Missional Living

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Introduction

This packet can be used for training staff and student leaders in discipleship or small groups. As a leader, you can read through this with your student(s) in one or multiple sessions. There are discussion questions provided at the end of each section to help facilitate conversation.

What is missional living?

Missional Living is an intentional mindset and lifestyle of the Spirit-filled believer. The Mindset: Recognizing your areas of influence that God has entrusted to you and regarding yourself as a sent ambassador to those people. The Lifestyle: Taking steps of faith to communicate and demonstrate the Gospel through words and actions using the 3 modes of evangelism (natural, body and ministry, more details later).

There are 5 things that help us to be fruitful and consistent in this mindset and lifestyle: Kingdom Vision, Team, Plan, Ongoing Equipping, and Coach

What is the Scriptural basis?

The Mindset:
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
- Acts 17:26-27

The Lifestyle:
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- Colossians 4:2-6

What is the purpose of this packet?

1. To help equip you to be a lifetime laborer for Christ
   Jesus calls us all to be messengers of the good news of Jesus no matter our age, occupation or status in life. What would it take for you to have an impact for God throughout your lifetime? We want to help you figure that out! The 5 things discussed in this packet will help you think through your unique gifts and talents, how to involve yourself in meaningful community, and ways you can make God known wherever He may lead you.
   You’ll notice throughout the packet we use examples from your current life situation in Jersey Metro. You can use your experiences of these 5 things in Jersey Metro Cru to help you understand the concepts and make them transferable to any life stage that you might enter in the future.
   We pray that as you step out in faith to apply these principles of “living missionally” on campus, you will gain the mindset and practice necessary to continue to be an ambassador in any life stage or environment (whether in your workplace, church, family, or everyday activities).

2. To emphasize the multiple ways to do evangelism
   When some people think of evangelism, they tend to first think of the “ministry mode” (outreach events or planned outings to share the gospel with strangers). Because of that tendency, this packet emphasizes all three modes of evangelism (ministry, natural, and body) to help us expand our mindset and embrace the totality of missional living. All three modes of evangelism come together as a lifestyle, and often the modes cross over and occur simultaneously. Although the examples in this packet may not directly apply to your specific relationships or environments, they can illustrate the concept of how to live missionally wherever God leads and will hopefully spark ideas of how you can specifically reach those around you.
3. To help you identify your areas of influence

Ministry aimed at reaching a general audience of “everyone” is less likely to reach anyone than if we focus our attention more specifically. God has entrusted you with specific relationships so that those people can encounter Christ through you. We must continually ask ourselves “What does it look like to communicate and demonstrate the gospel in this particular place, at this particular time, to these particular people?”

Evangelism is a natural daily activity. It takes prayer and practice to grow from simply seeing physical people and circumstances to gaining spiritual eyes that see encounters with others as opportunities to be used by God in an eternally significant way.

What does it take?

We can think of success as taking the initiative to live missionally by the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God. And the first place to start is with an honest evaluation of our hearts. Success starts with surrender. In John 15, Jesus talks about producing fruit that remains. What is this type of “fruit” that Jesus is referring to? Spiritually fruitful people are fully surrendered to Christ and express love for Him over a lifetime by making disciples… Are you surrendered to Jesus Christ? Have you wrestled with God about your life and future? Are you willing to go where He wants you to go? Do what He wants you to do? Say what He wants you to say? And give what He wants you to give? If so, take a minute to make your commitment to the Lord known at pledge.cruoncampus.org.

Discussion questions:

• How is this concept of “living missionally” different from ways you have viewed evangelism in the past?
• Can you think of a time you or someone you know was an example of living missionally?
• Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
  o What does it mean to be an ambassador?
  o According to this passage, why should we preach the ministry of reconciliation?
• Read Acts 17:26-27. Do you believe that God sovereignly placed you at this specific place at this specific time? How does that make you feel or respond?
• Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8. What does it look like to share yourself or your life with people around you, as well as the gospel?
• Read Colossians 4:2-6. This passage describes how we can be intentional in our relationships. How would your life look different if you conducted yourself in this way?
• How can you live a life set apart for God and still be fully engaged in the community around you that does not know Jesus? (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
• Read John 15. How would you answer the questions about surrender under the section above “What Does it Take”? Are you ready and willing? Why or why not?

