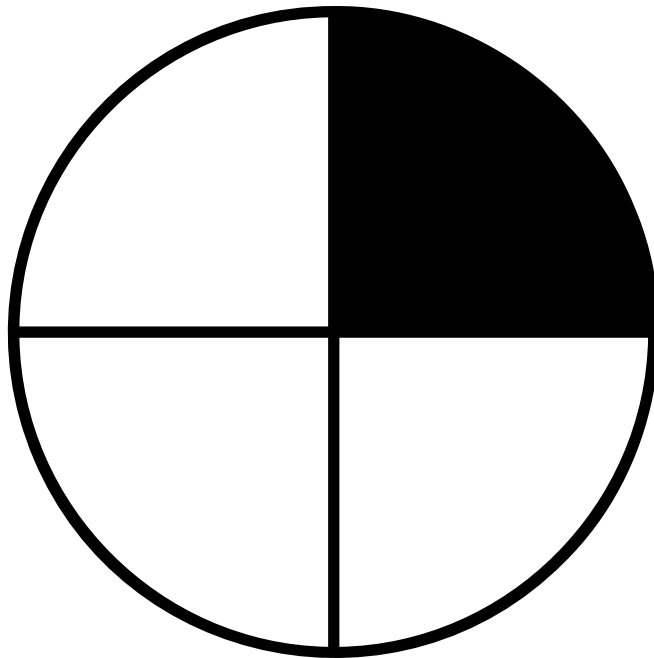


**A process and
conversation guide
for sending pastors,
church planters, and
teams**

REACHING MY CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE



A TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE ON PERSONAL EVANGELISM



Each of us have a circle upon which we have influence and impact. In this circle are the relationships that represent the various sectors of our lives. Everybody has a different circle of influence. As a witness for Christ, this circle is the evangelistic “fishing pond” and the source from which a person is most likely to win others for Christ. As we seek to reach our world, we must begin with those closest to us and those we already have relationships with.

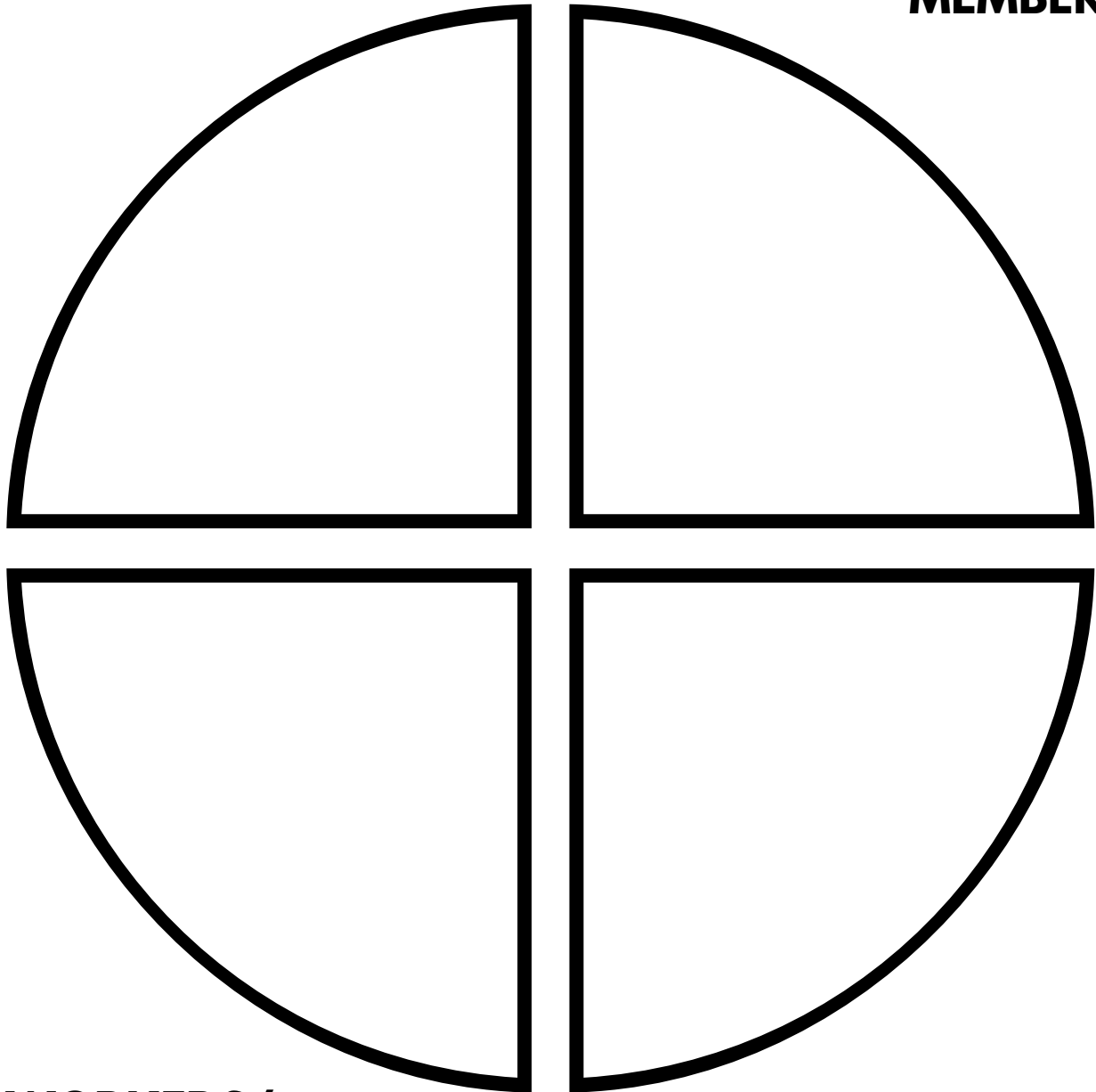
Consider your circle of influence and in the chart on the following page, write the names of three people in each of the following sectors:

