

Discuss and decide solutions

1. Values

How is Scripture driving your church's relevance building activities? 'We relate Christianity to daily life because Scripture says...'



2. Strategies

In the light of your analysis above of how prepared your church is to connect with people? What improvements could you make?

For each of your 'focus groups':

- What connection points can you make?
- What social connection activities will you develop?
- What topical connection activities will you develop?
- What discussion connection activities will you develop?

Focus group

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- What provision will you make for any of your services to be connection events? What changes would that involve?

3. Goals

What goals will you set for the coming year?

What goals will you set for the next five years?

study guide **4.**

Relevance building.

'Because we mind the gap.'



Study Scripture Psalms 1 & 2; Daniel 5:18–28
How is the attitude of unbelievers to God described?
What's God's attitude to a 'bid for freedom' from him (Ps. 2:3)?
What is God's warning to unconnected people?



Apply: How do these verses affect our concern for friends unconnected?

Study Scripture 1 Corinthians 9:19–23
What's important to Paul in sharing the gospel? How far is Paul willing to adapt to his audience? What does 'become like' mean and not mean?

Apply: What would you need to do and change to become more effective cross-cultural missionaries?

Study Scripture 1 Corinthians 14:1–4, 20–25
Paul explains that prophecy edifies others while speaking in tongues will not be understood by others. What is Paul's concern about how unbelievers will react to attending church gatherings?

Apply: What would your unbelieving friends think of your service? With what 'first impressions' does your church leave people? (To properly answer this you'll need to ask a new person to church.)

Analyse your setting
How prepared is your church to connect with people?
(See characteristics of a connecting church on page 109.)



Analyse the barriers to connecting with each 'Focus Group':

Secular barrier
– What is stopping them from connecting with a Christian worldview?
(See general and spiritual profiles on page 112.)

Focus group

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Uncertain barrier
– What questions are stopping them from exploring Christianity further?
– What are their objections to faith?

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Boring church barrier
– What are their attitudes to your church as a place of connection?
– What are their alternatives to your church? (See attitudes to church on page 112.)

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