

MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT GUIDE

So often in our campus ministries, we focus on the students that come to our events, and rightfully so. However, in leading a group of students to follow Jesus, missional engagement should be part of a fellowship's activities. Many fellowships already do this well, whether through tabling, making care packages, or other outreach events. The purpose of this document is to help provide an outline and a biblical basis to begin or continue formalizing and practising missional engagement in your context with students.

The ideal fellowship for an event(s) like this are ones with eager students, and who have staff, interns, campus associates, or student leaders with the capacity to teach on missional engagement and bring their students into it.

While there are many different ways to host an event like this, this guide follows a two-part structure. The first part is focussed on teaching and equipping students and can be run either as a sermon-like talk, or more collaboratively as a workshop. The second event hopes to put into practise what was learned in part one and is intended to be a hands-on serving event.

OUTLINE:

1. Background info for the organizer
2. Talk outline for missional engagement
3. Organizer ideas for campus engagement

1. BACKGROUND:

Throughout scripture, God is consistently making an outward movement towards His people. From the Creation story itself to the continual outreaching to Israel, Jesus' healings and teachings, and the birth of the Church, God is all about reaching people. As believers, we are called to do the same in our contexts.

On a university campus, we do not need to look far to find need. Loneliness, uprootedness, food security, stress, spiritual confusion and loss of faith are just some of the challenges facing students today. As a fellowship, we have both the opportunity and mandate to serve not just the students that show up to our events but the entire campus as a whole.

This resource is intended to help campus ministers, interns, campus associates, or even student leaders lead their fellowship towards missional engagement together as a fellowship.

2. DRAFT SERMON OUTLINE:

The talk outlined here is mainly aimed to build a sound theological framework of mission for students and staff alike and should serve to motivate the fellowship towards part two, which is outlined below. The bulk of the talk is centered around three big ideas, each being obedience to Jesus. Through these three, we can see that the biblical mandate is clear. Each of these has a sample biblical reference that may be helpful.

1. Obedience to Jesus' command

- a. Matthew 28: 18-20
- b. At the end of his Gospel, Matthew reminds us that the Good News was never meant to just be for us. Rather it is to go to all nations to make disciples. When Jesus sends out his disciples, it is not before deep formation and discipleship under Jesus. Additionally, Jesus affirms to his disciples that he goes with them!
- c. For students, it may be helpful to contextualize what Jesus means by "all nations" as that can be quite intimidating. Remind students that it's good to start small and local, and that God grows our efforts more than we can imagine.

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2. Obedience to Jesus' character

- a. Philippians 2:5-8
- b. This section of Philippians is sometimes known as the Christhymn or the Kenosis passage. The Greek word "kenosis" means "to self-empty". Before he called us to mission, Christ himself went on mission to earth through his incarnation, life, death and resurrection.
- c. For students, it will be important to drive home that our call to mission is not without an example. Framing missions as incarnational may also be helpful as we think around the best practises around missions, and wrestle with harmful colonial missions' frameworks used by the church in the past.

3. Obedience to Jesus' kingdom

- a. Luke 10:9
- b. The main idea here is that the spiritual inbreaking of the Kingdom of Heaven cannot be separated from it's material inbreaking. Our thinking around missions must incorporate both.
- c. Students should understand that when we serve the material needs of the campus, we are also nourishing them spiritually, and vice versa. Good missions practise does both of these things in tandem.

3. ORGANIZER IDEAS FOR CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Part two should follow fairly soon after part 1. It can be a separate event that is frontloaded with a quick recap of biblical missional engagement but should be focussed on serving the campus. Include students heavily in the process and pray together for the needs that God brings to the minds of the people present.

1. Care packages: Gathering students to assemble and distribute care packages to the campus. Care packages may include stationary, candy, small gifts, etc. Be creative with your fellowship and include students in the design process. This option has high outreach potential but also high cost.

2. Campus evangelism: Gathering students to evangelize to strangers on campus. This can be done through a booth, or in pairs while walking around campus. Many students will have little to no experience with this direct form of evangelism. Requires training/frontloading on certain common apologetics issues.

3. Campus prayer. Gathering students and sending them out in pairs or groups of three to pray for students. This may be more comfortable for students than evangelism, but some students may not have had the experience of praying aloud for other people.

4. Church volunteering: many churches hold midweek ministries that are looking for volunteers. The benefits of this are that students get to see missions work being done in a different context, and many churches already have strong volunteering infrastructure, which may decrease the administrative load on the campus minister. Drawbacks include that not all students will be relationally invested in this particular church, and it may draw students off campus.

5. Third-party organisation volunteering: Similar to church volunteering, but with a parachurch or even non-Christian organization. Good vetting and information gathering is required before bringing a group of students, as well as advance coordination with the organization and your students. Many organizations, especially those that do relational work, prefer ongoing volunteering commitments to single time appointments, so that is an important consideration to talk through with your group.