

Missional Living Wheel: Relationship Map

The Win

Since we are now looking at our earthly relationships from either an Experience Community or an Expand Mission perspective, we should be more intentional about how we invest in each of these groups of people. This means there are people in our lives waiting to hear more about Jesus. How do we get into those relationships or, maybe more importantly, into those conversations? This wheel helps break down relational and conversational barriers that typically stand in the way of people sharing the Good News.

Celebrate Faith Steps

Share the steps I have taken this week to explore faith or to help others explore faith. How have I heard God speaking and acted on it?

Read the Passage to Determine What God Is Saying

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (page 629).

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If one died for all, then all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

¹⁸ Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: "Be reconciled to God." ²¹ He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Retell the Passage To Highlight What God Is Saying

Q1 – According to verse 14, what compels us to represent Jesus to those who don't yet know him?

Q2 – Verse 15 says that Christ-followers should no longer live for themselves, but for whom?

Q3 – According to verse 16, after a person becomes a Christ-follower, he no longer knows people in what way?

Q4 – In addition, verse 16 says Christ-followers no longer know Christ in what way?

Q5 – How does verse 17 describe the change in the life of a new Christ-follower?

Q6 – According to verse 18, who reconciled us to God?

Q7 – What ministry in verses 18 and 19 has God given to all Christ-followers?

Q8 – According to verse 20, what title has God given to Christ-followers?

Q9 – In verse 20 we are told that even though we are encouraging people to explore faith and become reconciled to God, who is actually working through us to touch those we are sharing with?

Relate the Passage to Determine What I Am Going To Do about It

Q1 – God has created us to be in a relationship with him, which is referred to in verse 19 as being “in Christ.” God’s “reconciling” or restoring a relationship with us is done through our relationship with Jesus. How do we experience God’s reconciliation through Jesus in our lives? Share how you began your relationship with Jesus. How has God begun to change your old life into his new creation?

Q2 – Through this incredible daily relationship, we get to experience Christ’s love in very real ways. How has Christ’s love compelled you to live as Christ’s ambassador? How are you joining him in sharing his message of reconciliation with people in your sphere of influence?

Q3 – How would keeping the perspective of not living for ourselves, but rather living for Christ who died for us, change our daily priorities and the intentionality by which we spend our time, energy, and resources?

Q4 – What would knowing Christ from a worldly perspective (religion) look like?

Examples:

- Desiring to know about God rather than knowing him personally in a relationship
- Trusting in works to please God rather than accepting his free gift of eternal life through Jesus
- Doing things for God rather than spending time with him
- Genie syndrome: Looking to God to fix your life and bail you out of trouble

Q5 – What would knowing people from a worldly perspective look like?

Examples:

- Focusing on people's temporary needs rather than their eternal destiny
- Seeing people as being beyond hope rather than as those God could radically save and change
- Seeing people as enemies rather than as those who, through Christ's love, could become brothers and sisters in Christ
- Seeing people as projects to be fixed rather than as people to be loved

Q6 – What happens when we place the responsibility for people's eternal destiny on our own shoulders?

Examples:

- Fear of messing up might keep us from sharing at all
- Frustration with people's lack of response
- Temptation to argue people into a decision
- Feeling of failure if people reject our message

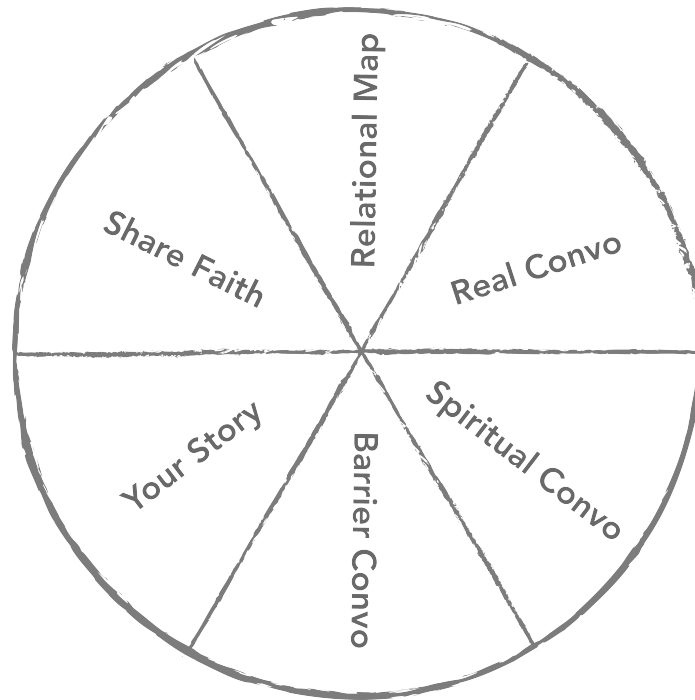
Q7 – What happens when we place the responsibility for people's eternal destiny on God's shoulders?

