

## Engage

## Look for Opportunities to Serve

*“Start by asking the question, ‘Am I useful to the people I want to reach?’ If you’re not useful, you haven’t earned the right to be heard.”*

Serving and loving people is a doorway to the hearts. But that should not be our motive for loving them. Rather, we love people because Christ in us loves them.

In “The Great Commission” found in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations. In “The Great Commandment” found in Matthew 22:25-40, He tells us to love them. We will struggle to make disciples if we do not practically love people first.

Jesus tells us that we are to love others as we love ourselves. People who do not love themselves - who function from a place of insecurity and self-rejection - cannot truly love others. The danger is that we can easily take the place of God in other people’s lives and feel good about it!

Motive is everything. Make sure yours is true.

## Consider

*Are you in a good emotional place to serve others? If not, ask some friends to pray with you and help you get there!*

## Discuss

*What are the opportunities to serve the people we want to reach? What are their needs, struggles, fears and dreams?*

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## Discovery: Learning to Serve

**Read and meditate** on the following passages of Scripture:

Luke 10:25-37

What can you learn from these passages as you carefully read them?

Write down **how** you can **imitate** what Jesus does:

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## Initiate Spiritual Conversations

*“We need to learn the art of spiritual conversation that draws people in and makes them curious to learn more.”*

In every city all around the world, billions of people are **having spiritual conversations every day**. They talk about God. They talk about purpose and meaning. They talk about fear, love, death, astrology and many other things. All of these are spiritual conversations.

Spiritual conversations are **not the same as religious conversations**. We need to learn to be noticeably spiritual without being offensively religious! So, how do we initiate or recognize and join spiritual existing conversations?

1. Begin with **their** interest  
(Listen to what people are talking about)
2. Ask a **question**  
 (“Have you ever thought about...?”)
3. Share a **personal discovery**  
 (“Yesterday I learned that...”)
4. Share a **personal commitment**  
 (“Recently, I decided to...”)
5. Ask for **interaction**  
 (“What do you think about that?”)

### Consider

*Post something on social media that is spiritual but not religious. Watch how people respond.*

### Discuss

*Have each team member write down a few spiritual statements. What works in your target culture?*

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## Discovery: Jesus starts a spiritual conversation

**Read and meditate** on John 4:1-30

What can you learn from this story as you carefully observe how Jesus interacts with this woman? How does Jesus start and continue a **spiritual conversation**?

Write down some thoughts on how you can **imitate** what Jesus does. Write an example of a spiritual statement you could use.

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## Look for People of Peace

*“Jesus gave us a strategy for making disciples of families, communities and tribes. He said we should search for Persons of Peace.”*

The Person of Peace becomes the key through which entire relational networks are reached with God’s love. Persons of Peace have been prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the Gospel for the first time into a community.

### **Persons of Peace have 4 characteristics in common:**

- they are **open to you** being in their lives and to learning
- they are **hungry** for spiritual things,
- they **quickly share** the truths they have discovered
- they **pull you into** their network of relationships.

If the person is open and willing to engage in a spiritual conversation, we know that the Holy Spirit has prepared this person to be the first recipient of the Gospel into their community.

## Consider

*Who do you know that may be a link to an entire family or group of people? How could you reach this family or group through this one person?*

## Discuss

*Which potential People of Peace have the team identified? Should the team focus together on the few that really show potential?*

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## Discovery: Jesus Gives Instructions

Jesus gave his disciples very specific instructions when He sent them out. One of these instructions was to find a Person of Peace.

**Read Luke 10:1-9 very carefully** and list the instructions that Jesus gives his disciples. Draw two columns on a paper as seen below. In the right hand column, try to describe those instructions in your own words. (What was Jesus saying?)

### **Jesus’ instructions**

### **My own words**

Write down briefly how you will **respond** to these instructions that Jesus gives for going out:

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## Bless Households

*“May God bless you, shine his face on you, and give you peace.”*

The greeting “Peace be upon you,” is traditional to Jews all over the world. When someone is greeted this way, they are supposed to respond with, “Upon you be peace.” So one way of understanding this is that the greeting was to solicit a response from someone who, by responding, would **show themselves** to be a person of peace. What does this look like in our modern **urban culture**?

**Peace is desperately needed** in our modern urban and suburban environments. People are full of worry, fear, stress and turmoil. We should be agents of God’s peace in the midst of this. Jesus often greeted his disciples with the phrase “Peace be with you.” (see John 20:21). Jesus, often in contrast to those around him, was filled with peace because He had an unwavering confidence and trust in God, his Father.

The idea of blessing people with peace goes back to the priests of Israel. Today can still bring God’s blessing of peace in the midst of turmoil.

### **Consider**

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*Do you bring peace when you enter a room? Why or why not?*

### **Discuss**

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*Share your fears, worries and concerns. Pray for one another that Christ’s peace would radiate through you.*

## **Reflections on Blessing**

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*“May the Lord bless you and protect you.*

*May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.*

*May the Lord show you his favour and give you his peace.”*

**(Numbers 6:24)**

Now restate this in everyday words using your own language. How could you say this to people in a way that solicits a positive response? How would that help you find people of peace?

## Engage

## Show and Share the Kingdom

*“Jesus uses the phrase ‘The Kingdom of Heaven’ or ‘The Kingdom of God’ to refer to God’s power working amongst his people.”*

Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead and expelled evil spirits. **The Kingdom that Jesus declared was not mere talk**, but was embodied through spectacular miracles.

Jesus told his disciples to heal the sick people they found. This was clearly a supernatural action of God’s power flowing through them. We need to look out for needs amongst the people we are going to and then trust God to work through us to meet those needs.

### **Share (declare) the Kingdom**

Based on the evidence in front of them (the sick were healed) the disciples were to declare, “The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” What does this mean?

The terms “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven” are used interchangeably. The phrase “at hand” means, “close by”.

## **Consider**

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*In essence, the disciples were to declare, “God is close - He is here right now”, or “**God is close - closer than you think!**” Who could you share this good news with today?*

## **Discuss**

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*Have you held back from praying for the sick or trusting God for a miracle? Why? Share honestly and pray for one another.*

## **Discovery: Jesus Declares the Kingdom Come**

**Read and meditate** on Luke 11:14-20

What can you learn from this passage as you carefully read through it?

How does Jesus prove the statement, “The Kingdom of God has arrived among you”?

Write down how you can imitate what Jesus does.