



# JAIL MINISTRY 101: Transformation with a Transient Population

Presented by:

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# Why Ministry to People in Jail?

1. Scriptural Foundation
2. Mass Incarceration is the Norm
3. Simple Statistics

# WHY YOUR PRESENCE IS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE IN JAIL?

Jails catch people at their lowest points. They are on their knees and deeply broken. Your presence:

- Provides hope and encouragement that they can overcome anything. With God all things are possible.
- Opens the door for forgiveness
- Helps change their thinking
- Creates opportunity for spiritual growth

We have to be like Jesus to them before they will believe in Jesus.

# HOW DO WE RESPOND TO A PERSON'S ARREST AND DETENTION?

- Be encouraging, compassionate, and non-judgmental. You don't need to know anything about jail, drugs, or their crime. Your role is to be Jesus with them in their season of despair.
- Provide the gift of presence immediately and regularly.
- Pray *with* and *for* the person arrested, their family, and any victims.
- Create a care team to provide spiritual and tangible assistance to ALL of the family.

# FOUR THINGS FOR PROVIDING SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

1. Start with Prayer – pray about the people you encounter and your own strength to disciple lovingly.
2. Create a judgment free zone – judgment cuts off the pipeline of fellowship.
3. Listen intentionally – No one listens to me; I'm going to listen to you. Do 3X as much listening.
4. Be consistent – Consistently shows you care. Must discern what level of participation you can sustain consistently.

# WHAT PEOPLE NEED WHEN THEY GET OUT OF JAIL.

- Someone to contact – a relationship with someone who wants good things for them.
- A ride to wherever they need to go – this is very important. Can't meet Jesus if we're not there.
- Basic necessities – food, shelter, clothing. Helps them feel safer during transition.

**Transformation During Transition**

# GETTING INVOLVED IN JAIL MINISTRY TAKES THESE THREE STEPS:

1. Find out about the jail's process. All jails have a hierarchy and a process to place you with the right people.
2. Look within your church first for organic connections. For example, many churches have NA/AA groups that meet; so do most jails.
3. Find a champion within your faith community that is All In. Often this is someone who has experienced incarceration themselves.

# THREE THINGS TO SUSTAIN YOURSELF:

1. Don't be afraid. You are not God.
2. Carry your Bible. It marks you as a believer.
3. Form a support system. You need your own spiritual team.



# Questions

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