

Discuss and decide solutions

1. Values

How is Scripture driving your church's relationship building?

Encapsulate the scriptural mandate as a one sentence value:

'We build relationships with people because Scripture says...



2. Strategies

For each of your 'Focus Groups':

- How will you make your church known to them?

- How will you get to know them?

Focus group

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- Do you need to develop a fresh expression of church suitable to their context? How?

- Would planting a new church gathering reach more people and fit with their busy lives?

3. Goals

What goals will you set for the coming year?

What goals will you set for the next five years?

study guide **2.**

Relationship building.

'Because churches are called to go.'



Study Scripture Jeremiah 24:7; Ezekiel 11:20; Zechariah 8:8;
 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:10; Revelation 21:3
 What does the phrase 'they will be my people' mean?
 What does it tell us about God's ultimate purpose?



Study Scripture Ephesians 1:3–14
 In what ways does Paul see the building of a people as God's ultimate purpose?

Apply: How does the mandate you have been given to build the people of God in your setting shape your priorities as a church?

Study Scripture Luke 14:15–23
 What principles does Jesus teach about why we should go and who we should go to?
 How are the principles applied in Luke 10:1–20?

Study Scripture Acts 9:20–30; 14:1–18; 17:16–34
 How is Paul's principle of being 'all things to all people' (1Cor. 9:22) shown in practice in the different approaches he adopts?

Apply: What approaches will you need to adopt to be all things to all people in the communities you are seeking to save?

Analyse your setting

1. Define your existing mix of members
 - give % 'local', 'hopper' & 'commuter' and define key groups

2. Identify potential new 'local', 'hopper' & 'commuter' groups

3. Agree 'Focus Groups' God is calling your church to focus on building relationships with. Will you focus on groups you have a natural link with; groups God has already opened a door of opportunity with; groups you have the resources and ability to reach; cross-cultural groups no other church is reaching?

Focus group

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4. Gather data and build a profile on each 'Focus Group' (see solutions page 52 for details).
 Summary description of life stage and economic environment:

Focus group

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5. Analyse the barriers to building relationships:

Isolated, Liquid & Multi Choice Barriers

- What are the causes of isolation?

- How are relationships built?

- When and where do people spend their social time?

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