

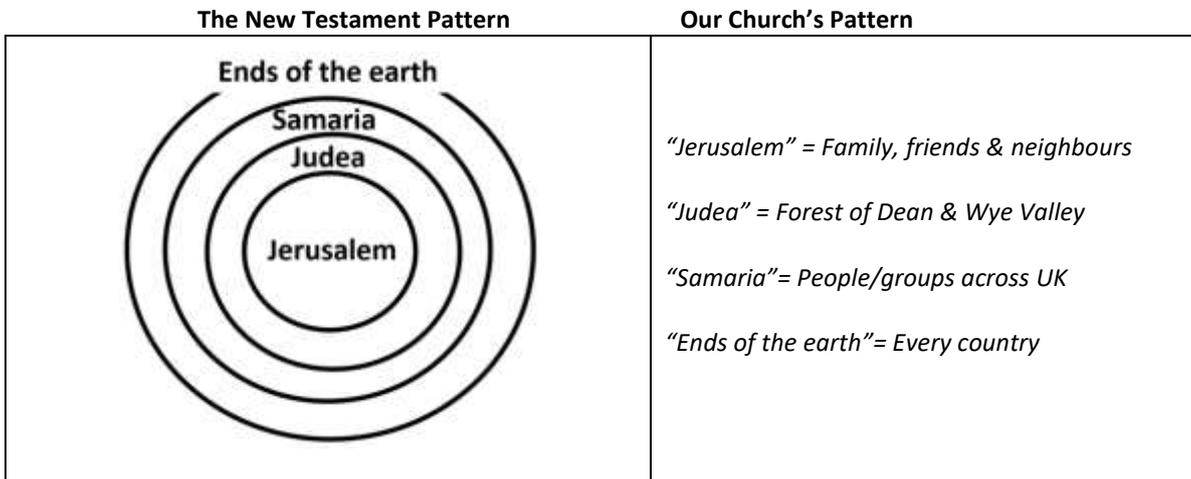
## Who to & Where do I share my message? Discovering my life mission Part 3

*“Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” Matt. 4:19*

### 5 KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING

#### 1. IDENTIFY WHERE YOUR PERSONAL FISHING POND IS

*“And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8b*



#### MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE *(Who I share with)*

#### Where do I start first? Those closest to me!

*“But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” Mark 5:19*

#### 2. LEARN ABOUT THE KINDS OF PEOPLE IN YOUR POND.

*“When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law.*

*<sup>21</sup> When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. <sup>22</sup> When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup> I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.” 1 Cor. 9:20-23*

The more you know about a person, THE EASIER IT IS TO REACH THEM

#### a. WHAT ARE THEIR INTERESTS, NEEDS, HURTS

What gets our attention:

1. Things we VALUE
2. Things that THREATEN US
3. Things that are UNIQUE

#### b. WHAT DO I HAVE IN COMMON WITH THEM?

*“Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.” 1 Cor. 9:22b*

*“Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand.” Mark 4:33*

- Before you can share the Good News, you must first find A COMMON GROUND.

- Before you can *reach* them, you must be able to RELATE to them.

Make a list of areas where you have common ground with the non-Christians in your life.

- Common Experiences
- Common Interests
- Common Needs
- Common Hurts

### 3. REMEMBER THAT FISH GET \_\_\_\_\_ HUNGRY AT DIFFERENT TIMES \_\_\_\_\_

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.” Col. 4:5-6

What makes people receptive? Changes that are either positive or negative

#### Holmes Stress Scale

##### Life event

Death of a spouse	100pts	Getting married	50	Pregnancy	40	Child leaving home	29
Divorce	73	Fired from work	47	Sex difficulties	39	Trouble with in-laws	29
Marriage/separation	65	Marriage reconciliation	45	New family member	39	Wife begins or stops work	26
Jail term	63	Retirement	45	Major work change	39	Trouble with boss	23
Death of close family member	63	Major change of health		Big financial change	38	Change in residence	20
Personal injury or major illness	53	of family member	44	Death of close friend	37		

It is important to realise that people go through a process in coming to faith in Christ and it helps to approach them differently depending on where they are.

