

... NEXT STEPS AS YOU POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS

SESSION INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES)

This term at KBC we've been exploring how God frees us. Through Jesus, we've been taken out of the Kingdom of darkness and brought through Jesus into the Kingdom of light. This is good news!

Tonight we focus in on how we can be intentional witnesses, pointing people to Jesus. It's a clear strategy to "CONNECT ONE" ... connecting one person to Jesus. We'll explore a three-step process shortly, but for now, let's look in the mirror and see how we're going.

Action Point- Discussion in Pairs:

- ❖ *What motivates you most to point people to Jesus?*
- ❖ *How are you going with this? Do you have natural connections with those outside the church, and how have you gone in sharing the good news of what God has done in Jesus?*
- ❖ God wants us each to **grow** in maturity as we're fed, **serve** within the church for the discipleship of believers, and **extend** beyond the church community, reaching out in mission and evangelism. How many hours per week do you currently spend on each of these three activities? What could you change in your schedule to better **extend** and balance your activities?

Grow: _____ hours

Serve: _____ hours

Extend: _____ hours

Connect One is built around three basic steps: by the end of tonight, the aim is to have a clear plan of how you will **pray** for, **care** for, and **share** with the one person God has laid on your heart.

PRAY (10 MINUTES)

How do we pray for the unsaved?

Pray first of all for what God wants to do in the lives of unsaved persons. If you aren't sure, use these more general requests, drawn from Scripture:

- That God will draw them to himself (John 6:44).
- That they seek to know God (Acts 17:27).
- That they believe the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- That Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- That the Holy Spirit works in them (John 16:8-13).
- That they turn from sin (Acts 3:19).
- That they believe in Christ as Saviour (John 1:12).

- That they obey Christ as Lord (Matthew 7:21).
- That they take root and grow in Christ (Colossians 2:6-7).

Second, pray with the conviction that God is able to accomplish great things in the life of another person. "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... his incomparably great power for us who believe" (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Third, pray that the works of Satan in people's lives will be demolished. "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Action Point- Discussion in Pairs:

Take a few minutes in pairs, to seek God over who this person is and pray for them using the points discussed. Then, take your *CONNECT ONE CARD*, and record their name at the top. If you are unsure put down all the names that you have and pray until God reveals the one person for you to focus on. *The commitment is to pray for this person each week.*

(Remember, Jesus calls us not just to reach those who are like us. He wants us to **extend**, to cross boundaries, as we reach those who are different to us—even our enemies. If you don't have any natural connections with those outside the church, then perhaps your *Connect One* at this stage will be a group or activity through which you may meet people to reach. Consider joining a club, supporting International Students Outreach through KBC, or *Connect-One Home* for flood care.)

CARE (10 MINUTES)

Some Pointers in Intentional Relationships

1. Get out of your Christian Bubble. Building relationships with non church people is just as important as going to church. 80% of people come to Jesus through relationships. It's often easier to hang out with our Christian friends because they are just like us, non threatening.
2. Check your motivations. There must be genuine love for others without any other ulterior motives- even if it is to share the gospel with them.
3. Hang Out. Real relationships take time to develop. While it's great to catch up on Facebook, nothing beats hanging out over a meal, or going down the beach etc. doing things that real people do to interact with each other- not just virtual stuff.
4. Go Deeper. Start engaging with their thoughts and questions rather than throw the bible at them and share your authentic experience of Jesus with them.

Action Point- Discussion in Pairs:

Break into different pairs than before, and take 8 minutes to consider the particular needs and interest of your Connect One person. How might you or your group practically care for them or plan activities that will cater for their needs/interests? Record on your *Connect One* card what your connect one's needs and interests are and what activity you're doing to engage with them.

