fast-food restaurant after being hit by a car. He was thrown from his bike and also scraped his knee, arms and hands. But when he asked for some ice to put on his wounds, he was asked to pay for it. The charge: 99 cents, plus five cents for tax, the price of a small soda. John Michael said he would never go to that restaurant again.

Source: *Townonline.com, August 23, 2006, Jennifer Roy*

Sometimes, we justify not helping those in need because it is going to hit our pocketbook. The Samaritan did not use this as an excuse. He made financial sacrifices to help the man in need. The two silver coins represented two days' wages. Even more, the Samaritan said that he would take care of any extra expenses as well once he returned from his trip (and you know how expensive those little mini-bar items can be!).

Margaret Thatcher once said, “No one would have remembered the Good Samaritan if he’d only had good intentions. He had money as well.” Many times, it may take money to help your neighbor in need.

If you are going to love your neighbor, don’t use money as an excuse to hold back.

Note to Pastor: *If you can, give an example of someone in your church who gave financially to help someone.*

Now, let’s look at the passage as a whole again.

Did Jesus answer the question “Who is our neighbor?” Yes, he did. Your neighbor isn’t necessarily someone who lives next to you. Your neighbor is anyone in need, anyone you can help.

But notice that Jesus did more than answer that question. He asked the expert in the Old Testament.

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

In other words, Jesus changed the focus of the question from “Who is my neighbor?” to “What kind of neighbor are you?”

Let me ask you, would you want yourself as a neighbor? Would you want yourself to show up on the scene? Would you stay on your normal route or would you take a divine detour because Jesus says that loving God and others is the path to eternal life?

The Good Samaritan disadvantaged himself to advantage someone else. As Christ followers, we have the privilege to disadvantage ourselves to advantage others.

Our spiritual journey calls us beyond managing our to-do lists and into a Faith in Action lifestyle that welcomes divine detours—opportunities to demonstrate God’s love to people in need.

Note to Pastor: *Below are some simple suggestions for people to love their neighbors. Think of some specific ways people can help in your community.*

This week, I challenge you to get off your normal beaten path of life. It doesn’t have to even be anything big. Visit someone in the hospital. Take a plate of spaghetti to a widow or widower in your neighborhood. Volunteer to baby-sit for a single mom. Write a letter to a soldier overseas. Sponsor a child in an impoverished country.

Decide to take a divine detour. Take action. Love your neighbor.

Note to Pastor: *Here is a clip you may want to show in your service from the animated movie “Robots.”*

“Robots” DVD Chapter: 3 (Start Time: 0:04:24 End Time: 0:07:17)

Scene: At a parade, Rodney Copperbottom’s father points out a giant balloon in the image of Mr. Bigweld. Rodney wants to know who it is, and Mr. Copperbottom says, “Bigweld, the greatest robot in the world.”

Rodney is confused, “I thought you were the greatest robot in the world?” Dad laughs and says, “Besides me. He’s the head of Bigweld Industries.” He tells Rodney that Bigweld is an inventor who makes life better for everyone. Rodney is impressed and wants to meet Bigweld, and his father tells him that someday he just might. Rodney asks, “Dad, what do you do?” And his father proudly says that he works at a fancy restaurant, “I’m a dishwasher.”

Later, Rodney is very excited because the Bigweld show is coming on and he calls for his father to watch. Dad says he is coming, but that he will have to work while he watches because his boss has been “piling it on” at work.

Bigweld appears on the screen and says that he is going to give viewers a tour of Bigweld Industries, starting at the front gate. But the front gate is closed. He asks Tim, the gatekeeper, why the gate is not open. Tim stammers and says, “Well, I thought…” But Bigweld kindly scolds, “Oh, we never shut the gate, Tim. Shutting the gate means shutting out fresh ideas!” Bigweld explains that robots come from all over bringing new ideas and that he listens to each one carefully. Different robots demonstrate their inventions. Bigweld turns to the camera and says, “So remember, whether a robot is made of new parts, old parts or spare parts you can shine no matter what you’re made of.”

Rodney, whose parts have always been hand-me-downs from cousins, looks at his father and says, “He’s talking about me, Dad!” His father replies, “He sure is, son.”

Bigweld continues explaining his company’s philosophy about invention. He says he likes to tinker with things, but all tinkering has to begin with a good idea. “So look around for a need, and start coming up with ideas to fill that need.” He says that good ideas will build on one another until finally you will accomplish your goal, “See a need, fill a need.”

Rodney is inspired. He says, “That’s it, Dad! I have to look for ... a need.” And then Rodney set out to lighten his father’s load at work.



SECTION TWO SERMONS + SERVICES

Detour
Week Two: **Lens**
Drop
Party



Service Planning Tips: WeekTwo

Theme: Lens

Title: Seeing People Through Christ's Eyes

Text: Luke 4:14-21

when **WE** refocus our vision
we will begin **to see** the world **as God does.**

Prayerful Preparation

This week's message is designed to help your congregation "lift their eyes" and see the familiar people, problems and needs in our world in a fresh light. Pray that the Holy Spirit will remove the spiritual blinders of self-focus that keep us from being truly impacted by what we encounter on a daily basis.

Creative Service Element Ideas

Have any congregation members wearing glasses swap glasses with a neighbor as a fun way of making the point—how you see the world depends on the lens you're looking through.

Suggested Worship Songs/Hymns

- "I Lift My Eyes Up" – *Brian Doerksen* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "Open the Eyes of My Heart" – *Paul Baloche* (Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- "More Like You" – *Brent Helming* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "One Pure and Holy Passion/One Pure Holy and Passion" – *Mark Attrogge* (PDI Praise)
- "Your Love Oh Lord" – *Third Day* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "Every Move I Make" – *David Ruis* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" – *William J. Reynolds* (Public Domain)
- "Be Thou My Vision" – *Ellenor Hull + Elizabeth Byrne Mary* (Public Domain)
- "Open My Eyes, Lord" – *Bob Cull + Casey Corum* (Mercy/Vineyard)



Outline + Summary: WeekTwo

Theme: Lens

Title: Seeing People Through Christ's Eyes

Text: Luke 4:14–21

Summary

We all have a “lens”—assumptions, responses and judgments—that influences how we see the world and other people. We have given Jesus our hearts, now we need to give him our eyes. Through exploring Luke 4:14–21, we discover that Jesus' mission guided his vision. He focused on needy people, looking through his lens of compassion. By taking up Christ's mission, we will be looking at people from Jesus' point of view. And by seeing people through Jesus' lens, we will be compelled to act compassionately toward them.

Outline

Introduction

- **Illustration:** Seven examples of physical vision problems that can affect the way you see (or don't see) things.
- **Illustration:** Many people have spiritual vision problems too. Shows spiritual equivalent to the seven physical vision problems.
- **Mark 8:22–25:** We need Jesus to help us see clearly.
- How Jesus sees people. Matthew 9:36; 1 Samuel 16:7.

How can we see like Christ?

- We have given Jesus our hearts, but now we need to give him our eyes.
- Luke 4:14–21.
- Exposition of Jesus preaching in the synagogue, declaring his mission.

What was the Messiah's mission?

- Preach good news to the poor.
- Proclaim freedom for the prisoner.
- Give sight to the blind.
- Release the oppressed.
- Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus' mission guided his vision.

- People were Jesus' mission.
- His lens was compassion.
- **Luke 7:36–48:** Jesus and the Pharisee looked at the same person but saw someone different.
- Several people can look at the same person and see someone different.
- **Illustration:** Fashion critic Joan Rivers, billionaire Donald Trump and Islamic terrorist Osama Bin Laden.

What we believe about our mission in the world affects how we see the world.

- When looking at your world, what do you see?
- When you see people, ask the same kind of question Jesus would ask.

Conclusion

- A challenge to the Church to see the way Christ sees and to cultivate compassion.



Sermon: WeekTwo

Theme: Lens

Title: Seeing People Through Christ's Eyes

Text: Luke 4:14–21

How many of you have eye or vision problems?

Note to Pastor: *If your church size and style accommodates it, try to get the people involved by responding to the question. Ask them what kind of eye problems they have, then talk about the other vision problems they failed to mention.*

There are a lot of things that can affect the way you see (or don't see) things. For example, there is ...

- **Amblyopia:** This is more popularly known as “Lazy Eye.”
- **Color Blindness:** The inability to distinguish between some colors.
- **Dry Eye Syndrome:** The inability to produce tears.
- **Hyperopia (Farsightedness):** The inability to see near objects clearly.
- **Myopia (Nearsightedness):** The inability to see distant objects clearly.
- **Presbyopia:** Greek for “Elder Eye,” difficulty to see close-up for those in their 40s and older.
- **Strabismus:** Misaligned Eyes (like actor Marty Feldman)

Not only do most people suffer from physical vision problems, many people have spiritual vision problems. Some people may have ...

- **Spiritual “Lazy Eye”:** We may see a problem but don't do anything about it.
- **Spiritual Color Blindness:** We may not pay as much attention to the plight of some people because of their race. (e.g., we may recognize that people in Africa are suffering ... but do we give it as much priority?)
- **Spiritual Dry Eye Syndrome:** We may lack compassion, we don't “cry” for people who are hurting.
- **Spiritual Farsightedness:** We may give to overseas missions but don't see the pain in our local community.
- **Spiritual Nearsightedness:** We may not see the pain of people in impoverished countries, whether it's South America, Africa, Asia, etc.
- **Spiritual Presbyopia:** Our compassion for people may have grown weak as we grow older.
- **Spiritual Misaligned Eyes:** We may have our eyes focused on worldly things.

There is an interesting passage in the Bible. It's not our primary text today, but it serves as an eye-opening illustration.

Mark 8:22–25. ²² They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. ²³ He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?” ²⁴ He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.” ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

This is an unusual passage. Jesus spits on the man's eyes and then touches him. It is possible what Jesus was doing was helping this man open his eyes because they had become matted shut. And when he did open his eyes, he could see, but not clearly: He couldn't distinguish people from trees except for the movement. So Jesus touched him again, and it says he could see everything clearly.

It seems that many of us are like this man. We have met Jesus, and he has opened our eyes, but we still don't see people clearly. We all have a “lens”—assumptions, responses and judgments—that influences how we see the world and other people.

Now let's look at what scripture says about how Jesus sees people.

Matthew 9:36. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

1 Samuel 16:7. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

How can we see like Christ? We have given Jesus our hearts, but now we need to give him our eyes.

Let's look at our main text today, Luke 4:14–21, to learn why Jesus saw people the way he did, and how we can see like he does. ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Before I continue reading, it should be pointed out that the passage just before this one is about Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. But between verse 13 and verse 14, several months have passed. If you had a chronological Bible, you would see that the events described in John chapters 2 and 3, which included some miracles, healings and preaching by Jesus, had occurred. That's why it says in verses 14 and 15 that "news about him spread through the whole countryside" and "everyone praised him." Jesus was starting to become famous around that area.

Let's continue reading. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written. ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Let me set the scene for you.

Note to Pastor: *Consider enacting this scene as you tell it. For example, put a podium in the middle of the church, and have someone hand you something that looks like a big scroll.*

Jesus had returned to his hometown—the town he grew up in. It's the Sabbath day, Saturday—probably in the morning. He goes to the synagogue—which is what Jesus has been doing in other towns.

The synagogue is filled with people. The men and their sons are sitting on backless benches, and in the balcony are the wives, daughters and sisters. In the front of the room are a row of elders. One of them, the attendant, gets up. He speaks briefly. He then asks Yeshua Ben Yusef, Jesus the son of Joseph, to read the scriptures.

Jesus gets up and walks to the middle of the room where there is a raised desk—kind of like a podium. People are excited to hear from him because all sorts of amazing stories have been circulating about this hometown boy. Then the attendant carries a heavy scroll to the podium and hands it to Jesus. It's a scroll containing the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus unrolls the large scroll until he finds the passage that has been prescribed for this Sabbath. There are no chapter or verse divisions, but he comes to the passage that we call Isaiah 61:1–2. And then he begins to read in a way that sounds different than the rest—he reads in a way that sounds like a self-proclamation. He speaks the first line ...

"¹The Spirit of the Lord is on me ..."

When he says this, it doesn't sound like he is just reading something that was written hundreds of years ago. It sounds like he is identifying with it. In fact, look back at verse 14. It says, "Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit." The Spirit of the Lord is on him.

"because ...," Jesus continues reading the old words with new meaning, "... he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus rolls up the scroll—hands it to the attendant—then sits down. Everyone is staring at him—their eyes are glued. You can hear a pin drop. He breaks the silence with these words, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

That was a slam-dunk statement. When Jesus said that, it set people buzzing. Because they knew that this passage applied to the Messiah!

Jesus was saying that he was the one Isaiah was writing about. He was the Messiah. And that this passage was his mission statement.

What was the Messiah's mission? Listen carefully, take notes even, because this is our mission too.

1. Jesus' mission was to preach good news to the poor. People thought that being rich was a sign of God's favor and being poor was a sign of God's judgment. Jesus said—absolutely not. Jesus turned the tables and gave the poor good news; they were favored by God. Have you felt out of favor by God? Jesus has good news for you.
2. Jesus' mission was to proclaim freedom for the prisoner. Whether you are literally imprisoned or imprisoned spiritually, Jesus has come to set you free.
3. Jesus' mission was to give sight to the blind. The blind were thought to be blind because of some sin they had committed (or their parents had committed). The religious leaders figured they deserved to be blind. Jesus came to heal and show mercy to people who were physically handicapped and spiritually condemned.
4. Jesus' mission was to release the oppressed. Jesus came to set wrongs right. He came to help the helpless. He came to bring justice to those who had experienced injustice.
5. Jesus' mission was to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. This is a reference to the Old Testament year of Jubilee when slaves were freed and all debts cleared. Jesus came to proclaim that if you are enslaved by and in debt to sin, that you are free and all debts are paid, because of what he would do on the cross.

Jesus' mission was a people-focused mission. It was an outward-focused mission. It was a mercy and compassion-driven mission.

Jesus' mission was the secret to his vision. His mission guided his vision. His mission was the lens that made him see people the way he saw them. People were Jesus' mission. His lens was compassion.

The word for compassion in the New Testament is only applied to one person, Jesus (except for the fictional "Good Samaritan"). Scripture tells us that Jesus felt compassion when he encountered the sick (Mt. 14:14), the blind (Mt. 20:34), the demon possessed (Mk. 9:22), those who lost loved ones (Lk. 7:13), the hungry (Mt. 15:32), the lonely (Mk. 1:41) and the bewildered (Mt. 9:36). His lens of compassion guided his action, reaction and interaction with everyone he met.

Here is an interesting passage that shows how Jesus saw people differently. Turn to Luke 7:36–48.³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.³⁷ When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume,³⁸ and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Jesus and the Pharisee looked at the same person but saw her differently. The Pharisee looked through the lens of judgment. Jesus looked through the lens of compassion.

Everyone has a different lens that influences how they relate to others. Through their lens they look at someone and ask themselves a question. For example, if fashion critic Joan Rivers were looking at you, she would likely be thinking "What are you wearing?" or "Why are you wearing that?"

Now imagine that someone like Donald Trump was looking at you, what question do you think would cross his mind when he saw you?

Note to Pastor: *If you can, give people the opportunity to respond. They should say something like “How can I get money from you?” “How can I sell you something?” “How much money do you have?”*

Or how about Osama Bin Laden? What question do you think would cross his mind when he saw you?

Note to Pastor: *Again, give people the opportunity to respond. They will probably say something like “How can I kill you?” “How can I make you a Muslim?”*

Their lens changed their question. Now, what question do you think Jesus asked himself when he saw people? I'm pretty sure he didn't ask “W.W.J.D?” What do you think he asked?

Note to Pastor: *People might be reluctant to respond—afraid they'll get the wrong answer. You may have to suggest these kinds of answers: “How can I help you?” “How can I show you God's love?” “How can I touch you with grace?” “How can I heal you?” “How can I right a wrong?”*

What we believe about our mission in the world affects how we see the world. When looking at your world, what do you see? A world in need? A world worth saving? A world worth serving? You will see all that if you are looking at it from Jesus' point of view.

When you see people, ask the same kind of question Jesus would ask. “How can I help you?” “How can I show you God's love?” “How can I touch you with grace?” “How can I heal you?” “How can I right a wrong?”

