

Action Learning Experiments

An experiment in this process is a planned action-learning experience that is designed to help us “behave our way into new thinking.” Experiments are the best way to learn when we are faced with challenges that require us to adapt and do something different than we have done it before. Experiments create space for us to discover new ways to be the church in our context. The outcome of the experiment—its success or failure—is far less important than what is learned through the action of conducting the experiment itself. Design your own experiments to address the adaptive challenges you have named in this process. Get members of your congregation involved in conducting the experiment with the goal of learning something new in the process.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Luke 10:1-2

Action Learning Experiments

What is an experiment?

An experiment in this process is a planned action-learning experience that is designed to help us “behave our way into new thinking.”

What is the point of experiments?

Experiments are the best way to learn when we are faced with challenges that require us to adapt and do something differently than we have done it before. Experiments create space for us to discover new ways to be the church in our context.

What makes an experiment successful?

The success of an experiment is determined by how much we learn and are transformed by the experience rather than by how much impact our actions have on others.

How do you know what you’ve learned or how you’ve been transformed?

Once the experiment is finished, we create a feedback loop opportunity where we as participants gather to reflect on and share what we experienced or learned about God, ourselves, and others through the experiment. This intentional time of reflection will help us process what we’ve learned, how we’ve changed, and what we would like to share with others.

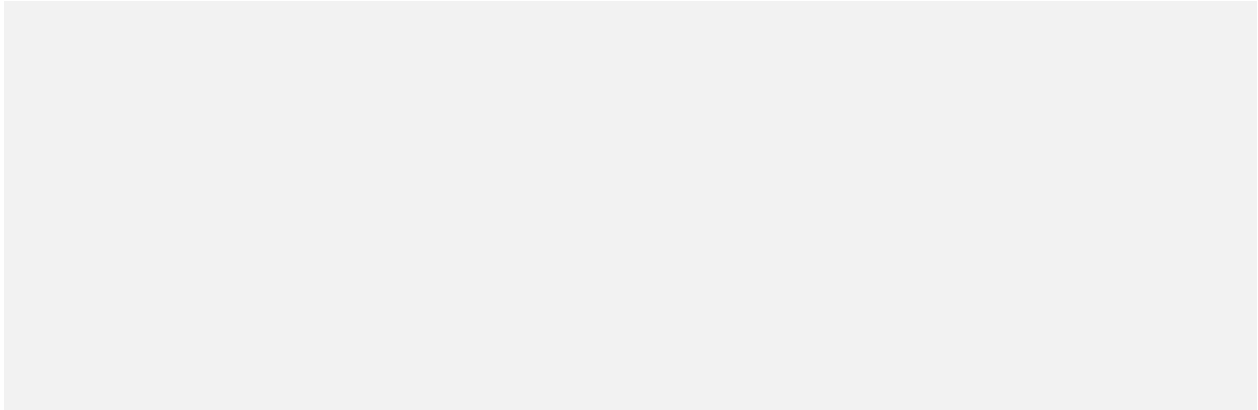
How do you design a good experiment?

There are 3 major steps to designing an experiment:

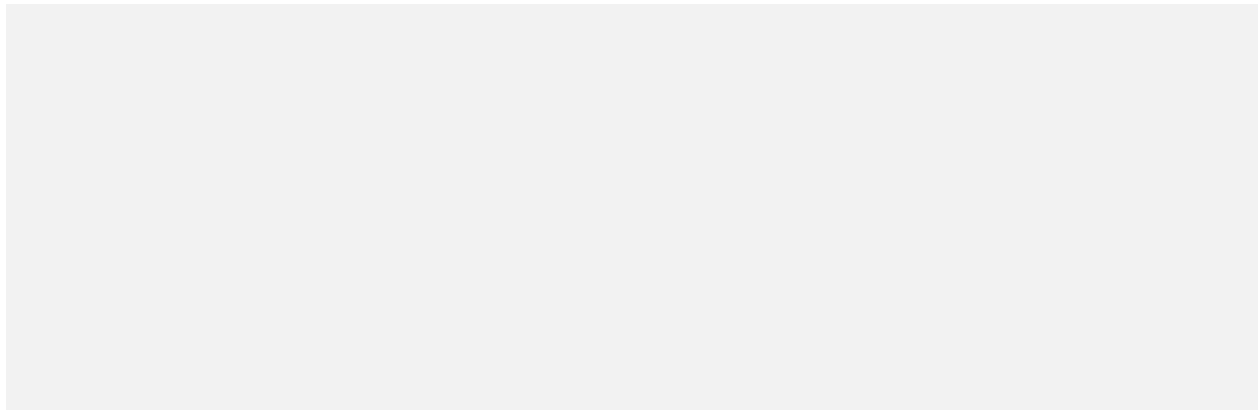
1. Name what you want to learn.
2. Describe the steps you will take in the experiment.
3. Create a feedback loop.

Experiment Design Worksheet

1. Name what you want to learn (learning objective). How is this based on your listening work?



2. Describe the steps you will take in the experiment.



3. Create a feedback loop.

