



SESSION NOTES

The Changing Face of Evangelism

&

the Well-being of the City



TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Changing Face of Evangelism and the Well-being of the City is an extensive curriculum. This curriculum can be taught as standalone modules. Altogether, with interaction, it could take up to five hours. So, be flexible, depending on how much time you've allotted and your audience.

MODULE 1: PERSPECTIVE

This module is foundational for the entire curriculum. It sets expectations, addresses current realities and establishes our posture regarding evangelism. The key idea: There are ways to appropriately engage others in significant gospel conversations, while navigating cultural resistance and dealing with today's barriers. We need to converse with understanding, patience and wisdom.

MODULE 2: COJOURNERS

CoJourners is an equipping paradigm for conversational evangelism. The key idea: People are already on a spiritual journey. We have an opportunity to come alongside them and play a role in the work God is already doing in their lives. This module builds confidence in initiating spiritual conversations through simple skills and tools.

MODULE 3: EXPLORER TOOLS

Introduced during the Cojourners Explorer Role, this module provides practical training, interaction, and hands-on experience with current, effective evangelism strategies and tools including: Sometime, Your Story, Soularium, Life in the City, EveryPerson.com, the Jesus Film app, Story of the Soul, and more. This module also gives you the opportunity to highlight your local partners' strategies, events and tools.

MODULE 4: COMPREHENSIVE EVANGELISM

This module is helpful for pastors, ministry leaders, and church-planters who want to understand what a biblical evangelism movement looks like, so they can lead well in evangelism. It introduces the three modes of evangelism, the essentials of an evangelistic movement, and an outcome analysis for diagnosing the state of their church/ministry. The key idea is helping leaders develop a comprehensive evangelism plan.



Imagine the future...

FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:

Our cities filled with kingdom citizens...

- Engaging with love for the well-being of all in the city...
- Grounded in the gospel and its theology...
- Sharing the gospel as a lifestyle.

Our cities filled with vibrant, multiplying churches and gospel movements...

- Movements of comprehensive evangelism
- Multiplying discipleship
- Seeing the gospel spread throughout our cities changing lives and changing communities

...for God's glory and for the well-being of the city.

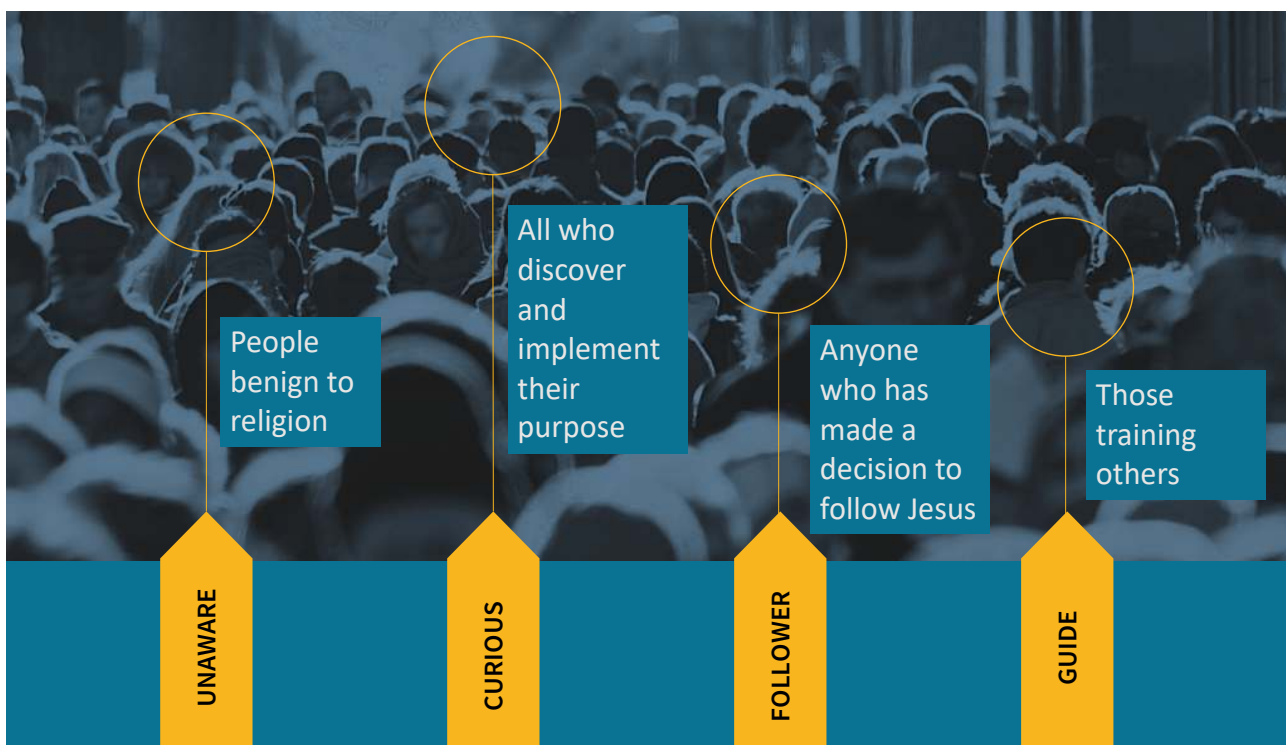
OBJECTIVES

- Discuss barriers to evangelism—personal, theological, social, cultural, and practical.
- Introduce CoJourners—a spiritual journey-based, equipping paradigm for conversational evangelism with practical 'Explorer' tools to help believers engage effectively with those with whom they rub shoulders.
- Help participants to think comprehensively and lead effective evangelism efforts in their city.