- **Friends**
- **Family Members**
- **Coworkers/Classmates**
- **Neighbors**

These people should be those who do not yet know Christ. They should be people who are unchurched, unsaved, and in need of salvation.

FRIENDS

**FAMILY
MEMBERS**



**COWORKERS/
CLASSMATES**

NEIGHBORS

It's no mistake that when Jesus called Andrew and Peter to follow Him He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)," for the disciples were fisherman by trade and they would employ the methods of their trade to win others for Christ.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus alludes to the power to witness that comes from the Spirit. This power enables us to reach our world. Jesus also alludes to a progression of evangelism that would begin at Jerusalem and stretch to Judaea and Samaria and to the "uttermost" parts of the earth.

To many of the disciples, Jerusalem represented the initial "fishing pond" and the circle of influence from which they began to spread the gospel.

Your circle of influence represents your "Jerusalem" and will be your target audience over the coming weeks.

- **Hang your circle on your refrigerator or post it in a visible place as a constant reminder to evangelize the people in your context.**

Next, we will discover five ways to reach into this circle with love, compassion, and wisdom.

FIVE WAYS TO REACH MY CIRCLE

#1 - PRAY

Many times, a burden for the lost arises out of passionate and persevering prayer. As you pray for others, ask God for the courage and the faith to witness to those in your context. Most importantly, pray that God would open doors and give you ample opportunities to witness. It is only by the Spirit that people are drawn to Christ.

- **Scripture for Study:** John 6:44, Ephesians 6:18—20, Colossians 4:2—4.

#2 - ADD VALUE

Think of ways to add value to the people in your context. Recognize what matters to them and ask questions to understand where their interests lie. Perform meaningful acts of service and expect nothing in return.

- **Scriptures for Study:** John 13:34—35, Matthew 5:13—16.

#3 - FIND COMMON GROUND

In 1 Corinthians 9:19—23, the Apostle Paul illustrated his efforts to reach people that were very different than he was. Though born a Jew, Paul was able to reach across cultures and win souls throughout cities in Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome. To do this, he began by finding common ground with people. He spoke to people in ways that were significant to them. He made himself “all things to all men” so that he could win them for Christ. Paul’s speech was always with grace and “seasoned with salt.” He spoke in ways that were pleasant or attractive to the people he was striving to reach.

- **Scriptures for study:** 1 Corinthians 9:19—23, Colossians 4:5—6.

#4 - BE PRESENT WHEN NEEDS ARISE

The best way to share the love of Christ is to show the love of Christ. Be present and extend a helping hand if someone is in need. Share a testimony of how God helped you in a similar situation. Support others when they are grieving, sick, or discouraged.

- **Scriptures for Study:** Matthew 25:40, Mark 10:42—45.

#5 - SHARE YOUR FAITH

The greatest door of opportunity for evangelism is found in the context of relationship. As you pray for others, add value to others, find common ground, and are present when needs arise you will build the trust necessary to minister to the unchurched. When trust is present, a person's heart will be open and ready to receive an expression of your faith.

At the end of the day, the only thing that your circle lacks is action on your part. After you have prayed, you must trust that God will give you the right words to say. As you muster your courage, open your mouth, share your faith, and reach for the hearts of the lost, you will be able to rightly say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

- **Scriptures for Study:** 1 Peter 3:15, Luke 12:11—12, Luke 21:12—15, Romans 1:16.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.