

A Brainstorming Activity to Cross-Pollinate Ministries

In the four-part outreach framework model

Part 1—How Your Team Could Resource and Empower the Other Three

Explain that each person will represent the outreach category they serve or are most passionate about. If possible, have approximately the same number of people represent each category (Sharing Life-on-Life, Serving Holistically, Crossing Cultures, and Spanning the Globe). Put up a sign with one of these outreach categories in each corner of the room. Distribute large Post-It Notes. Ask each person to jot on their Post-Its ways the ministries they are representing could resource and empower the others and then post these ideas on the wall in the appropriate corners of the room.

For example, a person who represents “crossing-cultures ministries” could post notes:

- in the life-on-life corner*—“Have one of our Indian ESL students explain the background of Diwali holiday celebrations to our congregation so our people better understand their Hindu neighbors.”
- in the holistic-outreach corner*—“Work with you to start a Spanish-language Bible study in your prison ministry.”
- in the spanning-the-globe corner*—“Host short-term team members for a day of learning about the culture of the country where they will serve by coordinating a visit to a nearby community of immigrants from that country.”

Part 2—How the Other Teams Could Resource and Empower Your Team

Now change the color of Post-Its and ask each person to put one or more notes in each corner representing ways they would like to be resourced and empowered by ministries in that category.

For example, a person who represents life-on-life ministries might post:

- in the holistic-outreach corner*—“Help our congregation be more informed about, and compassionate toward, our neighbors who may have a teen or adult child with an addiction problem.”
- in the crossing-cultures corner*—“Many in our congregation are nervous about hosting neighbors of other cultures in their home. Are there people in your ministry who would be willing to join them the first time they host to make it more comfortable?”
- in the spanning-the-globe corner*—“Are one or more of our missionary units really good at lifestyle evangelism? Could we set up a Zoom call to learn from them and ask questions?”

Then ask each person to go to the corner representing the ministry category they serve and as a group review the suggestions. Have those in each group choose two ideas that they think are most important and potentially doable in the next 6-8 months. Discuss what implementation would look like. Conclude with prayer.