

Formation of Lay Evangelists – 2019-21: JULY 2019 DRAFT

Year One: Fall Sessions (October - December 2019)

Module 1 (October 2019): ‘The Story of God’s Love’

Gospel stories:

- Old Testament: Exodus/Return from Exile
- New Testament: Jesus (incarnation/cross/resurrection/ascension/commissioning)
- Prodigal Son: Come home to God’s unconditional love

Conversion in the Bible:

- Darkness to light
- Passing it on to children
- A new heart
- Response grid
- Conversion and baptism

Homework:

Write down a short summary (5 minutes) of your ‘conversion story’. Be ready to share it next month.

Module 2 (November 2019): ‘Surprise the World’

Report:

- Share your conversion story.

Content:

- BELLS (Bless someone, Eat with someone, Listen to God, Learn Christ, Sent) as a lifestyle of missional discipleship.

Homework:

- Begin to implement BELLS in your daily life. Be ready to report back on your progress next month.

Module 3 (December 2019): ‘How to Relax and Enjoy Evangelism’

Report:

- How is BELLS going?

Content:

- Introduction to Relational Evangelism.

Homework:

- Continue with BELLS.
- Create an ‘Operation Andrew’ list and look for opportunities to be a witness. Report back in the New Year!

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Year One: Winter/Spring Sessions (February – April 2020)

Module 4 (February 2020): Mission Strategy

Report:

- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- A hard look at the implications of Post-Christendom for the mission of the local church (including ideas like Fresh Expressions).

Homework:

- Visit a parish outreach project in twos, participate as possible, prepare report, reflections for next session.
- Continue to implement BELLS and Operation Andrew

Module 5 (March 2020): Visiting Outreach Projects

Report:

- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- Report back on outreach projects visited – stories, reflections, evaluations.
- Possible additional input on outreach projects from other parishes, leaders.

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Continue involvement in Outreach Projects
- Begin to think about a summer outreach project you could organize in your parish

Module 6 (April 2020): Helping New Disciples Grow

Report:

- BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Outreach Projects

Content:

- What are the most important ways Christians grow in their faith? How can we coach new disciples in these practices/habits?

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- With your rector/others as appropriate, plan and implement a summer outreach project for your parish. Report back on this in the Fall.

SUMMER BREAK

Year Two: Fall Sessions (October – December 2020)

Module 7 (October 2020): The Big Questions

Report:

- Summer outreach projects
- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- What are the most common questions and objections to the Christian faith? How can we respond to them in a helpful way?

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Talk to a non-Christian friend and ask them about their biggest questions, objections, and hangups about Christianity. Research some answers for them!

Module 8 (November 2020): Evangelistic Preaching and Testimony, Part 1

Report:

- BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Conversations/issues with non-Christian friends

Content:

- What is evangelistic preaching? Different methods, options etc. In what situations might it be appropriate?
- How to prepare and present a faith story/testimony.

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Either prepare a faith story/testimony, OR pick one of the common questions and objections to Christianity and prepare a sermon to address it.

Module 9 (December 2020): Evangelistic Preaching and Testimony, Part 2

Report:

- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- Preach your sermon/share your story for the group. Responses and discussion.
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Homework:

- Refine your story/sermon and present it in your own church in January.
- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Year Two: Winter/Spring Sessions (February – April 2021)

Module 10 (February 2021): Courses for Inquirers

Report:

- How did the talk/sermon go?
- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- What makes a good ‘Inquirers’ Course’? What are some of the options out there?

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Find a local church that is offering an inquirers’ course (Alpha, Christian Basics etc.). Attend as much of it as you can to see what it is like. Report back at our next session.

Module 11 (March 2021): Equipping People for Witness and Evangelism

Reports:

- Inquirers’ Courses
- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- How can we mentor people in our parishes in the art of witness and evangelism? What tools are available, and how would we use them?

Homework:

- Continue to implement BELLS, Operation Andrew
- Plan a mentoring event/conversation in your parish
- Begin to plan for a summer outreach project

Module 12 (April 2021): Where Do We Go From Here?

Report:

- Mentoring event/summer outreach project updates.
- BELLS, Operation Andrew

Content:

- Review the course. Identify our strengths, interests.
- Work with rectors to come up with a plan for the first year.

Homework:

- Complete working agreements with rectors by the end of June (with the help of the Warden of Evangelists). Implement them.