Note to Pastor: *Below are some simple and general suggestions for people to act on to love their neighbors. Think of some specific ways people can help in your community.*

This church is very gifted, and there are many places where we can serve Christ by serving others as we also cultivate our gift of compassion. I encourage you to befriend the divorced, or serve at a safe house or life choices pregnancy center. Sponsor a child or adopt hard-to-place babies. Comfort the dying at the hospice or minister at the prisons. Ask God to touch your eyes so that you can see others the way Christ did. Ask the Spirit to allow Jesus' mission to guide your vision. If you can see people through the lens of Christ's compassion, you will discover practical ways to show them the love of Christ.

Note to Pastor: *Here is a clip you may want to show in your service from the movie “Les Misérables.”*

Les Misérables DVD Chapter: 2 (Start Time: 0:02:56 End Time: 0:04:12)

Scene Setup: Jean Valjean, on parole from prison, is required by law to show his passport to anyone he meets. His passport proclaims him an ex-convict and a dangerous man. Needless to say, he can find no innkeeper willing to let him in. Asleep on a rock wall, he is awakened by a village woman who tells him he cannot sleep there.

Scene: The woman pokes Valjean with a stick, and tells him he cannot sleep there. She asks why he doesn't go to an inn. He replies, “Why do you think?” And lets her imagine the answer. She asks him if he knocked on doors to see if people would let him stay with them, and Valjean assures her that he did. Knowingly, the old woman points to the door of a church down the street and says, “You didn't ask there. Knock on that door.”

Valjean gets up and knocks on the door. Without pleasantries, Valjean asks if the priest has any food he can spare. Without hesitation, the priest invites him in. Valjean responds, “Look, I'm a convict.” He launches into his story about his time in prison, the circumstances of his parole, and then he shows the priest his passport, identifying himself as dangerous. The priest immediately invites him in again. Incredulous, Valjean throws back his hood, to reveal his dirty face, and repeats, “I'm a convict. You saw my passport.” The priest tells Valjean, “I know who you are.” Stunned by the invitation, Valjean says, “You're gonna let me inside your house?”

SECTION TWO SERMONS + SERVICES

Detour
Lens
Week Three: **Drop**
Party



Service Planning Tips: WeekThree

Theme: Drop

Sermon: Small Acts Can Make a Big Splash

Text: Luke 13:18–21

God uses **small things + multiplies** the results.
we can each **make a difference!**

Prayerful Preparation

This week is designed to be a catalyst to rally and empower your congregation to put their faith in action through service projects the following weekend. Pray that God will speak to each congregant about being good stewards of the life and resources he has given them. Also, pray that they will understand the difference they can make when they give themselves to the Lord.

Creative Service Element Ideas

Put a large jar of water up on stage and at the beginning of your service, drop in a cup full of colored floral hydration crystals like crystal ice (absorbent water crystals, <http://www.crystals.us/cicrystalice.htm>). Let the crystals expand during your sermon, until they fill the jar with color, illustrating the point that when we give a little to God, he will multiply the result. Alternate: Fill one small dropper with food coloring and squeeze it into a large jar or vase of water. A small amount colors the entire jar. What can God do with your one “drop”?

Suggested Worship Songs/Hymns

- “To the Ends of the Earth” – *Marty Sampson + Joel Houston* (Hillsong)
- “Everyday” – *Joel Houston* (Hillsong)
- “The Power of Your Love” – *Geoff Bullock* (Word Music)
- “This Is the Day” – *Scott Brenner* (Scott Brenner)
- “Send Me” – *Denise Graves* (1997, Maranatha Praise/Word Music)
- “Here I Am” – *Bill Batstone + Chris Bowater* (Maranatha Praise)
- “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” – *George Duffield* (Public Domain)
- “Make Me a Servant” – *Kelly Willard* (Maranatha! Music)



Outline + Summary: WeekThree

Theme: Drop

Title: Small Acts Can Make a Big Splash

Text: Luke 13:18–21

Summary

In nearly every aspect of our lives, we seem to believe “Bigger is Better.” But is bigger always better? Not when it comes to spiritual things. Jesus taught this in Luke 13:18–21 with two illustrations of how God works in his kingdom. This message uses the refrain “God uses small things to do big stuff” and illustrates it from various sources to get the main idea across. It concludes with the challenge to all of us joining together for the impact of small actions multiplied by many.

Outline

Introduction

- **Illustration:** A two-part quiz showing we recognize, respect and remember things in life that are big, while we give little thought to the small things.
- We tend to think if it isn't big, God must not be in it. We can feel like we aren't big enough, rich enough, talented enough, or important enough for God to use us in any meaningful way.

In spiritual matters, bigger isn't always better.

- Luke 13:18–21.
- Exposition of mustard seed.
- Exposition of yeast.
- Jesus wasn't teaching about horticulture or baking. He was revealing a kingdom of God truth.

God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

- **Illustration:** Bulleted biblical examples from Abraham, Moses, David, boy's fish lunch, widow's mite, Mary and Joseph.
- God uses small things to do big stuff.
- 1 Corinthians 1:27–29.

God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

- **Illustration:** The meaning of the word “ministry” in Greek comes from a word meaning “grit”—and in Latin comes from a word meaning “small things.”
- God does significant things from small ministries.

God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

- **Illustration:** Another two-part quiz showing that the people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, money or awards. They are the ones who do the little things with a big heart.

What if we all did small things?

- **Illustration:** Fast Company's article on CFL light bulbs, showing the power of small actions multiplied by many.
- **Illustration:** World Vision's story about a small, poor, inner-city church that made a difference when huge disasters hit far parts of the world.

Conclusion

- You can be a single drop that joins with others to become a mighty river.
- God can use “little” you to make a big splash.



Sermon: WeekThree

Theme: Drop

Title: Small Acts Can Make a Big Splash

Text: Luke 13:18–21

Let me start by giving you a quiz.

Note to Pastor: *If your church size and style accommodates it, try to get the people involved by responding to the quiz.*

1. Which country has the largest population? (China: 1.3 billion)
2. What is the world's tallest mountain? (Mt. Everest)
3. What type of tree is the tallest? (Redwood)
4. Who is the world's richest man? (Bill Gates)

So far, so good. Now let's try the second half of the quiz.

1. Which country has the smallest population? (Vatican City: 920)
2. What is the world's smallest mountain? (Mt. Greylock)
3. What type of tree is the shortest? (Dwarf willow—5 centimeters when full grown)
4. Who is the world's poorest man? (Jed Matthews owes \$22.4 million and has no assets due to bad investments in an Internet company.)

Source: *Adapted from "Is Bigger Really Better?" by Larry Sarver on sermoncentral.com.*

How did you do? Better on the first half of the quiz, I bet. The point of the quiz is that we tend to recognize, respect and remember those things in life that are big, while we tend to give little thought to the small things.

In nearly every aspect of our lives we seem to believe "bigger is better." We even believe it in spiritual matters. We think that more people, more money, bigger ministries and buildings, more programs and greater talent will result in greater effectiveness at God's work. We often think that God is doing more and can do more where there is something going on that looks grand and marvelous.

And we tend to think the opposite about smaller things. We act as though God is not working or could not work through smaller churches and ministries, lesser talent and fewer programs. We think if it isn't big, God must not be in it.

Not only do we think this about churches and ministries, we also tend to think it about ourselves. We may feel like we aren't big enough, rich enough, talented enough or important enough for God to use us in any meaningful way.

Note to Pastor: *You may want to give a personal example here of how you have felt this way at times.*

But is bigger always better? No, not when it comes to spiritual things. Jesus wanted to get this point across to his followers. So he gave them two illustrations of how God works in his kingdom.

Turn with me to today's passage, Luke 13:18–21. ¹⁸Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?" ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."

²⁰Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?" ²¹It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Jesus asks a question: "What is the kingdom of God like?"

No one had ever seen the "kingdom of God" Jesus was describing. He never defined it. He just told stories and gave comparisons to help people understand and visualize what it was like.

In his first example, Jesus says that God's working is like a "mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."

The mustard seed is very, very small. The black mustard seed was the smallest seed ever sown by a first-century farmer in that part of the world.

Note to Pastor: Here is an image of mustard seeds next to a penny.
(<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/3/35/mustard.png>)

Because of its size the mustard seed was used proverbially for anything that was small and insignificant. Today we would say that someone had a “pea brain”; if we lived in Jesus’ time, we would have said they had a “mustard seed brain.”

But even though the mustard seed was small, it grew to be the largest of the herbs grown in that area. It typically grew to be 12 feet—two feet taller than a basketball goal. It was big and bushy enough for birds to nest in it.

In his second illustration, Jesus says that God’s working is like “yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

As a boy, Jesus undoubtedly had watched his mother make the daily bread. She would have used yeast to make it rise. She wouldn’t have used the dry yeast used today; rather, she would’ve used a very small lump of dough taken from the previous day’s making of bread. She would take that lump of dough and knead it in to the new flour mixture and eventually that yeast would permeate and influence the entire batch.

But the most important part of this illustration is the amount of flour into which the small amount of yeast was mixed: The amount is lost in the translation from Greek to English. The NIV says “a large amount,” but the Greek is more specific and says three “satas.” Three satas is about 50 pounds of flour. This will feed 100 people. This was more than daily bread. No housewife had an oven large enough to hold that amount of dough. The very vastness of the dimensions of Jesus’ story shows us that he was not describing an ordinary household baking situation. Even though the original ball of yeast was small, it would have a huge influence.

So what was the point of these examples? Jesus wasn’t teaching about horticulture or baking. He was revealing a kingdom of God truth. When it comes to spiritual things, God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

- When God wanted to create a new nation to call his own, he didn’t start with a large, established family. Instead, he used a nomadic man and woman too old to conceive children.
- When God wanted to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt, he used a man rejected by his own people and who had spent most of his life leading sheep.
- When God wanted a king to represent his people, his choice wasn’t a big shot, but a shepherd boy.
- When Jesus wanted to feed 5,000 people, he used a small boy’s sack lunch to do it.
- When Jesus watched people give, he wasn’t impressed by the big donors, but by the widow’s penny.
- And when God came to earth as a human, he didn’t choose a rich and famous family to be a part of. He came as a baby born in a barn to a poor and seemingly unimportant family.

God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

What we might see as too small and insignificant to matter, God sees as something he wants to use to accomplish his purpose. Or maybe you feel too small and insignificant to make a difference. Perfect, because as 1 Corinthians 1:27–29 says: “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

God uses small things to do BIG stuff.

We need to remember what ministry means. In Greek, the word for ministry is “diakonia.” The root word is “konis” which means “dust” or “grit.” In other words, ministry is dirty work. It rolls up its sleeves and does things that look unimportant to the world. But we get our word for “ministry” from the Latin root for “small things,” as in the word “miniscule.” Ministry is involved in small things. We are to be involved in little acts, small gestures and everyday service.

Few of us have “big lives,” careers that make a huge visible impact in the public sphere. Our lives and our ministry seem to deal with such ordinary things that it is often difficult to grasp their lasting worth. Christians often either abandon or give less than 100 percent to a ministry because they don’t see it as successful or believe that God could work mightily through something so small and insignificant. Size becomes a discouragement. But just like God can grow a significant tree out of an insignificant seed, he can do the same with you and me.

Let me illustrate this by giving you another quiz:

1. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
2. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.

3. Name 10 people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
4. Name the Academy Award winners for best actor and actress in 1982.

How did you do? The point is none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These were no second-rate achievers. They were the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a teacher who aided your journey through school.
2. Name a friend who helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name someone who taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of someone who made you feel appreciated and special.

The Lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They are the ones who do the little things with a big heart. As Mother Teresa once said, “We can do no great things; only small things with great love.”

Note to Pastor: *If you can, share a testimony of someone “small” in your church who did a “small” act that God used to touch someone’s life.*

Now let me ask you another question. What if we all did small things?

Let me give you an example of the power of small actions multiplied by many. This is a business (and environmentally) oriented illustration from the magazine called *Fast Company*. The September 2006 cover story is about light bulbs—here is an excerpt from that article:

“Sitting humbly on shelves in stores everywhere is a product, priced at less than \$3, that will change the world. The product is the compact fluorescent light bulb, a quirky-looking twist of frosted glass. In the energy business, it is called a “CFL,” or an “energy saver.” One scientist calls it an “ice-cream-cone spiral,” because in its most-advanced, most-appealing version, it looks like nothing so much as a cone of swirled soft-serve ice cream.

“... Compact fluorescent emit the same light as classic incandescents but use 75 percent or 80 percent less electricity. What that means is that if every one of 110 million American households bought just one ice-cream-cone bulb, took it home, and screwed it in the place of an ordinary 60-watt bulb, the energy saved would be enough to power a city of 1.5 million people. One bulb swapped out, would be enough electricity saved to power all the homes in Delaware and Rhode Island. In terms of oil not burned, or greenhouse gases not exhausted into the atmosphere, one bulb is equivalent to taking 1.3 million cars off the roads.”

Source: *Fast Company*. “How Many Light Bulbs Does It Take To Change The World? One. And You’re Looking At It.” Issue 108 | September 2006 | Page 74 | By: Charles Fishman.

Responding with compassion

That story shows the power of small actions multiplied by many. But let me rephrase the question. The question isn’t just, “What if we all did small things” but, “What if we all did small things for God?”

Listen to this story about a small, poor, inner-city church that made a difference when huge disasters hit in far parts of the world: “In the heart of Chicago’s West Side, thousands of inner-city families struggle daily to make ends meet—but that hasn’t kept many local Christians from joining forces to share the little they have with others in need.

“It all began December 26, 2003, when an earthquake shattered Bam, Iran, destroying an estimated 80 percent of the city. ‘It happened on a Friday, so I knew that by Sunday my people would be asking how they could help,’ says Rev. Marshall Hatch, pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Church in Chicago’s West Side. Unknowingly, Hatch that day set the stage for what has become Chicago’s African American Christian Relief Network, an alliance of small- to medium-sized inner-city churches dedicated to caring for those caught in natural disasters.

‘We chose to respond to the Iran earthquake because it’s a Muslim country,’ Pastor Hatch explained, ‘and I really wanted our church to be challenged to recognize its responsibility and show the love of Christ to Muslims, as well as other Christians.’

“Exactly a year later, on December 26, 2004, the world awoke to the news that a tsunami had devastated several Asian countries. By this time, Hatch had invited two other local African American churches—

Greater St. John Bible Church and New Landmark Missionary Baptist Church—to join his congregation in responding during disasters. Together these three middle- to low-income Christian groups reached deep into their pockets and raised \$8,000.

“Their gifts to care for the Bam earthquake and tsunami survivors were given to World Vision for its frontline work during those disaster responses. ‘World Vision is on the West Side,’ Pastor Hatch said. ‘We wanted to sow back into an organization that’s working in our own community too.’

“Yet the biggest gift was still to come. Using their networks with other churches and pastors, these three founding churches grew the African American Christian Relief Network to 30 West Side churches. When Hurricane Katrina ripped through the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, the network went right to work, and raised more than \$50,000 to help survivors.

“‘And we went there as well,’ Pastor Hatch said. ‘We took relief supplies to the small town of Rayne, Louisiana, where evacuees were flocking after the hurricane. We took nurses and ministers so that we could have a ministry of presence among people in desperate circumstances.’

“During their time in the hurricane-damaged area, the Chicago team worked alongside local church leaders, many who were exhausted from trying to address the overwhelming needs of those who were homeless and displaced. In early October, the African American Christian Relief Network also brought seven of those pastors to Chicago for a few days of respite, relaxation and recharging. During that time, these pastors shared from local pulpits, presenting a firsthand account of what was happening in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to those who had given so generously.

“Rev. Ira Acree, pastor of Greater St. John Bible Church, said the experience of giving—often out of their own need—to people in even greater need has deeply touched his congregation. ‘I think sometimes people living in the inner city who suffer, as our people often do, relate to other people who are suffering as well. In the midst of our own poverty, we are willing to sacrifice. This ministry has encouraged my church to see beyond their own situations and conditions to help others.’

“Now the network stands ready to make a difference when the next disaster strikes. ‘It’s really people and their hearts that are central,’ Pastor Hatch says. ‘Our people saw on TV what everyone else saw. But as Christians, we’re going to show up. If the church is relevant, they’re going to want to know what they can do.’”