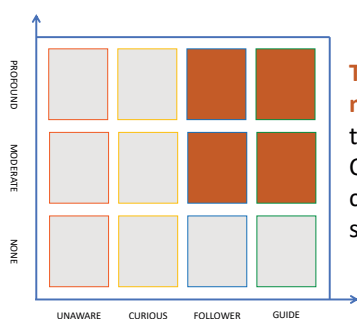


PERSPECTIVE: THE CHANGING FACE OF EVANGELISM
& THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITY

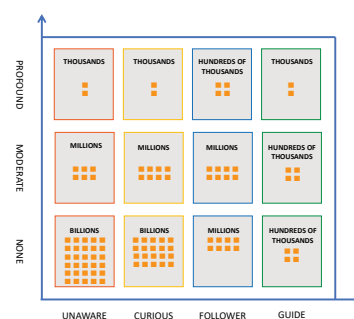
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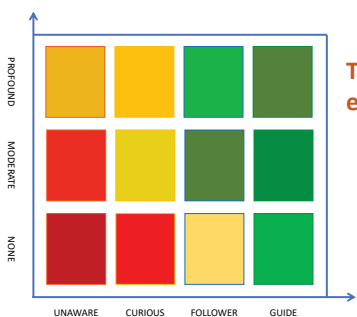
In every conversation, in every interaction, we must know who we are talking to and be considerate of their beliefs and their understanding of Jesus (if any)—or to their relationships with Christians. From this starting point we can better share our story and the story of Jesus with others. We must respect the path they are on and not merely determine how we can move someone along a spiritual path.



The like-minded, those the Church currently speaks to



The size is not the same



The level of effort varies



OBSTACLES & BARRIERS TO EVANGELISM

Five Personal Barriers:

- Lack of Desire
- Fear
- Lack of know-how
- Lack of relationships with the unchurched and unbelieving
- Busyness

Add to these, the counter currents in our culture...

- Religious pluralism, tolerance and relativism
- Public image of the church

Which one or two is the greatest barrier for you?

Which one or two is the greatest barrier for the believers in your church or city movement?

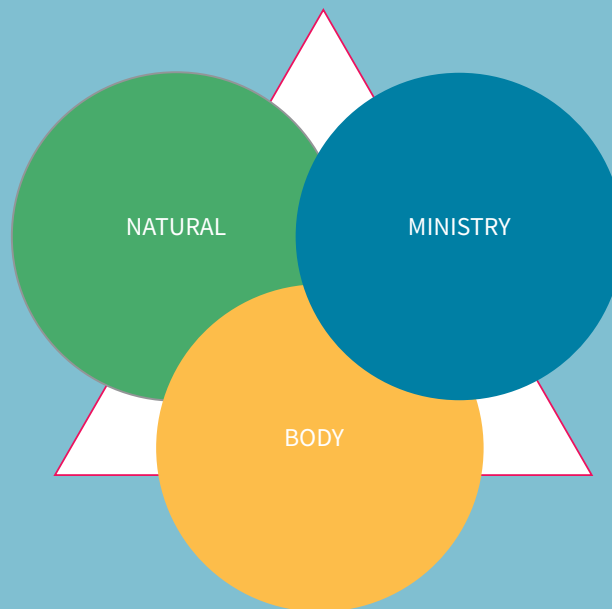


EVANGELISM MODES OVERVIEW

[illegible]

YOUR STORY :: YOUR JOURNEY TO CHRIST

- Did you come to Christ primarily through the influence of a body of believers (such as a local church, a Christian organization, a Bible study, etc.)? **(BODY)**
 - Did you come to Christ primarily through the influence of someone you knew personally (a friend, acquaintance, relative, etc.)? **(NATURAL)**
 - Did you come to Christ primarily through someone doing a ministry of outreach and evangelism? (Large group outreach, one-on-one evangelism, etc.)? **(MINISTRY)**
- (Or some combination of the above? Or some other path?)





Introduction & Overview

1. Everyone is on a spiritual journey.
2. God is already at work in the lives of others.
3. God desires to use you.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)

The Four Roles

- Explorer:
- Guide:
- Builder:
- Mentor:





1. **Explorer:** What resources, tools or approaches have you found effective in fostering spiritual exploratory conversations?
2. **Guide:** What resources, tools or approaches have you found effective in communicating the gospel relationally?
3. **Builder:** What resources, tools or approaches have you found effective in dealing with issues and obstacles?

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GOING DEEPER INTO THE EXPLORER ROLE



SOMETIME is designed to help us get past some common obstacles through a few simple steps. It seeks to create a space for joining others in their spiritual and life journey.

<https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/outreach-strategies/sometime/sometime-overview-and-guide.html>

- 80% of those who asked, “Sometime...”, had a follow-up spiritual conversation
 - 82% of the spiritual conversations that resulted were considered positive. Only 2% felt negative, the other 16% were neutral. That means 4 out of 5 conversations that result are positive, and almost never negative (1 out of 50)
 - 74% of these spiritual “exploring” conversations became gospel conversations
 - 15% of the gospel conversations indicated a decision to receive Christ
-
-
-
-

YOUR STORY — LIFE STORY IN THREE PHRASES







SOULARIUM

Just as sunlight illuminates a solarium, Soularium opens a window to the soul. Because images connect deeply with our emotions, they enable us to engage in meaningful conversations about life and God. With Soularium you'll discover just how easy and enjoyable it is to come alongside someone on their journey.

1. Which image would you choose to describe your life right now?
2. Which image represents what you wish were a part of your life right now?
3. Which image would you choose to describe God?
4. Think about your life so far. Which image best describes what you've experienced spiritually?
5. When you think about your spiritual life or journey, which image best represents what you wish were true?



DIGITAL, SHORT FILM AND ARTISTIC RESOURCES



EveryPerson.com addresses pressing questions while giving our friends reasons to begin a relationship with God. More than 900 people every day from many nations find Christ through it! On this slide you'll note multiple resources.

