

2019

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**



MISSIONS RELEVANCE TEST

Are you really on mission?

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About Me - Michelle Fergus

- Exciting Singing Hills Baptist Church - Dallas, TX
- Sunday School
- Young Adult Ministry
- Music & Fine Arts, Worship Leader
- Friend of BGCT and AA Ministries
- Previous: BGCT - Process Improvement Manager
- Current: EY Administrative Manager
- WMU - Sisters Who Care
- Missionary?



Missions Relevance Test - Are you really on mission?
Are you doing drive-by, statistics-driven missions or are you creating impact and relevancy in the lives of those you're ministering to?
Will your ministry pass the missions relevance test?

AGENDA:

- Theme
- How did Jesus carry out missions? *5 Points of Relevance*
- Discussion
- Case studies
- Missions Relevance Test (evaluation)

1. Theme

TOGETHER, we will succeed - Leaders and Laity Succeeding Together

Acts 2:1,42-47

(2:1) On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. (2:42-47) They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ **All the believers were together and had everything in common.** ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

2. So, how did Jesus carry out RELEVANT missions?



Recruit Scripture: _____

Mindset Scripture: _____

Relationship Scripture: _____

Takeaway Scripture: _____

Adapt Scripture: _____

3. Discussion

Based on what you know about the 5 points of relevance, discuss the topics on your table. Share the lessons you've learned and best practices you've gained as you've sought to improve the relevance of your mission work.

4. Case Studies

Case Study 1: I've been at my church for ten years. Last week I found out that my church visits a women's shelter every 1st Saturday. A few of the women at my church are really on fire about it so when they invited me to come, I decided to go along with them. We met at the church at 6pm and drove to the women's shelter in the church van. When we arrived, we checked in with the security at the front desk before gaining entrance. Some of the women at the shelter have small children, so half of the women from our church sang songs with them and did Bible-based activities in a separate room. Meanwhile, the rest of us joined the women of the shelter in the chapel for a time of worship. We read Scriptures, prayed and sang worship songs. Then, one of the ministers at our church delivered a message. As I sat on the back row of the chapel, I looked around during the preaching. Some of the women seemed to be cloaked in fear - probably due to their personal situations, while others listened attentively and rejoiced along with the minister as he got fired up. When I caught another woman's gaze, I didn't hold eye contact for very long. I couldn't help but to wonder how she got to this place. Who is she running from? Doesn't she have anyone to help her? Does she know Jesus for herself? I sat there wondering these things but was soon jolted out of my inner thoughts by the request to stand for a closing prayer. The sermon was over. Two women came forward with prayer requests. The minister prayed for them and the service concluded. The women gathered their children from the activity room, thanked us for coming and walked back down the guarded hallways to their living quarters. As we collected our supplies and loaded them into the car, I realized that I didn't know any of the women's names. I didn't know their stories. I didn't even know how they ended up in a shelter. But I prayed for them. That's enough right?

Case Study 2: A friend and I lead worship at a special outreach service at a local church. We show up early to rehearse the songs we will sing. Afterwards we are always invited to eat dinner with everyone there. The church sponsors a weekly dinner for the people in the neighborhood and if anyone is in need, they can also shop in the food pantry for much needed essentials - milk, bread, cereal, eggs, etc. After the shopping is done and dinner is eaten, everyone is invited to attend a worship service. My friend and I lead the congregation in worship and sing songs that we will hope they will connect to. The preacher does a fantastic job which is evidenced by the altar being full of people at the end of each sermon. We close with a word of prayer and say our goodbyes until next week. Same church, same time, same food pantry, same dinner, same people? This mission work is impactful, right?

5. Missions Relevance Test

Mission Name: _____ Purpose: _____ Audience: _____

Recruit	<p>What are the spiritual gifts of your leaders?</p> <p>Do their gifts align with their role?</p> <p>What skills do your leaders lack?</p> <p>What learning experiences can you provide to help them grow?</p> <p>Who have you not asked to participate?</p>
Mindset	<p>What are the mission's short-term (temporal) goals?</p> <p>What are the missions' long-term (eternal) goals?</p> <p>What successes and failures has your mission experienced in the past 5 years? What lessons were learned as a result?</p>
Relationship	<p>How does my audience feel (or what do they think) after they experience the mission?</p> <p>What barriers are present that hinder your mission team from building relationships with the audience?</p>
Takeaway	<p>What do I provide to my audience?</p> <p>What natural needs are met as a result of the mission effort?</p> <p>What spiritual needs are met as a result of the mission effort?</p>
Adapt	<p>What are the internal/external needs around you?</p> <p>Is your church meeting those needs?</p> <p>Is my mission experiencing mission drift?</p> <p>What untapped resources am I not currently taking advantage of?</p> <p>How often does your mission evaluate the need to improve or make changes to become more impactful?</p>

	ACTION PLAN		
	Keep doing	Stop doing	Start doing
Individuals			
Ministry Members			
Ministry Leadership			
Congregation			

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March 8-9 • Baylor's Truett Seminary • Waco, TX

- How can a missional effort avoid mission drift?
- How has your church been more strategic in mission efforts?
- Who have you partnered with to maximize your mission efforts? If no one, who might you be able to partner with?
- What do you do when no one shows interest, or no one shows up?
- What long-term impact has your mission ministry created?
- Does your mission work serve the same audience each time? If so, how can you attract new people?
- My church has done _____ to combat declining interest in missions.
- Is my church's mission effort still successful if we reach the same people multiple times?
- I help the women of my church know about missional efforts by _____.
- How do you deal with this at your church: "My church supports mission efforts, but I don't feel connected to what is being done."
- How does your church deal with this issue: "I'm not quite sure how to engage the women in mission work at my church."