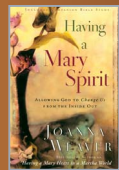


The Fine Art of Saying "No"

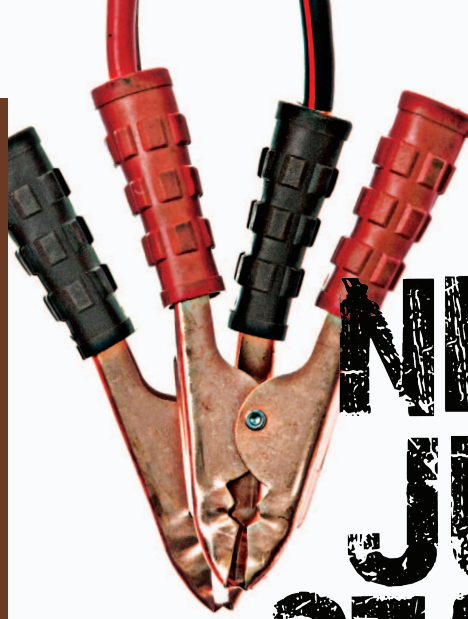
As a leader understand that sometimes you must walk away from worthy causes. Be honest enough to state that you are overcommitted or need time with God or family. Agree to pray for the Lord to send workers. Let the person know that you would fail them if you could not perform the task well.



KAREN WHITING is a pastor's wife, author and speaker. For the complete "Fine Art of Saying 'NO'" article and more resources go to discipleshipideas.com



Having a Mary Spirit (03LK0530. \$13.99) draws from stories of biblical Marys and others who experienced God transformation in their lives for healing, wholeness and joy. Includes a 12-week Bible study for individuals and small groups. Paper. 288 pages.



NEED A JUMP START?

Here are some key ways to provide quality teaching, training, discipleship, and evangelism opportunities, even during that summer down time.

promote building opportunities

- Hopefully discipleship is a lifestyle if you are in full-time ministry, but summer can be a great time to offer a discipleship class. One great resource, especially for students, is F.I.R.E. Institute (**08LK2069. \$39.99**), a 13-week intense discipleship curriculum that encourages spiritual maturity and will increase the spiritual temperature of your teens and young adults.



Help your church camp students keep the fire burning by organizing a post-camp small group mentoring opportunity and utilizing the **21 Days After Camp for Kids** resource.



The **21 Days After Camp (02LK0507. \$1.50)** discipleship resource will keep kids focused on ways to allow their camp experience to help them continue to grow in their relationship with Christ.

focus on team

- Summer is a great time to connect relationally. If your people are out enjoying all that summer has to offer, think about ways you can spearhead the festivities. Organizing picnics, outings, day trips, and movie nights will not only give you a break from the routine, but it will also bring cohesion to your team and encourage increased commitment from up-and-coming leaders.



Dinner and a Movie: G-Rated (03LK0695. \$21.99) is a fun resource for a family night, youth group, weekend retreat, or outreach. Includes spiritual application from movies.

Churches can choose just one or two movies or do them all over the course of the summer.

reach out

- Plan a special event at your church that complements an already existing holiday or community festival—or better yet, take your church members to be a light off church grounds. Art fairs, Fourth of July, food festivals, Memorial Day,

and open-air concerts are all good candidates. Look at your community calendar and decide what works best for your ministry.

If you are looking for opportunities to get members of the community to visit your church, nothing beats a creative VBS (Vacation Bible School) like Faith Case™ (**33LK5000 see page 8**) or Mega Sports Camp® The Great Comeback (**33LK0450 see page 7**) to reach families or individuals with young children.

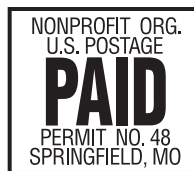
get outside the box

- Don't be afraid to try out something new, like a Sunday school class that moderates some of the class discussion time via Facebook. Consider combining 2 or 3 of the traditional fall/spring classes with tag-team teaching during the summer months. One of those classes could combine students with older adults into a mentoring relationship group that may even carry on into a student's crucial college transition/young adult years. 💡

—JOSH WELLBORN



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