



ABF Inreach Ideas for Your Church – March 08



Inreach is simply helping worship service attendees become a part of our mid-size communities. We all want to grow our ABFs. Inreach is a great way to help bring people into the discipleship ministries of the church since there is already a connection.

I. Inreach At The Corporate Level

(Cast The Vision ... Let God Work On Hearts)

- A. Personal Testimonies** – Let the church hear from those who love ABFs and who are articulate in expressing how ABFs have benefited them.
- B. Church-wide ABF Campaign** – (See Idea of the Month - Dec. 06). A more major and extended undertaking involving all levels of the church over a 4-6 week period of time helping people to focus on ABFs, their importance, and people's personal involvement in them.
- C. Let the Senior Pastor Cast the Vision** - When the lead pastor speaks, people listen. No ABF ministry should be without the constant trumpeting of the senior pastor for ABFs.
- D. ABF Sunday (1-4 times a year)** - Time is given in the service and information is put in people's hands to reiterate the importance of mid-size communities and people's involvement in them. Put it on the calendar, or it will be overlooked.
- E. Displays in Foyer** - Visuals with people representing their ABF. This can be a great way to periodically promote ABFs.
- F. List ABFs Permanently in Bulletin** - People won't have to organize a search party to discover a group. They just have to read their bulletin.
- G. Set Goals – Challenge People** – Let people know that you want to move from 40% to 60% ABF involvement in the next two months, or whatever goals God leads you to set.
- H. ABF of the Month** - Each ABF can get their month in the spotlight. Could be a bulletin insert, a visit from pastoral staff, a few minutes in the service, or other avenues that fit your church.
- I. Quality Literature** – Place your ABF brochures in prominent locations.
- J. Rotations for children's ministry workers** – Sometimes children's workers can be overlooked and end up never attending ABFs. Having others who can step in can free children's workers up to join communities.
- K. Website, Emails & Mailings** – On-line promotion is inexpensive and easy and non-profit bulk rates can be used to your advantage. An ABF brochure, a letter from the pastor, a "Free Ticket" to the ABF of your choice can all be sent.

II. Inreach At The Group Level ***(Finding An Excuse To Invite Someone)***

A. Invitations Before a New Teaching Topic – Letting people know when your teaching topic changes can spark the interest of non-attendees, especially when you are doing a topical series.

B. Divide and Conquer the Worship Services - Map out sections of your worship center and assign people to a section. Here they invite others from the age and stage of their ABF.

C. Write and Work the List – Develop a list of people who would be a good fit for your ABF and then find creative ways to bring them in so you can check them off.

D. ABF Inreach Events - Plan an event designed to incorporate new people and have the group invite friends within the church to come and be a part.

E. Small Group Side Doors – Sometimes the most comfortable entrance into an ABF community is through one of their small groups. As relationships develop, they can become a part of the larger community.

F. Sunday Breakfasts - If you grill it, they will come. Having a special breakfast event from time to time helps to encourage people to take that first step.

G. Townhall Meetings – Letting people have an opportunity to share their opinions of what they think a group should be doing is often an avenue into the group.

H. Bulletin Announcements – Don't miss the opportunity to put your group's events in the bulletin. Many people slip in and out and the only thing they have to show for it is a bulletin.

I. Invites to Ministry Events - While we organize our groups for ministry, don't forget to invite others to minister with you while you do. Many people are doers. They'll jump on board if they are told of a need they can meet. Let non-attendees know their gifts are needed.

J. Meet Needs of Potential Members – One couple I know had 13 meals brought to them by an ABF after they had a baby. Needless to say, they joined that group.

K. Bring A Friend Sunday – Design a Sunday morning event around the invitation of those who are not currently attending an ABF.

L. Phone Calls – For all these ideas, the phone is a great way to get the word out. It is personal and direct.

M. Dinner for 8 – When your group does this event, consider having each group to incorporate people that do not attend an ABF.

N. Website, Email & Mailings – Here again is an easy and inexpensive way to invite others and get the word out for your ABF's events.

III. Inreach At The Personal Level
(To Crack The Toughest Cases)

A. Befriend, Influence, and Invite – At this level, people are brought into your close relational circle and there is a mutual exchange of friendship. From this foundation of close personal friendship, non-attendees are influenced to become a part of a life changing community.

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