Source: *World Vision*, http://www.worldvision.org/about_us.nsf/child/eneews_chicago_20060919

Can you imagine the power of many people doing small things and what God can do to multiply the influence? But don’t wait for someone else to start it. You need to jump in. Be the one to start the chain reaction. There is incredible life-changing power when one person grabs hold of the fact that through Jesus Christ one life can make a difference. One life touches a life, touches a life, touches another life, touches another life. One church can truly make a difference. One church touching its community, joining other churches in a powerful movement of Christians putting their faith into action, is truly amazing. Don’t miss that. Don’t let that pass you by.

Be encouraged you’re not in this alone. Our efforts may seem like a drop in the bucket ... But that’s precisely what we are: a single drop that joins with others to become a mighty river.

God can use “little” you to make a BIG splash!

Note to Pastor: *Here is an additional quote and two scenes from one movie you may want to use.*

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest wall of oppression and resistance.”
– Robert Kennedy

“Pay It Forward” DVD Chapter: 3 (Start Time: 10:08 End Time: 10:59)

Scene Setup: Mr. Eugene Simonet (Kevin Spacey), the seventh grade social studies teacher, has given his class an assignment that he has written on the blackboard.

Scene: (On blackboard this sentence is written in chalk) “Think of an idea to change the world: and put it into action!”

Mr. Simonet, the seventh grade social studies teacher, asks the class what words come to mind when they read this assignment.

Kids share their thoughts, “Crazy.” “Hard.”

Mr. Simonet says how about “Possible.” He tells them it is possible. He asks, “The realm of possibility exists where in each of you?”—“Here.” (Points to his head).

“Pay It Forward” (Scene 2) DVD Chapter: 10 (Start Time: 32:57 End Time: 34:19)

Scene Setup: Trevor (Haley Joel Osment), a seventh-grader, responds to the call of his social studies teacher to come up with a plan to change the world and act on it. He turns “Pay Back” on its head to “Pay It Forward”—a plan to help three people who must each help three people and so on until everyone is doing something for someone.

Scene: Arlene asks street person Jerry, “What’s pay it forward?”

Scene switches to Trevor’s school.

Trevor is explaining “Pay It Forward” by drawing it out on the blackboard. “That’s me. And that’s three people. I’m going to help them. Do something big for them that they can’t do themselves. They will do it for three others, that’s nine.”

Scene switches back to Jerry explaining it to Arlene. “That’s 27. It gets big real fast.”



SECTION TWO SERMONS + SERVICES

Detour
Lens
Drop
Week Four: **Party**



Service Planning Tips: WeekFour

Theme: Party

Sermon: You've Got to Fight for Your Right to Party

Text: Luke 10:17–23

we experience joy and spiritual rewards when ...
we put our faith in action.

Prayerful Preparation

This week's message is designed to celebrate your church's community outreach, and to encourage your congregation to continue to be open to God's detours, and to put their faith into action. Pray that your congregation will not see their outreach event as a one-time achievement, but as a lifestyle led by the Holy Spirit. Adapt, cut or modify this sermon to best fit the spirit of your service. It is likely that God will speak through the testimonies of those who share about their Faith in Action service experiences. A full sermon may not be necessary.

Creative Service Element Ideas

Who's invited to the party? Tell the story:

- Have a photographer or videographer quickly put together a slide or video presentation of the day's service projects and show it as part of your service.
- Hear testimonies from those who served and were served—a key element of your celebration service. Keep them brief and meaningful, allowing many people the opportunity to share.
- Provide an overview of your church's new or ongoing ventures in Faith in Action ministry. This may be the time for officially unveiling plans for community outreach, announcing a new service program, introducing ministry partners or corporately affirming the church's mission of outreach.
- Celebrate how God has been working through other community servants besides your church. Give special recognition to leaders or agencies in the community that were helpful in carrying out your service project. If your Faith in Action project involved collaboration with a nonprofit, you might want to take up a special offering to bless this ministry, in addition to collecting your regular tithes.
- Include a time of prayer for the ongoing fruit of your church's Faith in Action project in the church, the community and around the world, and a special prayer of dedication for outreach ministry leaders.
- Offer a reception after your service, with snacks (what's a party without food?), possibly a resource table and displays related to your church's ministry and those of other agencies serving the community and world.

Consider ways to make your celebration inclusive + invitational:

- Affirm children's Faith in Action by including a kid-friendly song, story, testimony or activity in the celebration. Ask the youth group to help plan a portion of the service or reception.
- Invite contacts from the community who are connected with your Faith in Action projects: school principals, staff, nonprofit agencies, public officials, volunteers—whether or not they are Christian. In fact, invite them especially if they are not Christian! What a great witness this celebration can be.
- Invite contacts from the broader body of Christ—denominational officials, ministerial association members, other churches in the neighborhood—to celebrate along with you. This may even plant the seeds for future cooperative, multi-site Faith in Action projects.

Suggested Worship Songs/Hymns

- "Majestic" – *Lincoln Brewster* (Integrity's Praise! Music)
- "Blessed Be Your Name" – *Billy Goot, Eddie Espinoza + Matt Redmond* (Thankyou Music)
- "Forever" – *David Ruis* (Mercy/Vineyard)
- "How Great Is Our God" – *Chris Tomlin, Jessie Reeves + Ed Cash* (worshiptogether.com songs)
- "Everlasting God" – *Brenton Brown + Ken Riley* (Thankyou Music)
- "Let Everything" – *Matt Redmond* (Thankyou Music)
- "How Great Thou Art" – *Stuart K. Hine* (Manna Music, Inc.)
- "To God Be the Glory" – *Fanny J. Crosby* (Communique Music)



Outline + Summary: WeekFour

Theme: Party

Title: You've Got to Fight for Your Right to Party

Text: Luke 10:17–23

Summary

This message is meant to be delivered after your church has participated in churchwide service projects. The text for this sermon is based on the testimony of the disciples sharing their ministry/service experiences with Jesus—and Jesus' response to them. It is a "testimony-inspired" message. Do the same for your church. Have people share their service experiences with the church. Then help them—like Jesus did with his disciples in Luke 10:17–20—understand the eternal, kingdom impact their faith in action made.

Outline

Introduction

- Have you ever been part of something that you were a bit apprehensive about, but then it turned out to exceed all your expectations?
- We recently challenged people to put their faith into action, and they took the challenge. We are going to start today's message with hearing about some of our people's experiences.

Faith in action brings us joy.

- Exposition of Luke 10:17–20.
- The disciples were pumped. They discovered that even the demons would submit to them when they evoked Jesus' authority.
- Wherever the disciples were preaching, healing, serving and casting out demons, Jesus saw Satan falling.
- Give at least a half-dozen examples from your congregants of when Jesus sees Satan fall like lightning because of what they do.
- The disciples had the power to transform the spiritual dimension of the world.
- Even greater reason to celebrate. Names written in heaven. We're on God's team.
- **Illustration:** In the movie "Miracle," based on the 1980 USA Olympic hockey team, Coach Herb Brooks puts his team through a grueling workout. He drills them again and again because he wants them to learn that who they play for is more important than individual glory.
- Our small acts of compassion are in reaction to Christ's redemptive actions at the cross.

Faith in Action brings God joy (Luke 10:21–23).

- **Illustration:** "Laughing Jesus" painting—If you had to find a place in scripture to place those pictures, you would put them here.
- Jesus' joy makes him break into a prayer of praise. He praises God for two things:
 1. "... because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." Even a little child can know God's love and experience the joy of imitating what he sees Christ do.
 2. "... No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Jesus praises God for making the Son of God the source of that revelation.

Conclusion

- You took a chance to put your faith into action, to strike a blow against Satan and to be a living witness to the continuing work and love of Jesus. It was one act. Now make it a habit.



Sermon: WeekFour

Theme: Party

Title: You've Got to Fight for Your Right to Party

Text: Luke 10:17–23

Note to Pastor: *This message is meant to be delivered after your church has participated in churchwide service projects. Modify the sermon as needed to fit the service, perhaps less preaching and more testimonials would be appropriate.*

Have you ever been part of something that you were a bit apprehensive about, but then it turned out well, to be great—in fact it exceeded all your expectations and you couldn't wait to tell everyone about it? We have some people like that right now.

We recently challenged people to put their faith into action, and they took the challenge. We had churchwide service projects focusing on our community (and beyond) and we are going to start today's message with hearing about some of our people's experiences.

Note to Pastor: *The text for this sermon is based on the testimony of the disciples sharing their ministry/service experiences with Jesus—and Jesus' response to them. It is a "testimony-inspired" message. Do the same for your church. Have people share their service experiences with the church. You also might want to consider video taping some of the service projects and getting people's reactions in the midst of serving.*

Transition to the message by thanking people for sharing and also recognizing all the other people who served who didn't have a chance to share.

We've often spoken of the interactions Jesus had with his close-knit group of followers called "the 12." Jesus also had a wider circle of people who formed a community of faithful disciples. In today's passage, Jesus sent 72 of that wider circle on a short-term journey in obedience to a command of Jesus to be his ambassadors in the region around them.

The last three weeks, we have been preparing to take similar steps to those the disciples took. As a result, I think we can realistically gauge what Jesus' response to our serving is by looking at how he reacted to his community of 72 ...

Turn with me to Luke 10:17

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

¹⁸He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

We heard it before when we talked about "God math." The disciples reported to Jesus that their faith, put into action with God's power, made an impact. If you have launched out into obedient service when prompted to do so by God, you can sense the emotional charge experienced by the early Jesus-followers. The disciples were pumped. Can you imagine the excitement in their coming back—all 72 of them—sharing what they saw and did? Their position prior to their service adventure had been largely that of a diverse gathering of uninformed spectators. Jesus was the expert, the traveling Rabbi, the wonder-working Messiah who performed miracles while his young charges looked on. But this assignment was different. They had been sent out by twos; this was firsthand experience of the divine power working its way into people's lives through them. Highly charged, the large gathering was perhaps giddy with emotion. They discovered that even the demons would submit to them when they evoked Jesus' authority.

Jesus did nothing to dispel their enthusiasm. He also shared that he saw something else—like a field-general perched at a vantage point that allowed him to see the totality and full impact of a raging battle. The disciples saw a direct correlation between what they said and did and the spiritual transformation that resulted in their participation in their world. Jesus upped the importance of their service by highlighting a reality that was out of their ability to comprehend. Jesus said that the disciples' actions dealt the evil one a formidable blow. The 72 acted in obedience and Satan was quickly dethroned. This is a curious phrase, seeing "Satan fall like lightning from heaven." What was Jesus saying? Some have interpreted this phrase to mean that as a result of the disciples' actions, Satan lost his grip in the variety of encounters the disciples participated in. Wherever the disciples were working, a spiritual transformation took place. Whenever the disciples were preaching, healing, serving and casting out demons, Jesus saw Satan falling.

Note to Pastor: *Share at least a half-dozen examples from your congregants of when Jesus sees Satan fall like lightning because of what they do.*

For example:

- “Today, even though we couldn’t see it, Satan fell like lightning from heaven when the ...”
(Explain the service done by a group from the church during their day of service. It could be something a large or small group did but should focus on the nature of service and the heart of the people who undertook the acts of love.)
- “Satan fell like lightning from heaven when ...” (Name another action taken during the weekend of service.)
- “Satan fell like lightning from heaven when ...” (Name another action taken during the weekend of service.)

Satan falls like lightning from heaven whenever you serve another with a heart of love, forgive someone who has wronged you, take pains to put another’s needs in front of your own or follow a prompting to lean into God’s marvelous adventure of faithful living.

Our Faith in Action combined with God’s power knocks Satan down.

Jesus didn’t stop there; he mentioned peculiar powers. The region the disciples frequented, the towns and urban centers, were under the grip of Satan, and needed the work and grace of God. The Christ-followers weren’t necessarily going into the woods or the deserts where snakes and scorpions were the problem. The context of this passage is about power over spiritual forces, not natural forces. The disciples had the power to transform the spiritual dimension of the world in which they lived with the power and authority Jesus imbued them with.

Standing in as one of the disciples, we would have been more than gratified to receive this announcement, but Jesus wasn’t finished. As amazing as his prior statement had been, Jesus went on to point out an even greater reason to celebrate. Jesus said, “Don’t rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Names written in heaven. You are registered as one of God’s own. Jesus said the real reason to celebrate is that we’re on God’s team.

In the movie “Miracle,” based on the 1980 USA Olympic hockey team’s gold medal victory at Lake Placid, N.Y., coach Herb Brooks puts his team through a grueling workout. He drills them again and again because he wants them to learn something.

Note to Pastor: *The DVD is still a popular rental from any rental service. This short segment may be more powerful shown than explained. In the event the DVD clip is not used, the following description can be used.*

Coach Brooks is relentless. He tells the squad, “The name on the front of the jersey is a whole lot more important than the name on the back!” The name on the front is “USA,” the team’s “owners.”

The brutal workout causes some of the team to fall down, some even get sick on the ice. All along Brooks repeats his mantra, asking the team members to state their name and who they play for. Brooks challenges those who don’t think they can take it to quit. In answer to this question, all the players give their names and the individual schools they skated for. Finally, in a desperate act, one of the key players, team captain Michael Eruzione, calls out to Brooks, and states his name. Brooks asks who he plays for. And Eruzione replies, “The United States of America!” The point made, the coach calls practice and the players collapse. A lesson is learned.

Source: “Miracle” DVD Chapter 6

It’s easy to get caught up in the size of our impact or discouraged because of the seeming lack of our service results. But Jesus was clear that this was to put the emphasis on the wrong thing. Location or size of service has little to do with how God measures our service. Obedient service is always in response to what Christ has already done for us. Our small acts of compassion are in reaction to Christ’s redemptive actions at the cross.

Now let’s look at the second half of this passage: Faith in Action brings God joy.

Luke 10:21–23. ²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”

The gospel writers are faithful to record the variety of emotions displayed by Jesus in the scriptures, as Jesus experienced and displayed genuine emotions, anger, sadness, laughter. Here we find Jesus overwhelmed with deep feelings of joy. There are some contemporary drawings and paintings of Jesus laughing. If you had to find a place in scripture to place those pictures, you would put them here.

Note to Pastor: *You can find some of these images by doing a google image search on the words “laughing Jesus.”*

Someone has said that if you want to make Jesus laugh ... show him your plans.

Seriously, what in our lives brings Jesus intense joy? The scripture is clear. In humility, putting your faith into action is a signal all the way to heaven that you have understood the meaning of your particular mission here on earth.

Jesus’ joy makes him break into a prayer of praise. He praises God for two things:

1. “ ... because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.” Jesus isn’t saying that he is glad that smart people can’t see God’s truth. He is saying that you don’t have a spiritual advantage by being an intellectual, scientist or philosopher. A life of faith in action doesn’t come from natural abilities or education. Instead, even a little child can know God’s love and experience the joy of imitating what he or she sees Christ do.

Second, Jesus praised God for revealing himself to children:

2. “ ... No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” Jesus now praises God for revealing himself to children. Now Jesus praises God for making the Son of God the source of that revelation.

This is one of the highest moments for Jesus. If he were to recollect on his time here on Earth, this would have been one of his favorite memories. He has seen his followers carry on his ministry—they did what Jesus did—and he has seen that common, everyday people are coming to know God through him. Jesus connects the dots between his followers putting their faith into action and people coming to know God through Jesus. Maybe it’s because when people see us working for Christ in the name of Christ, they really do see Christ.

You took a chance to put your faith into action, to strike a blow against Satan and to be a living witness to the continuing work and love of Jesus. It was one act. Now make it a habit. Walk step-by-step to create a path. Turn this moment into a stepping stone to other acts of faithfulness in your journey.



SECTION THREE WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

Section Three: Weekly Small Groups

Overview

One of the key components of the Faith in Action campaign is service-oriented, Bible-based education, activities and discussion set in small groups or Sunday school classes. Small groups have a well-proven ability to reinforce concepts, facilitate learning and develop deep, supportive friendships.

The Faith in Action small group materials are designed to build on the overall concept of loving our neighbors in a manner that follows Jesus' teaching and example. In addition, they coordinate with the sermon points your congregation will hear each weekend.

Small groups can be scheduled to run all at the same time or at different times during the week, as long as each group is studying the same weekly lesson. The first small group session begins the week after the first Faith in Action sermon. The last small group follows the Faith in Action weekend.

