



VISUAL GUIDE

BECOMING A COJOURNER

Becoming a CoJourney Visual Guide

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IMAGINE

Picture gospel communities multiplying in our cities— a growing number of believers who are equipped and empowered to have significant gospel conversations as a way of life and who demonstrate the love of Jesus everywhere.

How would your workplace, neighborhood, or city be different?

What would it look like in your church if this vision became a reality?

For that vision to become a reality we need believers who can and do engage in gospel conversations in the wide variety of relational contexts that everyday life provides us where we live, work, learn, and play.

The CoJourners framework has proven effective in helping achieve that vision.

This is an introduction to it.

COJOURNER FRAMEWORK

TRAVIS' STORY

When Dave first met Travis, he was a mixologist and rising star as an artist. Little did Dave know that he was also loaded down with failure, guilt and shame. But when they first met, Dave asked: "Travis, tell me about your journey and how you wound up here." That simple question led to coffee, time in Dave's home, bible study, and reading various books. Travis came to faith in Christ, engaged in a local church, serving in the youth ministry and participating on a mission trip to Haiti.

Notice the three participants in this divine drama. Each illustrates a foundational principle for our framework.

The first participant is Travis, the bartender. He was clearly on a spiritual journey. Like Travis, everyone is on a spiritual journey.

The second actor in the divine drama is God Himself. God is already at work. He always is.

The third participant was an ordinary believer (Dave), who believed that God wants to work through us as we intersect others in everyday life.

TRAVIS' STORY

This story illustrates the foundational principles of CoJourners:

- **Everyone is on a spiritual journey.**
They can't help it. God has created them as spiritual beings. Some may be moving toward God and some away from God. Others may be stuck. But all are on a spiritual journey.
- **God is already at work.**
He is the Lord of the Harvest, the Master who orchestrates circumstances in each person's journey, bringing conviction and power by his Spirit.
- **He wants to use us in others' lives.**
Evangelism is always first and foremost a work of God, but He wants to use us in the lives of others.



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 (NIV)

INTRODUCING COJOURNERS

CoJourners is a word picture describing our opportunity to “journey with” or to join others in their spiritual journeys. The CoJourners framework provides tangible approaches to join others in their spiritual journeys. It is not a step-by-step guide or a manual, method, or formula, but it is a helpful way of thinking about evangelism in natural, everyday moments.

COJOURNER ROLES

The CoJourners framework sets up the ways we join others in their spiritual journeys. There are four primary roles of a CoJourneyer:

- Explorer
- Guide
- Builder
- Mentor

Each role requires being equipped with two skills.

EXPLORER

The first role is that of the EXPLORER. What does an explorer do in everyday life? They enter unknown territory to discover, learn, and understand. Most people's spiritual journeys are unknown territory to us, even if we have known them for a long time. But as explorers, we engage with them to discover who they are and where they are on their journey.

EXPLORER SKILLS

An Explorer's skills are:

1. Listening
2. Asking good questions

There are 4 things to listen for that can serve as a base for asking good questions:

1. **Common Ground**—including shared interests and experiences
2. **Windows to the Soul**—statements that reveal matters of the heart
3. **Unmet Needs**—where is life not working?
4. **Evidences of the Spirit**—how is God at work?

AN EXPLORER TOOL

How can we find out where people are on their spiritual journey? What are some good questions we can use as explorers to find out?

We like this one: “Sometime, I’d love to hear more about your spiritual journey.. Would you be up for that?”

[SOMETIME](#) is a CoJourney experience dedicated to exploring the back-stories of our friends. It’s really that simple!

If you can just listen and ask a few questions, you are a CoJourney. You’re doing the work of an evangelist!

SOMETIME

GUIDE

A GUIDE shows the way, leading others to a specific destination. A good guide knows where they are going, knows how to get from here to there, and is able to lead others on the journey with them. For us, the destination is not a place, but a person—Jesus Christ. Your relationship with Him empowers you to be a guide.

GUIDE SKILLS

A Guide's skills are:

1. Sharing Your story
2. Sharing God's story (the gospel)

Remember that **SOMETIME** conversation?

As you meet with someone,
you listen to their story.

Often they will ask about you,
and you can share your story.

A GUIDE TOOL

Having heard their story, you can transition from the role of an EXPLORER to a GUIDE by asking permission to share a little of your story and how it connects with theirs. For example:

“Can I share with you something that’s really made a difference in my life?”

“Can I share with you something that’s really changed how I handle anxiety?”

“Can I share with you something that’s really influenced how I parent?”

TELLING STORIES

Today, you might be just two conversations away from the opportunity to share the gospel!

What? Think about it.

As an explorer you have listened with interest to their story. Most often they will want to know yours, too.