THE JESUS FILM APP



One of the most effective strategies used worldwide is the Jesus Film Project app. This app has media in over 1700 languages and allows you to share Jesus with everyone, everywhere in any language.

1. What themes stood out to you in this film?
2. Do you see any of those themes in your own life?
3. I see these themes in my life, because... (share an example from your own life).

STORY OF THE SOUL



It's an interactive coffeehouse experience where we explore stories the soul tells through the arts. We utilize visual arts, film, poetry and music in an one-and-a-half-hour event.





LIFE IN THE CITY

AIM:

- Introduce a City Leadership Network
- Research for the City :: Raise Up Volunteers
- Discover Journeys :: Change the Narrative

THE TOOL ITSELF:

- Introduction/Greeting
- Four Questions
- Resources and Follow-through

WAYS TO TAKE THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

- Text Message: Text "wellbeing" to 85005
- Paper Survey
- Web-based
- Banners

INTRODUCING THE SURVEY:

"I'm part of a community engagement organization (or _____ church) made up of leaders and volunteers who collaborate to serve the well-being in cities nationwide. It's called _____. In order to better understand and serve this city, we seek feedback regarding the following questions. It takes about three minutes. Can you help me?"

OR

"I am with City Leadership Networks - a collaboration to serves the well-being of cities. It's a faith-based non-profit involved in helping solve systemic issues in cities of the world. One of our partners is Elevate KC - a coalition serving the well-being of KC."

THE SURVEY:

1. Select three words describing the type of city in which you'd like to live.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> artistic | <input type="checkbox"/> diverse | <input type="checkbox"/> family oriented | <input type="checkbox"/> safe | <input type="checkbox"/> food culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fun | <input type="checkbox"/> growth/innovative | <input type="checkbox"/> active | <input type="checkbox"/> thriving | <input type="checkbox"/> just |
| <input type="checkbox"/> community | <input type="checkbox"/> nightlife | | | |

2. What holds people and cities back from thriving?

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> broken families | <input type="checkbox"/> unemployment | <input type="checkbox"/> apathy | <input type="checkbox"/> crime | <input type="checkbox"/> selfishness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hopelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> racism | <input type="checkbox"/> lack of education | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> income inequality | <input type="checkbox"/> isolation | <input type="checkbox"/> injustice | | |



3. Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following nine statements and why.

- ☐ My city has plenty to celebrate.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ The people in my city are satisfied.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ People in my city have meaningful work and opportunities to advance.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ Family support is strong.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ I am hopeful about the future.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ The housing situation in my city is adequate.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ Good food is easily available to all in my city.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ There is justice for all in our city.
 __Agree __Disagree
- ☐ I feel safe and protected from violence.
 __Agree __Disagree

4. This list we just looked over came from a passage in an ancient manuscript (Isaiah 65:17-25) that speaks about cities. It contends that this is what God wants for each individual and city.

Does that surprise you? __Yes __No Why or why not?

THE THEOLOGY OF "LIFE IN THE CITY"



THINK THROUGH YOUR NEXT STEPS:

WHO?

HOW?

WHAT?

"I WILL _____ BY WHEN _____."



COMPREHENSIVE EVANGELISM LEADERSHIP

EVANGELISTIC MOVEMENTS

An Outcome Analysis

Three or four indicators delineate each of the five primary outcomes of an evangelistic movement on page 16.

Rate on a scale of 1 to 7 each indicator for your movement.

- 7 — Fully Developed Strength
- 6 — Very Strong
- 5 — Somewhat Strong
- 4 — Minimally Acceptable
- 3 — Somewhat Weak
- 2 — Very Weak
- 1 — Absent

WHAT IS AN EVANGELISTIC MOVEMENT?

1. Believers are experiencing the spiritual dynamics of witness (Romans 1:14-17, Acts 1:8, Acts 11:19-24).

2. Gospel conversations are common (John 4:1-9ff, Luke 9:1-6, Acts 8:26-40; 17:17).

3. Believers are growing in their ability to communicate the gospel with clarity and relevance (Ephesians 6:19, Col 4:2-6, John 4:39-42).

4. Leaders and laborers are working together in effective outreaches (1 Cor 9:23, Acts 17:16-34).

5. New believers are being established in their faith and engaged in our church/city movement (Luke 19:5-10, Acts 2:46-47, 1 Thes 1:5-10).



OUTCOME-BASED ANALYSIS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Believers are experiencing the spiritual dynamics of witness							
Intrinsically motivated by love for God and others							
Actively dependent on the power of the Spirit in sharing the gospel							
Intentionally participating in the Great Commission							
Commonly praying for the city and the lost							
2. Gospel conversations are common							
Witness is occurring as a way of life, as believers take advantage of unexpected opportunities and initiate within relationships. (Natural Mode)							
Gospel conversations are occurring as part of ministry outreach initiatives. (Ministry Mode)							
Believers are faithfully bringing others into the experience of gospel-centered community. (Body Mode)							
3. Believers are growing in their ability to communicate the gospel with clarity and relevance							
Believers are able to engage in significant conversations to discover the spiritual interest and experience of others (Explorer Role)							
Believers are able to communicate the gospel with clarity and relevance (Guide Role)							
Believers are able to constructively address the issues and obstacles in the spiritual journeys of others (Builder Role)							
Believers are able to encourage others along their spiritual journey (Mentor Role)							
4. Leaders and laborers are working together in effective outreaches							
Opportunities to hear and consider the gospel are being provided to others through regular ministry outreaches							
Ministry outreaches are effective in engaging individuals across a broad spectrum of spiritual interest and openness							
Opportunities to hear, understand and respond to the gospel are provided through a variety of venues or initiatives (i.e., gospel on-line; gospel bearing gifts; gospel conversations; gospel in action; gospel groups)							
5. New believers are being established in their faith and engaged in our church/city movement							
Our movement/community is made up of a healthy percentage of new believers							
We know who the new believers are and their level of interest and involvement							
We are intentional in establishing new believers in the foundational concepts of the Christian life							



EVANGELISM PLANNER

1. GOALS: What do we seek to accomplish? List 3-4 clear goals/objectives (depending on your church or city movement's capacity) that are measurable and have a time frame.