Encourage ALL Small Groups to Participate in Faith in Action

Faith in Action is intended to involve and engage the entire congregation. Churchwide programs can be very effective in focusing the attention of church members on a single idea or goal. When the entire congregation hears a unified Faith in Action message in sermons, small group materials and service programs, your church can benefit with increased energy and shared passion for serving others. But in order to achieve this "churchwide benefit," small groups might need to set aside other lesson plans for four weeks, and switch to the Faith in Action curriculum. While some leaders and even participants might resist the change, we do encourage you to have 100 percent of your small groups go through Faith in Action *together*. The benefits in cohesiveness and group synergy are worth the short pause in other programs.

If your congregation does not already have a high level of participation in small groups, you may need to recruit leaders and form short-term groups for the purpose of including as much of the congregation as possible in Faith in Action. Faith in Action is ideal for new small group leadership because the DVD-based curriculum requires only a discussion facilitator, not a teacher.

Resources

- Pastor or director of adult ministries (or small groups, education, etc.)
- Small group leaders.
- Faith in Action Leader's Kit
 - Leader's Guide
 - Small Group Session DVD
 - Participant's Guide
 - Faith in Action Book of Luke
- Faith in Action Participant's Kit
 - Faith in Action Book of Luke
 - Participant's Guide

Weekly Small Groups Timeline

Six Weeks Before Study Launch

- Review all of the small group materials contained in your Faith in Action kit.
 - Small Group Sessions DVD
 - Leader's Guide
 - Participant's Guide
 - Faith in Action Book of Luke
- Meet with small group leaders to cast the vision for your church's Faith in Action campaign.
- Estimate the number of small groups and participants.
- Order *Leader's Kits* for all small group leaders.
- Order *Participant's Kits* for all participants.
- If necessary, begin recruiting additional small group leaders.

Four Weeks Before Study Launch

- Hold one or more training sessions for all small group leaders.
 - Review small group leader responsibilities and the program schedule.
 - Discuss group leadership principles (see *Faith in Action Leader's Guide* for suggestions).
 - Develop a participant recruitment plan and discuss how leaders will follow up with each new participant.
 - Distribute Leader's Kits when available (see sample insert in Section Eight, Additional Resources).
- Prepare bulletin inserts focusing on small group sign-ups.

Three Weeks Before Study Launch

- As you continue to announce the Faith in Action campaign during weekend services, encourage small group participation.
- Following the announcement, collect sign-up sheets (use bulletin inserts) or direct members to sign-up at tables in the lobby.
- Send an e-mail regarding Faith in Action small groups to the church mailing list.

Two Weeks Before Study Launch

- Between 2 and 3 weeks out, compile small group sign-ups and distribute participant lists to small group leaders.
- Small group leaders call all participants with detailed information on attendance.
- Distribute Participant's Kits through small group leaders, or make them available at a central location at the church, depending on if, or how, you are collecting payment for the materials.
- Continue participant sign-ups, either during service using bulletin inserts or in the lobby following services.

One Week Before Study Launch

- Distribute additional participant names to small group leaders.
- Continue distribution of participant materials.
- Announce final sign-up for all small groups.

Faith in Action Month

- Begin first small group session in the week following the first Sunday of Faith in Action.
- Wrap up small groups after Faith in Action weekend.

Follow Up

- Encourage small groups to carry on Faith in Action by planning their own group service project.

Faith in Action Curriculum



Participant's Kit

Each member of your congregation will begin his or her Faith in Action learning journey with daily devotions and small group interaction using the Faith in Action Participant's Kit. One kit will be needed for each participant and includes two books:

- The *Faith in Action Participant's Guide* featuring daily FaithStep devotions and small group discussion questions in one
- **FREE** Gospel of Luke

Faith in Action Participant's Kit GG 14011 72 **\$6.95**

Case of 10 **\$59.95**

Small Group Leader's Kit

Equip your small group leaders with everything they need to lead effectively. One kit will be needed for each small group leader. Leader's Kit includes:

- Participant's Guide & Free Book of Luke
- Small Group DVD
- Leader's Guide

Faith in Action Small Group Leader's Kit KT 14011 73 **\$24.95**

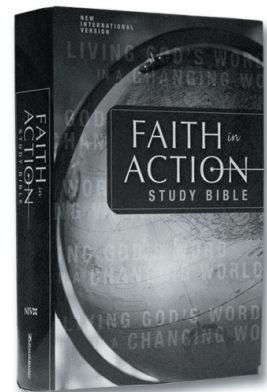
Case of 10 **\$212.95**



Faith in Action Study Bible Hardcover Edition (NIV)

An excellent gift for your Faith in Action campaign leaders! The *Faith in Action Study Bible* is designed to add emphasis on putting faith into action through serving others. Each *Faith in Action Campaign Participant's Kit* includes the *Book of Luke*, excerpted from the *Faith in Action Study Bible*. This full hardcover version is also an excellent purchase for those who enjoyed the excerpt and would like the same format in a full Bible. The *Faith in Action Study Bible* is the New International Version (NIV) and includes colorful maps, charts and a concordance.

Faith in Action BK 14194 63 Study Bible
\$35.95



Faith in Action Teaching Themes

Each week of the campaign is built around a theme that is reinforced through the sermons, video illustrations, small group DVD and Participant's Guide lessons.

Week 1: Detour – God uses “detours” to get our attention and help us see what’s really important.

Week 2: Lens – When we refocus our vision we will begin to see the world as God does.

Week 3: Drop – God uses small things and multiplies the results. We can each make a difference.

Week 4: Party – We experience joy and spiritual rewards when we put our Faith in Action.

To order, call 800.991.6011 or visit PutYourFaithInAction.org

SECTION FOUR FAITH STEP DEVOTIONAL

Section Four: Daily FaithStep Devotionals

Overview

Individual reading and reflection begin the heart-change that results in action! As a foundation for your Faith in Action month, encourage every youth and adult in your congregation to participate in 28 daily devotional readings. The daily FaithStep devotions support the small group discussions and sermons, but can be used alone as well.

Each daily reading will guide individuals in your congregation along their own personal journey to putting their faith into action. The devotions include a reading in the *Faith in Action Book of Luke Study Bible* (included with kit), questions for reflection and journaling, references for (optional) further study and a guided prayer time.

Both individual devotional readings AND small group questions are included in each Participant's Guide.

Resources

Faith in Action Participant's Kit:

- Faith in Action Participant's Guide
- Book of Luke (from the Faith in Action Study Bible)

Daily FaithStep Timeline

One Month Before Faith in Action Launch

- Order an appropriate quantity of Faith in Action Participant's Guides, estimating one for every active adult member of your congregation. (see following resource sheet)

Three Weeks Before Faith in Action Launch

- Once the Participant's Guides arrive, begin making them available for purchase/suggested donation during your services, at the church office and through your small groups.
- Encourage everyone to have a copy prior to the first Sunday of Faith in Action month. Promote the availability of the Participant's Kits through all your normal church communication channels.

During Faith in Action Month

- Have the congregation begin reading Day 1 of the devotional on the first Sunday of Faith in Action. Remind your congregation weekly to keep up with their FaithStep devotions by posting the reading section in your bulletin each week.

Follow-Up

- The devotional includes suggestions for individual and family service projects. Encourage your congregation members to keep the spirit of Faith in Action alive even once the month is over.

Faith in Action Curriculum



Faith in Action Teaching Themes

Each week of the campaign is built around a theme that is reinforced through the sermons, video illustrations, small group DVD and Participant's Guide lessons.

Week 1: Detour – God uses “detours” to get our attention and help us see what’s really important.

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Faith in Action Participant's Kit GG 14011 72 **\$6.95**

Case of 10 **\$59.95**

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- Leader's Guide

Faith in Action Small Group Leader's Kit KT 14011 73 **\$24.95**

Case of 10 **\$212.95**

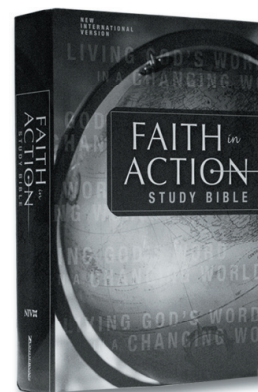
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Hardcover Edition (NIV)

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SECTION FIVE ALL CHURCH SERVICE PROJECT

Section Five: All Church Service Project

Overview

The heart of your Faith in Action campaign is your Faith in Action weekend/Sunday when regular services are canceled and replaced with service projects in your community. Faith in Action weekend is a wonderful, unique opportunity to:

- Demonstrate God's love in an authentic way to your community.
- Ignite a passion for service within your congregation.
- Develop bonds of friendship among members of your church, as well as among church members and those they serve on Faith in Action weekend.
- Draw new visitors to your church.

But Should I Really Cancel My Regular Services?

It's a radical, unique idea—canceling a church's weekend services in order to “turn the church inside out” and serve the community. And there are certainly reasons to hesitate as you consider taking this courageous step. You might be wondering, won't there be complaints within my congregation? What about our tithes for that weekend—won't that affect our financial position? But consider these concepts and we think you'll find that Faith in Action weekend is the highlight and soul of the Faith in Action program.

- You're not really canceling worship—you're redefining it. Even away from your traditional sanctuary, you will be opening and closing in prayer, lifting up the name of Christ and providing biblical teaching for your members.
- Canceling worship services to serve the community says you truly care and are committed to walking in Christ's path. Remember, don't just GO to church—BE the church!
- Key elements of your worship service (including the offering) can be included in the celebration service on the evening of Faith in Action Sunday. Invite those who have served and have been served to join in worshipping God and rejoicing in the accomplishments and friendships of the day. (See Section Two, Sermons+Services for more information.)
- If canceling Sunday services does not work for your church, you can adapt Faith in Action to schedule projects on Saturday or immediately following your worship service on Sunday.

Project Planning Checklist

- Select your service project.
- Identify+equip project team leaders.
- Plan your service projects.
- Sign up volunteers.
- Visit your project site.
- Coordinate transportation/maps.
- Collect needed supplies for project, volunteers and clean-up.
- Serve!
- Follow-up/evaluate.

Service Project Planning Timeline

Three Months Out

- Review all material in the Campaign Planning Guide related to your Faith in Action Sunday service project, including all related material in the “Additional Resources” section.
- Begin selection process for your Faith in Action service projects—encourage specific ministries within your church (senior, student, children) to consider either planning their own projects or ways to dovetail with the mainstream effort.
- Commit to consistent prayer for all aspects of your event.

Two Months Before Faith in Action Launch

- Identify team leaders for all Faith in Action service projects.
- Equip and release team leaders to begin their project planning.

One Month Before Faith in Action Launch

- Hold an orientation meeting with project team leaders and begin weekly follow-up.

Faith in Action Month

- Begin project sign-ups and prepare volunteer lists for team leaders.
- Promote involvement from the community.
- Create contingency plans.
- Obtain necessary permits and/or documentation.
- Obtain necessary supplies.
- Prepare and print project info sheets.
- Confirm plans with project site contacts.

Faith in Action Sunday (see p.73 The Day of Your Event)

Follow-Up

- Get feedback from volunteers, team leaders and project site contacts (see Section Eight, Additional Resources).
- Hold evaluation on Faith in Action Sunday projects and the entire campaign.
- Wrap up loose ends.
- Appropriately thank those involved.
- Prayerfully consider ongoing service ministry for your church. (See Section Eight, Additional Resources.)

The Role of the Faith in Action Project Team Leader

Your project team leaders will be responsible for planning all aspects of a Faith in Action work project including:

- Setting up the work project.
- Preparing the project site.
- Coordinating with project site contacts.
- Coordinating the volunteers/work shifts.
- Making sure all the necessary tools and materials are available.
- Ensuring the execution and quality of the project.
- Promoting a positive project experience for all participants.
- Making sure the project site is left clean and in good condition.
- Providing evaluation, follow-up or feedback to team and/or campaign director.
- Thanking volunteers and project site contacts.

Leaders should be chosen based on a combination of interest in the project, special abilities (such as carpentry skill, etc.) and leadership gifts.

Prepare Your Team Leaders

- Hold a team leader meeting 3–4 weeks before your Faith in Action weekend.
- Provide team leaders with guidelines and resources for preparing their projects.
- Create, or have each leader create, a Service Project Info sheet.
- Check in weekly with project leaders to monitor progress.
- When available, provide each leader with a list of team members. The leaders should call everyone on their list and ensure that team members know when and where to meet. Additional people will likely show up that day.

Useful Resources: *See Section Eight, Additional Resources for Faith in Action Prayer Guide; Service Project Planning Worksheet; Service Project Team Leader Checklist; Service Project:Participant Feedback Form; Team Leader Evaluation Form.*

Select Your Service Project(s)

How to pick the right projects for your church

Identify a list of possible service projects by walking through a series of questions. Remember, you are not planning a project to serve the needs of your church, but to serve the community.

1. What externally focused service ministries currently exist in our church? Consider expanding on existing ministries rather than inventing new ones. You will have natural, existing leadership, and lay the foundation for ongoing ministry. Examples:

Useful Resource: *Inventory of External Ministry Programs*, www.PutYourFaithInAction.org/learn+share

Ongoing Ministry	Faith in Action Project
Regular Canned Food Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer at the food bank warehouse. ▪ Organize a community canned food drive.
Visit Shut-ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do yardwork, housecleaning or other repair work at their homes.
Church Work Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do yardwork for single moms or elderly in the community.
Sponsor a Soccer Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do grounds maintenance and trash pick up at the soccer fields.

2. What “passion groups” or gifted individuals currently exist in our church?

Do you have people who love working with children? Are passionate about the AIDS crisis? Have a heart for the elderly? Are handy with construction? Good with computers? Select projects that engage these existing passions. Have you done a spiritual gifts analysis? What are the dominant spiritual gifts in your church? Do you have an ethnic congregation within your church, or do you partner with a church in a lower income area? Target your service projects around what God has already given you. Examples:

Useful Resource: *Ministry Participation Survey*, www.PutYourFaithInAction.org/learn+share.

Passion Groups	Faith in Action Project
Love Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do a makeover of the nursery of a local woman’s shelter or a school for teen moms. ▪ Do a child sponsorship drive at a local shopping center.
Write Prisoners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do a professional clothing drive for a prison transition program.
Good With Computers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer a free community computer fix-it and recycling day. ▪ Donate computer equipment to families in need.
Have a Spanish-Speaking Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with your Hispanic congregation to identify ways to serve in that community.

3. With what community-based and international organizations do we (or someone at our church) already have a relationship? Do you have families at a local elementary school? Do you have a firefighter or police officer in your congregation? Have you done projects in the past with an international relief and development organization, your local hospital, crisis pregnancy clinic, Boys or Girls Club? What about local rescue missions, senior centers or the Salvation Army? Examples:

Useful Resource: *Assessing Your Churches Community Involvement*; www.PutYourFaithInAction.org/learn+share

Existing Relationship	Faith in Action Project
Firefighter in the Congregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host a barbecue for the firefighters, restock their kitchen and hold a rummage sale benefiting their charity fund.
Single Moms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify single moms who need assistance with home, yard or auto maintenance. Provide babysitting for “Moms Day Out.”
Local Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold a blood drive or host a 10K to benefit its community clinic.
Senior Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify seniors who need assistance with housework or repairs. Have the seniors at your church put on a special dinner and offer practical gift baskets to those in need.

4. What are the most significant needs in our community? Meet with city officials or leaders of nonprofits that serve the community, and ask what needs to be done. Is there an under-served segment of your community? Trails that need repair? Grafitti to be painted? A creek or lot that needs trash removal? There will be more needs than you can count!

Useful Resource: *See Networking Interviews; Community Survey; Ideas for Strengthening Community Connections at www.PutYourFaithInAction.org*

5. Ideas for service projects can be found on p.77 and at www.PutYourFaithInAction.org. On this web site, you will also find links to local, national and international organizations with whom your church can partner.

