

## Designated Engager Preparation

Do you love Jesus and want others to experience the love of Jesus, also? Do you like to be openly friendly, even to women you do not know? Would you like newcomers to any women's event to feel welcomed and wanted?

Then, prepare yourself to be a **designated engager** at an event where newcomers are present.

Being a designated engager is an easy entrance into lifestyle discipling for anyone who loves people and enjoys being friendly to visitors. Overcome that tendency for "intentional blindness" at your next women's event. Help a newcomer feel wanted and included!

### DO THIS ON YOUR OWN OR WITH A FRIEND:

#### Ahead of the event:

- ☐ **Start with prayer.** Ask Jesus to give you these which are His will for you as His follower:
  - Love for women who do not know Jesus and compassion for where they are in life (Matthew 9:36).
  - Boldness and opportunity to interact with women visiting your event or group (Ephesians 6:19).
  - Discernment to know the right words to say in conversation that would make her feel wanted (Colossians 4:5-6).
  - Commitment to rely on Him and His Holy Spirit power in you to do this.
- ☐ **Remember how you felt** when you were in a strange situation. What would make you feel welcome in a room full of strangers? What would make you more comfortable?
- ☐ **Prepare your contact information** to give to the newcomer. Be sure to get hers as well.
- ☐ **Research what your church offers** for grief care, divorce counseling, marriage issues, parenting, singleness, cancer, and other common needs. If you have brochures about those, get a few to keep handy when you attend the event.
- ☐ **Be familiar with something you can invite a newcomer to attend** in the next month or so—your church meeting times, upcoming women's activities, family activities, etc.

#### At the event:

- ☐ **Arrive early** to become familiar with how things are set up so you can help a visitor find where she needs to be.
- ☐ **Have no other responsibilities during the event** other than focusing on the women who are new. It is okay to help with the setup before the event. But once women start showing up, your focus needs to be on visitors and not on any other responsibility.
- ☐ **Be careful to not be drawn into conversations with those you already know** unless you are introducing them to a newcomer.
- ☐ **Turn your radar on as soon as you enter the room.** Be alert for those who may be alone, shy, or quiet; are known to be new to the area, to the church, or to the group; and unfamiliar with the building and others present. Many newcomers want to connect with a community of believers but do not know how to do so.

- ☐ **Be gracious, relaxed, and interested in her life.** Wear a nametag if possible. Introduce yourself, ask for her name, and remember it during the event. Invite her to sit with you, to join you in something you are doing, or whatever it takes to connect with her more than just saying hello. Key in on common things you share or connect her with someone who shares something in common with her. It is okay to be nosy. Be attentive.
- ☐ **Have something to place in her hand** about your church, women's activities, family activities, etc. before she leaves. Invite her back for something specific within a month at least. This could be an all-church event, a women's event, or a children's activity. Find something she might be drawn to attend.
- ☐ **If she reveals specific needs** regarding grief, divorce counseling, marriage issues, parenting, singleness, or other common needs, connect her with someone who is experiencing what she is but has learned to rely on Christ to overcome it.
- ☐ **Exchange contact information.**

### After the event:

- ☐ **Follow up with her during the next two weeks.** Remember to invite her back for something specific within a month at least. Find something she might be drawn to attend. Meet her at the door when she comes to church for the first time or attends that next event where you will be present.
- ☐ **Pray for her.**

### DO THIS AS PART OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Do you already have a welcome team for your ministries and events? Consider inviting specific women to become "designated engagers" for each event. These would not be greeters at the door or check-in table. They would also not be your small group leaders or table leaders who need to shepherd the whole group.

- ☐ **Invite those who love Jesus, love others, and are gifted to be openly friendly.** You know who those women are in your group. They would need to be prepared to connect with newcomers as described in the section above for individuals. Encourage the designated engagers to pray together before and after the event.
- ☐ **Have a short training time** for women to know what they should do as designated engagers. You could follow the same preparation as **for individuals above**, including informing them about what your church offers for grief care, divorce counseling, marriage issues, parenting, singleness, cancer, and other common needs. If you have brochures about those, you can give your engagers a few to keep handy when they attend the events.
- ☐ **Make sure your designated engagers do not have other responsibilities** during an event other than connecting with the newcomers. It is tempting to see someone hanging around and give them a last-minute job to do. Please remember not to do that.
- ☐ **Have designated engagers present whenever unchurched women are invited** to your church or women's event—bazaars, brunches, women's classes, moms' groups, fall festivals, and more.

When the Holy Spirit gives you opportunity to talk to anyone about Jesus, you need to be ready. Download the "**Prepare to Share Your Faith**" booklet from [melanienewton.com/disciplemaking](https://melanienewton.com/disciplemaking).

**"Turn your radar on!"**