



...NEXT STEPS AS YOU POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS...

We know we're to be witnesses of God's kingdom on earth, and that the Holy Spirit has given us power for the task. That's great! But what now? How do we actually take the next step. What can we actually do?

This next session is focused on giving you some practical suggestions and sparking ideas in you that help you to step out wisely in cooperation with the Spirit.

Evangelism is a process and not an event in people's lives. We grow in Christ and are transformed into His image over time. The same approach is needed when we consider evangelism. It takes time; people come closer and closer to a personal relationship with Jesus as time goes by. Often wrong concepts, fears and bad experiences hold people back from Christ. Over a period it is the work of the Holy Spirit who gently reshapes mindsets, removes fears and illuminates people's need for salvation. We should be wise in recognising where people are at and sensitively partner with God in ministering to them where they are at on their journey.

Every activity and conversation, and every relationship that we have, must be covered, surrounded and filled with love and prayer. So whilst we are focusing our actions on the practical steps we can take, we will also be emphasising that these steps are done in an attitude of prayer. Always remember that we pray to our loving Father who is mighty to save, so we can pray boldly, expectantly and with undaunted persistence and faith. We must always be willing for the Holy Spirit to change our plans and our carefully set out steps. Be ready for the opportunities he gives you and don't let any model, formula or system stop you from following his leading.

The diagram on the following page is a tool to help you understand where your friends are at and then to give you a glimpse as to what God may be doing in them. From there, you can focus on some simple things you can do to reach out, both in words and actions.

Reaching out to others with the gospel is not meant to be something you do in isolation. Whilst you don't need to do everything with someone else, it's good to have mutual encouragement and accountability. As well as someone you can pray with.

So who can you walk this journey with? _____

Who are your Connect One people?

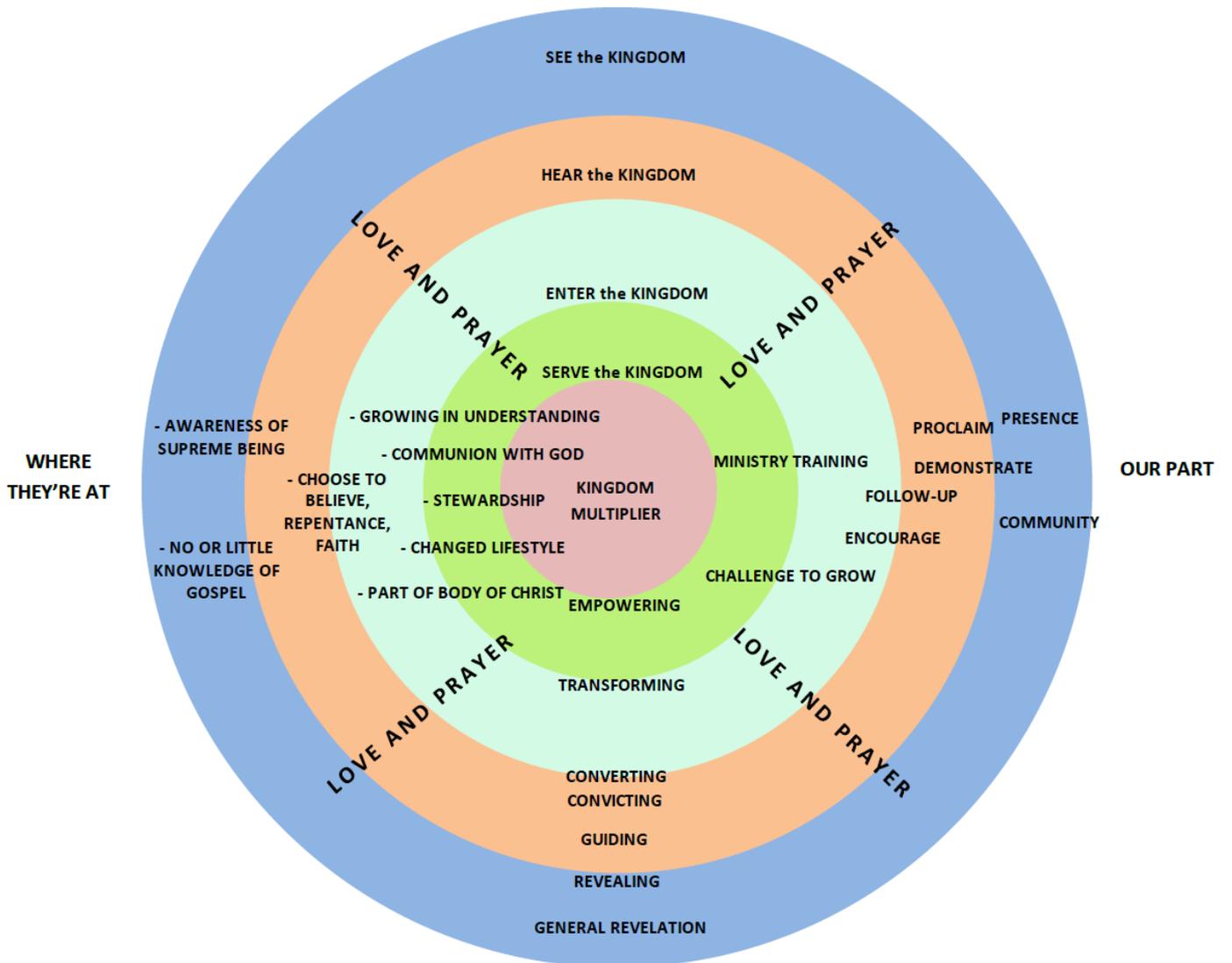
WHAT ATTITUDE DOES YOUR CONNECT ONE HAVE TO CHRISTIANITY?

