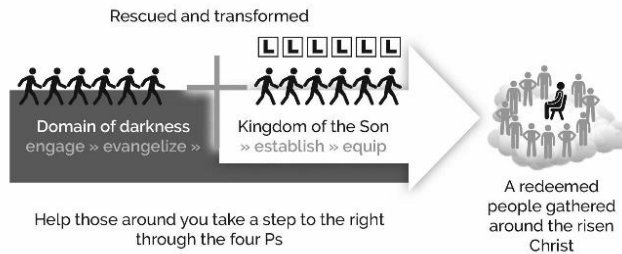


Engage – Questions for Reflection



Introduction

1. Describe an environment in which you feel totally comfortable. Describe a time when you felt uncomfortable because you didn't think you fitted in.

What does the Bible say?

Our church's vision is to be joyfully trusting, following and sharing Jesus. We also want others to join our community. Jesus commands us to be disciples (learners) who make disciples. The first step is to think about how we engage people – about how we build relationships with others.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27 and 10:31-11:1. What can we learn from Paul about how to engage people with the gospel?
3. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus called upon Israel to be salt and light in the world. How does this help us to engage people?

Reflection

4. 'It would be wrong to develop a friendship with someone because you want to share the gospel with them.' Do you agree or disagree? Why?

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Individually

5. What are your existing relational connections with people who are not (yet!) following Jesus? How could you develop these opportunities? (eg hospitality, evening out together, book club or sports team invite)
6. What new possibilities could you pursue for engaging with outsiders?

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7. Think of 2 or 3 of non-Christian people you already engage with. How might you apply the wisdom of these verses in engaging them? Be specific.

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As a Church

Our church engages people through a number of different ministries (eg food van, ESL, Playtime, Kids Club, Youth Group). What would help you to support these ministries in prayer?

What new possibilities could we as a church pursue for engaging outsiders?

10-8.

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11-9. If new people came to our church, what would they find helpful or unhelpful about our current church meeting? What traditions or practices would you be prepared to let go for the sake of new people?

PRAY – specifically for engaging people as individuals and as a church