

CHURCH ESL PROGRAMS

Love Well

Did you know that having one *real* American friend can help an international adjust to the U.S. better? Belonging to a community helps even more! One of the main strengths of church based ESL programs is their ability to share Christ's love. There are often people who are willing to take students to DMV appointments, explain cultural differences, be friends and walk through life ups and downs.

Invest

Ministry to internationals takes time to establish trust to share the gospel effectively & for someone to learn English. Like most investments, the rewards are worth it.

Strive for Excellence

Your ESL program will be a reflection of Christ to the people you serve

**Need more help?
Visit us at:**



[tesolministry.org/start-an-esl-ministry](https://www.tesolministry.org/start-an-esl-ministry)



CONTACT US

TESOL Ministry

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TESOL Ministry is a nonprofit organization located in Wake Forest, NC. Our mission is to bring the ESL ministry community together to strengthen ministry effectiveness and quality ESL Instruction.

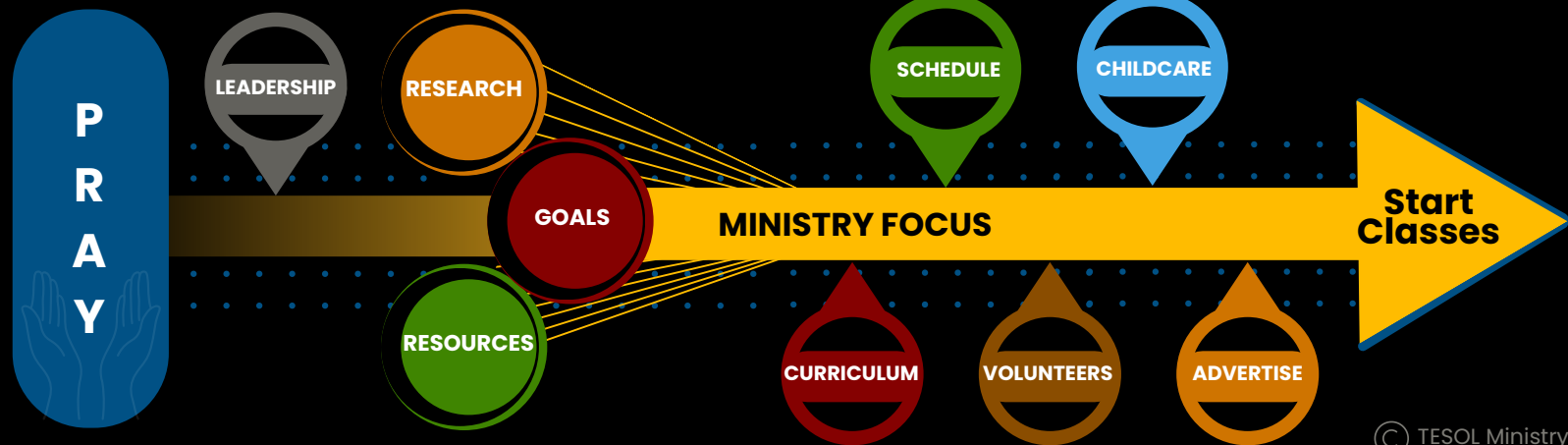
HOW TO START AN ESL MINISTRY



TESOL Ministry

TIMELINE

HOW TO START AN ESL MINISTRY



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PRAY

- Pray for God's leading, students & volunteers
- Maintain your relationship with God (John 15:5)

LEADERSHIP

- Ensure that your church leadership is supportive
- Prayerfully choose a director & administrator
- Begin working on a strategy to incorporate newcomers into your congregation

RESEARCH

Who is your target population?

- What are their needs: ESL level, child care, transportation, spiritual, physical, etc.
- Look for potential partners: junior colleges, adult schools, churches, food pantry, legal assistance, counseling, etc.

RESOURCES

- Examine your resources: number of volunteers, experience & training, time, finances, physical space, etc.

GOALS

Define your ministry's goals.

Ask "Why do we want to start an ESL ministry?"

- Form friendships so you can share the Gospel
- Help non-English speaking church members
- Enrich people's lives by teaching them English

MINISTRY FOCUS

- Do you have the resources and training to meet your students' needs and your goals? If not, create actionable steps toward meeting your goals.
- Start small: teacher to student ratio is about 1 to 3, or 1 teacher & 2 aides to 10 students, remember to plan for substitutes
- Be upfront about the type of classes you will offer, don't "bait & switch"

CLASS TYPES

Conversation Class / Conversation Hour

- Volunteers serve more as tutors than teachers
- Provide volunteers with weekend ESL Training, plus training for conversation & culture
- Disadvantage: not for students with no/low levels of English

ESL Bible Study

- Focused on the Bible using easy English
- Provide volunteers with ESL weekend training
- Choose curriculum based on student levels

English Classes

- Teachers should have more extensive training in teaching ESL (assistants need weekend ESL Training)
- Choose which levels to offer
- Create achievable language goals for each level and evaluate at the end of each session

CURRICULUM

- Choose your curriculum based on the class type and your students' levels

SCHEDULE

- Consider the availability of your target population, facilities & volunteers to determine your schedule for the year
- Add breaks for holidays, local school schedules (which impact attendance), church business meetings, etc.
- Include trainings & post-session evaluations

VOLUNTEERS

Each volunteer is as important as every student

- Create job descriptions, program info & volunteer code of conduct
- Recruit & train volunteers

CHILDCARE

- Recruit & background check volunteers
- Provide them with program & culture training
- Choose a curriculum
- Ensure that safe procedures are followed

ADVERTISE

- Let people know about your classes

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