- _____

- _____

- _____

2. EVANGELISTIC PLAN: How will we accomplish these measurable goals/objectives? (Take into account cycles of evangelistic momentum and modes of evangelism.) List 3-5 strategies with the desired results.

- Prayer Strategy:
 - Desired Results: _____

 - Leader(s): _____
- Body Strategy:
 - Desired Results: _____

 - Leader(s): _____
- Natural Strategy:
 - Desired Results: _____

 - Leader(s): _____
- Ministry Strategy:
 - Desired Results: _____

 - Leader(s): _____



- Equipping/Training Strategy:
 - Desired Results: _____
 - _____
- Leader(s): _____

3. TIMELINE/CALENDAR (What is the natural rhythm of your ministry year? When are the 2-3 seasons for strategic evangelistic outreach? Follow each season with time to consolidate the fruit of outreach.)

- Season 1: Outreach _____ (Month)
Strategy:
- Season 2: Consolidation _____ (Month)
Strategy:
- Season 3: Outreach _____ (Month)
Strategy:
- Season 4: Consolidation _____ (Month)
Strategy:

For More Information Visit:

cru.org/city
churchmovements.com

<https://crustore.org/cojourners-field-guide.html>
<https://crustore.org/shop-by-category/evangelism.html>
JesusFilm.org



[APPENDIX 1]

The art of transitioning from explorer to guide (conversation starters and real-life examples of spiritual conversations)

CONVERSATION STARTER EXAMPLES:

If you are asked: “What do you do?” you can say something like this:

1. “My day job is working for a software company, but one of the most satisfying things I do is engage with people about their spiritual journey. I volunteer with a website that deals with difficult questions of life” – and then you can give them the “Everyperson.com” card.
2. “I am involved in a community of people (a faith-based non-profit) that helps with problems in our community (you can list some things your church or organization does to serve your community, homelessness, food insecurity, human trafficking, fatherlessness, 3rd grade reading levels in under-performing schools). Meaningful relationships, changed lives, and giving people an opportunity to make a difference is important to us.”
3. Depending on the circumstances, you could continue with these questions or weave them into the conversation:
 - a. “Do you think much about these issues?”
 - b. “What gives you hope when you face the challenges of life?”
 - c. “What is your biggest fear?”
 - d. “Do you think about spiritual things much?”
 - e. “What words would you use to describe your life spiritually?”
 - f. “What was your religious background as a child?”
 - g. “If you could know God personally would you be interested?”
 - h. “Why do you think people believe in God, go to church, pray? Are any of these things important to you?”
 - i. “Has anyone ever simply described what a Christian is or isn’t? Could I share my perspective with you?”
 - j. “If Jesus were standing before you and would ask this question, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’, what would your answer be?”
 - k. “Sometime, I would like to hear about your spiritual journey. Would you be up for that?”



If you are asked during the conversation: “How did you get involved in these kinds of thing?”

- Answer (contextualize your answer to fit your story) Here’s my example: “Spiritual things didn’t interest me very much earlier in my life. Then about (# of years ago) my perspective completely changed.” (Stop, don’t just keep talking, see if they are interested. Perhaps they’ll ask another question.)

If you are asked: “What brought the change?”

- Answer: (Share a line from your story). I used to be an atheist. // I was challenged by (“this book” “this person”, “meeting these people,” “hearing this”) to really pursue the concept of truth. // I met some people that broke my paradigm. // I read some things that changed my mind. // I discovered my concept of God was completely wrong.

If someone says: “I’m a good person. I grew up in the church. I even pray sometimes.”

- Answer this: “If you would arrive at Heaven’s gate (let’s say), and God would ask you ‘Why would I let you in?’, what would your answer be?”

REAL LIFE CONVERSATIONS :

In a fast food restaurant – asking a person, if I could sit at his table, due to lack of space...

After a few minutes of conversation, I asked:

Me: “What you do?”

Him: “I’m an IT guy. What about you?”

Me: “I’m helping young people find their value and purpose and show how to build lasting relationships. One thing I focus on is helping to build their emotional intelligence.”

Him: “Hm... very interesting.”

Me: “Yeah, it is. Do you mind if I ask you a question that I ask from these kids, too?”

Him: “Yes.”

Me: “What is your biggest fear?”

Him: “Losing my kids.”

Me: “Oh, man, I can understand that, I have three kids.”

Him: “I have one.”

Me: “What works for you to overcome your fear?”

Him: “I pray or go to a mass.”

Me: “Oh, are you a Catholic?”

Him: “Yes.”

Me: “Do you mind if I ask another question?”

Him: “Go ahead.”



Me: “Let’s say you die and go to Heaven’s gate. Saint Peter will be standing there and asks you this question, ‘Why would I let you in?’ ... What would your answer?”

Him: “I’ve prayed and tried to be good.”

Me: “What if your best is not good enough?”

(You could weave in, “As I understand the Bible, that’s not going to be good enough for either of us” and go on to share your personal story.)

A soldier on a plane.

Me: Thank you for serving our country. How often do you have a chance to go home?

Soldier: Every 6 months.

Me: What’s the most difficult thing about serving in the military?

Soldier: Being away from my wife and kids.

Me: Wow, that’s a huge sacrifice! How do you cope with that?

Soldier: It’s hard, very hard, it can be very lonely.

Me: There were times in my life when I really struggled with loneliness. It took a while to overcome that pressing emptiness in my soul. What helps you to overcome that feeling?

