



# Starting Something from Nothing

Wouldn't it be great to snap a finger, and voila, a full-scale set of Christian programs were alive in your workplace? Instead of that "perfect" world, God wants us to water seeds and let His timing rule the day. How do you water? How do you start something from nothing?

## Actions

First, begin with **prayer alone and with others**. Until you understand God's mission, you're wasting time starting anywhere else. Prayer helps you define God's heart, and it softens your heart. It also helps you know whether to come in under hiding like Joshua's first trip to Canaan or in full view like Joshua at Jericho.

If God directs, start a **fellowship group**. Make it informal by doing something you enjoy, such as sports, hobbies, clubs, or parent groups. Not only will you have something in common, but God will present opportunities.

If you pursue a more formal study, start small – two or three others – and grow. For starters, see [www.metromarketplace.org/toolkit](http://www.metromarketplace.org/toolkit) or [www.godwsquad.com](http://www.godwsquad.com) under Evangelism. Tell others you're exploring concepts and hope they'll join. Your job is less about "teaching" and more about caring. If you get tough questions, say "I'm not sure – let's read together" or "I'm not sure – I'll ask around this next week."

Present God's plan for eternity only after building a relationship and seeing readiness. Then, explain that we've all sinned and fallen short of heaven as a result; that if we tell Him we're sorry for that, God gives us the free gift of heaven because Jesus died for us; and that we need to begin a new life and relationship with God.

Hosting an **outreach event** or a **brownbag session** is tricky. Unless you have a wide network, you'll stare at believers even though you wished for non-believers. Better: tap into other events and take a friend or two. CBMC, for example, hosts regular lunches with well-known speakers who present the Gospel in a non-threatening environment. Or, invite someone to your church's upcoming drama or supper.

## Overcoming Challenges

Once you have something started, the result can be more difficult than we anticipate. Challenges in building a workplace ministry revolve around goals you set and outcomes you achieve. Here are four roadblocks to expect:

**Where is everybody?** God looks favorably upon believers connecting and making a difference in the workplace. Matthew 28 clearly covers witnessing on His behalf. Our objectives go wrong when getting everyone interested in our interests becomes the focus. Mass e-mails, publicity gigs, and growing our egos by growing numbers are signs of trouble. Discipleship happens one person at a time.

**Any time now, God.** We all recognize this one! Surely, God is ready for "little old me" to make a difference! Could God have a different playbook? Maybe the timing isn't right. Maybe hearts are hard. Maybe God plans for someone else to lead and you to follow!

**If I'd known it'd be this hard....** Difficulty getting the rock to start rolling often says that the Enemy is worried! Barriers are his strategy to cause us to pause or turn back -- and that's the time to find another route! Praise God for hardships! Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted...for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

**I can't possibly cover every need.** This comes when things are going too well! Burnout is near, another favorite trick of the Enemy. Can you hear Him? "Get 'em so pooped and frustrated that they give up!" The answer? Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

For these challenges, the recipe is simple:

1. Check your heart. Is the challenge of God? Or is it pride caused by the Enemy?
2. Press in. Pray earnestly. Where does God want you? Understand it's His timing and plan, not yours.
3. Enlist a partner to keep you balanced, provide Godly perspective, and ease the burden.
4. Focus on what's right in front of you. Kingdom relationships start one-on-one. God is ready for you to connect one person at a time.

"In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Whether you're just starting to bring God to your marketplace or you're a pro, those words from John 16 will help you address any Enemy challenge as you build something from nothing.