Factors to Consider When Selecting Your Service Projects

Assess the makeup of your congregation. Select projects that will ensure that people of all ages, skill levels and abilities can participate. Here are some tips and recommendations along with examples of what other Faith in Action churches have done:

1. **Project Number:** Make sure you have enough projects and shifts to accommodate everyone in your congregation, as well as those you are inviting from the community. If there isn't enough to do, people won't feel significant or find the experience meaningful.
2. **Project Length:** Schedule some projects that only require a commitment of two hours, or break longer projects into shifts. Not only will you enable more people to be involved, but you will also make them more accessible to people who can't give an entire day.
3. **Project Variety:**
 - **Physical Labor:** Construction, yardwork, repairs, etc.
 - **Housework Labor:** Cooking for shut-ins, house cleaning for seniors and those with disabilities.
 - **Service Activities:** Serving/cooking meals at the rescue mission, bake sales benefiting a local cause, personal care and visits at a senior center.
 - **Family-Friendly Activity—(kids and parents can work together):** Trash pick-up, canned food drive, assembling Caregiver Kits.
 - **Senior-Friendly Activity:** Food boxes for families in need, nursery care for other volunteers, craft items, such as quilts or stuffed animals to minister to people in need.
4. **Project Focus:** If possible, offer projects that focus on local, national and international needs. Examples:
 - **Local:** Landscape a local elementary school, pick up trash after a community event.
 - **National:** Address an issue like literacy, homelessness or national poverty; write letters on behalf of health care for children in poverty; raise funds for hurricane victims.
 - **Global:** Do a child sponsorship drive; build AIDS Caregiver Kits.
5. **Project Location:** While most of your projects will probably be out in the community, consider at least one activity on your church campus to accommodate those who cannot travel and those who might show up inadvertently for your worship service.
6. **Project Challenge:** Choose projects that offer an appropriate level of challenge and that take people one step beyond their comfort zones. This approach will deepen faith, as well as relationships, as your teams rely on God's power and work together toward shared goals.

Cultivating a Servant Heart to Go With Servant Hands

Throughout the flurry of preparations, logistical complications and rush of activity, remind one another not to lose your first priority, your first love: Serving the Lord. “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:9). Create an atmosphere that helps people maintain their focus on God.

Help prepare church volunteers to maintain a servant attitude when working in distressed neighborhoods. Our first response is often to be critical of a community’s appearance and to make assumptions about the values and behaviors of residents. A condescending attitude can sabotage acts of compassion. In place of a paternalistic mindset that says “we know best what is good for you,” approach ministry with an attitude of learning. Remember that we do not come into a community as its saviors ... but as servants of the One who saves us all.

Affirm the dignity of those you serve, particularly in how you present yourselves and your ministry project. No one likes to be labeled “the poor” or “the homeless” (including people who are poor and homeless). Seek to view people through God’s eyes by focusing on their potential and unique value, rather than seeing them in terms of their needs and deficits.

Serve and show people the love of Christ with no strings attached. God may hand some church volunteers a natural opportunity to verbalize the gospel in the context of serving the community. However, emphasize that the primary goal of the service event is to share your faith in the sense of James 2:18: “I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Be on the lookout for brothers and sisters in Christ where you least expect them: in other organizations, such as government agencies, “secular” non-profit organizations and public housing projects. Often these people have been quietly serving the community, preparing the soil for this Faith in Action ministry. You may even be the answer to their prayers!

Appreciate the gifts, energy and insight that people outside the church have to offer. Invite members of the community. (see Section Eight for more ideas on making outreach a part of your service project.)

Consider ways of involving the participation of nonprofits, public agencies, businesses, neighborhood associations and other churches in the community. Collaboration expands the scope of what your church can accomplish through Faith in Action, and also establishes caring connections for ongoing ministry.

Be sure to inform and obtain permission from any individuals or organizations affected by your project. Even if permission is not formally required, good communication helps build relationships. Also, ask permission before including people and their property in photos or videos.

Encourage team leaders and volunteers to take time to interact with people in the community they serve. Remind volunteers that Faith in Action is not just about getting a task done—it’s about valuing people and making new friends.

Useful Resources: *Faith in Action Prayer Guide*; *Qualities of Transformational Ministry (in the Additional Resources section)*; *Biblical Principals for the Church’s Outreach Ministry*, www.PutYourFaithInAction.org.

Faith in Action Sunday—The Day of Your Event

Organization: In *101 Ways to Reach Your Community* is available, Steve Sjogren says, “Be organized. If you make your people wait because you’re not prepared, you’ll waste your time and diminish their zeal for future outreaches. If you’re the leader, do your behind-the-scenes preparation plenty in advance so that when your people arrive, everything is ready to go. ... Your people’s time is your most valuable asset. Let them know that you value them by being ready for them long before they arrive to reach out with Christ’s love.”

Check-in: Prepare check-in tables manned by your leaders. Each leader should have a list of team members, as well as be able to take last minute sign-ups. Make sure you clearly label the tables so it’s easy for arriving volunteers to go to the right location. Give a special welcome to those from outside your regular church family who have come to serve. Make sure info sheets, with maps and contact numbers, are available for each project, and includes information about your celebration service that evening.

Childcare: If you are offering childcare/nursery, please make sure your volunteers are ready and the childcare check-in is available.

Identification: For identity, safety and solidarity, we encourage you to wear Faith in Action T-shirts and/or your church’s own T-shirts on the project site.

Prayer: Bathe your project in prayer from start to finish. Include your Faith in Action plans in your congregational prayer time and consider creating a prayer guide for the specific neighborhoods, organizations and leaders involved. Have a prayer partner for each Faith in Action service project. (This is a wonderful contribution for someone physically unable to work.) **Useful Resource:** *Faith in Action Prayer Guide p.115.*

Safety: As your ministry takes you out into the community, take precautions to keep participants safe. The last thing you want is to tarnish your Faith in Action experience with a preventable injury. Keep a first aid kit handy, and identify a medical professional or clinic to call with questions.

Emergencies: Plan in advance for how you will deal with emergencies, including bad weather. Prepare a “calling tree” of cell phone numbers to alert people quickly in case of an emergency or change in plans.

Surprise! For those who may show up at your church, not realizing that this is your Faith in Action weekend, be prepared with an appropriate greeter, signage and information on how they can join your worship “service” today—just as they are!

Useful Resource: *Steve Sjogren, 101 Ways to Reach Your Community (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPres, 2001)*

Equip each worksite with:

- Appropriate tools/supplies
- Necessary permits or permission letters
- Clean-up equipment (leave the site cleaner than it was)
- Water and cups or water bottles
- First aid kit and emergency phone numbers
- Someone with a camera or video camera
- Literature about the church
- Some cash for emergency supply runs

Following Up

- Take time soon after the outreach to meet with team leaders to review the ministry projects.
- What worked great, what didn't work so well, what might you do differently the next time?
- Share feedback you have gotten from members of the congregation and community. (Be intentional about seeking feedback from the key individuals and organizations involved.)
- Take stock of what was accomplished in terms of the services provided, the community connections that were strengthened and the impact of the experience on the congregation.
- Make plans to tie up any loose ends (unfinished work, unintended consequences).
- Brainstorm ideas for building on the excitement and energy generated by this project. Where might the church go from here? What could be your next steps of faith in action?
- Assign the writing of thank-you notes to organizations and people in the community who partnered with the project, and to key support persons in the congregation.
- Congratulate yourselves on accomplishing this milestone in your church's ministry!

Useful Resources: *See Section Eight, Additional Resources of this in Campaign Planning Guide*

- Volunteer Feedback Form.
- Team Leader Feedback Form.

Building on Your Faith in Action Experience

If your congregation has caught the flame of the Faith in Action campaign, you will see a growing passion for being used by Christ in service to others. When the Faith in Action experience is complete, your congregation's journey of transformational ministry is just beginning.

What are the next steps for your congregation? Following the Faith in Action training and service experience, check up to three of the following steps that you think would be most helpful in leading your church to become more active in service ministry:

- _____ Continue a similar type of service outreach on a regular basis.
- _____ Open doors to new outreach initiatives.
- _____ Make Faith in Action service projects an annual event.
- _____ Take a mission trip to participate in a service project.
- _____ Build a coalition of churches for joint Faith in Action projects.
- _____ Expand your network of relationships with the community.
- _____ Build ministry partnerships with local or national organizations.
- _____ Seek to learn from other churches more experienced in transformational ministry.
- _____ Get more training to equip the congregation for ongoing impact.
- _____ Deepen your understanding of the biblical foundations for compassion and justice.

Review Section Eight, Additional Resources, as well as the Learn+Share section of the Faith in Action Web site: www.PutYourFaithInAction.org.

nOW to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or **im**agine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be **g**lory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! **A**men. (Ephesians 3:21-21)



Service Project Idea #1

Public School Makeover

Location: Any Local Public School.

Project Type: Physical labor/Housework-level labor/Family-friendly.

Project Description: A one-day extreme “makeover” of the campus or an area of the campus. Plan to include several specific work projects to accommodate work teams, i.e. one clean-up team, one landscaping team, one painting team, etc. Think through the ways you will accommodate kids, teens, etc., at the worksite and plan accordingly.

Equipment Needed: TBD depending on the project. Generally includes paint, painting supplies, cleaning supplies, trash bags, landscape & gardening tools, and gloves.

Cost: TBD depending on the project. Most tools & supplies can be provided by the volunteers, some may even be provided by the school district. Donations of paint, landscaping supplies, etc., can often be obtained by local retailers.

Tips: Create a flyer inviting school staff and student families to participate in the workday as well—then you have an opportunity to build face-to-face relationships.

If you're doing a lot of trash pick-up, renovation or landscaping, consider requesting a dumpster to not over-tax the school's trash cans. Or else, haul it away.

Contact: Start at your local school district office to identify the schools with the greatest need and the appropriate administrators to coordinate your event. Often, a continuation school or other specialty campus may be the point of greatest need in your school district.

Going Deeper: In your conversations with school administrators, ask about the ongoing needs that your church can support. For example, student mentoring, tutors, teacher appreciation, playground supervisors, etc. By building a relationship with a school, its staff and its students, you build an important bridge to families in your community.

Alternative Projects: Paint fences, walls or homes in need of an uplift; adopt a stretch of highway; plant flowers and weed flower beds throughout your community; build wheelchair ramps; clear empty lots; clean and beautify a bus or train stop; remove hazards from abandoned properties; pick up trash; maintain a bike path; clean a park or waterway; create or repair a playground or ball field.



Service Project Idea #2

Adopt A Homeless Shelter

Location: Community Homeless Shelter.

Project Type: Service/Housework-level labor/Youth and older.

Project Description: A one-day renovation of your local community homeless shelter. Most homeless shelters require daily cleaning. Plan to scrub down bathroom and bedroom walls, mop floors and change bedding. Provide new bedding to replace old and threadbare sheets, pillowcases and blankets. Create small gift bags of travel-sized toiletries and instant foods for each resident of the shelter. Families with children are now among the fastest growing ranks of the homeless. If the shelter has children living there, a team can plan games and crafts activities for the children while the work is being done. Older youth from the church may find this service activity especially meaningful and enjoyable.

Equipment Needed: Cleaning supplies, trash bags, new bedding (sheets, pillowcases, blankets), travel-sized personal toiletries, easy-to-prepare foods, recreational supplies (if planning activities for children).

Cost: \$100–\$500.

Tips: Solicit local retail stores for some of the equipment needed. Drug stores often have overstock toiletries they may be willing to donate. (Grocery stores can also give you foods on the day they expire for you to take to the homeless shelter.)

Contact: Most homeless shelters have a community involvement coordinator who can inform you on the needs of the shelter residents and staff. Work with the homeless shelter staff to ensure that your outreach addresses the felt needs of their residents. The shelter may also recruit residents to work alongside your church.

Going Deeper: Find out what services your church could provide on an ongoing basis that would help the residents of the homeless shelter get out of homelessness. Ask shelter staff about starting weekly career workshops and motivational life-coaching classes.

Alternative Projects: Many local nonprofits such as hospitals, community centers, crisis pregnancy centers, Boys and Girls Clubs and homeless teen shelters require a great deal of upkeep. Find a nonprofit in your area and volunteer church members to serve in whatever capacity they can. Many nonprofits are under-funded and under-staffed, so a group of people willing to take on whatever job is most needed can be a wonderful boost to their work in the community.



Service Project Idea #3

Gas Give-Away

Location: Nearest gas station to your church.

Project Type: Service/Family-friendly.

Project Description: With gas prices skyrocketing, everyone in your community needs help filling up the tank. Lend a helping hand by subsidizing gas purchases and lower the cost by \$.10 or \$.25 per gallon. Bring a team of volunteers to pump gas, wash the car windows, and pass out bottled water and treats to the drivers.

Equipment Needed: Squeegees, sponges, car soap, buckets, bottled water, individually packaged snacks.

Cost: \$500–\$1000.

Tips: Consider not advertising this service project. Instead, surprise those who pull up to the gas station just looking to fill up their tanks. Make sure to include church contact cards with the snacks and water that you give away.

Ask before you wash the car windows. Some cars require specific products to properly wash their windows without scratching or damaging the surfaces.

Contact: Speak directly with the manager of the gas station to determine the best way to coordinate the gas give-away. Some stations may not want you to wash windows because they have their own car wash service, or give away snacks because they sell snacks at their markets. Make sure to obtain the proper permissions for this event.

Going Deeper: In your conversations with drivers, ask about other ongoing needs that your church could fulfill through service. By talking with the very people living in your neighborhood who randomly come to the local gas station, you are gaining valuable face time with a person who is part of your community.

Alternative Give-Aways: Identify any commodity or service that people in the community need, and give it away! Consider doing people's laundry for free, giving away free laundry soap and snacks at the local laundromat, or giving away free grocery staples such as milk, eggs and bread.



Service Project Idea #4

Senior Service Day

Location: Nearest convalescent home or assisted living community.

Project Type: Service/Family-friendly/Senior-friendly (Could also include physical labor).

Project Description: Introduce yourselves to elderly neighbors who might not have the opportunity to visit your church. Visit them instead, and touch the lives of older persons living in the community, particularly those with physical and financial limitations, by meeting basic needs—and, most importantly, by showing them that they are valued.

Provide minor home repairs, weatherize their residences, clean their rooms (with their permission), bring food and basic household items, run errands such as grocery shopping, help them do a craft such as scrapbooking or knitting. Above all, fellowship with them and give them the joy of your company and conversation.

Make the fellowship meaningful by leading a simple devotional service with several of the residents. Also, hold a hymn-singing session for the residents, many of whom would know hymns from their past. Always end your visits with an offer to pray together.

Equipment Needed: Cleaning materials, soft blankets as gifts for the residents, materials for craft projects such as knitting or scrapbooking, groceries, potted flowers. You may want to also bring a selection of large-printed reading books and Bibles to distribute.

Cost: \$500–\$1000.

Tips: Because elderly people can be in fragile health, it's wise to make sure all those visiting, including children, are not ill with colds or other viruses.

Contact: The manager of the retirement community. Be sure to make contact far in advance of the planned service date so that proper paperwork can be filed.

Going Deeper: Invite an expert on aging to give a presentation at your church about the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of seniors and how churches can make a difference in their lives. Many opportunities exist for ongoing ministry with seniors. Be sensitive to doors God may be opening and volunteer yourself and your members for future service.

Alternative Work Projects: Find out what community businesses and organizations offer discounts to seniors and distribute this information.



Service Project Idea #5

Handmade Blankets

Location: Can be made at church or at a member's home.

Project Type: Family-friendly/Senior-friendly.

Project Description: Create handmade blankets (full size or children's size) to donate to a group, such as to a women's shelter or crisis pregnancy center, or to sell as a fundraiser. While this project requires at least one person with knowledge of sewing and one or more sewing machines, a simple pattern can involve non-sewers in cutting cloth, tying knots, ironing, etc.

To make a simple block quilt, children can help choose the overall theme and color scheme of the blanket. Have each child illustrate one square with a happy memory or something he or she thanks God for. Someone who quilts will have to take it home to complete it. This is a wonderful gift for someone battling a serious illness, or the elderly.

Equipment Needed: Cloth, scissors, sewing machine, patterns, permanent markers.

Cost: \$100–\$500.

Tips: Enclose a card with the blanket explaining why a group of folks would make a blanket for someone they've never met: because God knows and loves them, and wants them to feel the warmth of his care every time they use the blanket.

Contact: Connect with a care organization that can help make sure the blankets go to those in need of a gift of love.

Going Deeper: Offer a workshop on blanket-making to folks in the church and community, making a blanket to donate as a demonstration model.

Alternative Work Projects: Knit baby blankets, caps and booties for teen moms. Knit or crochet a prayer shawl for someone facing chemotherapy or surgery (a prayer in every stitch). Sew doll clothes or simple rag dolls to donate to children in homeless shelters or in the hospital.