You can invite another conversation by saying,

“Hey, next time we get together, I’d love to share a little of my journey with you. How does that sound?”

TELLING STORIES

BUILDER

Journeys often encounter obstacles along the way. That is true in the physical world, but the same is true on spiritual journeys. There are all kinds of obstacles standing between people and knowing Jesus personally.

OBSTACLES

Intellectual—*“How can a good God allow evil?” “What about other religions?” “Hasn’t science disproved the Bible?” “The Bible is just an ancient document.” “How can you say there is only one way to God?”*

Emotional—*“I had religion crammed down my throat as a child.” “So many who call themselves Christians are hypocrites.” “I’ve been hurt by the Church.”*

Relational—*“My friends or family won’t understand.”*

Volitional—*“I don’t want to change. I’m a good person; I don’t need Christ. I want to control my own life.”*

Cultural—*“Isn’t Christianity homophobic?” “Aren’t Christians disobeying God by judging others?” “Christians equate the Kingdom of God with a political party or American Nationalism.” “Christians have been silent and apathetic toward justice.”*

BUILDER SKILLS

For us to be a BUILDER in someone's spiritual journey is to come alongside them, to recognize the obstacle(s) between them and Jesus, and to provide a way over and beyond it.

No matter the obstacle, we need to recognize that they are all spiritual at their roots.

The enemy will use them to keep people in spiritual bondage (Ephesians 2:1-3) and spiritually blinded (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Since the enemy will battle spiritually for their souls, we must be prepared to use spiritual means (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

SPIRITUAL ROOTS

BUILDER SKILLS

Because each obstacle is ultimately a spiritual issue, your role as a Builder utilizes two important skills:

1. Prayer
2. Gentle Persuasion

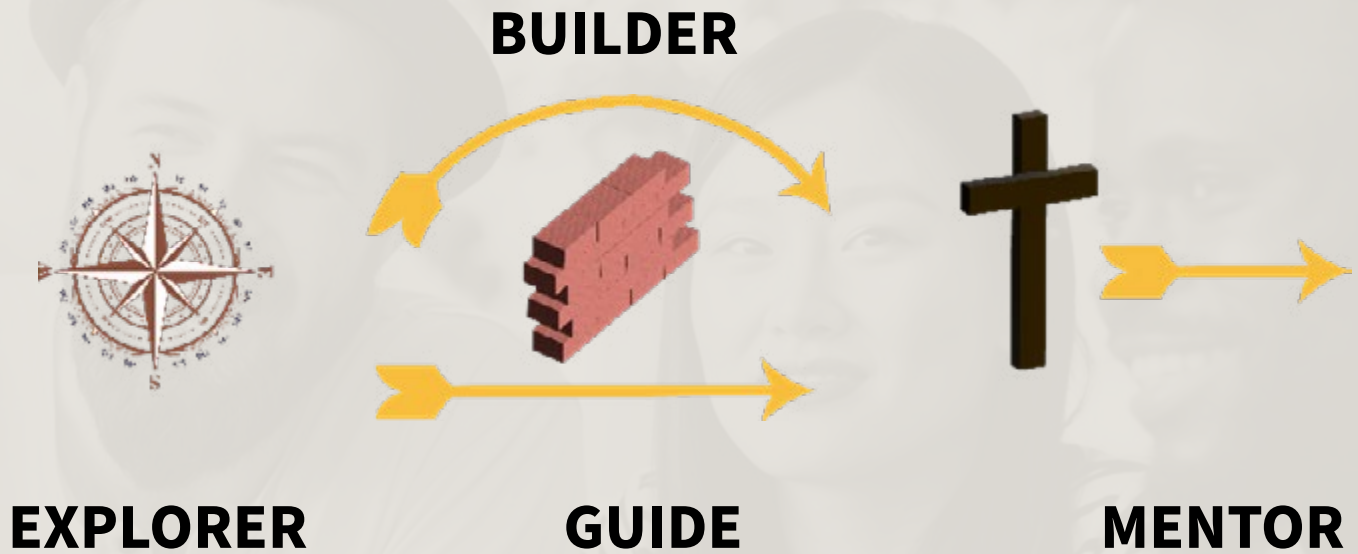
Dealing with questions and issues people raise in spiritual conversations requires preparation. But preparation is more than learning the right answers. It involves prayer and cultivating right attitudes—gentleness and respect.
(Colossians 4:2-6; Ephesians 6:19; 1 Peter 3:15)

MENTOR

Spiritual journeys do not end when people come to Jesus. In fact, in the most important sense, they are just beginning.

A Mentor uses two skills with the new believer:

1. Connecting them to a good church who will help them grow.
2. Establishing new believers in the foundational truths of following Christ.