Fact: · Some people are *close* to making a commitment to Christ, while others have a *long way* to go!

#### How People Come to Christ and then Grow (*Revised Engels with Purpose-Driven Process by Rick Warren*)

- 6 Self-satisfied, skeptical, resistant, or spiritually apathetic. (*Resistant stage*)
- 5 Becomes aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in life. (*Receptive stage*)
- 4 Begins looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems. (*Seeker stage*)
- 3 Considers the differences between themselves and believers. (*Consideration stage*)
- 2 Learns why and how to become a Christian. (*Understanding stage*)
- 1 Ready to believe and receive Christ. (*Ready stage*) The fruit is ripe!
- Ground Zero: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST!**
- +1 Baptised and connected to a church family. (*Newcomers– Stage 1*)
- +2 Practicing the habits necessary for spiritual growth. (*Discipleship – Stage 2*)
- +3 Using God-given talents (“*SHAPE*”) to serve others. (*Ministry – Stage 3*)
- +4 Sharing the Good News with non-believers. (*Mission – Stage 4*)
- +5 Living out one’s Life Purpose to the glory of God. (*Life of worship*)

#### INSIGHTS

- Evangelism is a PROCESS of moving people through the stages!
- People move through these stages *at different speeds*.
- People often require *multiple exposures* at each stage before moving on.
- A person can *get stuck* at any stage. The #1 reason is FEAR
- Every stage requires a SENSITIVE RESPONSE by me!

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.” 1 Cor. 3:6

#### WHAT TO DO WITH PEOPLE AT EACH STAGE

##### What do you do when someone is at the *Resistant* stage?

*They are skeptical, self-satisfied, resistant, or spiritually apathetic. (-6)*

1. PRAY for THEM to become receptive.
2. BUILD A RELATIONSHIP through love and service.
3. Invite them to a fun BRIDGE EVENT (Church picnic, 3 Sept).
4. What NOT to do with resistant people: DON’T ARGUE

“Don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord’s servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the Devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.” 2 Tim. 2:23-26

Note: Some people we might think are “resistant” are actually just *unaware* of the gospel or they’ve never heard it in terms they can understand!

**What do you do when someone is at the Receptive stage?**

*They are aware of an unmet need or spiritual void in their life. (-5)*

1. \_\_\_ OFFER TO HELP THEM \_\_\_ in a practical way.
2. Share \_\_\_ YOUR TESTIMONY \_\_\_ about the same need.
3. Tell them that you are \_\_\_ PRAYING \_\_\_ for them.
4. Ask open-ended questions. “Tell me about the spiritual side of your life?”
5. Assess if they are ready to skip to stage –2 or –1

*“Evangelism is helping people discover how God is already at work in their lives.” Sam Williams*

**What do you do when someone is at the SEEKER stage?**

*They are looking for answers to questions or solutions to problems. (-4)*

1. Invite them to our Sunday service
2. Invite them to a Church outreach event
3. Give them suitable CD’s, podcasts or reading materials.
4. Open a dialog on spiritual issues with questions like:  
“Have you ever considered what Jesus said?”  
“What do you need to know to take the next step?”  
“How can I help you?”

**What do you do when someone is at the Consideration stage?**

*They begin to notice the real differences between themselves and believers. (-3)*

1. Introduce them to OTHER CHRISTIANS
2. Invite them to a Christianity Explored or Alpha course
3. Discuss the different ways believers respond to life.

**What do you do when someone is at the Understanding stage?**

*They need to understand why and how to become a Christian. (-2)*

1. Explain God’s plan of salvation!
2. Explain how you made your decision for Christ.
3. Help them see the \_\_\_ BENEFITS, IMPLICATIONS & COSTS. \_\_\_.

**What do you do when someone is Ready to receive Christ? (-1)**

Offer to lead them in a prayer of commitment!

**What do you do after they have received Christ?**

1. Take them to Newcomers course or homegroup
2. Encourage and \_\_\_ ATTEND \_\_\_ their baptism!
3. Start to nurture them spiritually.