

Whom to Invite?

Qualities to look for when inviting someone to be on an evangelization team, lead a small group or do one-on-one accompaniment

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“We can use the acronym FACT to discern if someone is ready to be more formally invited into mission. While all Christians are called to become missionary disciples, those who are already *faithful* to Christ and the Church, *available* with their time, *contagious* in their faith and *teachable* in their heart are ready to answer the call to mission most wholeheartedly and effectively. These are four key basic dispositions we should be looking for when considering whom we invite into discipleship and to whom we give extra training for mission. Let’s look at each one:

Faithful—A missionary disciple must be a faithful disciple first, someone who is passionately pursuing Jesus Christ, living the four practices of a disciple in Acts 2:42 (prayer, fellowship, sacraments, and the teaching of the apostles) and *seeking to deepen their intimacy with Christ*. They are also faithful to Jesus in *moral authority*, living beyond reproach — which flows from a willingness to ask more of themselves than they do of others — especially in terms of chastity, sobriety and excellence (the “Big 3”). And they are *faithful to the Church* and believe all her teachings.

Available—Missionary disciples are willing to make time in their schedule for Christ and the mission to share him with others. They must be willing to make time to meet with you and make time to give themselves to the people they are leading. It’s impossible to mentor someone if they are unwilling to meet with you. And it will be difficult for them to evangelize others if they can’t make time for the people they’re leading. Being available doesn’t mean they aren’t busy. It simply means they are so strongly committed to Christ that they make him and his mission a priority in their lives.

Contagious—They radiate the joy of the Gospel — including the fruits of the spirit (peace, joy, patience, gentleness, etc.) (8) that draw others to Christ. They also possess the basic human formation necessary to lead and inspire others. This doesn’t mean they have to be extroverted, popular or “cool.” Simply, the way they live their life renders the Christian life attractive. They are willing to step out of themselves and draw others in.

Teachable—A missionary disciple is willing to learn from others, including you as well as other leaders in the ministry, the pastor and parish staff. They humbly acknowledge they don’t have it all figured out and are willing to grow and receive training or correction.”