

# NURTURE THROUGH SERVICE

## Implementation Ideas

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(to be included in an email list for resources and other ideas, email [hey@fylvia.com](mailto:hey@fylvia.com))

*Note: 1) Add a spiritual element to your services without creating a sense of expectation or requirement. For example, provide a short devotional after an English class only for those interested. 2) Whatever you choose to do be regular, consistent, and dependable.)*

1. Small groups studying God's Word in groups of 4–6 to allow the addition of another 4–6 of new worshipers. Meet in the community and add a social element to it.
2. "Kind" bags for worshipers to take on their way out to give to the homeless. Content suggestions: juice box, granola bar, encouraging thought or Bible text, a dollar bill. Place these by the door. It's an easy way to engage with first-time guests.
3. Friendship ambassadors assigned to pews to sit at the same place every week in order to engage with new worshipers and connect them with members who may have things in common with them.
4. Hostess families— regular worshippers ready to take new worshippers home for a meal.
5. Babysitting Club—A small group of families with children in the same age group who meet once a month, rotating homes. They have devotional time or read a book together (as a book club), after which all the couples go on a date—except the ones hosting who watch the kids. The longer the tradition, the closer the ties.
6. Host a family movie night in the community. Church can do this in a community center—In most small towns, there is an organized movie-in-the-park event; partner with another business. Families can do this for their neighborhood (project the movie on a garage door and invite neighbors to bring lawn chairs)
7. Super Bowl Party with another community business
8. Quarterly block party on church grounds or somewhere public for the neighbors within a block/ walking distance.
9. Partner with a business to start a community garden.
10. Adopt an apartment building—better yet, rent an apartment in the building you adopt. Have a strong disciple live there to minister to the people, to hold small group meetings, etc.
11. Repurpose current events into community services—Pathfinders, VBS, Sabbath School (take all of these to the community, outside your walls. Be intentional about including children from the community.)
12. Begin various craft clubs that meet in public places (there's a knitting club in the Panera near my home; tutors help kids at the eatery in Wegman's)
13. Offer cooking classes in other churches right after their Sunday service (include a free meal)
14. Offer report card rewards to local schools
15. Offer language classes in a community space (r.g. library)

16. Read the local newspaper to identify immediate needs and for long-term planning. Follow up and help!
17. Offer free rides to the airport (stick to a schedule, be dependable—offer this in airport advertising)
18. Welcome basket for people who buy homes in the neighborhood (home sales are public information)
19. Begin Bible studies at the local university
20. Begin a travel club (worshippers traveling with non-worshippers provide many opportunities to share their faith)
21. Partner with a local hospital to provide a free gift to babies born there (Beginner's quarterly, a pair of booties, book for parents)
22. Join local community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club. Encourage members to join as well.
23. Plan for a permanent presence in the middle of the community.
24. Have offsite worship service in your community center or in a public space
25. Families and individuals find ways to connect with others in things you already do: E.g. Young parents from the church having play dates at the same time, same place, same playground to connect with other parents in the community.
26. Join trivia night at the local bar (e.g. many bars in the US that serve meals as well designate one evening as family night and host family-friendly activities)
27. Worshipers gifted in music offer their services to churches of other denominations (most churches pay for special music and pianists)
28. Mini concerts in parks.
29. Monthly lunch a community leader (six possible areas to target: business, government, education, health and social services, media, religion)
30. Social media ads, ads on buses (of your services not what you are)
31. Identify businesses that will allow literature and handouts. Keep these stock, ensuring the material is appropriate and includes the church's name. E.g., stack of healthy recipes at the local grocery store; health DVDs at the Health and Human Services Office; notes on positive living at the yoga studio; free women's health magazines at the hair salon; packets of seeds at the craft store.
32. Post on community boards a list of the month's services and events the church provides. Keep these current :)
33. Create a detailed database of your worshippers—their profession, hobbies, fears, names of children, hours of work, favorite food, spiritual gifts, etc.
34. Have a plan that ensures someone of the leadership team has a one-on-one with every worshipper outside of sickness and death.
35. Assign a got-to personal church liaison to every worshipper. The liaison contacts everyone on his list at least once a month.
36. Solicit service ideas from worshippers and provide new and more opportunities to serve.