

3151 > A Simple Challenge to Engage Members with a Plan to Share the Gospel

The 3151 Challenge is a plan to connect the largest organization in the church (the Sunday School or small groups organization) with the Great Commission.

Our groups need a simple plan. The more complicated the plan gets, the more difficult it becomes to implement. The 3151 Challenge is has a simple plan that can be used in any Sunday School or small group. It can be used in any church, metro or rural, mega or small. The plan focuses on four simple activities individual members of every small group can do.

- 3 > Pray for three lost people
- 1 > Learn one Gospel presentation
- 5 > Invite five people to your group
- 1 > Share the Gospel with one lost person

Pray for the Lost

In Romans 10:1, Paul shares that he prayed for the lost people of Israel. Our strategy is to lead every group member, from first grade to the senior adult group to pray for at least three lost people every day. We recognize that we are not informing God about lost people of whom He is not already aware. Prayer for lost souls is a way that God brings us to be spiritually aware of the lost people around us. Every great awakening in American history began with personal brokenness and repentance, followed by a burden and prayer for lost souls.

Learn a Gospel Presentation

Recent surveys conducted in local churches reveal that one-third of the people attending a small group did not know a Gospel presentation. Knowledge and understanding of the Gospel is essential if we are going to engage and lead our group members to become personal evangelists. Groups involved in the 3153 Challenge will study the basics of the Gospel in their weekly group Bible study if they use LifeWay's "Unvarnished Truth" series (a



six-week study of the Gospel that is also available in the 2016 fall quarter of Bible Studies for Life curriculum). In addition, the 3151 Challenge uses a One Verse Evangelism Gospel presentation from Romans 5:8 that includes a simple tract, or you can use your own favorite Gospel presentation.

Invite People to a Group

Invitation appears to be a lost art in our Christian culture. But inviting someone to attend a biblical community is one of the easiest and biblical activities a Christian can do. Matthew the tax collector invited his friends to a party to meet Jesus. Philip invited his skeptical friend Nathanael to meet Jesus by using three simple words, “Come and see.” Inviting people to attend (and join) a small group is actually using a foundational principle of small group growth known as enrollment. Obviously, a group will engage more lost people with the Gospel if they are invited and enrolled in the group.

Share the Gospel

Many of our members know the Gospel but rarely share it with another person. For many, the thought of sharing their faith with another person can be intimidating. But the Bible is clear, “How can they (the lost) believe without hearing? ...For faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ.” (Romans 10:14, 15). In churches everywhere there are members who have family members, friends, neighbors, and work associates who are without Christ. The numbers of lost people with whom church members already have a relationship is staggering. During this campaign, the church will encourage every member to take that initial first step and share the Gospel with at least one lost person.

Conducting the 3151 Challenge through the church’s small group organization will involve more people in the process and also provide a layer of accountability, encouragement and training.



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2016 fall quarter of Bible Studies for Life curriculum). A church may decide to train their members to use a Gospel tract or different presentation than what is presented in the literature.

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For more information, please contact State Missionary Sammy Gilbreath at (334) 613-2320, sgilbreath@alsbom.org, or State Missionary Daniel Edmonds at (334) 613-2285, dedmonds@alsbom.org.



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