

The 5 - 10 - Link Rule



1. What is it?

The 5 -10 – Link Rule encourages the church to build community, encourage regular attenders to initiate contact with people they don't know. The simple "5-10-Link" rule will help them follow through.

Someone living by the rule sets this as a personal standard: "I won't initiate a conversation with anyone I know until I have attempted for 5 minutes after every meeting to reach someone I don't know. If, when talking to someone, I see an unfamiliar person within 10 feet, I will go to them or draw them in. I will not leave a newcomer without linking the person to another contact."

Make it a priority for leaders and encourage the whole congregation to adopt this guide.

2. Why would we do it?

Have you ever walked into an unfamiliar place with people all around chatting up a storm but ignoring you? Most of us have. Can you feel the sting and the awkwardness as you recall the experience? You never want others to go through that. But sadly, they do. Does it happen sometimes in your church? Implement the 5 - 10 - Link Rule in your church and it will never happen again to one of your newcomers!

The software suggests several things that you can accomplish with this project. Thus, you can kill the proverbial "two birds" with the equally proverbial "one stone." The 5 - 10 - Link Rule can help you in these three ways and many more.

Suggested Purpose No. 1

Do you want to capture better personal and family information so you can minister better?

The software suggests this objective. We will invest eight hours per week through a staff person or volunteer to improve the information in the church database and to be sure that those in ministering relationships have accurate and current information about each individual to whom the minister.

Suggested Purpose No. 2

Do you want to become a friendlier church?

Perhaps this objective is one you might adopt. By the end of this annual cycle, we will increase by 20% the number of people who report taking the initiative to speak to newcomers.

Suggested Purpose No. 3

Do you want people to have a better sense that they fit in your church?

Encourage people to accept this objective suggested in the software. Once a month over the next year, I will initiate a visit with someone from my church with whom I would like to establish or renew a connection.

Project/Action Items Summary

"5 - 10 - Link" Rule

To build community, encourage regular attenders to initiate contact with people they don't know. The simple "5-10-Link" rule will help them follow through. Someone living by the rule sets this as a personal standard: "I won't initiate a conversation with anyone I know until I have attempted for 5 minutes after every meeting to reach someone I don't know. If, when talking to someone, I see an unfamiliar person within 10 feet, I will go to them or draw them in. I will not leave a newcomer without linking the person to another contact." Make it a priority for leaders and encourage the whole congregation to adopt this guide.

Project Date - Not Scheduled
Responsibility - Not Assigned

Time to Complete - 0.00 hour(s)
Cost - \$0.00
Category - Not Assigned

Complete Action Item	Action Date Responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 GAIN COMMITMENT Talk with leaders about how living by the principle would be valuable in their area of responsibility, and how they see it being applied.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 APPOINT COORDINATOR Ask a person who can model the 5-10-link rule as well as train and encourage others to coordinate the approach.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 ESTABLISH PLACE Identify a list for involving people in living by the principle. Identify all the places and events where it would be workable.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 INTEGRATE WITH FOLLOW-UP Work with those who do follow-up to establish a mutually agreeable follow-up plan.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 RECRUIT LINKERS Recruit warm, open people to serve as intentional linkers. Recruit senior leaders to be role models.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 TRAIN LINKERS In a short training session with linkers review the principle and role play the concept. Review the lists of events and situations that are ideal for applying the rule. Get feedback.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 TRAIN SENIOR LEADERS In separate sessions, review and role play the approach with senior leaders so they can model for the congregation. Discuss ways that less extroverted people can get comfortable with greeting strangers.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)

<input type="checkbox"/>	8 IMPLEMENT 5-10-LINK Set a date to implement the use of the principle. Do it without publicity. At the end of the events, check with leaders and links on the outcome and for suggested revisions to process.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 REVIEW FOLLOW-UP Check with those assigned to arrange follow-up and with those doing it. Document non-confidential information to share with others for evaluation and for application in other areas.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 TRAIN CONGREGATION Support the effort; use as an example in teaching on fellowship.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 ESTABLISH REMINDER PROCESS Annually review the concept with congregation. Have ministry leaders review it with workers at the same time.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 EVALUATE Annually (two months before the congregational reminder) review with linkers and senior leaders, the benefits and drawbacks, of using the guide. Revise as necessary.	Not Assigned Cost: \$0.00 Time: 0.00 hour(s)