

Christian Leadership Reflections

Discussion Guide

THERE'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE!

https://www.cccc.org/news_blogs/john/2015/11/30/theres-a-big-world-out-there/



- 1) Have someone read up on life in the ancient church (in the 2nd and 3rd centuries) and in the evangelical church (the 18th and 19th centuries) and present a summary to your leaders. Discuss what you find striking about how they lived and thought, the risks they took, and the sacrifices they made. Share insights your team has for applying what they learned in your church or ministry. Resources could include:
 - *The Church at Work* by John Pellowe (chapter 2 has a good overview of both the ancient church and evangelical ministry)
 - *Evangelism in the Early Church* by Michael Green
 - *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* by Ralph Winter
 - *How Christianity Changed the World* by Alvin Schmidt
 - *Evangelism: A Concise History* by John Terry
- 2) Is there a bias in your church/agency leadership or its members for having all ministry done through official programs? What is best done as a group, and what is best done by individuals? If you had no programs of your own, and relied only on individuals taking action themselves, what would the advantages be from a mission perspective? How would you equip and empower people to go out on their own?
- 3) Study the *Canadian Bible Engagement Survey* report and respond to its recommendations and observations. Give this activity lots of time (probably over several meetings). Revise your strategic plan as necessary.
- 4) Pastors, take a long term perspective to what you want to accomplish through your sermons. Based on the issues raised in this post, list the topics you need to preach, outline the research you need to do, and schedule when the sermons will be delivered. As you write the sermons, create some discussion questions that small groups could use to help people apply the sermon.