

The Five I's of Ministry

As you engage in God's mission, here are five things that you can do in order to become more effective in the plans that you develop. This resource will help you “to *inform, invite, involve, include, and inspire* others to participate in God's mission.”

1. **Inform**—it is the leader's responsibility to clearly explain **what** the mission is and **why** it is important. Good two-way communication will increase the effectiveness of what you are doing. It helps to remind ministry partners what the mission is, why it is important, and to make sure that they clearly understand what role they will play in the fulfillment of God's mission. Encourage people to ask clarifying questions if they are unsure of what you are asking them to do.
2. **Invite**—The fulfillment of God's mission is **not** a “one-person show”; it is the work of the entire faith community to “invite” others to become involved in God's mission. Leaders must understand that others are needed and will be “invited” to help embark on God's mission in ways in which they can use their gifts, talents, and abilities. Some people may be invited to take a leadership role; others may be asked to pray about God's mission. “*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*” (1 Corinthians 12:7).
3. **Involve**—The more people are involved in God's mission, the more they will talk about it with family and friends. The more that others (even those outside of your congregation) hear about how you are carrying out God's mission in the world, it increases the chances that others may want to become involved in what you are doing.
4. **Include**—As you engage in mission planning, think creatively about other potential mission partners—those who can assist you in this ministry. Think about people's gifts, talents, and abilities, as well as their passions, and how those things can contribute to the overall effectiveness of God's mission. Many congregations involve the same people year after year to be involved in the same ministries and miss out on the possibilities and opportunities that new people have to offer.
5. **Inspire**—Sometimes people may be shy or reluctant to participate in new ventures. Tell stories about God's mission with excitement and enthusiasm, so that they may be inspired by what they hear. The more excited and enthused you are, the more likely others will be excited and enthused.

Reflection Questions

- What is “God's mission” and why is it important to your congregation and community?
- What “*gifts, talents and abilities*” do you need in order to participate in God's mission?
- Who could you “*involve*” and “*include*” in your plans to carry out God's mission?
- How do you “*inspire*” people to become involved in God's mission?