Soldier: I try to keep myself busy. What helped you to deal with it?

Me: There was a time when my father left me and I completely felt betrayed and lonely... (from this I shared part of my personal story).

A guy was in my house fixing my computer. When he was done, we had this conversation:

Me: “I noticed that you’re wearing a Saint Christopher medal.”

Computer Guy: “Oh yeah, I have to. I travel so much.”

Me: “Yeah, I understand that. Could I recommend to you that maybe you go over the head of St. Christopher to someone higher up, to God? Because God cares about you. He also wants to help you, and to guide your life, and take care of you. Maybe no one has ever shared with you how you could have this kind of relationship with God. May I give you this card? It has a website that will explain how you can know God in this way.” (I gave him a business card with EveryPerson.com on it.)

Computer Guy: “Wow. Thanks so much. I will definitely look at this tonight. That’s so kind of you. I will definitely look at this. Thanks again.”

On a flight, the girl next to me opened an enormous, hardbound book of Horoscopes. She took the book, nearly put it in my lap, and started this conversation:

Astrology Girl: “Which sign are you?”

Me: “Well, I’m a cancer.” (She immediately flipped to that page and we started reading together.)

Me: “Ok, yes this is true of me, and this, and this. Oh gee, not this one at all. You know, here’s the thing about this. Some of this fits me and some doesn’t. But when it comes to my life, I want something I can fully count on, all the time. I’ve concluded that God exists, and that he knows me completely, because he created me. He knows everything that’s true about me. And even better, he offers to guide me in life. He offers to guide anyone who will begin a relationship with him. He gives



insights and his wisdom for some major areas of our lives. AND he's fully reliable. Here's a website that explains how you can have a relationship with God like that." I write down, EveryPerson.com.

Astrology Girl: "Thanks very much. I really appreciate that. I'll take a look at it."

I was at a hotel that had a fire drill. I'm standing outside the front door of the hotel with a group of people and this woman asks me:

Convention Woman: "Are you with our convention?"

Me: "No. I'm with a website that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like why life is so hard, evidences for God's existence."

Convention Woman: "I'm an atheist, but I'm searching."

Me: "Well, you will LOVE this website. It gives you reasons to believe in God and shows you how you can begin a relationship with him. Let me give you a card to it."

Convention Woman: "Thank you so much!"

On a flight. The man next to me asked:

A man on flight: "What do you do?"

Me: "I'm with a website that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like why life is so hard, evidences for God's existence."

A man on flight: "I have a friend who's been trying to get me saved for two years."

Me: "What's your hesitation?"

We talked for two hours. I heard all of his concerns. He asked me how his life would change if he did ask Jesus into his life. He had questions about Jesus' deity, the Bible, what it meant to be in relationship with God, etc. At the end of the flight I said:

Me: "You can't ask Jesus into your life just because your friend wants you to. You need to know it's true. You need to really get your questions about God answered. Here's a card to a website that will fully give you reasons to ask Jesus into your life. Spend some time on it and make a decision."

A Man on flight: "Thanks. I will."

Another man on a flight:

2nd man on flight: "Hi. What kind of work are you in?"

Me: "I'm with a website that takes on the hard questions about life and God...like why life is so hard, evidences for God's existence."

2nd man on flight: "Hm...how did you get into that?"

Me: "I was an atheist. I met a Christian whose life I admired. For 1.5 years I asked her questions. The evidence she provided outweighed the evidence against God. I asked God into my life and he changed my life." [My testimony in 17 seconds]

2nd man on flight: "I'm an atheist. What convinced you?"

Me: "Mostly it was the earth's position to the sun and the properties of water. They were too precise to be just chance."



At the end of the flight I gave him a card to EveryPerson.com. And I wrote on the back of it, “The Spiritual Adventure Pack” – a series of 7 emails written specifically to atheists/skeptics. He was very appreciative.

Taxi driver:

Taxi driver: “It’s really hard to find riders now. Uber has really cut into our business, and I worry about my family.”

Me: “I can imagine. I bet that’s scary. You know, when I’ve been worried about the future, I find that God is able to guide me and take care of me. I’m wondering if anyone has ever shared with you how you can know God like that. May I give you a card to a website that will explain how you can go to God and know that he hears you?”

Taxi driver: “Thank you so much. That is so kind of you.”

[APPENDIX 2]

How Love Responds

God’s Heart for the City

As God’s people, we must understand His heart for the city and understand what cities need from His people. Our response as Christians to the needs and troubles of the people in the city will reflect what is most on the heart of Jesus.

In Nehemiah’s day, the wall of Jerusalem burned down and the people lived in disgrace. As then, the people in our cities have been neglected and our cities have deteriorated to very troubling levels. (*) Listening to the troubling voices in our cities will help us determine how love should respond. Allowing God to burden us will lead the Church of Jesus to make the most loving and impactful contribution we possibly can. (Allow. Seek. Take Initiative. Plan. Mobilize. Cast Vision: 141 years called normal!) God burdened him and he responded beyond the norm.

Missional leaders should focus on cities, because God is causing the global tribe of mankind to move into cities. Cities are both the present and the future missionary challenge, expanding the definition of “the ends of the earth.”

- Every year, 70 million people around the globe move from rural areas and villages to urban areas. That’s equivalent to the population cities the size of Chicago, Singapore or the Bay Area beginning every month.
- UN Population Division’s study on World Population suggests that by 2050 68.7% of global population will be urban; 86.2% (in more developed regions) 6 billion will live in cities by 2045



To see movements everywhere, so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Christ, Kingdom leaders should, with great resolve, go after these centers of influence.

