



# HOW TO START A MINISTRY

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

# Welcome!

Congratulations on your desire to serve others in the name of Christ! By serving others, you are imitating your Savior, who humbled Himself in service to us and whose very mission was to serve humanity. Because we believe everyone should be active in ministry, we encourage you in your passion, and we are proud of you.

This brochure is designed to help you discern what the Lord is calling you to do and to guide you in how to implement a ministry at your church.

## START BY SEEKING GOD'S WILL

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### 1. Search the Scriptures.

- Spend time in the Word of God to see what it says about your ministry interests.
- Do nothing inconsistent with the Word.

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even **greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)*

### 2. Seek the counsel of mature Christians.

- Ask several who have already been down your path.
- Correct unrealistic expectations.
- Be willing to change your ideas in light of the godly wisdom of mature Christians.

*"Listen to **advice** and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise." (Proverbs 19:20)*

### 3. Spend a month or two in prayer.

- Unless the need is immediate and urgent, give forty days to prayer, as Jesus did before launching His ministry. Ask God to disclose His will to you.

*"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." (Exodus 33:15)*

## NEXT, DESIGN YOUR MINISTRY

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### 4. Write out your plan.

- Include your objectives, your strategy, and an overview of resources needed.

### 5. Ask the hard questions:

- *Is this ministry consistent with the vision of my church?* If you seek your church's blessing, ensure that your ministry does not work against our common purpose.
- *Is there already a ministry at my church that does this?* If so, why not partner with that ministry rather than start a new one?
- *Does this ministry allow me to openly preach Jesus to people?* Whatever you do, always find a way to obey Jesus' final command to go make disciples!
- *Am I willing to own this ministry personally?* Your church may offer its blessing to your ministry, but you must be willing to do the hard work yourself.

## 6. Seek the blessing of the leaders.

- If you want to lead a ministry using resources from your church, you need to present your plan to your leaders.

# AND NOW, LEAD YOUR MINISTRY

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## 7. Lead and resource your ministry.

- Remember, your ministry flows from God's charge to **YOU**.
- Your church may provide announcements, promotional venues, prayers, moral support, and/or physical space, but you will need to lead and resource your ministry.

## 8. Budgeting & Fundraising Guidelines

- Fundraising has legal and ethical implications, especially if funds are raised through the congregation. **Seek the approval of the leadership** before fundraising, as this promotes integrity, honesty, and accountability in ministry.
- Don't allow your fundraising to compete with the church's budget. Remember that our leaders have prayerfully considered God's direction for the entire church family—and the budget reflects a holistic response to everyone's needs.
- **Please don't decrease your personal giving to the church** or encourage others to do so. God loves generosity—so diverting your contribution robs you of the true joys of giving passionately and abundantly.

## 9. Review your progress.

- Evaluate your work with a critical eye to improve the quality of your workmanship.
- Frequently ask yourself, *"How can my ministry win people to Jesus?"*

## 10. Provide a review to the leadership.

- After the **first 3 months** of ministry, make an appointment to share your progress with the leadership.
- Then, **every 6-12 months**, provide a brief written summary of how your ministry is progressing.

## 11. ABC (Always Be Cheerful)

- You will soon learn that ministry can be hard, frustrating, and disappointing at times. People may not respond as you expected.
- If God is guiding your ministry, do not let hardships stop you from **celebrating** the joy of serving.

## 12. Be willing to allow your ministry to retire.

- Ministries have life-expectancies, and there may come a time when you and your ministry are ready to retire. Retirement is not failure.
- Celebrate what God has given others through you, and move on to the next chapter He is calling you to!



# TO FOLLOW JESUS YOU NEED TO

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1. Experience an authentic conversion
  2. Live a holy and righteous life
  3. Immerse yourself in the life of the congregation
  4. Find your purpose in ministry
  5. And bring others to Christ
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## DOES YOUR MINISTRY SUPPORT THE VISION?

