

Christian Leadership Reflections

Discussion Guide

STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND

https://www.cccc.org/news_blogs/john/2015/11/02/strangers-in-a-strange-land/



- 1) Review your public materials, including annual reports, the “About Us” section of your website, and anywhere else you describe what you do. Does it explain the values and vision that are the reason for your ministry? Especially where the secular public may disagree with your faith or your mission, will they understand the end result you are working to achieve and why it is beneficial to society?
- 2) After reading your material, what would be the main feeling a reader would have about your ministry? Would they say you are:
 - a) *For something?* The best response is that they know what you stand for, and they can agree with that.
 - b) *Filling a need?* An okay response is that they know you are providing a useful service for particular needs.
 - c) *Against something?* A less helpful response, with respect to the general public, is that they know what you are against.
- 3) While it is natural to focus on our success stories, no ministry is perfect.
 - a) Study those you serve to understand why some people don't benefit from change as a result of your ministry the way your success stories do.
 - b) Do you need to do anything additional to help your ‘unsuccessful’ beneficiaries?
 - c) How do you build quality control into your programs to ensure the best, most powerful, life-changing results? For example, should you identify checkpoints for progress?
- 4) Stories of a person's direct experience of God are terrific testimonies for helping Christians see there is room for their spirituality to grow. They also draw non-believers into a discussion that may be either weird or fascinating to them. If you tell stories such as these, how can you tell them in a way that does not turn people off but piques their interest? Do you acknowledge how strange your stories might sound to them?