

Investigator Fellowshiping

As outlined in Preach My Gospel, missionary work is a four-fold endeavor: finding investigators, teaching and baptizing, **fellowshipping new members**, and **fellowshipping** and teaching less-active members. The goal of missionary work is to get the members involved in doing the work.

When members or missionaries find non-members to teach, one of the first things we need to do is to help them create a friendship with the members. People need to be converted socially as well as spiritually. Many hear all the discussions and never come to church! It may be that they do not have a friend in the church. Coming to church the first time, is a big step in getting a non-member to join the church. Having friends in the church is very important part of helping them to stay active.

Here are some suggestions, which have been tried and are proven to help the investigators come into church. These can be changed as the Bishop, with the help of the ward mission leader decide.

(1) After the 2nd discussion, if the non-members have made a commitment to be baptized, the missionaries help set an appointment for the gospel essentials teacher, ward mission leader or ward missionaries to come by and visit.

(2) After the 3rd discussion, **or as soon as the non-members commit to come to church**, the missionaries and the ward mission leader should discuss and assign a fellowshiping family from the ward. Some wards make it a call from the bishop. Their assignment is to go visit the non-members during the missionary lessons and then sit with them when they do come to church. If possible, it is best have the discussions in the member's home. If a member family gave the referral, if possible, they should be assigned to be the fellowshiping family

(3) After the 4th discussion, if there are children of Primary, Young Men or Young Women age child, an appointment for the one of the leaders and teacher of the class related to that age child should be made for them to come by and visit. The children of the non-member family will often times know some of the class members from school. If so, where appropriate, those children might be encouraged to help fellowship the nonmember youth.

(4) After the 5th discussion, appointments should be set for the Elder's Quorum Presidency and Relief Society Presidency to come by and visit. Even if the non-member has gone to church and met them, the presidency should go by and visit.

(5) After or before the 6th discussion, if the nonmembers have set a date to be baptized the missionaries should set an appointment for the bishop, or one of his councilors to come by and visit the nonmember family. It is very important for them to know the bishop. The first time they come to church, if possible, set a short meeting for them to meet the bishop.

(6) If they have agreed to a date, to be baptized, they could immediately be assigned home and visiting teachers. These could be the ward missionary couples, or the fellowshiping families. They could come by at any time to visit the family, during the discussions. This is so that they know what to expect after they are baptized.

By getting the members involved the investigators have friends and are much more likely to stay active.

REFERENCES TO HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT FELLOWSHIPING

Go Ye Therefore

Silvia H. Allred

As outlined in Preach My Gospel, missionary work is a four-fold endeavor: finding investigators, teaching and baptizing, fellowshiping new members, and fellowshiping and teaching less-active members.⁷ Every member of the Church—children, youth, and adults—can assist in any or all of these efforts. Members can be the greatest and best source of referrals.
Gospel Library > Magazines > Ensign > November 2008

Inspirational Thoughts

Gordon B. Hinckley

Gordon B. Hinckley Ensign October 2003 Missionary Process “The missionary process is fourfold: (1) finding the investigator, (2) teaching the investigator, (3) baptizing the worthy convert, (4) fellowshiping the new member. Invite family members to tell about experiences they have had assisting a new member.
Gospel Library > Magazines > Ensign > October 2003

The Role of Members in Conversion

Dallin H. Oaks

Members simply must take a more active role in our missionary efforts at every stage: friendshiping those who are not of our faith; sharing Church materials; sharing feelings about the gospel; inviting friends to Church activities, service projects, and meetings; giving the missionaries referrals to visit our friends; inviting those friends to be taught the gospel in our homes; and fellowship... In these and other meetings, such as the quorum and auxiliary meetings, the efforts of the members and the needs of investigators and new members can be discussed, plans can be made, and progress can be reported.
Gospel Library > Magazines > Ensign > March 2003

Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep

Gordon B. Hinckley

This is the equivalent of 120 new stakes of 2,500 members each. They succeed best when members become the source from which new investigators are found.
Gospel Library > Magazines > Ensign > May 1999

The Hand of Fellowship

M. Russell Ballard

In the Church we use the word fellowship to describe our efforts (1) to encourage less-active members to return to full activity and (2) to help new converts make the transition into the Church following baptism. A new convert or recently activated member should feel the warmth of being wanted and being welcomed into full fellowship of the Church.
Gospel Library > Magazines > Ensign > November 1988

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[Back To Missionary Web Page](#)