Service Project Idea #6

Car Clinic

Location: Church parking lot or auto shop.

Project Type: Skilled physical labor/Youth and up.

Project Description: One major obstacle for low-wage workers is reliable transportation. Many single moms, in particular, lack the money and the skills to maintain their cars. If you have several people in your church with automotive know-how, hold a car clinic that offers free tune-ups, oil changes, worn-out tire replacement, etc. Raise funds to be able to provide a limited number of free or discounted tires, and other minor repairs. Also provide a diagnostic of more significant problems, so car owners can know what a fair estimate is for repairs.

Equipment Needed: Lubricant, oil, filters, trays, proper tools, basic replacement parts, donated tires.

Cost: Over \$1000.

Tips: Recruit youth group students to wash the cars that come into the clinic. Also set up a kids corner with books, coloring pages and toys to entertain children while their parents are occupied with the car repairs. Enlist older youth to keep younger kids entertained.

Contact: Consider asking an auto shop with a good reputation in the community to host the clinic, including use of their tools if necessary. They get free advertising and the car clinic gets an appropriate site for the ministry. Seek to partner with a tire dealer or at least obtain donations.

Going Deeper: The car clinic may lead you to several families that really need a new car. Find a local dealer who is willing to offer the church a discount on a reliable used car. Help a family that needs a new car set up a budget to purchase their new car. Where appropriate, offer to contribute to their savings for their car, and assist them in setting other budgeting and financial goals as well.

Alternative Work Projects: Hold a parallel clinic for bicycles and invite kids in the church to bring in unused bikes that can be refurbished and given or traded to kids in the neighborhood.



Service Project Idea #7

Art Fair

Location: Church parking lot or local park.

Project Type: Community event/Family-friendly.

Project Description: Artistic gifts within a congregation often go unnoticed and untapped. Tap into these gifts with a community art fair that can provide a healthy outlet for personal expression, develop the artistic gifts present in the community, and create works of art to share with others. This art fair can include: hands-on workshops on pottery, painting, photography or other expressive art form; displays of work by local artists; mural or other group art project; “found art” project centers that use items that are discarded or found in nature to create a work of art.

Equipment Needed: Booths, plenty of arts materials for workshop stations, contact cards. Each booth will require its own unique supplies, so leave it up to the booth leader to obtain the appropriate materials.

Cost: \$500-\$2000.

Tips: If a goal of the art fair is allowing healthy self-expression through art, you may need to set some boundaries for what is acceptable expression.

Contact: Coordinate with community luminaries and nonprofit groups to bring art to the community. If held in a public park, ensure that you obtain appropriate permissions from city officials. Partner with a nonprofit, business or public agency (such as a school or library) to commission a work of art, organized by the church and created by youth in the community, to be displayed on site.

Going Deeper: If art work touches the youth, they may want to keep doing it. You may be able to bring this ministry into a public school or after-school program. Incorporate art outreach into the church’s summer camp or Vacation Bible School. Start a support group for people going through emotional crisis, using art as a vessel for God’s healing. Display local artists’ work on your church walls.

Alternative Work Projects: Consider continuing your church’s arts-focused outreach by having frequent hands-on workshops on pottery, painting, photography or other expressive art forms. Consider holding the art fair in an off-site location in order to make it more accessible to particular groups of people, such as a park where families bring their children, a homeless shelter, a coffee shop, a skate park or a retirement community.



Service Project Idea #8

Caregiver Kits (A World Vision Project)

Location: Your church is a great location but any place with a room large enough to set up tables for an “assembly line” will work.

Project Type: Assembly work/Family-friendly/Senior-friendly.

Project Description: Caregiver Kits is a hands-on educational and engagement group activity that provides supplies for home-based care for those living with HIV or AIDS. You will receive an Event Coordinator’s Guide, which is a robust toolkit that will walk you through each step of hosting a Caregiver Kit event.

World Vision coordinates the bulk purchase and delivery of kit contents to the desired location. Volunteers in your church assemble the supplies into kits. From there, they are shipped to World Vision distribution centers and then to AIDS-impacted communities around the world.

Equipment Needed: Caregiver Kit products include antibacterial soap, petroleum jelly, acetaminophen tablets, antifungal cream, cotton balls, anti-diarrheal caplets, latex gloves, wash cloths, pens, notebook, flashlight with batteries and carrying case. The person compiling the kit adds a handwritten note of encouragement to the caregiver.

Various educational resources including DVDs (provided by World Vision), tables for assembly line, packaging tape, box cutters.

Cost: \$25 per kit, plus local sales tax. This includes shipping and handling expenses.

Tips: Regardless of the size of your group, consider fundraising. The more funds you raise beyond what your group members contribute, the more kits you’ll be able to assemble.

Contact: To learn more about this opportunity and to receive a free Event Coordinator’s Guide, visit www.worldvision.org/carekits or e-mail carekits@worldvision.org.

Going Deeper: Family members, many of them children, and local volunteers around the world are providing compassionate support to people living with AIDS—often sacrificing everything to care for sick mothers, fathers, and other relatives. Many of these courageous caregivers lack the essential supplies they need. Basic supplies can improve and prolong the lives of those living with AIDS, while protecting caregivers and preventing the spread of infection.

You can equip them with the practical materials they need to bring dignity and comfort to those living with AIDS. Each kit will provide caregivers with essential supplies for an average of three months.



Service Project Idea #9

SchoolTools Drive (A World Vision Project)

Location: Your church multi-purpose room or any large room with capacity for bulk materials and assembly tables.

Project Type: Assembly/Family-friendly/Senior-friendly.

Project Description: Basic school supplies such as pencils and notebooks may not seem difficult to acquire. But millions of children in the United States lack the basics they need to study and learn. You can come alongside these children through SchoolTools, a simple, effective program that provides essential school supplies to children in need.

Work as a team to assemble SchoolTool kits that will bring excitement and hope to the children who receive them. The assembled kits will be picked up for shipment to children in under-served, lower-income communities within the U.S.

Equipment Needed: Several tables to hold the supplies for assembly.

Cost: \$20 per kit (100 kits minimum). World Vision will coordinate the bulk purchase and delivery of kits to you and pick up assembled kits for delivery to children in need. School tool kits include pencils and pens, notebook, paper, pencil sharpener, eraser, crayons, ruler, glue sticks, scissors, binders, pencil pouch and pocket folders.

Contact: Tamara Contreras-Burns at taburns@worldvision.org or 253-815-2752.

Going Deeper: Through contact with your local World Vision office, arrange for other contact or ongoing service to this population of under-served families.



Service Project Idea #10

30 Hour Famine (A World Vision Project)

Location: Your church.

Project Type: Participation Experience/Youth.

Project Description: The 30 Hour Famine is a World Vision program, typically geared towards youth groups, that allows young people to make a significant impact on the problem of world hunger while growing closer to God and to each other. By pledging to go without food for 30 hours, participants not only raise money to help feed and care for children worldwide, but also gain an understanding of how it feels to experience hunger. This experience, combined with a greater awareness of the suffering taking place in many parts of the world, will inspire young people to compassion and a greater desire to make a difference in the lives of others. Learning to rely on God and each other also bonds them and helps them grow spiritually.

Last year, more than 600,000 young people across the United States helped raise over \$11.6 million dollars to help feed and care for children in countries like Kenya, Indonesia, Haiti and the United States.

Equipment Needed: Famine Welcome Kit (free from World Vision). Other equipment may be needed depending on what activities you decide to incorporate.

Cost: Free!

Tips: Have your youth group(s) run the 30 Hour Famine as a facet of your church's Faith in Action campaign—and make sure they invite their friends!

Contact: 1-800-7-FAMINE (1-800-732-6463); www.30hourfamine.org.

Going Deeper: The 30 Hour Famine incorporates various components that make it a great activity. There is the experience of hunger. There is the fundraising that helps do something about what they've learned. But there is also a community service component so that groups are serving locally as well as globally.



Service Project Planning Worksheet

Project Title: _____

Project Leader Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Project Description: _____

Project Location: _____

Project Date: _____ Project Start Time: _____ Project End Time: _____

Are volunteers committing to the entire project time, or are volunteers registering for shifts? If volunteers are registering in shifts, please indicate the time commitment for each shift:

Shift One: From _____ To _____ Shift Two: From _____ To _____

of Volunteers Needed (per shift): _____ Minimum _____ Maximum

Skills or other preferences/requirements for volunteers: _____

Supplies needed in advance: _____

Supplies volunteers should bring with them: _____

How volunteers should dress (Faith in Action T-shirt?): _____

Is it appropriate to bring children: Yes No

If No, is there a plan for providing childcare? _____

Plan for drinks/food: _____

_____ Drinks/light refreshments to be provided: _____

_____ Direct volunteers to bring their own lunch

_____ Lunch to be provided: _____

What is the plan for checking in volunteers at the start of the project?

What is the plan for giving volunteers a chance to debrief (reflect and share) after the project?

_____ Gather for a short time of sharing and prayer immediately following the project

_____ Hand out the Service Project Volunteer Feedback Form

_____ Other: _____

Back-up plan(s) in case of weather, abrupt cancellation or early completion:

Contact in case of medical emergency: _____

Could this project become an ongoing ministry following Faith in Action weekend? Yes No

***On the back side, note any special comments about the project or guidelines for volunteers.**

Adapted with permission from the Project Leaders Manual by Stacy Armstrong, Community Development Director at Calvary Community Church, Sumner, WA.



Service Project Team Leader Checklist

General:

- I understand the purpose for this project and am excited to see God work through our church.
- I have been praying for this serving opportunity, asking for the team to be filled with the Father's love, fueled by Christ's compassion and guided by the Spirit's leading.
- I have been praying for the people being served through this project, as we seek to share God's love "in action and in truth" (1 John 3:18).
- I have set an example for the team by inviting unchurched contacts to join us in serving the community.

To be completed two weeks before Faith in Action Weekend:

- I have visited the project site.
- I have worked out arrangements with organizations that are hosting or collaborating with the project.
- I have obtained necessary permits or permissions to do the work.
- I have determined funds or materials needed for the project and communicated these needs to the appropriate Faith in Action campaign leader.
- I have communicated with the person responsible for sign-ups about the project's volunteer needs.
- I have a back-up plan in case there is bad weather, the work is completed early or the project is abruptly canceled.
- I have worked through logistical details and turned in a Service Project Planning Worksheet.

To be completed a week before the Faith in Action Weekend:

- I have obtained all the supplies needed for the project.
- If necessary, I have arranged for an advance team to set up the work site ahead of time.
- I have contacted organizations that are hosting or collaborating with the project to confirm arrangements.
- I have communicated any project changes to the Faith in Action campaign leader.
- I have obtained a list of the volunteers on my team.
- I have contacted all of my volunteers to introduce myself, confirm their involvement and notify them of changes.
- I have prayed for my volunteers.
- I have made arrangements to distribute supplies, Faith in Action T-shirts, etc., to volunteers.
- I have a plan to show appreciation to volunteers and community partners for their participation (phone calls or thank-you notes).
- I have a plan for making group prayer a part of the service project (place, time, format).
- I know who to contact in case of a medical emergency.





Faith in Action Sign-Up Sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Age(s): 13 – 21 22 – 29 30 – 39 40 – 49 50 – 59 60 – 69 70+

Do you have children who will be participating with you? Yes No

What are their ages? _____

Will you use childcare if provided? Yes No

What hours (from 8:00 AM to 4 PM – Sun., Oct. 14) are you available for a two-hour shift?

Service Project Selection (indicate 1st, 2nd+3rd choice)

- _____ Paint the First Street Elementary trailer units.
- _____ Build a new storage unit at the Second Chance Homeless Shelter.
- _____ Make blankets for cancer patients.
- _____ Assemble Caregiver Kits for people living with HIV or AIDS.

Location (Place and Time): _____

Do you have special skills that would apply to the service projects?
(e.g. construction or carpentry skills, painting, sewing, etc.) List below.



SECTION SIX IN REACH PROMOTION

Section Six: In Reach Promotion

Increase participation, momentum and excitement for your month-long Faith in Action campaign through a complete internal promotion campaign.

Overview

Your internal promotion campaign can be implemented through all of your church's normal communication channels, as well as through visuals that will let your congregation know that something different and special is happening at your church.

Resources

- Communications director
- Faith in Action banners, T-shirts and bulletins
- Faith in Action information booth
- Your church's normal communication channels (Web site, bulletins, newsletter, e-mails, etc.)

In Reach Promotion Timeline

One Month Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Designate a communications director.
2. Determine your internal promotion budget.
3. Order your Faith in Action promotion products, including vertical banners for your worship center and/or lobby, and bulletins for the month.
4. Put advance announcements about Faith in Action month in your church newsletter, Web site and bulletins.
5. Begin publicity to recruit leadership for specific service projects that are being planned.
6. If required, begin recruitment for your Faith in Action small groups.

Two Weeks Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Prepare a Faith in Action article for your church newsletter.
2. Post ads or announcements for Faith in Action month in your weekly bulletin and church newsletter to build excitement and begin early recruitment for your service projects.
3. Drop an announcement about the upcoming Faith in Action sermon series, canceled service(s), small groups and service activities to your church attendee e-mail list.
4. Continue recruitment for your Faith in Action small groups.
5. Prepare the bulletin inserts and other promotional signage for next week.
6. Prepare the designated sign-up area, booth or other table to begin selling or distributing your Faith in Action resources (books, T-shirts, etc.) and taking sign-ups for your service projects.

One Week Before Faith in Action Launch

1. Decorate your lobby or stage with your Faith in Action banners, posters, etc. to build anticipation for the Faith in Action month, beginning the following week. This will give your pastor a way to easily reference the upcoming campaign.
2. Continue running ads or announcements for Faith in Action month in your weekly bulletin and church newsletter to build excitement and begin recruitment for your service projects.
3. Drop another announcement about the upcoming Faith in Action sermon series, canceled service(s), small groups and service activities to your church attendee e-mail list.
4. If required, continue recruitment for your Faith in Action small groups.
5. Prepare the bulletin inserts, posters and other promotional signage for next week.
6. Prepare the designated sign-up area, booth or other table to begin selling or distributing your Faith in Action resources (books, T-shirts, etc.) and taking sign-ups for your service projects.
7. Faith in Action Leadership should begin wearing T-shirts to become walking “ask me” billboards.

Faith in Action Month (Continue for each of the three preparatory weeks of Faith in Action month)

1. Switch your regular bulletins over to the special Faith in Action bulletin shells, to help everyone know that this is a month with a special focus.
2. Make sure all of your Faith in Action banners, signage, posters, etc., are up and visible in all areas of the church.
3. Staff and promote your Faith in Action information booth where attendees can purchase their Participant Guides and T-shirts, and sign up for service activities. Continue running ads or announcements for Faith in Action month in your weekly bulletin and church newsletter to build excitement and begin recruitment for your service projects.
4. Drop announcements about the upcoming Faith in Action sermon series, canceled service(s), small groups and service activities to your church attendee e-mail list.
5. Prepare the signage and literature (maps, instructions, etc.) that you will need for your service activities, as well as a sign to direct people who might inadvertently show up for worship services on Faith in Action weekend.

Following Up

1. Prepare and post articles and announcements for your church bulletins, newsletter and Web site that detail the results of your Faith in Action month, service projects and outreach to encourage your congregation and create excitement for next year’s campaign.
2. Carefully store and label all campaign materials for future use. Include a document with your plan, what worked best and what you would change to help your next Faith in Action communication campaign be even better and easier.

In Reach Resources



Bulletin Shells

Available in three sizes, the beautiful Faith in Action Bulletins come in a multi-pack featuring four assorted images and colors.

