

TEAM GUIDE



DEREK SANFORD
RESOURCES

Discussion / Reflection Questions

for Untapped Church: Discovering the Potential Hidden in Your Congregation
by Derek Sanford

This resource is designed to be a “Team Guide,” but it can also be used for personal reflection on the ministry lessons in each chapter. Ideally it can help to facilitate group discussion for a ministry team or church staff to work through together. Untapped Church is a deeply practical book intended not just to spark ideas, but to be implemented. There are questions listed below for each chapter in part 1 of the book. Part 2 lends itself much more for a workshop setting. You could either design a workshop yourself to take your team through, or let our team come in and facilitate a training experience to help you implement the lessons from this book. Head over to the “contact” section of dereksanford.com and reach out if you’re interested in finding out more.

PART 1- A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH

Chapter 1- The Great Opportunity

1. List three distinctives that set your church apart from other churches or organizations?
2. To what degree have you “tapped” volunteers in the various ministries within your church? What are some success stories?
3. Thinking carefully through each area of ministry in your church, where do you see evidence that you as a leader (or as a staff) are trying to do all the ministry yourself?
4. What names or faces come to mind when you think about high-capacity leaders who may be ‘available but not used?’

Chapter 2- Are We Allowed to Do This?

1. Describe your gut reaction to the idea of empowering volunteers to lead major ministry initiatives: Are you cringing or fist pumping? Are you hesitant or eager?
2. In what ways does it feel risky to empower volunteers in leadership roles within the various ministries of your church? List out the top five risks that come to mind.

3. What excites you about the possibility of developing a volunteer leadership culture? Write down the top five opportunities that accompany this approach.

Chapter 3- A Moment of Clarity

1. What are some of your go-to excuses for a lack of progress or growth in your ministry?
2. Do you agree with the statement, “our people are our greatest asset”? If so, do you approach them that way? If not, what would you identify as your greatest asset?
3. In light of the ‘Y-Factor,’ to what extent do you resonate with the idea that you have more work than your paid staff can accomplish? Do you need more volunteers, more leaders, or both?
4. Which three ministries or ministry opportunities are your most strategic growth engines?

Chapter 4- Everyone is a Priest

5. In what ways have your words or actions contributed to the two-track system that says, ‘paid staff should do all the ministry?’
6. What are some examples in your own life or your immediate context of living out the New Testament truth that everyone is a priest?
7. How does your church reflect, or not reflect the priesthood of all believers?
8. What are some ministry consequences (intended or unintended) of the view that some work is secular and some is spiritual?

Chapter 5- Imagine the Church Unleashed

9. Write down all of the ministries that you lead and all of the roles that you fulfill at your church. Review the list and highlight the things that only you can do. What things do you do that have the greatest impact on the church? What do you need to give away?
10. What is your cornerstone calling? Take a moment and write down a concise statement that captures what exactly God has called you to do.
11. In what specific ways would it benefit you or your church if people reimagined their lives through the lens of a bivocational mission? What could you do to help shift this mindset?

12. Do you find it hard to believe that revival could begin without being led by paid church ministers?
Why or why not?

Chapter 6- Six Barriers for Pastors

1. Identify which of the 6 barriers seem the most easily overcome and the most insurmountable for you right now.
2. In what ways have you contributed to a consumer culture in your church?
3. Which roles in your ministry seem TOO BIG, TOO IMPORTANT, or TOO PASTORAL to give away?
4. How can you think differently about these roles? How will you push the envelope on who can fulfill these roles?

Chapter 7- Benefits of Making the Switch

1. Of the eight benefits listed, which one appeals most to you? Why?
2. If part of God's dream for His Church is seeing men and women unleashed to pursue life on mission, in what ways does your church embody this dream?
3. What are some ways you could identify a Christian who is engaged at church versus a consumer?
4. Now that you have read part 1, what intrigues you about the idea of a volunteer leadership culture at your church? What scares you? Do you believe the opportunity may be worth the effort?

I pray that you have decided that the opportunity to unleash volunteer leaders in your church is worth the effort it will take to build that culture! Again, if you would like help getting started, I and my team could be available to lead you through a workshop experience that will walk you through the process of taking the steps found in Part 2 of the book. For more information visit dereksanford.com.