

Develop a plan to connect with first-time visitors as well as long time class members. Be organized, creative and prayerful!

**But first! Let me get to know you in a Game:**

Move to groups 1-5 by the papers on the walls based on your answer!

**Now go back to your seat!**

2 people answer: How did you get connected to your class?

***Wendy opens the session with Prayer!***

Purpose Statement of LBS:

LBS is the church organized and dedicated to **Gathering the unchurched** and those who haven't discovered Christ while Growing believers through life changing Bible study to become Great Commission Christians, reflecting His love through Giving ministry to others.

**Session Outline**

- 1. Commissioned**
- 2. Prayer**
- 3. Plan and Leaders needed**
- 4. Creative Ideas**

**1. Commissioned**

**Matt 28:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>**Go, therefore, and make disciples** of<sup>[a]</sup> all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, <sup>[b]</sup> I am with you always, <sup>[c]</sup> to the end of the age."

*GO—don't wait till they come to you--WE make the calls, emails, texts. More than once! We have a "warm list" of people to contact—to minister to—to pray for!*

**Colossians 1:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so **that we may present everyone mature in Christ.** <sup>29</sup> **I labor for this**, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

*The people on your roll/roster are YOURS to assist to maturity. Labor with prayer and making contacts!*

### **1 Peter 5:1-4**

Therefore, as a fellow elder and witness to the sufferings of the Messiah and also a participant in the glory about to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you: <sup>2</sup> **Shepherd God's flock among you, not overseeing<sup>[a]</sup> out of compulsion but freely, according to God's will;<sup>[b]</sup>** not for the money but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

*I call you shepherds, because we must get the people to our classes ("shepherd" them in) to be ministered to AND sometimes you will be ministering to the people you contact even if they never come to your class.*

## **2. Prayer**

Start with prayer!

- A. Pray before you make the contacts
- B. Tell the person you prayed for them, and ask for prayer requests. Pray with them (even by email) if possible.
- C. For those people who have not come to class or have begun to miss class—pray extra for them!

## **3. Plan and Leaders needed**

- A. Your roll/roster—Your weekly printed sheets and Arena list (if you check the box "Active Only" lists everyone who is ACTIVE in your class. This does not mean they attend regularly. This means that they are currently connected to your class. THEY ARE YOURS!
  1. Members (white sheets)—They have joined your class or joined the church (may not have attended your class yet)
  2. Visitors (green sheets)
    - a. Visitors SS—they have attended your class at least once
    - b. Member Visiting Class—they belong to another class
    - c. Visitor Church—they have not attended your class yet)

### **"Bread of Life" Illustration!**

Then . . .

**All of these people are yours! They are your mission field. If you don't reach out to them, and get them connected, they are not getting "the bread". This is the easiest way to obey**

**the Great Commission to go and make disciples! All of these people have given us their names and they have shown up to HFBC at least once. So reach out to them—with prayer, fellowship and the gospel! Let's get evangelistic! [If they want off your list—they will let you know. And then, of course, we will make them inactive for your class.]**

**B. Leaders Needed:**

1. Director: Catch the vision for Outreach! (and get the Directors Handout)
2. Most classes need Outreach and Inreach Leaders separate from the Director.
  - a. Small Class: 1 person Outreach/Inreach
  - b. Med. Class: 1 Outreach and 1 Inreach Person, plus Care/Grow group leaders
  - c. Large Class: 1-2 Outreach leaders and 1-2 Inreach Person, plus Care/Grow group leaders

**C. What is the difference between Outreach and Inreach:**

1. In the Plan below, I have divided the people in the class and the tasks and listed them under either Outreach, Inreach, Care/Grow groups. When people have come to the class 0 or 1 time (or don't come back)-- that is under Outreach (for 3 contact attempts). When people have come 2 or more times (and after Outreach has made 3 contact attempts)—that is under Inreach and Care/Grow Groups (regardless of whether they are Members or Visitors). Please see below for more information about this!
2. However—your class may define it differently, and assign the contacts duties differently. **JUST MAKE SURE THAT EVERY PERSON IS SOMEONE'S CONTACT RESPONSIBILITY.**

### **3-D The Plan!--Reaching out to the People who are connected to your LBS:**

*Note: When contacting people, no matter the method ALWAYS identify yourself as from Houston's First Baptist Church, and then your class. Don't use the acronyms (HFBC, LBS) because they may not know them.*

Three weekly resources:

- Wendy's weekly LBS Outreach Email (for Outreach leaders—pass out handout)
- NEW—a link to a Google Contact Queue/Arena Sheet to show first time visitors/people who have missed 2 or 3 weeks, etc. Melanie Russell emailed a link to all LBS Directors. Talk to you Director! (for Inreach and Care/Grow group leaders)

- Arena—you can see lists of Current week’s visitors, and people who have been absent for 2 and 3 weeks (for everyone!)

