

TRAINING THE MISSIONAL CORE

5 KEY AREAS OF TRAINING

1. Developing and Working a Top Ten List – Mark Mittelberg calls this an “Impact List”; Mittelberg’s book *Building a Contagious Church* is a good resource for this, particularly chapters 4-7. Andy Stanley’s material on “Invest & Invite” is also good. Have your people:
 - a. Praying
 - b. Investing
 - c. Engaging prospects in conversations
 - d. Building credible relationships through love & hospitality
 - e. Share the vision and gather new people
2. Evangelism Training – How to have spiritual conversations with non-believers, how to share your story, how to present the gospel. Hybels’ book *Just Walk Across the Room* is an excellent resource for this. Though controversial, you may also consider Brian McLaren’s *More Ready Than You Realize*.
3. Create a Spiritual Community – Creating a sense of community with a group of people who do not know each other is sometimes very challenging. The best way to build relationships quickly is to do a project or task together. They should be looking for ways each week to love and serve one another. They should be worshipping together and fellowshiping together (e.g. eating, playing, hanging out together). Most importantly they should be growing deeper each week in their prayer times together. Another valuable way to build spiritual community is to go through an *intentional church planting training experience* together (e.g. *Essentials*).
4. Intentional Personal Growth – Everyone in the group should be setting personal growth goals and sharing their progress weekly with the group. Train them on how to develop a Personal Growth Plan. Engage them in praying for one another and in group accountability. (See Unit 6 in *Essentials*.)
5. Financial Commitment – The strongest core groups receive training in Stewardship as part of their Missional Core Training. Consider a “First Fruits” offering as well as a monthly commitment. Present the budget. Keep people posted on the financial progress (including outside gifts). Hill Country Bible Church in Austin, TX has a good model for this.

NOTE: Be sure you give them a WRITTEN description of what they are committing to!