

YA GOTTA BRING A PAGAN WITH YOU *[an evangelistic outing with unsaved friends]*

Although members of small group may be involved in personal evangelism, sometimes it is fun to do something in the way of a combined evangelistic effort. Here are some of the ways groups could become involved in overt as well as friendship evangelism during the next year.

Several times a year your small group might want to sponsor an event that requires each couple to invite an unbeliever. Here are some ideas for events which help build bridges.

1. Sporting events, stock car races, tractor pulls at the Farm Show Complex, 4th of July fireworks, etc.
I've taken 20 elementary kids into an old rock cave on a farmer's property - of course, 10 of the kids were unsaved *[or at least unchurched]*.
2. Pick-up football games, billiards in a group members home, a ping-pong tournament
3. Backyard bar-B-Q
4. Game nite
board games
cards
frisbee golf at a local park
5. Guys-only events
backpacking
fishing, hunting trips
show a video and invite a speaker to discuss fishing, wood, refinishing furniture, taxes, investing, fitness, business ethics, time management....
6. Girl's-only events
7. Groups dinner at a restaurant with dessert at someone's home
Seasonal dinners can be done like this: Valentine's Day, election night dinner, birthdays, after-fireworks dessert, Thanksgiving dinner
8. Left Behind video
9. Dinner Eight—eight people get together in a home for dinner [2 couples from the small group and 2 unsaved couples]
Other members of the small group will know when other couples are planning these special meals. Every member of the small group will set aside time to pray for these Dinner meals.
10. A round table discussion: validity of the Bible, the problem of pain & suffering, marriage, etc....

This is just a starter list, but the
ABSOLUTE, NON-NEGOTIABLE ELEMENT
is that no Christian comes without bringing
AN UNBELIEVING FRIEND.

Even if the key organizer of the event
can't find and unchurched friends
he doesn't come to the event.

Those who were not able to come because of other commitments, or were unable to find an unchurched unbeliever to bring, need to commit themselves to gather together to spend a significant amount of time praying for the other members of your small group and their unbelieving friends. This prayer time will be held at the same time the others are involved in the event.

I'd suggest that as a group you do this about twice a year. As soon as you pull off one event immediately [at the very next small group meeting] pick the next month when you'll do it again. You can plan what kind of event you will conduct later on, but the important thing is to choose the month you will shoot for.

At the three meetings immediately before your evangelistic event talk about the people by name whom each of you are planning to invite. Each small group member will give a thumbnail sketch of

the friends he is trying to reach and then the group will commit itself to pray for these people individually by name. That way everyone else will have a bit of a clue as to ways to interact with the unbelieving friends who come.

I strongly suggest that these names be put on a white board which is taken to each of the three meetings prior to the event. You'll have to decide whether each member of the small group should invite only one person [or couple, or family] or whether it would be okay to invite more than one. In some instances it might be less effective to have too many unbelievers present, in others it wouldn't.

Be able to state clearly the PURPOSE of the event, e.g.:

1. To help our unbelieving friends learn that Christian activities can be fun
2. To give opportunity to ask a friend afterwards, "Did you understand what the speaker said about getting to heaven?"
3. To deepen surface friendships into casual friendships
4. To deepen casual friendships into close friendships
5. To help make a shift from a "secular" friendship toward a "spiritually based" friendship so that they can easily talk about spiritual issues
6. To answer tough issues: sovereignty, evolution, moral issues, political matters,...
7. To introduce an unbeliever to believers who have common interests: golf, crafts, business, baseballs, etc.

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