To understand God's heart for cities, we have to look below the surface as to what a city actually is. My thoughts: a city is a concentration of people and the culture they create in community – schools, businesses, institutions, art, structures, food industry, entertainment – where the values and needs of the group are met and what the group reveres is amplified, places of refuge and opportunity. So, God loves them: 1. God gave the oppressed a city to live in (Ps 107:1-9); 2. The Messiah's mission includes His people "renewing ruined cities" (Isa 61:4); 3. God showed His love for a notoriously pagan city, Nineveh. Although Jonah ran from his call to that city, God expressed His love for this city in a stunning way: "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow...But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?" (Jonah 4:10-11). This shows we must enter into the darkness of a city to learn God's heart for cities. 4. There is no reference to the church in the NT that is smaller than a city. God values cities. 5. The early church was primarily urban.

Jesus reveals how love responds in his 1st sermon. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus went to Nazareth, and entered the synagogue. A scroll was given to Him. He purposefully turned to Isa 61. He chose it because it defines and describes not only His mission, but the mission of those who follow Him. After reading it, He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." He means for us to understand that the time of the great work of redemption had come. And this prophecy will be fulfilled and carried out by His disciples as well!

This passage reveals ... Isa 61:1b-4 *"...the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor (the afflicted). He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,² ... to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion —...that love responds by proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel. These verses show both a verbal message and a lifestyle of love are needed! E. Swanson says "the Gospel flies on the wings of good news and good deeds..." They combine to magnify Christ! It takes both to reach ...what love aims to do.³ "and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair (fainting)." Jesus wants to radically change people; from head to toe. Look at the passage. In this OT society, when grief was unbearable, people threw ashes on their heads. Jesus wants to replace dark ashes with jewels; to adorn us with a crown of beauty! Oils were poured all over the body (like today) on special occasions. The oil of gladness reflects a good mood (Ps 45:7); it was forbidden to be used in times of public grief (2 Sa 14:2). Clothes that expressed joy replaced the heavy burden of a depressed soul. When Jesus changes a life, everything changes – including the city:⁴ ... they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations!"*

The Theology of Life in the City (an explorer tool) answers, "What is God's vision for people and cities?" He wants to transform people from head to toe and for cities to be made new; for the whole gospel to be shared (good news told, good deeds done). God desires a city to be characterized by the following (the coming new heaven and new earth show what life in the city will be like): Isa 65:17-25: *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another*



eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ *They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.* ²⁴ *Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.* ²⁵ *The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,"* says the LORD." Other texts to consider: Jer. 29:1-14; Luke 10:25-37, Matthew 22:37-39, Acts 10:36-38

V. 18 – The city is a delight. Ask one from audience something they take delight in re: the city they are from? All in the city love it - find it to be a place of beauty. It's not utilitarian only. It is a place of gladness, fun and celebration. God values beauty. His creatures can enjoy that beauty he created! Gen 2:9 – God made trees to be “pleasing to the sight and good for food.” So, from the very beginning God was not only a God of the useful (food) but a God of the beautiful.

V. 19, 20 – The people in my city are satisfied/content/healthy/free from distress. Joy replaces sorrow and anxiety gives way to peace – perpetually! (Impossible without the Messiah's atoning sacrifice on the cross): 1) The infants, toddlers and children in our city are well-taken care of: nourished, ready for school, experiencing a good education. 2) The youth in our city are safe: from crime, trafficking, food insecurity, homelessness, etc.; 3) The elderly live long and full-lives, have adequate support, maintain social lives and have good healthcare.

V. 21-22 – A life that flourishes; where people enjoy the work of their hands without fear of plunder or loss (the homes they build, they themselves will live in – without invasion, take overs or insecurity - the grapes they themselves have planted); a life of significance (impact, permanence, endures); along with meaningful work. The housing situation in my city is more than adequate (consider homelessness, rentals, homeownership options, costs, etc.). We have great food available to enjoy (in schools, via community gardens and grocery stores, etc.) and good food-rescue operations for the poor. Food anxiety is low.

There is justice for all in our city. I.E. – those living in the margins, suffering from sorrow and those who are poor are supported, given options and empowered in my city. Racism, prejudice, injustice and bigotry are fading issues in my city.

V. 23 – People are hopeful about the future; not bearing children for calamity (trouble) instead have well-being, peace, and family support is strong (for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them). v. 25 they are safe. Hurtful things cease.

V. 24, 25 – People enjoy a relationship with God and experience His answers, guidance, confidence and peace. They enjoy an intimate relationship with God experience His readiness to answer them and desire to provide perfect peace. “Prayer that is the Lord's delight can only arise from the enjoyment of close fellowship with Him” (A.W. Pink).

The Church must pursue: mobilizing a growing number of believers with a PCS lifestyle that are having significant gospel conversations as a way of life where they live, work and play!



[APPENDIX 3]

Creating Your Testimony

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way” (1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

Take a few minutes now to work through these questions so you can be ready for the next open door God gives you to tell your story.

My Life Before Christ

- What about my life before Christ will relate most to the non-Christians I know?
- What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?
- How did those things begin to let me down?

How I Came to Christ

- When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?
- When and why did my perspective begin to change toward Christ?
- What were the final struggles that went through my mind just before I accepted Him? Why did I finally decide to accept Christ (or give Him complete control of my life)?

My Life After Coming to Christ

- How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude and perspective on life.
- What motivates me now? What do I live for?
- Even though my life still isn't perfect, how does knowing Christ help me deal with that fact?

Now that you've answered these questions, take a few minutes to write out your story as if you were telling it to someone. For more on writing your story read *Preparing Your Personal Testimony*.

Helpful Hints

- Pray before you write out and share your story. Ask God for wisdom and the words to say.
- Write the way you speak.
- Be honest.

