

HOW TO REACH YOUR NETWORKS

If God is putting a burden on your heart to reach a place/people, it might also be that he has put a burden on others around you. When God is at work, he often invites and prepares several people for the task of accomplishing his kingdom purposes in a community or a place. We must never assume that God is calling us alone. Starting something new is usually done in community with other believers. This was true even in the book of Acts. Most stories about reaching new places were always done in community.

Before we make a list of potential partners, let's look at how Jesus prepares the seventy-two before sending them out.

Luke 10:1-7 (NIV)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.'⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

Think About It

There's a lot of preparation going on!

- *Jesus prepares the 72 for mission*
- *The 72 prepare families and towns for Jesus*
- *The whole region is prepared for the "harvest"*
- *The Kingdom of God is prepared for Jesus*

1. How do you see the theme of preparation in this scene? Who and What is being prepared? What are they being prepared for?

2. What do you notice about the way Jesus sent the 72 out? Why do you suppose he did it this way?

3. Put yourself in their shoes—How would you feel if you were being sent into a community with no supplies or money?

4. How are the sent ones supposed to decide who to stay with?

5. How might this pattern of blessing people to see how they respond be helpful to you as you reach out to others on campus?

6. What kind of relationship do you see between the sent ones and the homes they stay with? What are the advantages of approaching this mission as both a giver and receiver (versus just being the giver)?

7. Why do you think Jesus sent people out in pairs? List any advantages you see in having partners in a mission:

8. What attitudes, beliefs, and qualities do you think it's important to have in order to thrive in a mission situation like this?

Who are your potential partners?

Make a map of everyone you are already connected with on campus. This is also a good place to list the names of anyone you've shared your vision with and people you think might be excited about partnering in this mission. Use the questions to help you see to where and to whom God is calling you.

1. In the page below, start by writing your name in the middle.
2. From there, draw lines to other circles representing the different places where you spend time and have relationships. At this point, your name may be surrounded by circles like biology department, library, soccer team, sorority, or dorm.
3. Each of those circles represents a network of relationships, so your next step is to write the names of people you know in each of those places, and connect them with lines coming out of each circle. Make sure you include any Christian faculty or staff you know.
4. Put an asterisk (*) on names of people you have had spiritual conversations with.
5. Highlight the names of any Christians you know.
6. Underline names of key people in each network who carry influence and could open doors or help you build trust with the community.
7. As you look at your network map in a posture of prayer, who are the potential partners who are standing out to you? Thank God for these people and make a plan to invite them to partner with you.