

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

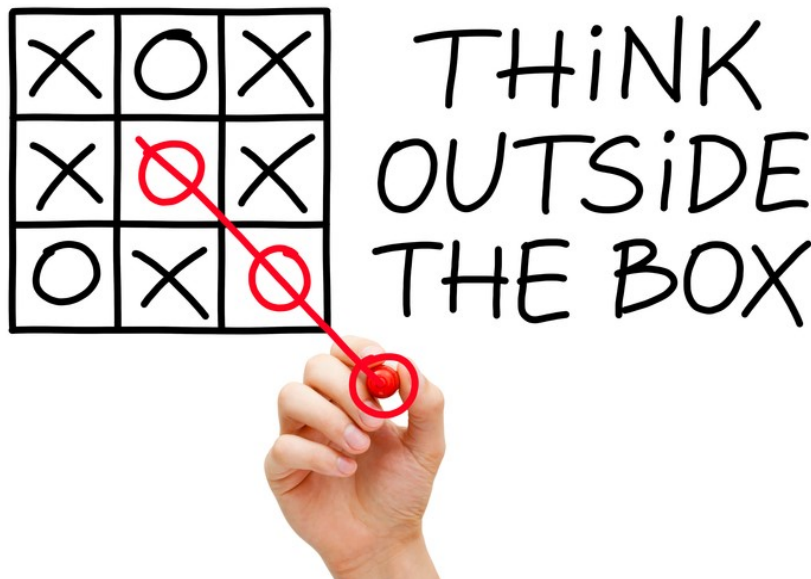
1 Thessalonians 2:8

It is a wonderful thing when a small group is, within its own confines, humming along in both the sharing of the Good News and each others lives as well. It's a great place to be!

One way to see the group continue to grow and thrive is to look at opportunities to serve together in an effort to extend those very same 1 Thessalonian 2:8 principles beyond the group confines.

It's certainly a challenge to think about tinkering with good group dynamics by adding in the unpredictability of outside involvement. However, it's an opportunity worth investigating. That could have significant benefits to group life.

There are numerous avenues you can take in trying to incorporate something like this into your group life. Flip over the page for some suggestions.



Putting your many hands and various skills together for the sake of those around you can be an invigorating group experience that comes with lessons in humility, self sacrifice, and the extension of care. Below are three different areas you could consider. View the suggestions below as an open and incomplete list. Maybe they will stir and spur your creativity to come up with something that matches your group's ethos.

Service

- freezer meals
- handy man services
- transportation to appointments
- laundry help
- yard care
- institutional help

Hospitality

- Host a casual function around a common event
- Give a couple an evening off by providing a meal and babysitting
- Adopt a...
 - Family
 - Missionary
 - Student or school class

Mission

- fill shoe boxes together
- help at Break of Day
- Gull Lake Camp
- Compassion Canada
- Koinonia School
- missions gift brochure

The choices and opportunities are limited most frequently by two things:

1. the group's creativity
2. the group's courage

Yes, there may be other limiters, but the two I've listed tend to be the most immediate hurdles. It's a good thing they're also easy to overcome. Take it for what it's worth. If you're group is interested in stepping out a little, I'd be happy to help in whatever way that I can.

You can reach me in the following ways:

(P) 403.556.3219

(E) gstirling@firstbaptistolds.ca



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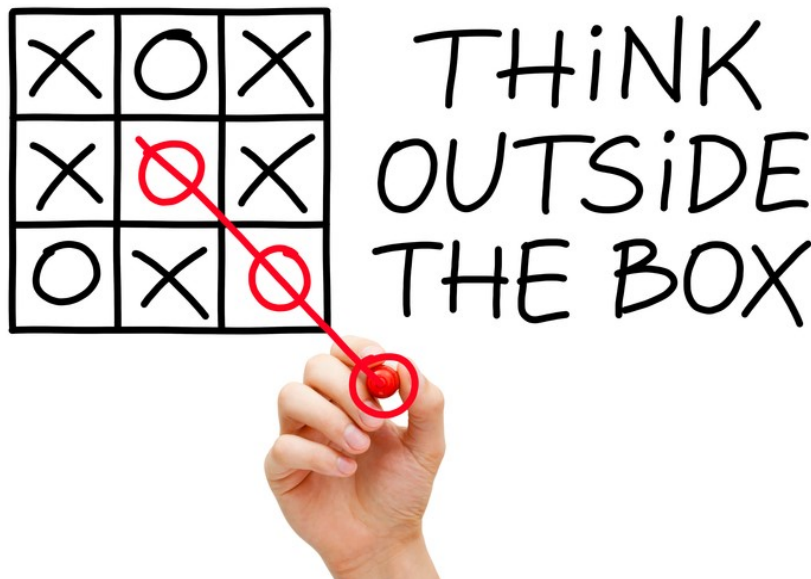
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