



sikunye

TIPS FOR ASKING PEOPLE TO SERVE IN THE FTD TEAM

How to recruit people to join your FTD-team increase your reach and service to families.

In the journey of becoming a First Thousand Day (FTD)-friendly church, it is vital to invite others in your church to join you in caring for families in various ways. You are inviting fellow congregants into a wonderful opportunity to serve the body of Christ. And to actively use their gifts to practically show love to those around them.

You may only start with one other person – change can happen - slowly over time add people. As you discern and plan how your congregation will serve and support families, it will start to become clearer what skills you will be needing in your team. For example, someone with administration skills, or men to support dads, or someone with the gift of hospitality or encouragement. You also need to discern with your church leadership: is this person a right fit or are there any concerns you need to consider?

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO GETTING OTHERS ON BOARD

- 1. IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS:** Speak to your church leader and other ministry leaders, like small group leaders, to find out who they think is well suited. Remember that you may need people with different skills and giftings. Avoid only focusing on those women who are in the first thousand days as potential volunteers. Rather look at the full range of people in your church i.e. women whose children have left the house could be great to pastorally care for new moms; or older men could come surround new dads; or young students without children; or those who aren't working and could be available midweek. It isn't necessary for them to have knowledge about FTD. Rather a heart to serve and love those around them, using the gifts God has given them. For more details on identifying the right people [click here](#)
- 2. PERSONAL ASK:** Speaking directly to a person and make a personal ask or invitation. This personal ask goes a long way to getting them to participate.
"I see potential in you..." or "Your small group leader said you would be great at...." or "We recognize that you have the gift of _____ and see you using this gift well to serve in this ministry by doing _____"
- 3. COME & SEE:** invite them to come and see what is happening or to hear more about this opportunity by attending The Church & Early Life webinar to understand the Big Why or inviting them to other activities or meetings that you are having for FTD like your moms' group or FTD-team meeting or Sunday parents' room... This will give them a hands-on feel for what this opportunity is and help them see themselves in this space. Here they can pray and discern what God may be saying to them.

4. **HAVE A CONVERSATION** to follow up after they have visited or attended the webinar to hear what they are sensing or discerning. Chat though ideas of what they can do to be involved, taking into consideration their availability and capacity. Try find a good fit that they can commit to, feel like they are contributing and are part of a team.
Remember, members of your team can simply play a role in welcoming families on a Sunday and creating a warm and welcoming environment, to hosting the parent/family room or running a mid-week group (such as book-sharing or Flourish antenatal and postnatal classes or moms' groups). The role of each volunteer will be decided upon their heart, their capacity and abilities, and their time commitment. Be sure to not over-commit one person that they end up pulling out and leaving your team with a gap.
5. **EQUIP AND TRAIN:** Invite them to grow their skills by attending the **Loving Connectors Volunteer Training** to help them with practical ideas to grow supportive relationships with families. See Sikunye's website for other opportunities to equip and support.
6. **ENCOURAGE, REVIEW & LEARN:** touch base regularly with your volunteers or team to encourage them, find out how they are doing, pray for them and keep them inspired.

WHAT TO DO ON SUNDAYS?

1. **SHARE THE VISION AND HEART** of the church leadership to become a FTD-Friendly Church, regularly. Paint a picture of what this looks like in your church and in your context. Share the part that every congregant gets to play in creating a warm welcoming space for families in the FTD.
2. **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS** create opportunities for people to serve and use their gifts in this ministry (big and small). Share these opportunities with the congregation to see who would be interested to join. Then follow the above steps with each person who comes forward to find out more information. Remember to prayerfully discern and speak to your church leadership regarding those people who want to join.
3. **TELL THE STORY** regularly share updates, and testimonies of how your church is moving to become FTD-Friendly. Keep inspiring your church leadership as well as your congregation around the opportunity. Share the small wins and the big wins. Get families to share their journey with the congregation.

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