Pray and ask God to lead you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the “works He has already created for you to walk in” (Eph. 2:10). You can expect Him to guide you and to provide the things you need to live on mission for Him as you walk surrendered to the power of the Holy Spirit.
Kingdom Vision

Being a part of a Christian movement helps shape the vision you have for fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). It also gives you a place to live out God’s purposes in your current context. Kingdom vision is understanding God’s big picture, seeing how you best fit into God’s big plan, and then letting that influence your decisions and choices now and in the years to come. What you’re learning now in church and/or ministry about reaching others, building them in their faith, and sending them to do the same, is laying the foundation for a lifetime of fruitfulness.

Jersey Metro Example: You may have heard our Mission Statement for Jersey Metro. “By all possible means let us advance God’s kingdom, by making Christ fully known on every campus influencing the state and ultimately the world.” That’s a kingdom vision! We’ve talked together as staff and students about the strategic nature of New Jersey and how we believe God will use our state to advance His kingdom. Many people have aligned themselves (staff, students, volunteers, churches) with this vision; we all see ourselves as part of God’s bigger plan for how He will fulfill the Great commandment and the Great Commission.

You can also have a more personal kingdom vision statement on a smaller scale. Take a moment to pray about where God is calling you to be an ambassador for Christ. Consider the areas of influence that are already a part of your life. What specific relationships or groups of people do you interact with? List the different places you go (generally speaking) in any given week and the people you encounter there (even if you don’t know their names). For example: class, work, the library, club meetings, sports practices, church, the grocery store, coffee shops, shopping malls etc. Do you see yourself as sent by God to these specific people? If you did, how might your relationships and encounters look different? Think through and discuss the questions below to help you write your unique kingdom vision – how God has called YOU to be part of His greater Kingdom plan.

Discussion Questions

- What passions and gifts do you have? How do you see yourself using those to glorify God and serve others? Do you have a burden for a specific area on campus or group of people in your community? Where is God calling you to invest your time, talent, and treasure in reaching others for Christ?
- The context you’re a part of shapes and reinforces your kingdom vision. Is there a movement, church, or organization you can connect with that is already pursuing a kingdom vision?
- Write a short statement communicating what you believe God is calling you to do next.
- Take a moment to begin filling out the Missional Living Sheet in the Appendix. You can complete this sheet as you go through the packet as a helpful tool. It is designed to be used and altered as often as you like through the process of living missionally to help keep you focused. Your chart will change and shift as you try new things and enter different stages of life. For now, just fill out section A, B, and C.
Don’t go it alone. Without a compelling community, few people can persevere for long. Ecclesiastes 4 says, “It’s better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work…and if one falls down, the other helps.” A “team” is two or more people coming together who are surrendered to Jesus and share a common kingdom vision. We all need people who will encourage us to stay on mission. People we can pray with and put some plans in place. People we can live out our kingdom vision with. Don't just warm the seats at your gatherings: Live missionally with your friends. Gather people to pray, plan, encourage, and live out that vision together. Teaming up may be the most critical step you take toward fulfilling your vision.

For example, think of a sports team. Each player has a different position, but they all come together as a team to reach a common goal. Our common goal with believers is our Kingdom Vision--to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Believers worldwide align themselves with other believers to carry out God’s bigger plan in their specific area. Your team doesn’t necessarily share your natural area of influence, but they can come alongside you in prayer, planning and encouragement.

**Jersey Metro Examples:** Let’s say that you take a philosophy class on your campus and discover that there are two other Christians in that class with you. The three of you can form a ‘team’ of people who decide to encourage each other, pray before class, and seek to influence others in your class for Christ. They are your team. These same principles apply to other parts of your life too like your place of work, neighborhood/dorm, recreational karate class, etc.

What about when you have a different sphere of influence than others? Jersey Metro is that kind of team. When you go to Jersey Cru, you meet people from different campuses. Rutgers’ sphere of influence is not Kean. Those at Stockton are not focused on reaching Ramapo. However, we all share a common goal of reaching New Jersey, and ultimately the world. We can encourage one another, pray together, share stories, and reach the state together as a team. Or maybe you are the only Christian in your philosophy class, your dorm, or your workplace, so when you go to Cru on your campus, those people are your team. They encourage you, pray with you, and are behind you as you seek to reach people in your sphere of influence. Later in life (as well as now), your church can provide teammates. Your church friends or small group could be your team as you might be the only Christian in your work environment.

