



Helping Outsiders Become Insiders

Instructor's Guide



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Vibrant Church Renewal
USA/Canada Evangelism Ministries
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Helping Outsiders Become Insiders

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

Section	Time	Page	Brief Description
I. Introduction	5 mins.	5	Introduce objectives, outline.
II. Lecture	30 mins.	6	Facilitator presents information that will help participants identify their church's process to assimilate newcomers.
III. Small Group Exercise	15 mins.	8	Participants work in teams to reflect on the information presented in the lecture and begin applying the concepts.
IV. Discussion	10 mins.	9	Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how they can utilize the information.
V. Wrap-up	5 mins.	9	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Time: 65 mins.			

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Preparation Checklist

Build enthusiasm for the training module. Vibrant Church Renewal requires buy-in from people in the church. Use announcements, fliers, posters, etc. to prepare participants for the topic and build their interest. Speak to key stakeholders in person to encourage their support of this initiative.

Review the material in this guide and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.

- This guide includes a copy of corresponding slides to help you facilitate the presentation.
- The guide includes suggested narrative at points where instructions or transitions are important. The suggested narrative is the *italics*. Even experienced facilitators might want to use the suggested narrative to insure the key information is communicated. However, you may feel more comfortable using your own words as you become more familiar with the topic.
- Make copies of the participant handout for each person. This handout includes “fill-in-the-blanks” sections. The appropriate answers are underlined in this instructor guide.

Check the classroom for:

- Computer/projector
- Chalkboard or flip chart
- Sufficient tables and chairs for the participants
- Copies of the participant handout for each person
- Pens/pencils for participants

Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

I. Introduction (5 Minutes)

Prior to the beginning of the session, adjust the projector and show slide #1 (Helping Outsiders Become Insiders).

Distribute participant handouts.

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- purpose
- objectives
- “fill-in-the-blanks” for the lecture
- application exercises

The purpose of this module is to engage church leaders in the intentional assimilation of newcomers in order to share the Gospel.

The objectives for this module are:

- **To define assimilation.**
- **To describe how an individual comes to belong, believe and behave in our local church.**
- **To develop strategies for assimilation.**

Review the schedule for this module:

Introduction	5 mins.
Lecture	30 mins.
Small Group Exercise	15 mins.
Discussion	10 mins.
Wrap-up	5 mins.

Slide 1

Slides 2-3

Slide 4

II. Lecture

(30 Minutes)

- I. Assimilation is the process by which an individual moves from non-association to full acceptance within a community.
 - A. In the past, newcomers were expected to change their behavior and experience conversion before they became a part of the church community. (Behave, believe, belong.)
 - B. A more effective and biblical model is to create a church where outsiders are welcomed as part of the community immediately, then accept Christ into their lives, and finally adjust their behavior to the standards of the church. (Belong, believe, behave.)
 - C. Assimilation is an intentional, deliberate process that begins before and continues after conversion.
 - D. When someone is fully assimilated into the church, they feel accepted as well as trusted.
 - i. They have developed strong friendships.
 - ii. They have become involved in ministry.
 - iii. They are missed when they are absent.
- II. BELONG: Assimilation begins as the newcomer develops a sense of belonging in the church.
 - A. We must start by building friendships outside the walls of the church. (See example, Levi in Luke 5:27-32.)
 - B. We must introduce our new friends to the church.
- III. BELIEVE: The next steps of assimilation lead to the conversion of the newcomer.
 - A. We must introduce our friends to the Savior.
 - i. We know the One who can save the world from their sins.

Slides 5-11

Levi in Luke 5:27-32

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

- ii. The most natural person to introduce your friends and family to Christ is YOU.
 - B. We must mentor the new believer in his/her first steps of the Christian walk.
 - C. We must incorporate the new believer into the body life of the church. (See Body Life in Acts 2:42-47.)
 - i. Togetherness is an essential element of Christian belonging.
 - ii. The unity of believers draws unbelievers to Christ.
 - D. We must encourage the believer to explore the possibility of official membership and identification with the church.
- IV. BEHAVE: The last two steps of the assimilation process help the new Christian behave as Christians behave.
 - A. We must mentor the believer in his/her spiritual life toward holiness.
 - B. We must help the believer get involved in a ministry of the local church.
 - i. Christ commissioned us to do the work of the church.
 - ii. Christ empowers those he commissions.
- V. Churches should identify and guide people through the eight stages of assimilation (See table, below.) which may vary in duration and timing from individual to individual.
 - A. Outsiders invited by us enter at the first stage.
 - B. Christians moving from other churches may begin assimilating with incorporation into the body life.
 - C. New pastors often enter at the final stage of assimilation.

Body Life in Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Eight Stages of Assimilation	Function
Building friendships outside the church.	Belong
Introduce new friends to the church.	Belong
Introduce our friends to the Savior.	Believe
Mentor the new believer in his/her first steps of the Christian walk.	Believe
Incorporate the new believer into the body life of the church.	Believe
Encourage the believer to explore the possibility of official membership and identification with the church.	Believe
Mentor the believer in his/her spiritual life toward holiness.	Behave
Help the believer get involved in a ministry of the local church.	Behave

Notes

III. Small Group Exercise (15 Minutes)

This exercise provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

Work with the team members from your church to complete the assimilation map on the back of your participant handout. You will have 15 minutes.

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions. Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

Slide 12

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Notes

Slide 13

IV. Discussion (10 Minutes)

The discussion provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about the lecture and how their church can improve at assimilating newcomers.

Call the group back together and open the floor for discussion. Encourage groups to share highlights from their assimilation maps.

Additional questions to start the discussion are:

How are we connecting our unbelieving friends with the church?

How are we mentoring new believers?

What is the process your church uses to help new believers get into a small group or Sunday School class?

What will you do differently in the next two days because of this lesson? In the next two weeks? Months?

VI. Wrap-up (5 minutes)

This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement for the next steps and improvements they have identified.

Slide 14

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