

# Defining Low Cost Probes

## Low Cost Probes

As we design low cost probe experiences and as we help Halftimers and ministry leaders develop them on their own we need a simple statement of what the best low cost probe experience looks like.

## Definition

A low cost probe (LCP) is a limited ministry experience that aligns with a Halftimers mission statement and is designed to enable them to assess its fit. It's a reality check.

## Critical Elements

When crafting an effective LCP the following elements should be included:

- Clearly defined assignment
- Specific time commitment (probably in terms of hrs, days or months – not years)
- Should not require disruption of major components of their life
- Aligns fairly closely with their skills and interests
- Is intense enough to simulate a long term assignment

## Areas of Assessment

When the LCP is completed the Halftimer should review his or her experience from the following perspectives (Scale of 1-10 where 1=No and 10=absolutely):

- Am I really passionate about this kind of ministry?
- Was I effective in the role?
- Was the environment and work energizing?

## Learning from a Low Cost Probe

To learn the most from a LCP, a Halftimer should:

- Ask God to reveal to them if this is His call on their second half
- If any of the three areas of assessment above scored below a 7, reflect on how the assignment could have been adjusted to more closely fit them.
- Review the experience and assessment with two close friends and ask for their insights.
- Use what is learned when you design your next ministry assignment.