**Discussion Questions**

- Read Acts 2:42-47 How did early believers seek to live as a team? What was the result?
- Evaluate your current situation in light of Acts 2:42-47. Do you have a team that spends time together, studies God’s word, prays together, and seeks to reach others who don’t know Jesus? What are your next steps in making your team this type of Acts 2 community for the purpose of reaching others?
- Is there a team in your movement or church that is already pursuing your vision? Could you join them?
- If not, who do you know that is surrendered to Jesus and shares a similar kingdom vision.
- Think of at least two friends you can ask to join with you to live out your calling.
- When can you connect with your team to pray, plan and begin living intentionally on mission?
- Take time to fill out section F of your Missional Living Sheet in the Appendix.
Plan

“If you aim at nothing you’ll hit it every time.” Passion and tenacity will only get you so far. If you’re going to fulfill the vision God has given you, you’re going to need to take some strategic and tactical steps to get you there. When we talk about a plan we’re simply talking about your team putting together a thoughtful strategy to advance God’s love through purposeful actions. It doesn’t have to be elaborate, but the plan should have simple, doable steps that will help you to implement your God-given vision. Plan with the end in mind. Having some sort of plan is all about being intentional with how you move toward your Kingdom vision.

One of the first steps you will want to take is to decode your area of influence. Decoding means to recognize and interpret, or to decipher. The key in decoding an area or people group is to get an understanding of what God is doing and where He wants to work so that we can partner with Him in all that He is doing. Check out Nehemiah 1:3-4, and Numbers 13:1,17-20 to get a picture of how they “decoded” or spied out the land. As you decode your area God has called you to, some questions you can ask yourself are: What are the people like: their interests, schedules, personalities, cultures, etc.? What is the environment like: structured, flexible, quiet, loud, individualistic, community-centered, etc.? Where do the people come from who are there? What worldviews and ideologies are represented? What are popular hangouts? What’s around the area? If you don’t know the answers, ask the people around you. It’s a great way to get to know them and show you care to learn about them and their lives!

As you begin to plan the steps of faith you will take towards reaching the people God has called you to, consider the different modes of evangelism God uses to bring people closer to Himself. Modes are a possible, preferred or customary way of doing something. The evangelism modes recognize that there are different contexts or approaches by which people come to know the Savior: through the influence of a body of believers (body evangelism), through the influence of a believer or believers with whom they have had a personal relationship (natural evangelism), and through the influence of an individual whom they hadn’t previously met or had contact with them primarily through a ministry outreach (ministry evangelism).

**Jersey Metro Example:** We plan how to reach our campus at the leadership summits at the beginning of each semester. You put events into a calendar such as a Pizza and God, or Bring a Friend to Cru night where your ‘team’ (Cru) will be purposeful about reaching others for Christ. You might plan with your campus a time when you will introduce “Faithful to Five” to the rest of the group, which will lead to each person reaching their sphere of influence. Later in life, you may be on ministry teams at church that will plan a strategy for how to reach those in your neighborhood for Jesus. Or you and your Christian co-workers (your team) might make plans of how you can have regular hang outs with your non-Christian co-workers after work to build relationships and eventually share Christ with them.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Read Nehemiah 1:3-4 and Numbers 13:1, 17-20. Pray for your area(s) of influence. Come up with a list of questions that you might want to know about the people that you are reaching out to so that you can create a wise plan. Check out sample questions above in the 2nd paragraph of this section.
- Read Acts 17. After decoding the scene, Paul was strategic in how he shared with the Athenians. How does his strategy of sharing the message relate to his previous decoding?
• In both the Nehemiah passage as well as the Acts passage it talks about Nehemiah and Paul being upset over the condition of the people. Now that you’ve decoded and before making a plan, pray that God would give you a heart to be saddened over the broken state of your sphere of influence.
• Pray with your team. As your team contemplates the vision God has given you, what specific steps of faith can you take to move you toward that end?
• What will be your first 3 steps to bring about your vision for God’s kingdom in and through your life?
• Read *The 3 Modes of Evangelism* in the Appendix for a description and examples of each. Identify what you are already doing that fits into these 3 modes.
• Take time to fill in sections D and E on your *Missional Living Sheet* in the Appendix. Check out the example chart for help. You can also read *Cultivating Relationships* and *Sample Transition Questions* in the Appendix to spark ideas. As you make your plans of reaching your sphere of influence, trust the Lord and pray for opportunities to share in all 3 modes of evangelism and be intentional to make plans in each.
Ongoing Equipping

Successful people are always growing and developing. Effective organizations are always adapting. Championship teams are always improving. Ongoing equipping is anything you need in order to help live out your kingdom vision. This can include further education, skills, tools, training and resources. These things will help you in your journey of walking with God and serving Him for a lifetime.

