

# A Church-wide Season of Evangelism

Lead a Season of Evangelism in your own church!



## Beautiful Seasons

Your church already celebrates beautiful seasons that, by God's grace, result in spiritual growth for your congregation and new guests in worship.



### CHRISTMAS SEASON

Advent | Musical Events | Service Days | Christmas Eve Worship

Spiritual Growth

New Guests

## Powerful Seasons

With the help of a certified *Breaking the Huddle* Coach from the InterVarsity Institute you can help transform a beautiful season into a life-changing season that, by God's grace, also results in new people becoming Christians!



### CHRISTMAS SEASON

Advent | Musical Events | Service Days | Christmas Eve Worship

Evangelism Goals + Evangelism Plans + Gospel Events\*

Spiritual Growth

New Guests

New Christians

## Breaking Your Huddle

Whether you start with Christmas, Easter, or some other beautiful season in the life of your church, our coaches can help you leverage your church's strengths and current programs while inserting strategic evangelism goals, plans, and gospel events\* that will help create a powerful season of evangelism that could change your church forever.

Before requesting a coach, fill out the following **Discernment sheet** with your team of leaders in order to count the cost.

\* We consider any event that is geared toward non-Christians, that your congregation invites friends to, and where the gospel and Jesus are introduced to be a "gospel event." (More on this in the FAQs.)

# A Church-wide Season of Evangelism

## Discernment Sheet



### Snapshot of your church



Average Worship Attendance #

Ministry Staff

Lay Leaders & Volunteers

### Visitors

Average first time or repeat guests (Past 12 months)

Sunday	Christmas	Easter
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Number of guests you hope for (This year)

Sunday	Christmas	Easter
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### Confessions of Faith

Over the past 12 months, how many confessions of faith (conversions) occurred within your church?

Under 18	Adults
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Number of confessions of faith (conversions) you hope for in the next year:

Under 18	Adults
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### Gospel Events\*

Gospel Events offered in the past 12 months?

Alpha  Christianity Explored  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Under 18 (Total attendance)	Adults (Total attendance)
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Which Gospel Event will your church use in this season of evangelism?

Alpha  Christianity Explored  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Under 18 (Hoped for attendance)	Adults (Hoped for attendance)
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# A Church-wide Season of Evangelism



## Making a Plan

Your Season of Evangelism Plan includes these three programs:

1

### Discern your existing events

Identify which of your current programs you plan to improve in order to welcome more visitors and non-Christians.

2

### Gospel Event

After Easter or Christmas, you will offer a Gospel Event for seekers to explore Jesus.

3

### Invitation to confess faith and baptism

Your season of evangelism concludes with both an invitation to confess faith and to receive baptism for new believers.

## My Seasonal Plan

Which season will your church focus on?

Christmas

Easter

Other

List out your current Easter or Christmas events:

*Highlight the one(s) you will empower the congregation to invite more widely to.*

Beginning and end dates for your Gospel Event:

Begin Date

End Date

Brainstorm your Gospel Event(s):

When and where will you offer an invitation to confess faith and to receive baptism:

Invitation to Confess Faith Date:

Baptism Date:

Describe these events:

*(i.e. Who will invite people to confess faith? How will you know who makes a decision that day? Will you offer a baptism information class?)*

# A Church-wide Season of Evangelism

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### *Why should we include ministry growth in an evangelism plan?*

Planning for growth forces us to think outside of the box, and helps us intentionally consider the needs of those not yet in the room. We have to ask questions about welcoming new people, their first impressions of us, and how to make their joining our community smoother. Jesus regularly reminded the disciples to practice welcoming, even when it was inconvenient. In Mark 10:13-16, the disciples thought that children were a nuisance. Not Jesus. He took them into his arms and blessed them. Planning for growth opens the arms of our community in a healthy way. May God use this process of creating goals and plans to help us shake free from the slumber of our complacency.

### *Why goals?*

Goals help us clarify our mission. Goals can help us discern the scale of outreach, check our progress along the way, and help us make wise mid-course adjustments as needed. Setting numerical goals can press us toward clear communication and one-mindedness between leaders and planning teams. May God use our goal setting to help us set clear priorities, and work through possible disagreements.

"Whenever you set a numerical goal, ask the 'why' question. Why does this matter to me?

Why SHOULD this matter to me?" (borrowed from Andy Stanley's leadership podcast, 2013)

### *Why count?*

In Acts 2, Luke shows us a vivid picture of a thriving community, and he also intentionally lists the actual number of baptisms. What is the impact on the reader when Luke tells us there were 3,000 baptisms that day? Somebody's arms were sore from dunking people! We are in awe of the size of the movement of the Holy Spirit. Having numbers helps us see and celebrate the God moment. In addition, every evangelism breakthrough creates a new set of problems. The Apostles shift from leading a movement of 120 to 3,000+ overnight. They immediately have to adjust their expectations (Acts 2:37-42).

### *Why make plans?*

Plans help us align our programs to our goals. If we only set goals but do not create plans, we seldom make progress. Plans can help in our communication, so that when we recruit volunteers they know what we expect of them. Good plans also help us sequence the change process we are leading. However, only God brings the growth. No plan can ever create new life. We must never put our trust in our plans, nor in our "chariots." (Isaiah 31:1)

### *What is a Gospel Event?\**

Any event that is:

1. Geared toward non-Christians
2. Your congregation intentionally invites non-Christians to
3. The Gospel and Jesus are introduced

(Common examples include the Alpha course and Christianity Explored. See below.)

### *"Can our other events build toward one or more Gospel Events?"*

Yes, seekers and skeptics need a chance to warm up to Jesus and your church. Using the metaphor of a house, every church needs a "front porch" where guests can get to know you and Jesus before coming into your home. Some churches build trust through hosting sporting events, picnics or kids events.

What kind of front porch might you want to create?

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### *What is a confession of faith?*

A confession of faith is one phrase to describe what is happening for someone spiritually when they acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Other churches or denominations might use phrases like, "being saved," or "became a Christian," "born again," or "decided to follow Jesus."

### *What is Alpha?*

Alpha is a fruitful ministry that creates a safe journey for skeptics and seekers to explore faith at their own pace. Here is how Alpha describes themselves: "Alpha offers content and guidance for churches, ministries, and individuals to create a space for honest and open conversations about life's biggest questions. Everyone is welcome and no questions are off limits."

Go to <https://alphausa.org> to learn more

### *What is Christianity Explored?*

Christianity Explored is another fruitful ministry that allows skeptics and seekers to explore faith at a safe pace. Here is how Christianity Explored describes their ministry: "Christianity Explored is a way of sharing the best news ever heard, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life. Over 7 sessions in Mark's Gospel, find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith - Jesus Christ."

Go to <https://www.christianityexplored.us> to learn more.