

# MESSAGING FOR MALE MENTOR RECRUITMENT: RELIGIOUS LEADER-TO-MEN TALKING POINTS



As advisors to their congregation, especially with respect to spirituality and duty to the community, a religious leader can make a powerful case for mentoring. Religious leaders can be the head of the congregation or a respected member of the faith-based community. When recruiting in a faith-based community it is important to utilize a member of the congregation as the recruiter. Just as employees are more likely to respond to their employer or peer, faith-based communities often respond best when hearing from one of their own.

The recruitment message you deliver may vary based on the life circumstances of the men you are speaking with. For example, an older male may be eager to share some new-found free time and the wisdom he has gained through the years, while a younger male may like the idea of having a young person look up to him and the fun he can look forward to with a youth.

Prior to your presentation, stop to consider the needs and motives this group may have regarding volunteer opportunities. Think about how your message will change when speaking to a faith based audience versus other audiences. The important thing is to fine tune your message to the audience. While no two men are exactly alike, we have learned that groups of men have similar concerns and responses to recruitment messages.

## RELIGIOUS LEADER-TO-MEN TALKING POINTS

This talk can be focused on need and offering the opportunity to demonstrate the candidate's commitment to a higher calling. Please note that these statements should not be understood as an endorsement of any particular faith or as a preference of one faith over another. Rather, these statements are meant to guide recruitment efforts in any faith-based setting.

- *Here is a unique opportunity for you to express your faith in God.*
- *In Scripture, God tells to us to care for one another as a way of expressing our commitment to God.*

- *God's light shows up through the love of your parents, and family, through coaches and caring teachers, and through those who looked out for you as you were growing up. Anyone who guided you to become the good person you are today has been a reflection of God's grace and love.*
- *Here is an opportunity to put your faith into action. Express your love of God by caring for those who are vulnerable.*
- *As men of faith, you only have to give of yourselves to have a fulfilling experience.*
- *Take a moment and reflect on this. Look into your heart and ask if this is something you are being called to do.*
- *Suggested passages from Scripture that may be used in the conversation:*

### **(Jewish) Deuteronomy 6:5**

*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*

### **(Christian) Matthew 22:37-38**

*Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind [and] love your neighbor as yourself.'*

### **(Islam) Number 13 of Imam Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths**

*None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.*

### **(Buddhism) Samyutta Nikaya v. 353**

*A state that is not pleasing or delightful to me, how could I inflict that upon another?*

### **(Hinduism) Mahabharata 5:1517**

*This is the sum of duty: Do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.*