

ENGAGEMENT: ASSESSING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

Assessing your relationship with your non-Christian friend on their journey into the Kingdom

The Engagement Model – based on the book “I once Was Lost” by Everts and Schaupp

1. Know and trust a Christian
 2. Become curious
 3. Become open to change
 4. Seek God
 5. Make a Decision
 6. Grow in their relationship with God
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Signs that your friend trusts you:

- They enjoy spending time with you (laughter is good).
- They eat, play, and work with you.
- They ask you for your opinion/advice.
- They text, call, email or share things on Facebook with you.
- They initiate spending time with you.
- They share details of their life and interests with you.

Signs that your friend is curious:

- They remark that you seem different from other friends.
- They mention that they don't normally say this, but they sense you are safe to talk to.
- They ask for further advice or clarification on something you've previously said.
- They ask you how you got through a situation in your life.
- They express interest in joining you on a humanitarian/service/spiritual activity that you have mentioned.
- They say, “I've never thought of it that way before.”

Signs that your friend is open to life change:

- They take advice that you have offered.
- They take further initiative to ask you questions about faith or life.
- They recognize and expose more of their life brokenness to you.
- They invite your feedback on a part of life they can't figure out or sort out.
- They ask you how you are able to do something that they can't seem to do.
- They want to learn from your personal life experiences.

Signs that your friend is seeking God:

- They are driven to “figure this out”.
- They are willing/interested in studying the Bible with you. (Then they actually do.)
- They come to church or Christian community with you.
- They are developing friendships with other Christians.
- They ask more about Jesus specifically, not just their problems.
- They are wrestling through the difference between Jesus and their current spiritual belief (atheism, Western belief, Eastern experience, buffet faith).
- They are open to you praying with/for them.
- They are trying to understand present and past experiences in light of Christianity.

Signs that your friend is close to the point of decision:

- They have begun to pray and/or read the Bible on their own.
- Their “ah-ha” moments about Christianity are becoming more frequent and significant.
- Their questions and struggles are becoming more intense.
- They are assessing the risk of becoming a Christian.
- They are wrestling through parts of the gospel that they find difficult.
- They want to figure it out, not just perpetually seek.
- They feel more peace.
- They feel like they are beginning to trust God.

Signs that your friend has entered the kingdom and needs to grow in their relationship with God:

- They may tell you that they have made a decision to invite Christ into their life (or similar words).
- They may have a new level of confidence in “God”.
- They may be working through how their new faith affects their relationships, decisions and actions.
- They may have questions about their new faith, prayer, assurance, church, how to live as a Christian etc.