These word-pictures make up the four roles of a CoJourneyer. There is a logical connection between each role, but not chronological. You always begin as an Explorer. What you do next is determined by what you discover. This isn't a formula. Seeing and understanding these roles will allow you to engage appropriately in anyone's journey.

WHY IS BECOMING A COJOURNER SO IMPORTANT?

Because people's spiritual journeys are occurring in a changing culture.

There are new challenges and obstacles to evangelism. We need to shift our paradigms. If spiritual journeys provide a better way to think about sharing our faith, the wild field provides a better paradigm for the broader context of evangelism.

FROM GREENHOUSE...

Our churches and specialized ministries have functioned like greenhouses.

In the greenhouse you have similar routines and controlled environments —receiving the same social, cultural, and spiritual inputs at the same time.

**But today's reality can't compare
to a greenhouse.**

...TO WILD FIELD

It's more like a wild field where you don't have control.

But there are wild flowers thriving in the midst of uncontrollable circumstances.

The flower that often takes over is the dandelion.

SCATTERING SEEDS

The humble dandelion releases hundreds of seeds. They are scattered on the wind, carried by animals, eaten by pests. The dandelion expects this, and lives in the hope that a few catch and take root. Even two seeds that grow doubles the number of new dandelions able to repeat the process once again.

And in this way, slowly but surely, it fills the field.

We need to learn to be like the dandelion.



SOME GROW SOME DON'T

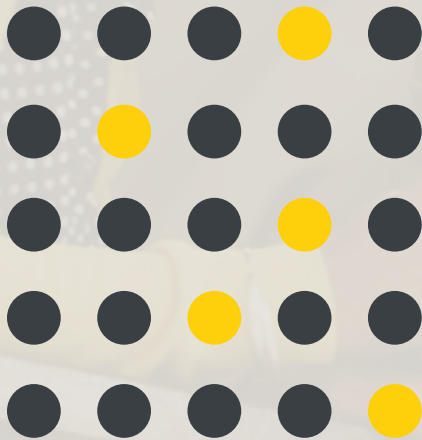
**Let's get out of the greenhouse and into
the wild fields where people live!**

Our role as CoJourners is to scatter as
many seeds as we can.
To open dialogue with as many new and
different people as we can, in the hope
that a few catch.

IT'S ABOUT MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

We've got to learn that it's more about moments with people, not events in our greenhouse.

moments



not events



**It's about *us*, not "*us-and-them*".
And not *you join us*,
but *we join you*
on your spiritual journey.**

THE ART OF CONVERSATION

The art in any conversation is about how people find connection. The exchange requires that each listen, respect and understand the other. If we want to find common ground we must first listen and understand.

COMMON GROUND

WHERE WE START

There are three core longings we all possess, whether followers of Christ or not. These longings become authentic connection points and pathways to conversation.

**The first of three core longings is
peace.**

PEACE

PROSPERITY

PURPOSE

Peace is the absence of anxiety.
So much disrupts peace today.

We live in a broken world. Change is constant, and can create tension. Think about it. So many things can bring anxiety and exhaustion.

We can help bring peace when we...

show respect,

treat people with dignity and humanity,

show kindness,

bring them into our community.

Expressing these attitudes is how a CoJourneyer leads with love.



PEACE

PROSPERITY

PURPOSE

Someone once said *“Behind every face is a drama.”* Let’s act like we know that, and RELATE. These are entry points for gospel conversations.

It’s easy to find common ground to talk about things that make you smile or that reveal your longing for PEACE—for things to be different than they are.

**BEHIND EVERY FACE
IS A DRAMA.**



PEACE

PROSPERITY

PURPOSE

If peace is the absence of anxiety, prosperity is the longing for stability, well-being, or flourishing.

Fears can disrupt that stability.

Prosperity goes way beyond money—our souls long for well-being on every front.

Am I experiencing family stability?

Am I saving enough for my future?

Am I a good father, wife, neighbor, colleague?

These longings and questions impact us deeply. These are things driven by our own capabilities, efforts and actions. These are quite personal to each of us. Prosperity and our personal code of conduct for life is a rich and meaningful topic for deeper discussion.

Let's listen intently and share openly. When fears are expressed and these longings for prosperity are revealed, just connect with them. You have your own fears and longings. Be authentic.



PEACE

PROSPERITY

PURPOSE

Purpose is the most intimate longing. We ask,

“Why am I here? Do I matter? What’s my purpose in life?”

Sharing our beliefs and understanding of life’s purpose are deeply personal things.

How do we find meaning?

Whose influence do we follow?

Where do we seek guidance spiritually?

We rarely go this deep with people we don’t fully trust, yet purpose and belief is where we as Christians often begin. But for those not comfortable with faith it can be a hard conversation to have.

Just keep listening. Try to understand no matter where the conversation goes.