| Where they're at in their attitude to Christ/Christianity | Things you can do to encourage them along |
|--|---|
| They're resistant and antagonistic. Ignorant of the beliefs of Christianity and Jesus. Often hurt and angry and blame God. | Apologetics and long term relationship. Encourage and serve them with a consistent Christ-like attitude. |
| They're pluralistic, affirm all religions. Resistant but not antagonistic. Generally resistant to gospel presentations but may come to church if invited. | Open to discussions on spiritual matters. Give an experience of God's love through community. |
| They're non-committal, not antagonistic or resistant. They have some belief in God, but it's skewed. They are quite spiritual and eager to learn. | Be proactive, they are open to learn and discuss. Open to invites. |
| They're open with quite orthodox views of Christianity and Jesus but have a works mentality and no personal relationship. Often have a negative church experience. | Study, talk, invitations. Minister to their negative experience of church. |
| They're highly receptive. Their memories of church are usually positive, they're just too busy to come. They have a works mentality of salvation. | Explain and invite. The main reason they're not saved is because no one has clearly told them the gospel. |

Where are you on the circle?

Where does your *Connect One* fit on the circle?

Look for the explanation of God's and your roles and fill in the table on the next page.



| | WHERE THEY'RE AT | OUR PART | GOD'S PART | NAMES AND IDEAS |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| SEE the KINGDOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No or little awareness of supreme being/alternate religion No knowledge of gospel Initial awareness of gospel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand your sphere of influence Community Presence Preparation Love & prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General revelation Revealing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| HEAR the KINGDOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grasp implications of gospel Positive attitude towards gospel Recognise personal problem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proclaim & demonstrate Outreach Persuade Challenge Love & prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Convicting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| ENTER the KINGDOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision, repentance, faith, new birth Incorporate into body Growth in understanding Communion with God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up Encourage Acceptance Growth Cultivate Love & prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converting Transforming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| SERVE the KINGDOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion with God Stewardship Change of behaviour & lifestyle Understanding their part in God's mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge to keep growing Ministry training Support Love & prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transforming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| Be a KINGDOM MULTIPLIER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion with God Stewardship Change of behaviour & lifestyle Participating in God's mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge to keep growing Love & prayer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |

Write down something you can do to encourage each friend to take the next step closer to God.

I will aim to: 1. _____
2. _____

3. _____
By date: _____