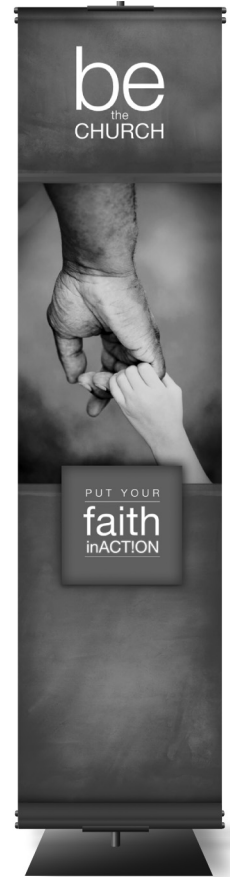
ImpactBulletin:
 Be the Church Multi
 HB 14168 09 (8.5" x 11")
100 only \$13.99
 BB 14168 10 (8.5" x 14")
250 only \$34.99
 BT 14168 11 (11" x 17")
250 only \$39.99

Vertical ImageBanners

Featuring the branded Faith in Action images and messaging to remind your members to "Be the Church." (2' x 8')



Be the Church Gold BR 14060
 Be the Church Red BR 14062
 Be the Church Orange BR 14061
 Be the Church Green BR 14058



ImageBanner:
 Be the Church Purple PB 14059 (Plastic) **\$89**
 BR 14059 (Vinyl) **\$99**
 FB 14059 (Fabric) **\$119**
Stand
 HW 11412 **\$99**

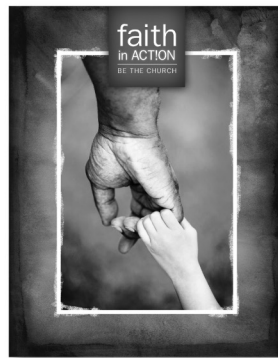
ImpactMailer

These small postcards have a variety of uses and they can easily be printed on your laser printer or copier.

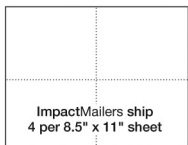
Use them to:

- Invite small group, Sunday school classes or other ministry members to get involved
- Remind volunteers of your service event
- Thank participants for their contribution

4 designs & colors on one 8.5" x 11" sheet



ImpactMailer:
 Be the Church Multi IM 14168 (4.25" x 5.5")
200 only \$25.99

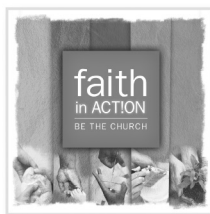


Each sheet holds 4 cards. Micro-perforated for easy tearing.

Stick Anywhere Banners

Versatile 3' x 3' **StickAnywhere** banners will get the message out — over and over. Move them as many times as you want, and re-stick them on *any* smooth, clean surface. No stand, or hardware required!

ImageBanner:
 Faith in Action Hands SA 14191 (36" x 36")
\$75



Roll Up Banner

Easy to put up and take down, the **RollUp Banner** includes an eye-catching 2.5' x 6.5' durable plastic banner mounted inside a retractable stand. Comes in a **FREE** canvas carrying case!

ImageBanner:
 Faith in Action Hands RU 14191 (2.5' x 6.5')
\$279

To order, call 800.991.6011 or visit PutYourFaithInAction.org

SECTION SEVEN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Section Seven: Outreach Campaign

Let your community know that your church cares about needs and serves! Through a comprehensive outreach campaign, you will not only enhance the perception of your church in the community, but also reach people who want to be a part of a serving church. People will come if invited; don't just serve the community, serve with them.

Overview

Use a variety of promotional tools and publicity to make your community aware of your Faith in Action weekend service events.

Resources

- Outreach director
- Faith in Action outreach banners
- Faith in Action direct mail postcards
- Faith in Action personal invitations and door hangers
- Faith in Action press release
- Faith in Action T-shirts
- Your own members!

Outreach Timeline

One Month Before Faith in Action Weekend

1. Designate an outreach director (if you don't already have one).
2. Determine your outreach budget.
3. Order your Faith in Action outreach products (see Section Eight, Additional Resources), including outdoor banners, door hangers, personal invitations and a direct mail campaign for the radius around your church.
4. Have your congregation begin to pray about who they should invite to come be involved with the service projects on Faith in Action weekend.

Three Weeks Before Faith in Action Weekend

1. Prepare and send a press release to your local papers announcing that services will be canceled, and invite members of the community to join your Faith in Action service projects. Invite members of the local press to come cover or even be a part of your event(s).
2. Prepare a sign-up interface for people in your community who choose to participate in your service projects. Make information available at your church office and on your Web site, and make sure your receptionist is equipped to answer questions.

Two Weeks Before Faith in Action Weekend

1. The week before your Faith in Action weekend, send a press release to your local papers announcing that services will be canceled, and invite members of the community to join your Faith in Action service projects.

Faith in Action Month (Continue for each of the three preparatory weeks of Faith in Action month)

1. Hang your Faith in Action "Don't Go to Church (This Sunday)" banners or any other visuals outside your church prior to the first weekend of Faith in Action month, visible to your community.
2. Equip your members with pre-printed invitations, informational flyers and postcards to help them invite unchurched friends and neighbors to join in the Faith in Action service projects.
3. Make sure your church Web site is updated with information about your Faith in Action service projects and how people can sign up for the projects. Make sign-ups available through the Web site or a call to the office, not just on Sundays, so people who aren't regular attendees can join in.
4. Mail your Faith in Action postcards to your community and church members two weeks prior to your Faith in Action weekend to allow time for members of the community to sign up for service projects.



ImpactCard: Faith in Action Difference
IC 14193 (5.5" x 8.5")

5000
4-color
postcards
only
\$595

DoorHanger
Starting at only
\$25.99 doorhangers
are a great way to
invite your close
neighbors to come
and serve.

DoorHanger:
Faith in Action
Difference
DH 14193
(3.625" x 8.5")
150 only \$25.99



FIA Difference

Suggested message on reverse side of personalized ImpactCard

Join Us and BE The Difference

We all want to make a difference, but sometimes we just need a little help getting started. This weekend, (Church Name) is cancelling our regular weekend services to make our neighborhood and our world a better place. We invite you to come serve with us! It won't be glamorous, but a little hard work is going to be mixed with genuine caring and friendship. It's what church ought to be. Join us and come make a difference!

Join Us And BE The Difference!

all want to make a difference, sometimes we just need a little help getting started. This weekend, (Church Name) is cancelling our regular weekend services to make our neighborhood and our world a better place. We invite you to come serve with us! It won't be glamorous, but a little hard work is going to be mixed with genuine caring and friendship. It's what church ought to be. Join us and come make a difference!

**Don't Go To Church...
Come And Be The Difference!**
Sunday, Oct. 14 • 9:00 AM
All Ages Welcome!

Join us at **Monroe Middle School** as we do a **School Make Over!**
Bring work gloves & wear your "work" clothes — we will supply everything else including **Lunch & a FREE t-shirt!**
— Call for details! —

New Song Community Church
5380 Mission Ave. • Oceanside



760-560-5000
www.NewSongChurch.com



3955 Mission Ave. • Oceanside, CA 92054

Joe Seeker
123 Any Street
Any Town, USA



Sample reverse side



Free Mini Web site

*FREE mini-Web site and unlimited E-cards with purchase of 2500 or more personalized ImpactCards. Plus free matching PowerPoint slides available.

ImpactSite:
Faith in Action Difference
CS 14193



ImpactBanners

Available in many sizes, these bold, outdoor banners will get the attention of your community as you invited them to serve with you.

ImpactBanner:
Faith in Action Difference
BN 14193 23 (3' x 8') **\$179**
BN 14193 28 (4' x 8') **\$239**
BN 14193 27 (4' x 10') **\$249**
BN 14193 29 (4' x 12')* **\$299**
BN 14193 26 (5' x 15') **\$379**
*Shown with sample text

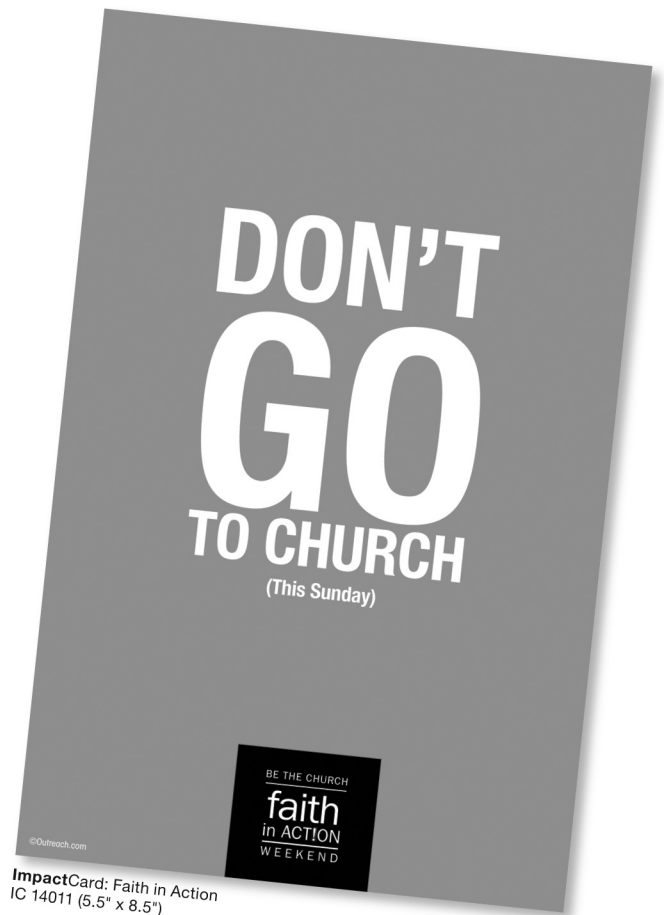
Oversized Postcard Invitations

Invite your community to join in your service projects and let them know that yours is the kind of church that cares about meeting needs.



Sample reverse side

5000
4-color
postcards
only
\$595



ImpactCard: Faith in Action IC 14011 (5.5" x 8.5")

DoorHanger

Starting at only \$25.99, doorhangers are a great way to invite your close neighbors to come and serve.

DoorHanger:
Faith in Action
DH 14011
(3.625" x 8.5")
150 only \$25.99



Faith in Action T-Shirts

Create a sense of unity among your volunteers by offering them this Faith in Action T-shirt. Made of 100% preshrunk cotton, the white unisex T-shirt features a bright orange logo on front and back. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL packs five (5) t-shirts per pack. **\$34.95/pack of 5 - Only \$6.99 per shirt**

TS 14011 55 Small
TS 14011 56 Medium
TS 14011 57 Large
TS 14011 58 X Large
TS 14011 59 XX Large



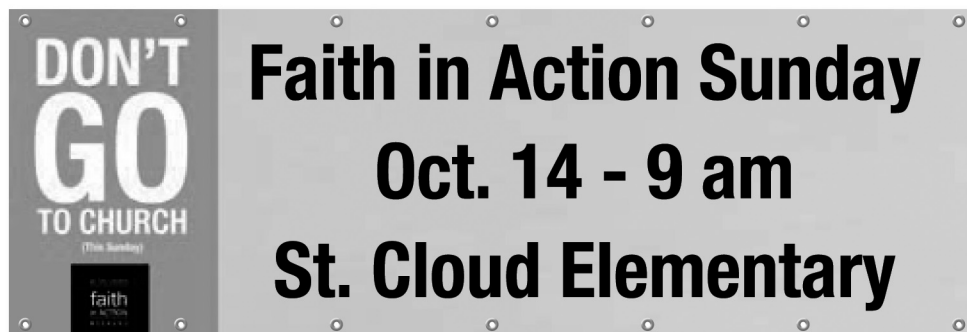
Back of T-shirt

FREE
Faith in Action
T-Shirt
with every
Campaign Kit!

See pg. 4

ImpactBanners

Available in five sizes, these bold, outdoor banners will get the attention of your community as they learn that you are cancelling services to go serve.



ImpactBanner:
Faith in Action
BN 14011 23 (3' x 8') **\$179**
BN 14011 28 (4' x 8') **\$239**
BN 14011 27 (4' x 10') **\$249**
BN 14011 29 (4' x 12') **\$299**
BN 14011 26 (5' x 15') **\$379**
*Shown with sample text

To order, call 800.991.6011 or visit PutYourFaithInAction.org



SECTION EIGHT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional Resources

Contents

The following resources may be helpful as you plan, execute and follow up your Faith in Action campaign. All of these forms are also available as Microsoft Word documents on your campaign resource CD.

I. Faith in Action Campaign Prayer Guide

II. Service Project Documents

- Participant Feedback Form
- Team Leader Feedback Form

III. In Reach Resources

- Sample Newsletter Article
- Sample Bulletin Announcement

IV. Outreach Resources

- Sample News Advisory
- Sample News Release

V. Qualities of Transformational Community Ministry

VI. Worksheet for Applying Transformational Ministry Principles

VII. Online Resources

Faith in Action Campaign Prayer Guide

Prayer is at the heart of Faith in Action. In prayer, we join ourselves with God's work of transformation in our communities, and we ourselves are transformed. Prayer empowers us to do good works, guides our ministry decisions, gives life to our witness and renews our hope.

Here are some suggested prayer points for your Faith in Action campaign, for your church's overall ministry and for your community. Be sure to add prayer points that relate to your particular situation.

Pray for Our Faith in Action Campaign:

- Pray for the Faith in Action team and project leaders—for wisdom, endurance, faithfulness, teamwork and a sense of humor.
- Pray for vision and discernment in making ministry decisions for Faith in Action and beyond—that the church would be led to do God's will in God's way (Colossians 1:9–10).
- Pray for those participating in small groups and using the devotional—that God's Word would be “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12), leading people into growing fellowship, spiritual insight and steps of faith.
- Pray for service projects—that they would go smoothly and safely, and that God would bless the church to be a blessing to its neighbors near and far (Genesis 12:2).
- Pray for volunteers—that they deepen their faith and grow in Christ's love as they serve others; that they discover new ministry interests and make new friends; that people would see Christ's love through their faith in action; that they work well together—and have fun!
- Pray for those outside the church who are invited to participate in Faith in Action—that they feel welcomed and useful, that the joy of service is contagious, that they “catch” the good news of Christ by seeing it in action.
- Pray for the church's relationship with its ministry partners, whether local contacts or national organizations, giving thanks for their contribution to people's well-being.
- Give thanks for all God is doing through this campaign and beyond, in the church and in the community.
- Pray for the church's next steps in ministry as it considers how to follow up on its Faith in Action experience.

Pray for Our Church:

- Pray for a spirit of unity, humility and boldness around our church's mission (Philippians 1:1–2).
- Pray that our church would be guided by Christ's example: that we would imitate the sacrificial compassion of Christ (detour), see our world through the eyes of Christ (lens), serve in the power of Christ (drop) and rejoice in seeking God's kingdom with the faithful obedience of Christ (party).
- Pray that God would give us a growing love for our neighbors, a burden for the things that grieve the Spirit in our community and around the world and the courage to act.
- Pray that God would overcome any obstacles to effective ministry, and that we would be transformed in any attitudes and actions that hinder God's will being done among us.
- Pray that God continues to work in and through our church to break down barriers of race, gender, class and culture (Colossians 3:11).
- Pray that we would be equipped to use the gifts God has given us for ministry, and would be faithful stewards of the resources God has given us to bless others (1 Peter 4:10–11).
- Pray for those entrusted with leading the church to experience God's empowerment, encouragement, wisdom and renewal.
- Praise God for what he is doing through our church's service and witness, as we spread the aroma of Christ and bring glory to the Father (Matthew 5:16).
- Thank God for the power at work within us to accomplish far more than we can ask or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20–21)!

Pray for Our Ministry with the Community:

- Focus on the people and places that the church plans to serve through Faith in Action.
- Pray for specific needs and issues that affect the community, particularly prayer requests shared by ministry partners or individuals we have come to know through Faith in Action.
- Pray for all the organizations serving this community—such as schools, hospitals, the police, courts, welfare services, civic groups and other churches.
- Pray for leaders who hold power within the community or make decisions affecting this area.
- Pray for the “invisible” people, those who are on the margins of the community, whose hurts are hidden from others, and whose voices are seldom heard in places of power.
- Pray that the church might be a beacon of hope and light in the community, drawing people to Christ (Philippians 2:15–16).
- Pray that God’s justice, righteousness and peace would increasingly reign in our community—that God’s will would be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10).
- Ask God to search our hearts and lives, and ask forgiveness for any ways that our own actions (or inactions), lifestyles or prejudices may have contributed to problems in our community and world.
- Give thanks for the God-given uniqueness and giftedness of each person in the community, and for all there is in this community that brings delight to people and glory to God.
- Praise God for his amazing grace and love for the community—and for us all—in Christ.

*Adapted with permission from *Becoming a Church That Makes a Difference CD*, by Heidi Unruh and Philip N. Olson (Network 9:35, 2006), www.esa-online.org.*

Service Project: Participant Feedback Forms

Participant Feedback Form: Distribute these to volunteers before they leave the service project site. Encourage volunteers to complete these forms as soon as possible—within a week, at the latest—and turn them in to the church office (or other designated collection point).