WE WISH IT WOULD BE SIMPLE



The pathway to purpose and a deep dialog about faith is rarely linear. Like most other relationships, building respect, trust and friendship takes more than a cup of coffee.

BUT IT'S OFTEN LIKE THIS...



The conversation jumps around, and sometimes we see the conversation come back to Christ, or we'd like it to, so we steer, then it goes off in another direction. THAT'S OK. Sometimes we pick up a conversation started by another Christian. Show patience and understanding. Be open about your faith. But be free to enjoy the conversation wherever it goes. View conversations as journeys.

A HELPFUL REMINDER

Dr. Bill Bright,
the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ
International, often said something wise...

**“Successful evangelism is simply
taking the initiative to share Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit and
leaving the results to God.”**

WHAT IF...

God has divinely placed you where you are and wants to use you in the lives of others? If moments and conversations are how ministry is done in the wild field, then...

...every believer can begin to take the initiative

...every faith community can be mobilized and

...every church can multiply

OUR HOPE

Our hope is to initiate meaningful gospel conversations with every human being on this planet.

Let's be good CoJourners.

Because more meaningful conversations increase opportunities for relationships and for sharing the Gospel.

**LET'S BE GOOD
COJOURNERS**



But God chose **what is foolish** in the world to shame the wise; God chose **what is weak** in the world to shame the strong; God chose **what is low and despised** in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27-29 (ESV)

HAVE YOU EVER FELT FOOLISH, WEAK OR AVERAGE?

Look again at Paul's words above.
You are exactly the kind of person God is looking for!

Let's press on as CoJourners, knowing...

...Every person is on a spiritual journey

....God is already at work in the lives of people

...The Lord really wants to use you

Let's talk about how every follower can share Christ and make disciples!

SENT 6:7
"the Word of God spread and the disciples multiplied"



Consider joining us in our *Sent 6:7 process* to equip people to build and multiply the local church, faith communities & discipleship groups, so that every follower of Jesus has a place for connection, growth, and equipping. This is vital for the vision of everyone knowing someone who truly follows Jesus.

Watch our brief video [here](#).

Step 1 is [Becoming a Cojourner](#)

Visit us at churchmovements.com

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For the son of man came to seek and save the lost.

LUKE 19:10

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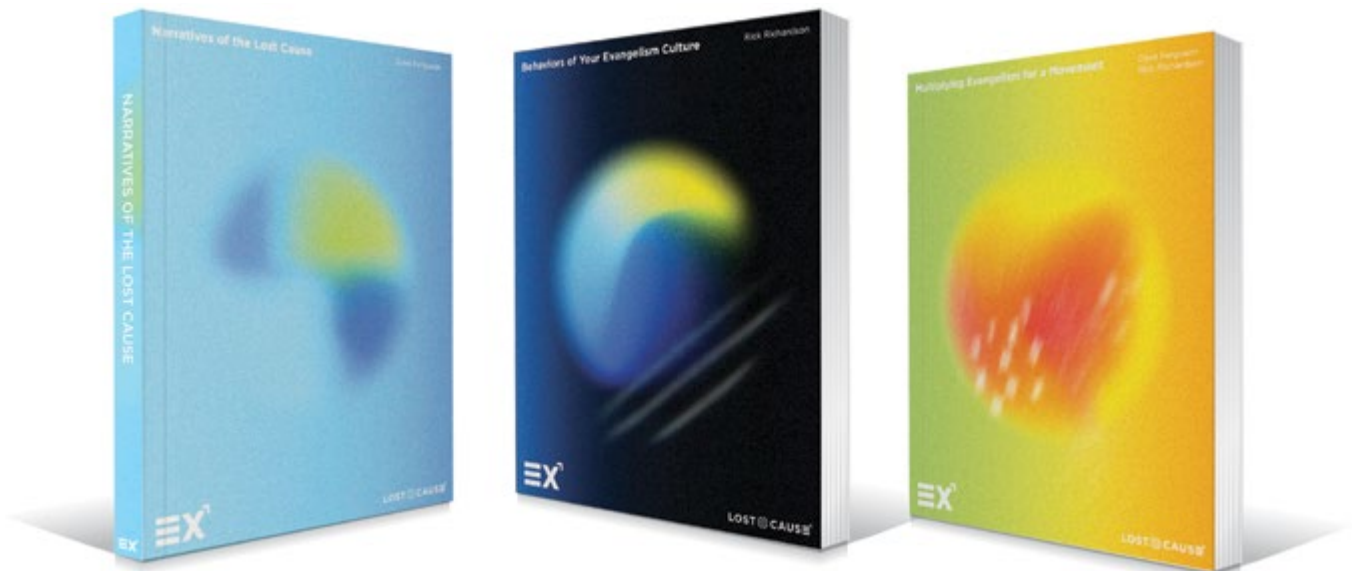
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