

Participant's Guide

Helping Outsiders Become Insiders



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.

- I. Assimilation is the process by which an individual _____ from non-association to full acceptance within a community.
 - A. In the past, newcomers were expected to _____ their behavior and experience conversion before they became a part of the church community.
 - B. A more effective and biblical model is to create a church where outsiders are _____ as part of the community immediately, then accept Christ into their lives, and finally adjust their behavior to the standards of the church.
 - C. Assimilation is an intentional, deliberate _____ 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 _____ strong friendships.
 - ii. They have become _____ in ministry.
 - iii. They are _____ when they are absent.

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II. BELONG: Assimilation begins as the newcomer develops a sense of belonging in the church.

- A. We must start by _____ friendships outside the walls of the church.
- B. We must _____ our new friends to the church.

III. BELIEVE: The next steps of assimilation lead to the conversion of the newcomer.

- A. We must _____ our friends to the Savior.
- B. We must _____ the new believer in his/her first steps of the Christian walk.
- C. We must _____ the new believer into the body life of the church.
 - i. _____ is an essential element of Christian belonging.
 - ii. The unity of believers _____ unbelievers to Christ.
- D. We must _____ 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 _____ as Christians behave.

- A. We must mentor the believer in his/her spiritual life toward _____.
- B. We must help the believer get involved in a _____ of the local church.
 - i. Christ _____ us to do the work of the church.
 - ii. Christ _____ those he commissions.

Small Group Exercise

In your church teams, complete the following assimilation map.

Stage of Assimilation	Function	Who does this in our church?	What ministries of the church support individuals at this stage?	How could we improve the experience of assimilation?
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			

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