



Course Name: SALT Discipleship Lesson 12 - Impacting the Community for Christ

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Course description:

This course provides a process to develop areas of focus for a congregation to be a force for good in their community.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Thought about the areas a congregation should focus on to be known as a force for good in their community.
- B. Listed specific areas related to the congregation and how it will help their community.

Outline of the class: Divide the class into four groups. Ask each group to spend about 10-15 minutes to respond to the four tasks at the end of the lesson: One task for each group and then ask each group to share their responses with the whole class.

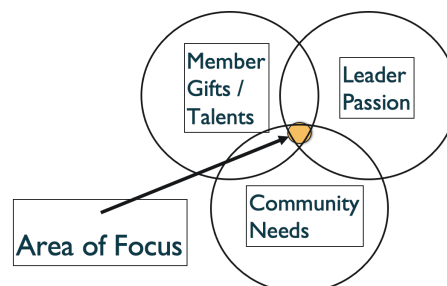
A. We must fill our houses with good - can't just keep bad out

Matthew 12:43-45 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first...”

B. One approach to decide what good activities to focus on includes defining:

1. Member gifts and talents
2. Community needs
3. Passions of those willing to lead

The overlap of these areas is the “sweet spot” to focus on.



- C. As an example, if a congregation has several teachers that know math as member gifts - and those willing to lead an effort have passion to get more children into the church - and the community needs math tutors for the elementary school next to the church.**

Start a math tutoring program at the church or school that allow members to get to know the children and their parents showing them how authentic Christians help others.

Group 1: List the gifts and talents of the members.

Group 2: List the passions of members willing to lead an effort.

Group 3: List the needs of the community - some congregations meet with local political leaders or school leaders ,etc to see what they believe would help the community.

Group 4: Discuss overlaps of the three previous questions and list some possible areas of focus.

Conclusion:

- A. Congregations can be a force for good in communities by focusing where member gifts, community needs and leader passions overlap.
- B. Knowing these specific areas for the congregation, plans can be made now to incorporate the working of each person to fulfill the Lord's work in the community.