

# GETTING STARTED: DISCERN, DISCOVER AND LAUNCH



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## DISCERN: DIVINE DIRECTION & LEADERSHIP

Prayerfully seek the answer to “How am I called to look after the orphaned?”

### GOD’S HEART FOR THE ORPHANED

Prayerfully read these verses, asking God to help you know his heart for children without the protection and provision of a family (the orphaned).

- Psalm 10:14, 17-19
- Psalm 68:5-6
- Proverbs 31:8-9
- James 1:27

### OUR CALL TO CARE FOR THE ORPHANED

Prayerfully study these verses, asking God to help you understand your responsibility to children without the protection and provision of a family.

- Deuteronomy 10:18
- Deuteronomy 24:17-18
- Isaiah 1:17
- Jeremiah 7:3-7
- Matthew 10:7-8
- James 4:17

## OUR LEADERSHIP IN CARING FOR THE ORPHANED

Prayerfully explore these verses, asking God to develop in you the characteristics to serve children without the protection and provision of a family.

- Willing – Isaiah 6:5-8
- Excellent/Enduring – Hebrews 12:1-3
- Courageous – Joshua 1:17
- Connected – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
- Discerning – Proverbs 18:15
- Whole-hearted – Ecclesiastes 9:10

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## **DISCOVER: TAKE TIME TO DISCOVER**

### **YOUR CHURCH CULTURE**

What are the mission, vision, values, strategies or calling of your church and how might foster care and adoption fit within these?

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### **LOCAL CHILD WELFARE STRUCTURE & NEEDS**

How does your local child welfare system work? What are the needs of children in foster care in your community or state? (For more details with this question, refer to “Getting to Know the Foster Care System”).

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### **LOCAL ENGAGEMENT IN FOSTER CARE**

What other organizations, agencies and ministries are involved and how are they serving kids in foster care? Consider CASA, mentoring organizations and child placement agencies. Your local 211 call center or school districts are also good places to start to find out who else is working with kids and families in your community.

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## NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

What are some of the needs or gaps you see as you're learning about your local system?  
What opportunities might these offer for your church to get involved?

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### HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- National CASA:  
[CASAForChildren.org](http://CASAForChildren.org)
- National Foster Care & Adoption Agency Search: [tinyurl.com/nfcad](http://tinyurl.com/nfcad)
- National Mentoring Partnership:  
[mentoring.org](http://mentoring.org)
- 211: [211.org](http://211.org)
- Public School District Search Tool:  
[tinyurl.com/127-schooldistrict](http://tinyurl.com/127-schooldistrict)

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## LAUNCH PHASE 1: WHY? WHO? WHAT?

### THE WHY FACTORS: CALLING, MOTIVATIONS & UNMET NEEDS

Why is establishing a 1.27 Ministry important to you, your church and other team members?

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Why will this be important to the children, families, church and child welfare system in your community?

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What have you learned about your local child welfare system? What are the unmet needs?

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Why do you think a 1.27 Ministry can meet some of the unmet needs in your community?

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**THE WHO FACTORS: GOD, YOU, OTHERS, LOCAL CHURCH**

God: What have you discovered about God's heart for kids in foster care?

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You: What have you discerned about your specific responsibility to these children?

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You: How much time will you be able to commit to this ministry during the launch phase?

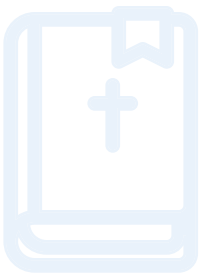
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THE HEART OF THE DISCERNING ACQUIRES KNOWLEDGE, FOR THE EARS OF THE WISE SEEK IT OUT. -PROVERBS 18:15, NIV

Your Church: What do you know about your church's values and willingness to be involved?

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Others: Who is already engaged in foster care and how will they be involved?

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Others: Who else in your community is directly involved in serving kids in foster care?  
What are your thoughts on collaborating with them?

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Others: Who do you think you will serve directly? Indirectly?

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**WHAT FACTORS: VISION**

What future do you envision for foster kids in your community because of this 1.27 ministry?

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What future do you envision for families involved in foster care and adoption because of this 1.27 ministry?

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Next year, what do you hope community members will be saying about this 1.27 ministry?

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CAFO (Christian Alliance For Orphans) offers an e-booklet, Growing Your Foster Care Ministry. You can download a free copy at [tinyurl.com/127-cafogrowing](http://tinyurl.com/127-cafogrowing).



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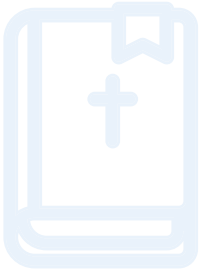
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## LAUNCH PHASE 2: BUILDING A TEAM



TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD RETURN FOR THEIR LABOR; IF EITHER OF THEM FALLS DOWN, ONE CAN HELP THE OTHER UP. BUT PITY ANYONE WHO FALLS AND HAS NO ONE TO HELP THEM UP. -ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

Who is already involved on the team?

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What motivations, expertise and experiences do they bring?

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What are the gaps in your team? (child welfare reps, non-profits, Child Placement Agencies, volunteer management, fund raising, etc.)

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Who else do you need to add to your team?



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How will you find them?



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Where are you, other team members and your church in terms of understanding the Why, Who and What of this 1.27 Ministry?



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Where are you, other team member and your church in terms of being ready to launch?



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What resources and input do you need? (Email us at [info@project127.org](mailto:info@project127.org) and let us know how we can help!)


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