Note that the bottom of the page has a tear-off section with “Questions for Personal Reflection and Small Group Discussion.” Team leaders have several options for giving volunteers the opportunity to reflect and share on their time of service. You can set aside time to gather as a team after the service project to discuss the questions, perhaps over refreshments or lunch; or you can encourage volunteers to tear off the questions before turning in their evaluations so they can take time to reflect and journal on their own. The questions can also be incorporated into the final Faith in Action small group meeting.

(Form on reverse side)

Service Project: Participant Feedback

Volunteers: Please complete this form within a week after finishing your service project.
Keep the reflection questions at the bottom for your personal use.

Your Name: _____

Project Title: _____

Please rate your overall experience (circle a number):

1 2 3 4 5
Very Positive Very Negative

Please Explain:

Were you given meaningful work to do on the project? Yes No
(Comments:) _____

Did the project have sufficient leadership, organization, supplies? Yes No

Did you invite anyone from outside the church to serve with Faith in Action? Yes No
If Yes, did they come? Yes No

Would you be interested in doing a Faith in Action service project again next year? Yes No
If Yes, would you be interested in becoming a project leader? Yes No

Would you like to see the church offer a similar service ministry on an ongoing basis? Yes No

Do you have any suggestions for the next church outreach or stories you would like to share from your experience? Please write them on the reverse side.

Please return the top part of this form to the church office. Thank you!

✂-----

Questions for Personal Reflection and Small Group Discussion:

What did you find most challenging and most rewarding about your day?

What did you learn about the community you were serving? About yourself? About God?

What do you think is your next step of faith in action?

Team Leader Feedback

Encourage team leaders to complete these forms as soon as possible—and turn them into the church office (or other designated collection point).

Encourage volunteer and team leaders to write down their suggestions and a story from their experience on the back of the form. The church can print a sampling of these stories in the newsletter. Also consider using these stories and reflection questions as the basis for recorded interviews with volunteers to include in the church's Faith in Action celebration service.

Be sure that volunteers and team leaders are thanked for their participation and feedback!

(Form on reverse side)

The Church Has Left the Building!

Join with your whole (church name) family for Faith in Action month, beginning on Sunday, September 23 (or insert your start date). During this month we will focus on biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need through special small groups, daily devotions and worship services. Then be a part of a landmark day in (church name) history, when on October 14 (or insert your service project date) we cancel all worship services and instead go worship through service in the community.

We will be serving through these and other projects, all designed to directly touch lives and reflect Christ's love to others in our community: (list a sample of your projects here). There's a project for everyone, and we are shooting for 100% participation.

Sign up now for Faith in Action service projects. Faith in Action Participant's Kits, which will guide you through the small group discussion as well as daily FaithStep devotions, are available now (list details here). Small groups start the week of September 23 (or list your date).

We are not just serving the community, but *with* the community. So please begin now to ask God which family members, friends or neighbors you should invite to come join our service projects on (date). Together, we can make a difference in our community.

Don't just go to church—BE the church during Faith in Action month. For more information, contact (contact information here).



#1

Don't just go to church—BE the church! Faith in Action month begins September 23 (or insert your date). During this month, we will focus on biblical compassion, service and Christ's heart for those in need, through special worship services, small groups and daily devotions. Then be a part of a landmark day in (church name's) history, when on October 14 (or insert your service project date) we cancel all worship services and instead go worship through service in the community. Visit the Faith in Action booth in the lobby to sign up for small groups and service projects, and to get your Participant's Kit. For more information, contact (name+contact number).

#2

Faith in Action small groups begin this Wednesday (or insert your date). Sign up today at the Faith in Action table and pick up your Participant's Kit. Daily FaithStep devotions begin today. Join with your whole (church name) family as we study about Christ's heart for those in need, and our opportunity to respond. Let's put our Faith in Action! For more information contact (name + contact number).

#3

Faith in Action Service Projects. Remember sign-ups continue in the church lobby for the Faith in Action Service projects. Join with your whole church family on Sunday, October 14 (or insert your date), when we cancel worship service, and worship through service in the community. Here's a sampling of our service opportunities: (list a few projects here). Please invite friends, family and neighbors to come serve with us. Everyone loves to lend a helping hand—let's show them (church name) is a church that cares!

#4

Faith in Action Service T-shirt. Faith in Action T-shirts are still available in the lobby. Please wear them on Faith in Action Sunday to identify yourself as part of the church group and to let the community know why we're serving. Only \$12, sizes small through XL.



News Advisory: Thursday, October 11, 2007

Contact: Sarah Brite 555-475-4126

Bethany Community Church Cancels Sunday Service to Serve Community

When: Sunday, October 14, 2007 10:30 AM-5:00 PM

Where: Bethany Community Church
3445 Any Street, Your Town, CA 97219-1516

Who: Members of Bethany Community Church and local citizens

What: On Faith in Action weekend, Bethany Community Church is canceling regular Sunday service to serve others in the community.

Groups will paint a local rescue mission and the JFK Elementary school portables. They'll also make quilts for a nonprofit organization caring for abused local children and throw a party for a subsidized housing complex. A total of eight work projects will be held over the weekend.

Pastor Bill Edwards said, "We are excited about how our congregation has rallied to support this special weekend of service to our community. Many of the people in our work parties are neighbors and don't even attend our church, but see the value of what we are doing and want to help. We invite everyone to come join us."

Why: To make more of us in our town aware that there are things we can do to improve our community and the world.

Contact: Bethany Community Church 555-246-5459, Pastor Bill Edwards
Sarah Brite (cell) 555 475-4126 info@Bethany.org

Directions: I-3 to Main St. exit 296B, right SW Any Street, to 3445 Any Street



For Immediate Release

Contact:

Local church contact

Local church name

churchcontact@churchname.com

(Church Name) Says, “Don’t Go to Church”

Local Church Shuts Down Sunday Service to Serve the Community

City, State (Date)—The church has left the building. And this Sunday, its community will be glad they did. (Church name), a (size)-member congregation, is putting its faith into action by canceling regular Sunday service to practice very purposeful acts of kindness throughout the community.

Volunteers from both the church and the community will be joining together to (list sample of service projects here). A total of (number of projects) work projects, some of them inter-generational, will be held during Faith in Action weekend, bringing together community members from both within, and outside the church.

“We’re excited about how our congregation has rallied to support this special weekend of service to our community. Many of the people in our work parties are neighbors who don’t even attend our church, but see the value of what we are doing and want to help. We invite everyone to join us,” says (church name’s) Pastor (pastor name).

For more information about (church name) and their Faith in Action weekend, contact (contact name and phone number) or (church Web site).

###



Qualities of Transformational Community Ministry

What difference can one weekend of ministry make?

As the Faith in Action curriculum makes clear, this is not the best question to bring to your service weekend. Rather, the question is—Are we acting in faithful obedience to Christ? Our service, plus God's power, equals transformation. This Faith in Action campaign isn't your church's first step on this journey of transformation—or the last. What's important is that you are faithfully headed in the right direction.

The following principles represent a blend of biblical wisdom and practical insight. They describe ministries that are faithful to the teachings of scripture, the example of Christ and the time-tested experience of community development practitioners. Whether you are planning service projects, launching a new ministry program or seeking to enhance an existing program, the worksheet on the next page can help you increasingly apply these touchstones toward fruitful outreach.

A church-based ministry that promotes lasting community impact has these characteristics:

1. **Servant Leadership:** The church ministers with the community, not to the community, seeking the opportunity to serve as a friend rather than a hero.
2. **Asset-based:** The ministry focuses not only on the community's problems but also on its assets, affirming where God's hand is already evident and building on existing strengths.
3. **Developmental:** The ministry goes beyond short-term relief that meets immediate needs to promote lasting change in individuals, neighborhoods, social systems or the broader culture.
4. **Participatory:** The ministry draws on the motivation, input and involvement of members of the community, and helps bring people together around common goals.
5. **Capacity-building:** The ministry avoids dependency by not doing what people can do for themselves, or undermining the capacity of local leaders, organizations and businesses.
6. **Relational:** The ministry creates opportunities to cultivate relationships characterized by respect for the image of God in each person, affirming the dignity and equality of all people.
7. **Reconciling:** The ministry confronts prejudices, promotes restoration across social divides and stands with those who are most vulnerable in a community.
8. **Holistic:** The ministry promotes wholeness for individuals or a community across interconnected dimensions of life—spiritual, physical, economic, emotional and relational.
9. **Redemptive:** The ministry affirms Christ's victory over sin in all its forms—including exploitation, ungodly behaviors and world views and broken socioeconomic structures.
10. **Spiritually Empowered:** The ministry draws on and deepens the faith of volunteers and staff, as they rely on the Spirit's guidance and scripture's affirmation of God's heart for the poor and vulnerable.
11. **Spiritually Nurturing:** The ministry provides opportunities for those who are spiritually hungry to encounter God's truth and grace in ways that are culturally relevant and non-coercive.
12. **Excellence:** The ministry promotes integrity and high standards in its stewardship, leadership, administration, methods and outcomes.

Worksheet for Applying Transformational Ministry Principles

This tool can help you explore ways of applying transformational dynamics to your church's outreach. Above the table, write the name of your service project or ministry program. If it is an existing ministry, reflect on how it may already display these qualities. Then brainstorm suggestions for incorporating each attribute more fully into a current or new ministry by finishing the sentences in the first column. You don't have to act on every idea, but this process can help you to consider your options.

Ministry Focus: _____

Transformational Quality This ministry can ...	How this quality is now evident in our ministry	How this quality could be further incorporated into our ministry
Servant Leadership: Befriend the community in order to minister "with" not "to" people by		
Asset-Based: Identify and build on existing strengths in the community by ...		
Developmental: Go beyond short-term needs to promote lasting change by ...		
Participatory: Connect, empower and seek input from community members by ...		
Capacity-Building: Encourage people to be responsible for their lives by ...		
Relational: Cultivate restorative relationships that affirm people's dignity by ...		
Reconciling: Confront prejudices and build bridges across social divides by ...		
Holistic: Promote wholeness across interconnected areas of life by ...		
Redemptive: Seek renewal of individuals, institutions, systems or culture by ...		
Spiritually Empowered: Draw on and deepen the faith of staff and volunteers by ...		
Spiritually Nurturing: Offer spiritual care in appropriate ways to those we serve by ...		
Excellence: Maintain high standards of conduct and outcomes by ...		

Adapted with permission from Vision Discernment Guide—Establish a Direction for Your Church's Community Ministry by Heidi Unruh (2007), www.fastennetwork.org.

Online Resources

The following resources and more are available in the Resource Section of www.PutYourFaithInAction.org. These resources are designed to support your Faith in Action campaign and ongoing community service efforts.

Building on Ministry Foundations

Biblical Principles for the Church's Outreach Ministry

Purpose: Strengthen understanding of the biblical basis for the church's faith in action.

Suggested Uses: Use in training of campaign leaders, small group leaders and service campaign project team leaders; make available to the congregation in general; use in a follow-up Bible study after Faith in Action; use in casting vision for next steps after Faith in Action event.

Inspiration for Faith in Action—Imagine Your Church

Purpose: Provide inspiration for Faith in Action campaign by helping members dream about what it might look like to “BE the church.”

Suggested Uses: Distribute to campaign leaders and service project team leaders; distribute to Faith in Action small groups; incorporate into a sermon; reprint as a poster in the church lobby or classrooms; use in a bulletin insert; use in casting vision for next steps after Faith in Action event.

Connecting with the Community

Guide to Prayer-Walking and Observation in the Community

Purpose: Seek God's guidance, mercy, and transforming power in the community; enhance the church's sense of connection with the community; cultivate spiritual readiness for ministry.

Suggested Uses: Organize one or more prayer-walking and observation teams as part of the process of selecting or preparing for Faith in Action service projects, and/or the church's ongoing goal of reaching out to the community; lead service project team leaders in a prayer-walking and observation exercise as part of training and spiritual preparation for Faith in Action weekend; continue a prayer-walking ministry in the community after Faith in Action event.

Networking Interviews

Purpose: Learn about the community you seek to serve, and make connections with community leaders that can lead to fruitful service projects and ongoing ministry partnerships.

Suggested Uses: Organize one or more networking teams as part of the process of selecting or preparing for Faith in Action service projects, and/or the church's ongoing venture of reaching out to the community; keep track of community connections with the networking log.

Community Survey

Purpose: Connect with community residents on their hopes and concerns for their community; seek input on potential service projects; promote local participation in Faith in Action campaign; enhance relationships with the church's neighbors.

Suggested Uses: Organize one or more community survey teams as part of the process of selecting or organizing Faith in Action service projects, and/or the church's ongoing venture of reaching out to the community; conduct a community survey in follow up to Faith in Action and preparation for ongoing outreach ministry.

Ideas for Strengthening Community Connections

Purpose: Strengthen your church's community relations by building bridges of relationship and belonging.

Suggested Uses: As a complement to service projects, consider the various options in this resource for enhancing the congregation's familiarity with and commitment to your community; incorporate relevant ideas into Faith in Action service projects, ongoing outreach ministries or general church life.

Strengthening Ministry Readiness

Inventory of External Ministry Programs

Purpose: Take stock of the ways the church currently practices faith in action by listing programs that reach out locally or internationally, as an aid to mobilizing congregational support for ministry, coordinating current ministry efforts or expanding the church's scope of involvement.

Suggested Uses: Delegate an individual or group to collect information on programs operated, sponsored or supported by the church that serve needs beyond the congregation.

Ministry Participation Survey

Purpose: Gather information on the congregation's availability, interest and resources for community service; solicit feedback on specific ministry proposals.

Suggested Uses: Distribute the survey to the congregation (or a representative portion) as part of the process of exploring ongoing ministry options after Faith in Action; use the results to create or enhance a database of volunteer information.

Assessing Your Church's Community Involvement

Purpose: Provide a baseline of your church's methods, challenges and vision for community outreach, as an aid to casting vision and planning next steps in your community.

Suggested Uses: Ask church leaders and/or leaders of specific outreach ministries to complete the survey, then discuss the results to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in the church's community outreach; use in conjunction with planning next steps in follow up to Faith in Action (use together with the Building on Faith in Action: Diagnostic Tool, described below).

Building on Faith in Action: Diagnostic Tool

Purpose: Identify top priorities for your church's growth toward holistic, transformational community ministry.

Suggested Uses: Ask appropriate church leaders to review the options in the diagnostic tool, then select the key areas for growth, and research resources and contacts that can help the church achieve these goals (see Resources on Church-Based Community Ministry); use in conjunction with planning next steps in follow up to Faith in Action event.

Developing Ongoing Outreach

Next Steps for Faith in Action

Purpose: A list of ways your church can follow up on the Faith in Action campaign and make a difference by serving your community and world.

Suggested Uses: Discuss the list of options to capitalize on the momentum of Faith in Action and generate ideas and excitement for ongoing outreach, then set a plan in motion to take the next steps that are best for your church.

Finding Your Ministry Bull's-Eye

Purpose: Provide guidelines for selecting meaningful Faith in Action service projects or ongoing outreach ministries.

Suggested Uses: Refer to the criteria when selecting Faith in Action service projects; use as part of the process of exploring ongoing ministry options after Faith in Action event (particularly in conjunction with these worksheets: Next Steps for Faith in Action, and Ministry Opportunities—From Ideas to Action).

Ministry Opportunities—From Ideas to Action

Purpose: Generate a list of ministry opportunities that are relevant and timely for your context, and flesh out a plan for turning the best ideas into action.

Suggested Uses: Gather a group of members who are energetic about external ministry for a brainstorming session in order to dream up ministry possibilities, identify the most promising ideas and develop an action plan to put feet to the vision.

Resources on Church-Based Community Ministry

Purpose: Provide in-depth print and online references on biblical principles of compassion ministry, planning and mobilizing community outreach, leading the transformational church, best practice ministry profiles and models of city-wide community service events.

Suggested Uses: Draw from this list to plan recommended reading for Faith in Action campaign leaders; identify resources for leadership development and outreach ministry training; find resources for Bible studies and small groups on compassion ministry; research best practices and city-wide service models; and connect with national organizations and online sites that serve church-based community ministry.

