

Church as a Ship



There are four kinds of people in any church: **Passengers** to nurture and challenge, **Crew members** to equip and empower, **Stowaways** to find and convert, and **Pirates** to confront and isolate.

1. *Passengers* are the people who follow the rules of the ship, doing what is expected of them such as participating in small groups, tithing, and being present in worship every Sunday. These are people who want to go where your church wants to go, but they need guidance to make things happen.
2. *Crew Members* are people who move from the passenger seat (pew or chair) and become leaders of the ship. These are the people who understand the vision of the church and play an important role in achieving it.
3. *Stowaways* are people who are along for the ride. They don't pay the admissions fee to board the ship and they hide in the shadows at the bottom of the ship. These are people who are easily influenced because they don't understand the importance of the vision of your church or how they fit into it.
4. *Pirates* are the small number of people who are the loudest and often work against the vision. They hijack and terrorize passengers because they don't agree with where the church is headed. The first group that pirates will attempt to influence is almost always the stowaways since they haven't made a commitment and have nothing to lose.

Help Passengers, Crew Members, and Stowaways embrace the vision. Don't let the Pirates terrorize the ship! Spend time bringing on board new people to become passengers, recruit and train crewmembers, invite stowaways out of the shadows to become passengers, and get pirates off the ship.