



ASK

How can we help you?

BIG IDEA

In Mark 10:51, Jesus asked a blind man a simple question, “What do you want me to do for you?” As you WALK, you will encounter people in need. ASK them how you can help and listen to their heart to gain insight on how to best serve them. You will also encounter other leaders already trying to address this need. You can learn from them, partner with them or even serve them.

STEPS

1. Ask those in need how you can help them.
2. Ask key leaders already addressing the need how you can help
3. Use **Interview Worksheet** to record insights from every interview.
4. Use **Summary Worksheet** to discuss everything you learned with your team.
5. Ask God for supernatural guidance and insight.
6. Decide how to best LOVE those in need.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON DOSOMETHINGCHURCH.ORG

Engaging Community Leaders | 7 Mountains Diagram

PERSON

Name, title, description of the person you talked to. (Use a separate worksheet for each interview)

May 12th. Director of Group Home on Lincoln Ave.
12 years of experience. Responsible for 3 group homes, including this one. Has a staff of 2 in each home. Grew up in Foster Care.

FACTS

What new information did you learn about the need?

On average, each of the youth in the group home has 7 adults assigned to him (case-workers, school representatives, advocates).
There are all kinds of programs available (educational, job training etc.), but the problem is motivation and creating a positive environment where the boys believe they can succeed.
The county has a mentoring program and offers free background checks.

INSIGHTS

What insights did you gain into how to meet this need?

As a church we have the one thing that the Group Home Director keeps wanting but cannot provide - good role-models and an environment of caring relationships. We can bring this to the table.

PRAY

What is God directing you to do next?

Include more people in this process. Who else in our church has a heart for kids in tough circumstances? Maybe we have people who grew up in foster care that could help lead this ministry with depth and heart.

NEXT STEPS

Who will you ASK to learn more? How will you do it?

Connect with 2 other Group Home Directors in our zip code.
Interview 3 Foster Youth to hear their perspective on what their situation.
Connect with the county to learn more about their mentoring program.

QUESTIONS AND IDEAS TO PURSUE

Use this page to note key questions, ideas and insights from ASKING.

Questions:

What would it look like for us to set up a way to recruit youth mentors in our church?
Who should lead this ministry? How do we need to equip them?

Ideas:

We have good, mature people who can be mentors for the youth, we just have to figure out all the steps and how to recruit them.

Identify potential leaders in our church that have a heart for kids in tough circumstances and gather them to present what we have been learning.

Men's ministry can do a work project with a BBQ afterwards to get the men exposed to the kids and see if there are any men who would want to be mentors.

NEED

Name and summarize what you learned about the need or opportunity.

The statistics around Foster Youth are staggering and there are a lot of resources devoted to housing and protecting them, but the one recurring theme we heard from everyone is that they need positive relationships with caring adults, who are not paid to be with them. Our church is perfectly positioned to do just that, so we need to start a ministry that will provide mentors for foster youth. It can be supported by our existing ministries for special projects, but the heart of it and our goal should be providing youth mentors.

KEY FACTS

List 5-10 most important and relevant facts about the need.

- 4400 kids in foster care in our county
- 40 months is the average time spent in foster care
- foster care kids face staggering odds in life (45% graduate high school, 20% will get to college, 51% pregnant by age 19, 22% homeless within a year, 70% of prisoners are former foster youth)
- there are 42 Group Homes, 3 within 5 miles from our church, with a total of 38 youth

KEY INSIGHTS

List 5-10 most important insights you gained through Count, Walk, Ask.

- our church can provide community and role-models which is exactly what CWS expressed as their biggest need
- county has a good mentoring program and is open to churches helping
- with 5 or more school changes, youth needs reliable caring adults to invest in them mentoring doubles their chances of graduating highschool
- mentors need to make a long-term commitment to provide stability and permanence, otherwise it will not work

KEY IDEAS

What is God leading you to do? List your best ideas on how you can best LOVE those in need.

- start a ministry that will connect mature adults in our church with the needs of foster youth through fun bridge activities in order to identify and develop long-term foster youth mentors
- adopt the 3 Group Homes in our vicinity
- partner with the county for background checks and training of volunteers
- involve Men's Ministry to do a service project to help us start a relationship with group homes and start identifying new mentors
- get pastor's approval and help in promoting this opportunity on Sundays