***To start with--everyone on your active class roll/roster should be getting the weekly (or however often you send it) class email!! So your Outreach/Inreach contacts should be personal (not a group email).***

**1. Those who have visited 0 or 1 time:**

**Contact is made by Outreach Leader**

(0 time=church visitors or new church members we have connected to your LBS)

*Note: sometimes I call them the “0’s or 1’s”. This just refers to attendance and is not an evaluation of their character!*

**Purpose: To minister to and pray for, to welcome them, to help them find the right LBS (even if it isn’t yours), to help them connect to your class and/or the church.**

**Method: Emails are easy, and are a great first contact. If you don’t get a response, try a text (or a call, if you prefer). If you call first, and don’t get a response, then try an email. Varying your contact method is important if you don’t get a response. If you do get a response, stick with the method!**

**Try this: In your email/call/text, try to leave them with an action (especially for 0’s):**

**“I would love to meet you in person. Would you be able to meet me at Corner Books for a free coffee this Sunday before church?”**

**“We are having a class lunch after church this week. I’d love to meet you outside the restaurant and walk in with you. Would you be able to come to our lunch this week?”**

**2. The people who are 0 or 1 who don’t come/come back:**

**Contact made by Outreach Leader, Co-Outreach Leader or other class member as assigned**

- a) Please make at least 2 additional contact attempts (after the first contact in # 1)
- b) Update the contacts/attempts in Arena under NOTES
- c) If you have been unsuccessful in getting a response from the person in all of these attempts, please email Wendy so that I can arrange further outreach from our special team.

Purpose: show unconditional love, give more information, possibly direct to another class (or campus), offer prayer

Method: Vary the contact method from the first time. 1-2 contacts per week is enough at a time. And make sure to give them options of other classes.

Try This: Ask a different question: “Is there a specific class, program, or topic you are looking for? Maybe I can direct you to that class or program” “Do you have children? I can direct you to staff in that area” “Do you know about our other

- 3. The people who have come 2 or more times (including visitors starting on their second time and your regular attenders, and all people on your roll/roster):  
Contact is made by Inreach or Care/Grow Group leaders**

**If you have both Inreach and Care/Grow Group leaders I suggest:**

- a. **Care/Grow Group Leaders focus on regular and irregular attenders (all members and visitors in the class who have attended 2 or more times should be assigned to a group)**
- b. **Inreach leaders focus on the people who have never come, rarely come, and/or haven't attended in 3 or more months. (Check with the Outreach Leader to coordinate about new people!)**
- c. **Inreach and Care/Grow group leaders should communicate often to make sure that ALL people in the class are on someone's "radar" and contact schedule**

**Check the Google list or Arena for lists of those who miss 2 or 3 weeks!**

**NOTE: These lists do not show people who have missed MORE than 3 weeks in a row or who have never attended. You will still need to look at your entire roll (members) and roster (visitors) to remember to contact those people.**

**Purpose:** to keep in contact, and keep them in regular discipleship to fulfill our LBS purpose. To see if they need prayer, help, or just someone to talk to.

**Method:** Most classes send weekly emails—great! Other communications should be more personal. Emails are personal if they are sent to just one person!

**Try This:** Immediately contact any regular attenders who miss a week (Care/Grow leaders). Start a schedule/rotation for contacting the irregular attenders (maybe monthly?) with varying contact methods (Care/Grow ), and for contacting those who very rarely come (Inreach) (make an initial contact—also see below for ideas—and then put on a rotation for a personal email or call every 3 months)

#### 4. Creative Ideas for Contacts:

- A. I love to make contacts when I have an interesting reason! Inviting to socials and special days at LBS works great!
- Class lunches (at restaurants or pot lucks during class). If a restaurant, volunteer to meet the new person right out the main restaurant entrance.
  - Different types of Socials: Vary between “fun” and ministry focused. Always make it easy for new people to come and to find the group or location.
  - Have the Directors/Teachers have a special lunch each month for visitors (0’s and 1’s) and for people on your list who haven’t come in a while. Bring in pizza so that they don’t even need to leave the church!
- B. Text, text, text!
- Convenient—for you and for the person
  - Always say you are from Houston’s First Baptist (don’t abbreviate—they may not know our HFBC abbreviation)
  - They will know immediately who it is (not like getting a call from a strange number)
  - I-phone users: the emoto-cons don’t always show up well on Android devices, so you may not want to use them
  - Keep it brief!
- C. Personal Visits: (Wendy volunteers to go with the first class that goes out!)
- Having two people go is best. You won’t look like Mormons if you dress casually and since you are only going to one house in the neighborhood.
  - Go during daylight hours
  - Have preprinted flyers with your class and church information so that you can leave it on the door if they aren’t home. But always include a handwritten note! And I say—leave a pack of gum, lolly-pop, or something!
  - Don’t stay long!
- D. Let’s brainstorm! Any ideas to reach out in the name of Jesus to the people connected to your class!