

The Church Has Left the Building

1. Why do the Church Has Left the Building?

- a. This is what we see Jesus doing and He told us to “go and do likewise.”
- b. It helped our people see the church as more than a building and a time of the week
- c. It moved us beyond comfort and routine into action.
- d. It connected every age with practical ways they could make a difference for Jesus.
- e. It revealed the impact the church can have when it is unleashed.
- f. It inspired our people to be involved in mission through the year.
- g. It was an easy way to welcome and involve those outside the church.
- h. The joy and the power of the Holy Spirit were felt by everyone.

2. Why on Sunday?

- a. Sunday is the Lord’s Day – the best day to do what you see Him doing – serving
- b. What about Worship? – You will worship – just not in your building in the morning. You will have worship in the evening.
- c. Why not Saturday? – Sunday is the day most Christians set aside for God. Other days decrease the number involved.
- d. Sunday says to the world the Church is more than just people gathering in a building for an hour.

3. What’s Involved?

- a. More than Just a One Day Event – A New Way of Being Church
- b. Kick Off: choose what’s best for you - during Lent, after Easter, a month after school starts

4. Love God – Prayer and Worship

- a. Prayer Calendar – Have people sign up to pray anywhere, anytime during this period
- b. Sermon series and worship services – usually six to eight weeks

5. Grow in Grace – Fellowship and Discipleship

- a. Form Small Groups. Encourage them to meet out in the Community
- b. Daily devotional based on a book of the Bible
- c. Weekly Small Group Study Guide based on the same Bible book as the sermons and devotional

6. Share with Others – The Church has Left the Building

- a. Compile a List of Mission Projects
- b. Find a Leader in your congregation to coordinate each project for your people
- c. Some large projects can be shared by several congregations.
- d. Work Your Network – invite family and friends to join you.
- e. You can do a project as an individual, a family, a small group.
- f. No morning services. We encourage congregations who do this to worship together in the evening as a celebration of Jesus Christ and our desire to bless the community together.

7. Resources and video training on our website

- a. <https://woodside-church.org/cltb-living-outside-the-box-resources/>
- b. Preaching topics/sermons
- c. Worship/Music suggestions
- d. Small Group Study Guides
- e. Promotions/Logos/Bulletin/Web
- f. Daily Devotional
- g. Leaders’ handouts & power points
- h. Mission Ideas

8. Other Frequently Asked Questions

- a. What if my leadership/board insists we have morning services?
We don't recommend holding a morning worship service but if you feel you must here are some options:
 1. Gather for a prayer and commissioning service
 2. Hold a brief service.
 3. If you feel you must have a service make it as early as possible and then go out and serve.
 4. Above all - remind people to come back for the evening service.
- b. What if my church is too small or too big?
 1. Size does not make a difference because you can have the number of projects be proportionate to the size of your congregation.
 2. You can also partner with another church.
- c. How will we find appropriate projects?
 1. Ask your members who are already involved in community groups to head up projects.
 2. Look at the demographic of your congregation and try to pick projects that match the interest and skill/energy level of your people (seniors, families, small children, youth)
- d. What about visitors on that Sunday?
 1. We were ready for them with information about what we were doing
 2. We invited them to get involved in projects we were doing at the church.
- e. I feel overwhelmed by all the parts of the program (e.g. worship, small groups, daily devotionals, mission projects). Do we have to do all of it?
 1. Our experience says the more parts you do the more effective will be the response because people will be prepared in multiple ways for the day of service.
 2. However, it's okay if you don't do everything. We'll coach you on how to do each part but if you need to let certain parts go that's okay.
- f. Who else is doing this?
 1. Churches from different denominations, sizes, and theological views are doing this – it's truly an act of the Holy Spirit working through the whole church.
 2. Join us and bring others along with you.
- g. What opposition will I face?
 1. Each church is different and every church has a process for getting official approval.
 2. The key is to start with the support of your leadership and board and then expand the circle of those who know about it until the whole congregation is informed.
 3. An essential part of the project is building momentum during 5-6 weeks beforehand through sermons, worship services, announcements, small group studies, daily devotionals and signups for the mission projects.
 4. During this process many churches witnessed opponents turned into advocates.

Next Steps

1. Get the Support of your leadership and board
2. Choose an Overall Leader in addition to your pastor
3. Choose a leader for each circle – love, grow, share
4. Let us know you are doing it at www.woodside-church.org