Examples:

- We are confident because the same God who changed our lives is powerful enough to change our friends' lives.
- We patiently pray for God's truth, love, grace, and mercy to work in people's hearts so that over time they will begin to trust him.
- We realize that God's Word empowered by God's Spirit is enough to change an individual's life. We only need to share our love and Christ's truth and then trust God for the rest.
- When people reject God's message, it isn't our failure. Our failure would be not sharing with them to begin with.
- We can experience the joy and peace of knowing that we are living out what Jesus created us for when we simply invest in people around us and share his message of hope. We are excited and anticipate God's doing amazing things as we invest in people.

We use a shape called the **Missional Living Wheel** to help describe this relational process by which we begin to share God's loving message of reconciliation with those whom God has placed in our sphere of influence.

THE MISSIONAL LIVING WHEEL



Relationship Map

Stage one is recognizing your relationship map, which is the potential for relationships all around you, and then taking steps to engage those in your sphere of influence. Take a moment and map out your **relational sphere of influence**. Consider each day in your week; whom do you come in contact with? Below are some examples to help you get started.

Examples:

Your family, neighbors, servers at restaurants, the people at your gym, co-workers, doctors, classmates, and cashiers at your local grocery store, gas station, or coffee shop -- these are all within your sphere of influence.

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

Now that you have your Relationship Map, hopefully you are excited about the potential that is all around you. However, before you share the message about Jesus with people, you need to take a few intentional steps.

Step 1

First, begin to ask everyone their names. Write these down and keep them in your car, computer, phone, office, etc., so that you can use names as you interact with people. This will begin to help you move these relationships forward.

Step 2

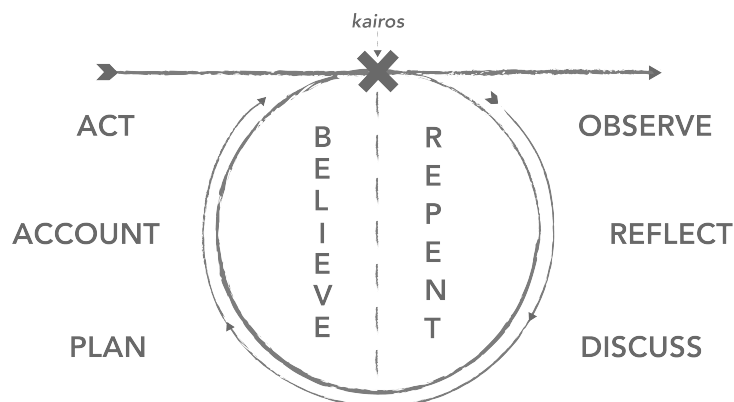
Next, begin to ask about the people who are important to them, such as their family and friends. (Again, write this information down.) Then you can begin to get to know them and can begin to regularly ask them about how their important relationships are doing. Begin to daily pray for each person on your map that you will see that day.

Step 3

As you begin to grow in your knowledge of these new friends, you will grow in your ability to pray for those who are most important to them. As they share concerns, needs, and hurts, (Write this information down as soon as you can.) let them know that you will be praying for them and then follow up with how things are going. These people will become more than just faces in your life and will become people you genuinely care for. Begin to daily pray not only for each person on your map that day, but also for people in their sphere of influence as they share with you.

KAIROS MOMENT:

- Take a moment to go back over what you learned from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and then review your Relationship Map. Write down what begins to stand out to you. How is God beginning to direct your heart?
- Walk through the Kairos Circle with what you are learning about yourself as you think about the above passage and this step on the Missional Living Wheel.
- What is God saying to you and what are you going to do this week to engage those on your Relationship Map?



CHALLENGE and PRAY

EXPLORE FAITH

Use the EXPLORE THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF guide to help you pinpoint Kairos moments in your life and come willing to share next week.

EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY

Pray for the people in your Mentoring Group and communicate with them this week.

EXPAND MISSION

Focus on building your Relationship Map and begin taking the first three steps this week.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS: