

Ministry Leader Resource Guide

01 | KNOW IT

What is the Catalyst Innovation Lab?

The Catalyst Innovation Lab helps faithful ministry leaders explore bold, Gospel-centered ideas for reaching new people, making disciples, and pursuing new mission opportunities. Selected innovators develop and present their ideas, receive funding to help bring their ideas to life, receive feedback and coaching, and share what they've learned through experimentation.

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

02 | SPOT IT

Who should I encourage to apply?

Think beyond your church/ministry staff! Consider:

- Lay leaders
- Sunday school teachers
- Small group leaders
- Youth and children's ministry volunteers
- Mission leaders
- School/preschool leaders
- Young adults
- Ministry teams
- Members with a passion for a particular community or population
- Anyone who keeps asking, "What if we tried...?"

Quick Conversation Prompts

Ask your congregation/members of your ministry:

- *What ministry opportunity do you see that others might be missing?*
- *Who in our community isn't being reached right now?*
- *What is one ministry challenge you've wished we could approach differently?*
- *What would you try if you had permission to experiment?*
- *Where do you see God already at work, and what might happen if we joined Him?*
- *What could help us move from addition to multiplication in making disciples?*

03 | ENCOURAGE IT

How do I guide someone who comes to me with an idea?

Each application must have the support of ministry leadership. Your role as a leader is important– not only in encouraging new ideas, but also in helping discern whether an idea is feasible and fits the ministry’s context and mission.

When someone shares an idea:

- **Listen before evaluating.** Give them space to explain the idea and what inspired it.
- **Ask questions before raising concerns.** Help them think through the opportunity, rather than immediately focusing on why it might not work.
- **Explore the “why” behind the idea.** What ministry opportunity, challenge, or need are they hoping to address?
- **Encourage prayer and discernment.** Invite them to consider how God might be leading them and their ministry idea.
- **Help them take the next step.** If the idea has potential, point them toward the Catalyst application and offer to help them think it through.
- **Don’t require a finished plan.** An applicant doesn't need to have every detail figured out before applying, though ideas should be well thought out for the application.

Your role isn't simply to say “yes” or “no” to an idea. It's to listen, discern, ask good questions, and recognize when someone may have an idea worth exploring.

04 | TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Important Dates

Applications are Open **August 1-October 15, 2026**. If selected, innovators will present their ideas at the lab on **January 13, 2027**.

Explore the [Catalyst Innovation Lab Website](#)

Share the link to the [Application](#)

Register to [Attend the Event for Free](#)

Share our [Facebook Event](#) with your congregation and ministry supporters!