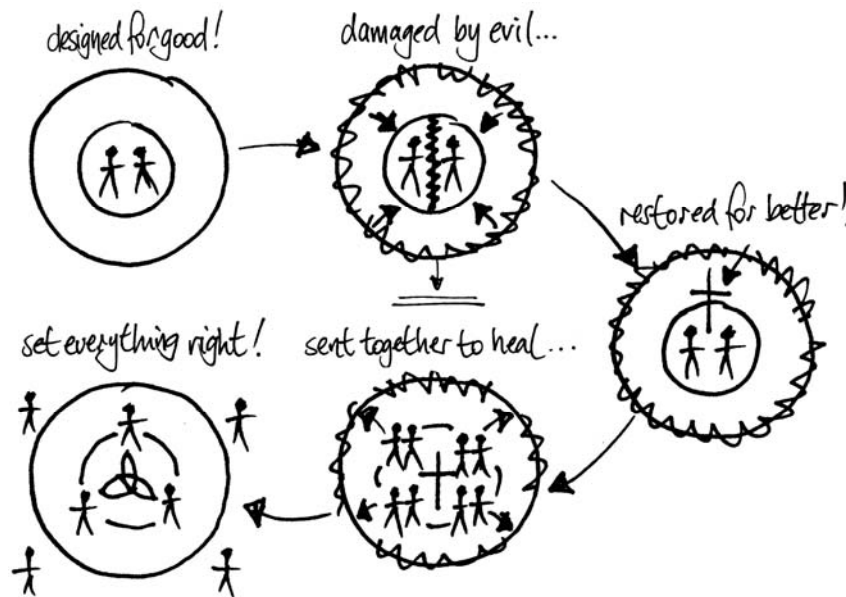
*How is your growth group getting involved in YES WE CARE this coming Saturday, 28th May? Have you signed up for **Connect-One Home**? This is a great opportunity to practically show God's love to those in need—especially the flood affected—across this year. A monthly phone call, some*

practical help from time-to-time, and by year's end you'll have built a relational bridge through caring that gives real substance to the good news of the gospel.

SHARE (10 MINUTES)

There are many ways to share the good news about Jesus.

The heart of the gospel is "that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:4). One of the ways that we're using is called *The Big Story*, and it consists of 5 circles. In each circle, there is a focus on our relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.



- ❖ **Not the Way It's Supposed to Be** ... what do you see on the news → thirst for better
- ❖ **Designed for good** ... to love God, love others, cultivate the Earth
- ❖ **Damaged by evil** ... instead we've rejected God, abused others, vandalized the Earth = sin
- ❖ **Restored for better** ... So God entered in Jesus, paying our debt and defeating powers
- ❖ **Sent together to heal** ... if we align with Kingdom → inside out change → help heal world
- ❖ **Set everything right** ... Jesus will return to judge evil and resurrect the cosmos
- ❖ **Which are you?** ... damaged, restored, on mission? Go via Jesus → deal with self first

In your own time you can go over this way of pointing people to Jesus, using the video found at <http://pathways.kbc.org.au/passing/passing-evangelism/the-big-story-video/>. For now, we'll break into new pairs for both of the following activities. The aim is simple: practise sharing your story- develop a tailored testimony for your connect one person, and also if time permits to practise sharing the big story of the gospel.

Action Point- Discussion in Pairs:

- ❖ Take 3-5 minutes and help each other to develop your tailored testimony for your connect one person. What is the one thing in your life story that will interest your connect one person? Then share your tailored testimony with each other.
- ❖ If you have time role play sharing the big story. Launch off from this question: "Have you ever had someone explain to you what Christianity is about? ... Would you like me to? ... No pressure, just a few minutes and it should make a lot more sense"



To help you share with your Connect One person, we've given you a copy of the KBC produced booklet "Epic Story." Read it for yourself. And see if maybe there is a right time to give it to your Connect One person, to spark some conversation. (http://issuu.com/nikanddaveabroad/docs/epic_story)



Also, if you and your group want to go deeper in learning how to be a witness, consider working through the *SIGN* course over 3-6 weeks, Bill Hybel's *Walk Across the Room*, or Tim Keller's *Gospel in Life* series.

COMMITMENT (5 MINUTES)

"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." —2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making his appeal through us.
What a privilege. What a challenge!

Is this your heart? If God has set you free, will you go to free others? Will you commit to regularly praying and caring for, and seeking to share with, one person over the next year?
Will you Connect One?

Imagine the difference it will make to your friend to know God's love, and be transformed from the inside out. When we celebrate together at the end of this year, think how many people will have been added to God's kingdom through our combined witness.

If this is your heart, take a moment now as a group to commit this to God. Sign your name on the bottom of the *Connect One* card, and keep this in your bible to remind you daily to pray and care for, and share with, this person, as you follow the Holy Spirit's lead.
God bless as you point people to Jesus.

MY THOUGHTS ...