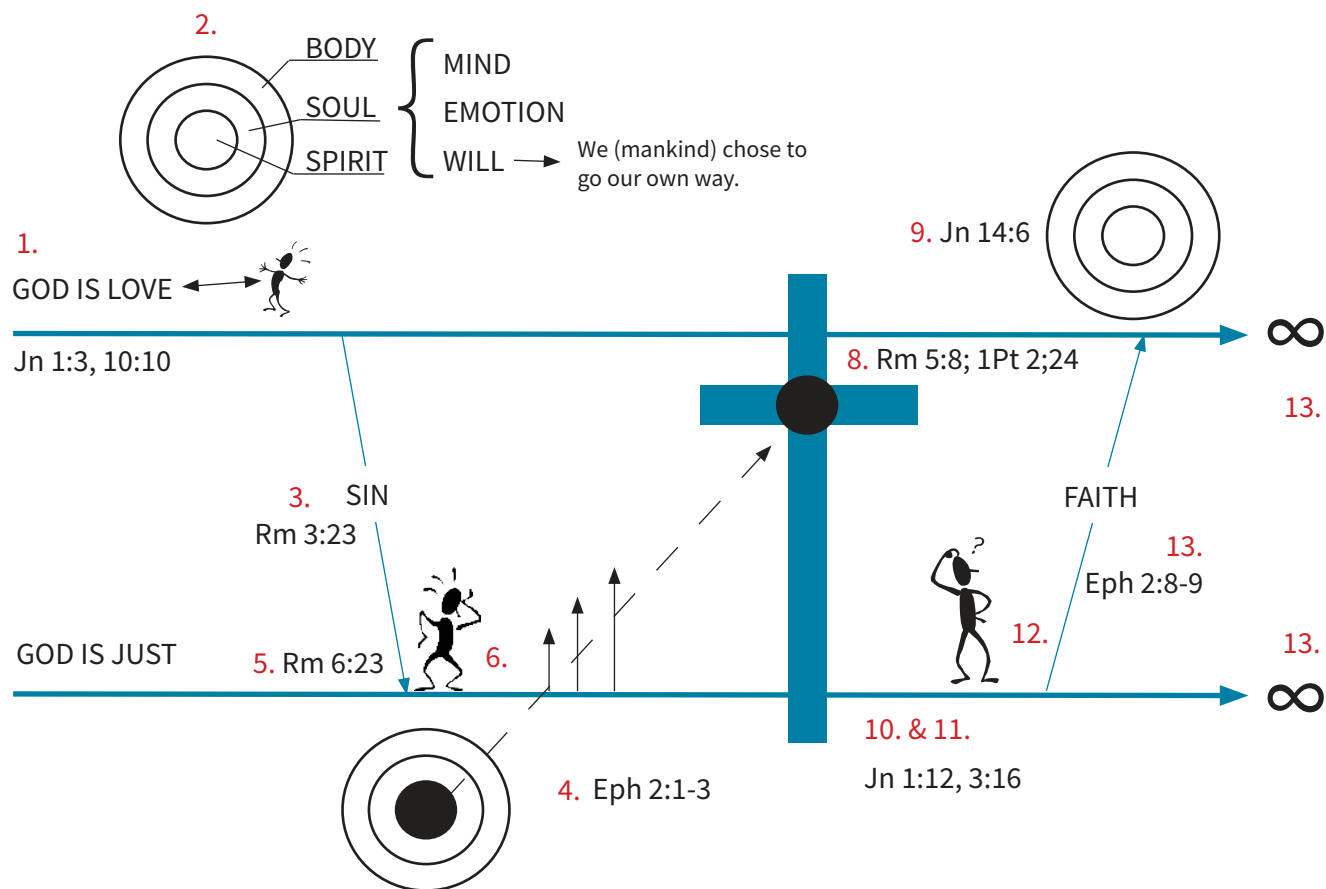


- Aim to keep your story to three to five minutes. At that length, it's easily something you can share in a conversation without it becoming a monologue.
- Practice your testimony out loud several times until you feel comfortable with it.

Congratulations! You've created your personal testimony.

[APPENDIX 4]

Gospel on a Napkin



The Gospel on a Napkin

Let's go a bit deeper into the [Guide role](#). Being an effective guide involves two skills: knowing what the gospel is and how to share it well, along with your personal story of coming to Christ. In these next few minutes we will take the time to show how many share the gospel these days. In this example, we assume the conversation has progressed to a point – exercising the grace and wisdom of an Explorer – where now we can share the gospel openly. We call this the [gospel on a napkin](#). See the illustration/ diagram in the Appendix that goes along with this.