Jersey Metro Example: You receive training in the Knowing God Personally booklet, Satisfied, Soularium, Perspective Cards, Relational Evangelism, CoJourners, Backstory, how to share your testimony, etc. Training in how to lead a bible study or a small group discussion at the leadership summits helps equip you too. When you go on conferences and retreats, you can choose from various seminars to grow in different areas. And summer projects are designed to help you grow spiritually. During discipleship you learn information on various topics from Scripture as well as learning how to train and equip others. There are many online resources that we use for equipping too like crupressgreen.com. For more resources, check out the Resource page in the Appendix.

Discussion Questions:

• Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Scripture equips us for every good work that God prepared for us in advance (Ephesians 2:10). Where do you need to be equipped more for those good works, and how can Scripture help you? What Scripture verses can you find that might continue to train you?
• Read 2 Peter 1:3-9 What will keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful for Jesus?
• Read Romans 12:1-2. What ongoing action will help you to continue to know the will of God in your life?
• What do we need to learn about the context or people we’ll be ministering to? Do they have a certain culture or belief system that I need to understand in order to bridge to the gospel?
• Are there any conferences or other training sessions that will help?
• Ask yourself regularly, “What areas of my life need to be developed to better fulfill my calling?”
• Choose three things that you will do next to better equip yourself to live out your kingdom vision and record them in section G of your Missional Living Sheet in the Appendix.
Coach

Scripture stresses the importance of gaining wisdom from others (Proverbs 16:16). We can never underestimate the blessing of another who has gone before us and learned a thing or two along the way. A coach is just that person: someone to answer your questions, help you and your “team” when you are stuck, and encourage you when the going gets tough.

Jersey Metro Example: This could be your staff member at your campus. They are there to help you pursue your personal kingdom vision as well as how it fits into the context of the Cru kingdom vision on your campus. As you move into other life-stages you can often find this person in your church or ask Christian friends who might know someone who lives missionally in your line of work or wherever you are seeking to make an impact.

Discussion Questions:

• Read 1 Timothy 1:2 and 2 Timothy 2:2. These two books of the Bible were letters of instruction from Paul to Timothy. Paul was Timothy’s mentor. According to these verses what types of qualities should Timothy and others possess as mentees? As you seek to pursue your vision, are you willing to be this type of mentee so that someone else may coach you with ease?

• Read Matthew 28: 18-20. In fulfilling the Great Commission, we need to be taught by others and be teaching others how to observe Jesus’ commandments. Make a list of people older than you or more experienced than you in your life that seek to fulfill this Kingdom Vision of the Great Commission in their daily lives.

• If there is someone already out there doing what you have a specific vision for, what can you learn from them?

• Is there someone who can mentor you and help you accomplish your vision? Who would that be?

• Take time to fill in section H of the Missional Living Sheet in the Appendix.
Missional Living Sheet

A. Kingdom Vision:

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

B. Places I go

C. People I see

D. Evangelism Mode

E. Steps of Faith
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places I go</th>
<th>People I see</th>
<th>Evangelism Mode</th>
<th>Step of Faith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Classmates, Professors</td>
<td>Natural and Ministry, Could be Body if you have other Christian friends in the same class</td>
<td>Talk to the person sitting next to me, Invite them to lunch before class or to study together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Co-workers, my boss, other people who work in the building</td>
<td>Natural and Ministry</td>
<td>Plan lunch with someone to get to know them and ask spiritual questions, invite to house after work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>Church members, new people</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Get to know new people, help and encourage church workers and volunteers, pray together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>My neighbors, my roommates, sometimes my family</td>
<td>Natural, (could be Body if you live with Christians or if they are over a lot)</td>
<td>Serve them with extra cleaning, ask questions about their spiritual beliefs, invite to church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The gym</td>
<td>Other people working out, trainers</td>
<td>Ministry at first, Could also become Natural</td>
<td>Start a conversation with someone working out near me, invite friends to come to gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grocery store or other shops</td>
<td>Other shoppers, Check out clerk</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>Smile, let others in front of me in the check out line, ask the clerk about his/her day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bible study group</td>
<td>Body, Could do Natural and Ministry together</td>
<td>Pray together, Invite new people, Plan a lunch out together with non-Christian friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out to dinner</td>
<td>Hostess, Waiters</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>Smile and be friendly, leave generous tips, Pray before meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation</td>
<td>People on the plane, staying at the same hotel, or around town</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
<td>Be friendly and start conversations about each others lives, Offer prayer for people in need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parties</td>
<td>Friends and new people</td>
<td>Could be Natural, Body, and Ministry all at the same time depending on who is there</td>
<td>Get to know new people, invite non-Christian friends, pray for opportunities to share</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F. Team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who shares my vision?</th>
<th>Have I talked to them about it?</th>
<th>When are we meeting to pray, plan, or do evangelism?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

G. My next steps for **ongoing equipping** are:

1)

2)

3)

H. My coach is: ________________________.

We are meeting on (days) ______________________ at (time) ________________________.