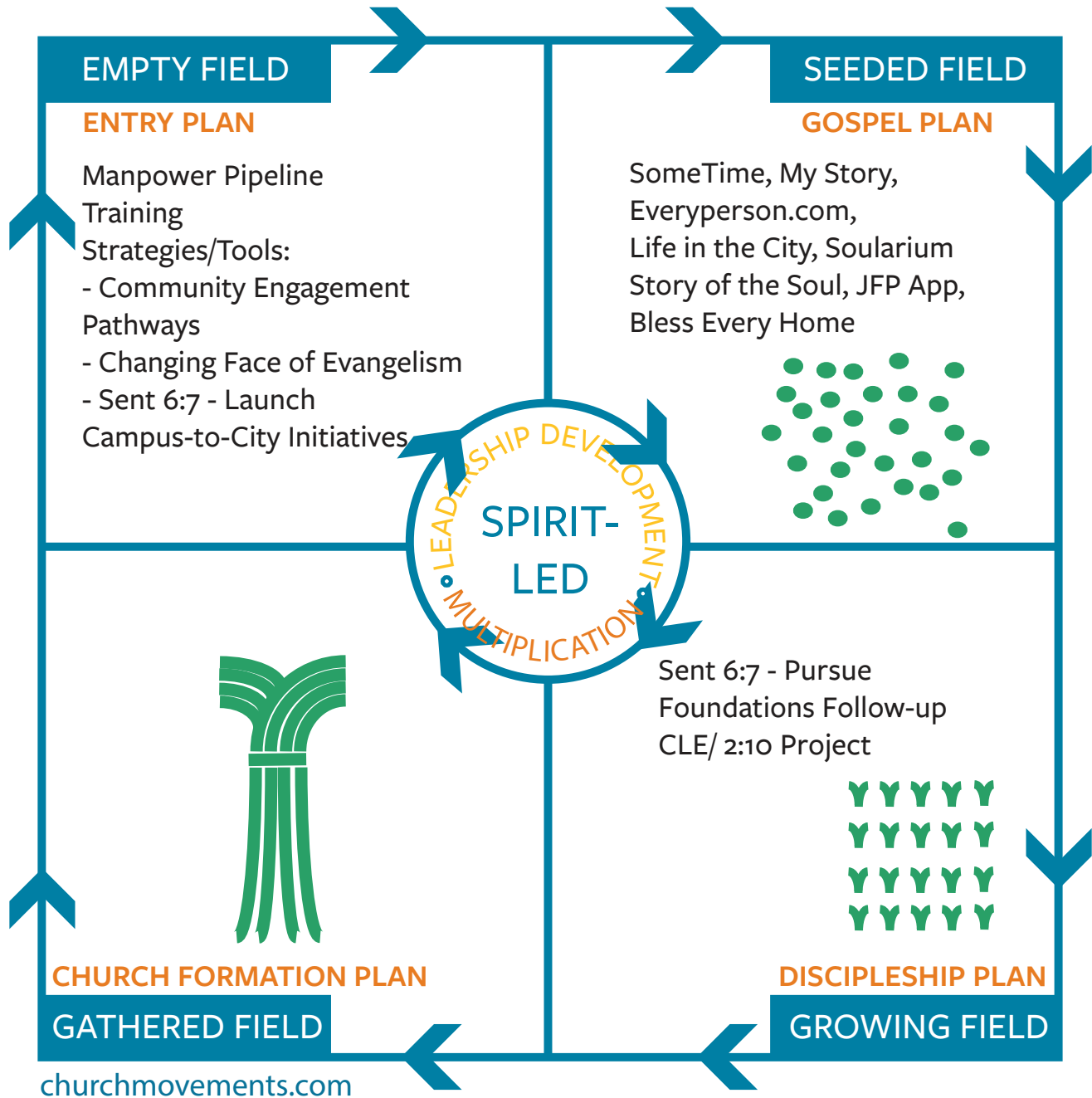
WHAT TO SAY	WHAT TO DRAW & WRITE
1. "Here are a few things that show us what the Bible says about knowing God personally." "God created mankind to know Him and have life abundantly in relationship with Him. He loves us. (Quote John 1:3, 10:10) He wants a relationship with us."	In the upper left corner, write "God is love" with an arrow going across the page
2. "When he created us, he gave us body, soul and spirit." "Our soul is our mind, will and emotions. Our spirit is where we find our meaning by being connected to God. Here we find our sense of purpose. We are meant to be whole by living in relationship with Him. Why are most people not experiencing an abundant life?" {Listen}	Draw circles and words as you explain in the middle of the page above the line you've drawn.
3. "As human beings, our soul set our minds on things independent from God (point to word: "mind"), and we longed for things (point to word: "emotions") that God warned mankind against. We choose to go our own independent way and fellowship with God was broken" (point to word: "will"). Quote Romans 3:23.	
4. "Ephesians 2:1-3 says we have died spiritually. We are separated from the life God intended us to have – a thriving life, one of abundance, connected to Him."	Color-in fully the circle called "spirit" with black ink – indicating man is dead spiritually.
5. "He is just and must correct what is unjust, what is wrong. There is a penalty for sin." Quote Romans 6:23.	Draw a line down from the "God is love" line and write the word "sin" on it. Now, draw a stick figure of a man on a new line with an arrow across the page – a lower parallel line. On the left, next to the lower line, write "God is Just and Holy".
6. "We try to recover the abundant life, knowing something is missing, by living a good life, taking adventures, being religious, philosophy, etc. But we cannot reach God or the abundant life because we have sinned."	
7. "We need help. New life must be given to us (because we are dead spiritually)."	Draw new circles for body, soul, spirit and say (pointing to spirit):
8. Quote these verses: Romans 5:8 and 1Peter 2:24. As you draw a dark circle say: "Jesus died for our sins, taking our penalty on himself."	Write "Romans 5:8" and "1 Peter 2:24" on the napkin between the two parallel lines. and draw a cross that intersects with both the top and bottom parallel lines (God is love and God is just and holy.) Draw a dark circle (representing sin and its penalty) on the center of the cross.



WHAT TO SAY	WHAT TO DRAW & WRITE
9. Quote John 14:6 and point to the inner circle (spirit), saying, “The life we need only Jesus can give us. Jesus is the WAY (to God), the TRUTH (He’s trustworthy) and the LIFE (exactly what we need to overcome our spiritual death). He rose from the dead showing his payment for our sin was enough.”	
10. Quote John 1:12.	
11. Quote John 3:16.	
12.	Draw a stick figure on the other side of the cross, a line going up to the God is love line, and the word faith on that line.
13. “God asks us to consider the consequences of our decision to receive Him by faith or not. We can know God’s love forever, receiving his gift of grace, knowing He died in our place to pay the penalty of our sin. Yet, we can, of course, pay for it ourselves and be separated from Him - and life – forever.” Quote Ephesians 2:8, 9.	Draw eternal symbol at the end of both parallel lines, saying,
14. “Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive us of our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of our will. You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer (prayer is talking with God). God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer: “Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.” If this is the desire of your heart, you can place your trust in Him – put your faith in Him and His work (death to forgive you, resurrection to give you new life).	



[APPENDIX 5]



POPULATION COHORTS