I do not have a coach yet, so my next steps to find one are:

1) Goal to have done by (date) ____________

2) Goal to have done by (date) ____________
The 3 Modes of Evangelism

**Body:** Giving opportunities to non-Christians to participate in activities with a body of believers so that they can learn about and experience Christ through that community.

**Biblical Examples:**
- Acts 2:42-47. As people experienced a transformational community of believers, they too, gave their lives to Jesus.
- In John 17:22-23, Jesus prays to the Father for us that by our love and unity for one another, those of the world will know that Jesus was sent by the Father.

**Jersey Metro Examples:**
- A student walks by your Cru meeting room, gets curious and enters. Throughout the meeting they experience love and community, and they might even hear the gospel that night. These things could lead them closer to God and believing the Bible is true.
- You may invite a friend into Christian community socially, for example, a bunch of your friends from Cru are going to Applebee’s or to watch a movie and a friend from your dorm comes along. They might end up experiencing true love and acceptance for the first time. This example is a cross between natural and body mode as one of your friends experiences Christianity from your community of believers.

**Natural:** Sharing Christ through words and actions with people you have close relationships with (like friends, family and roommates) or with those you have ongoing interactions with whom you can be intentional to develop a relationship (like classmates, teammates, coworkers)

**Biblical Examples:**
- Andrew brought his brother, Simon, to Jesus (John 1:40, 41)
- Philip, found his friend Nathaniel, and brought him to Jesus (John 1:43-45)
- The Samaritan woman brought her villagers to meet Jesus (John 4:28-30)
- A group of friends brought the paralytic to Jesus (Mark 2:1-5)

**Jersey Metro Examples:**
- As you go about your daily life on campus you interact with many people: professors, classmates, roommates, co-workers, friends, etc. A lot of these people do not know Jesus. As you interact with them you might seek to find ways in how to demonstrate the gospel to them in actions and love, how to communicate with them the message of the gospel, and how you might invite them to Christian community.
- We use many tools within Jersey Metro already that help you to think this through: Faithful to Five, Co-Journers, the Knowing God Personally booklet.

**Ministry:** Demonstrating and/or communicating the gospel to those with whom you do not have an ongoing relationship (like those you encounter in the store, library, or student center)

**Biblical Examples:**
- John 4 – Jesus’ interaction with the Samaritan woman. Although Jesus knew this woman (because He’s Jesus), in a human sense they did not know each other, they did not have a previous relationship.
- Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch – Philip did not know this man, but climbed up into his chariot to explain the gospel to this man

**Jersey Metro Examples:**
- We share the gospel on campus with people we don’t know using Quest surveys, Soularium, Perspective cards, Knowing God Personally booklets. Or maybe we just strike up a conversation with someone sitting next to us in class or on the bus and ask them about their spiritual beliefs and experiences.
- Various events and outreaches that we might organize like Pizza and God
Cultivating Relationships

One of the first steps to sharing the gospel in your natural community, besides prayer of course, is to cultivate relationships there. Here are some practical ideas for blessing others in the workplace. You can use these to spark ideas of your own or adapt them to best reach the specific area to which God has called you (classmates, teammates, housemates, neighbors, etc.).

- Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their story.
- Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
- Make it a daily priority to speak or write encouragement when someone does good work.
- Bring extra snacks when you make your lunch to give away to others.
- Bring breakfast (donuts, burritos, cereal, etc.) once a month for everyone in your department.
- Organize a running/walking group before or after work.
- Have your missional community/small group bring lunch to your workplace once a month.
- Create a regular time to invite coworkers over or out for coffee.
- Make a list of your co-workers birthdays and find a way to bless everyone on their birthday.
- Organize and throw office parties as appropriate to your job.
- Make every effort to avoid gossip in the office. Be a voice of thanksgiving not complaining.
- Find others that live near you and create a car pool.
- Offer to throw a shower for a co-worker who is having a baby.
- Offer to cover for a co-worker who needs off for something.
- Start a regular lunch out with co-workers (don’t be selective on the invites).
- Organize a weekly/monthly pot luck to make lunch a bit more exciting.
- Ask someone who others typically ignore if you can grab them a soda/coffee while you’re out.
- Be the first person to greet and welcome new people.
- Make every effort to know the names of co-workers and clients along with their families.
- Visit coworkers when they are in the hospital.
- Bring sodas or work appropriate drinks to keep in your break room for coworkers to enjoy. Know what your co-workers like.
- Go out of your way to talk to your janitors and cleaning people who most people overlook.
- Find out your co-workers favorite music and make a playlist that includes as much as you can (if suitable for work).
- Invite your co-workers in to the service projects you are already involved in.
- Start/join a city league team with your co-workers.
- Organize a weekly co-working group for local entrepreneurs at a local coffee shop.
- Start a small business that will bless your community and create space for mission.
- Work hard to reconcile co-workers who are fighting with one another.
- Keep small candy, gum, or little snacks around to offer to others during a long day.
- Lead the charge in organizing others to help co-workers in need.

(This list was taken from a post on VergeNetwork.org.)
Sharing Your Faith – Sample Transition Questions

1) Learning about them

- **Begin by asking about their hobbies, interests, family, job.** Get into their life. Know things about them and where they’re coming from (and this will help you later when you get into more spiritual things). Help them to feel loved, cared for and heard.
- **Talk about and ask questions about things in the news, economy, etc., then transition to spiritual topics.** Once you are talking with someone about general topics (the weather, news, hobbies, etc.) it is easy to transition to a spiritual conversation by asking thoughtful questions. Ex. If you’re talking about the news and the bad in the world you could easily ask why they think evil exists. For more ideas of how to do this, check out the article “Six Degrees: Transitions to the Gospel” on crupressgreen.com

2) Spiritual questions as you continue to learn about them:

- **Do you go to church? Did you grow up going to church? How was that experience for you?**
- **Ask about a current movie that brings up spiritual topics.** Or ask if they’ve seen a past one like The Passion of Christ or Da Vinci Code.
- **Do you read the Bible? Have you ever? Why or why not?** This is a good one for getting to know where unsaved friends or relatives stand spiritually.
- **Would you consider yourself a spiritual person? Or do you ever think about religious/spiritual things?** This is a great question because it is open-ended which allows for a lot of information to be shared which can lead to follow-up questions.
- **Get their permission…** maybe you can say something like, “In our society today it’s seems like it’s taboo for people to talk about spiritual things, but you’ve talked about a “higher power.” I believe in a “higher power”, too. Would it be okay if we talked openly about that part of our lives?”
- **Have you ever thought about life after death?**
- **Who is God/Jesus to you?**

3) Spiritual questions once you’ve found they enjoy or are open to talking about spiritual things (these can also be used in ministry mode evangelism):

- **If you have a Gospel resource… I call these the cliff notes of the Bible, would you like to give me your opinion?** When opportunities to give out tracts arise, this can be an effective conversation starter. Many of the younger generation don’t know what the gospel is, and some have never seen a tract before.
- **If you died tonight and stood before God and He asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you tell Him?** (from Evangelism Explosion)
- **Are you sure you are going to heaven when you die? If you could be 100% sure would you want to know?** This is important because many devoutly religious people don’t know for sure because their religion doesn’t offer them certainty.
- **Did you know that Christianity is different from all other world religions?** This question works as a lead-in to explaining that only Christianity is founded upon faith rather than works to make a man righteous.
**Resources**

**Evangelism Tools**

The following tools can by found or ordered on crupressgreen.org:
- Coujourners
- Soolarium
- Perspectives Cards
- The Knowing God Personally Booklet
- The *Satisfied?* Booklet
- Backstory

**Websites**

- crupressgreen.com
- everystudent.com
- vergenetwork.org

**Books**

*Questioning Evangelism* by Randy Newman
*Master Plan of Evangelism* by Dr. Robert E. Coleman
*Don’t Waste Your Life* by John Piper
*How to Be a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hibells
*The Mission of God’s People* by Christopher Wright
*Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper
*The Tangible Kingdom Primer* by Matt Smay and Hugh Halter

Note: In this packet, the concept of “The 5 things” along with some of their descriptions and thought questions are taken directly from a Cru resource called “The Five Things” which can be found on crupressgreen.com.