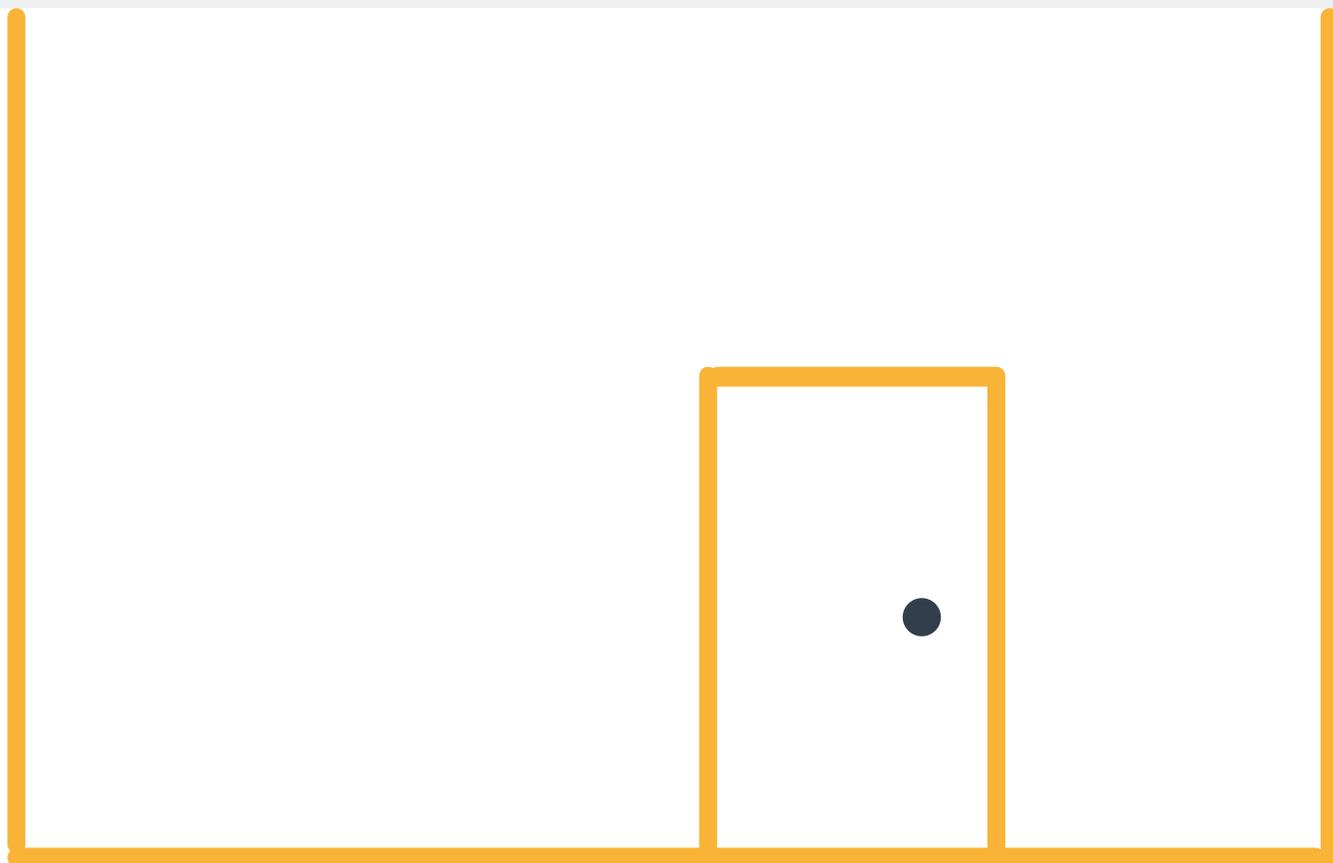


# HOUSE CHURCH RESOURCES



GATHER • PRAYER & WORSHIP • WORD • MISSION • MULTIPLICATION

# ICE BREAKERS

Ice breakers are simple questions or games that invite others to share about themselves in a casual and fun way.

## QUESTIONS:

You'll be amazed at what you will learn about each other through a well crafted question.

Here are a few examples that can get your house church started:

- What's the weirdest food that you've ever eaten?
- Describe your dream vacation if money was no limit
- What's the most embarrassing item of clothing you used to wear?
- If you were to sing karaoke, what would be your go-to song?
- If you had your own late night talk show, who would you invite as your first guest?
- What was the worst job you've ever had?

## GAMES:

Games are another great way to learn about people's lives, as well as create shared experiences.

- 2 Truths and Lie.
  - Share 3 interesting facts about yourself, one of which is a lie, and let others guess which is the lie
- Show and Tell
  - Before your house church comes together, ask each person to bring one item for show and tell. The item can be a hobby item, an item with a memory attached to it, an old photo, or anything else that can spark a story. After people have shared, allow time for Q&A.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Arranging social activities is a great way to continue building relationships with those in your house church. They also provide a low pressure environment to invite others who may not be ready to jump into a house church straight away. Some house churches may decide to make this a monthly rhythm in place of a regular house church gathering and others might choose to do these activities in addition. Here are some ideas of what they could look like:

- Day trip to the coast
- Hike at Silver Falls
- Backyard BBQ
- Game night
- Bocce ball at Riverfront park

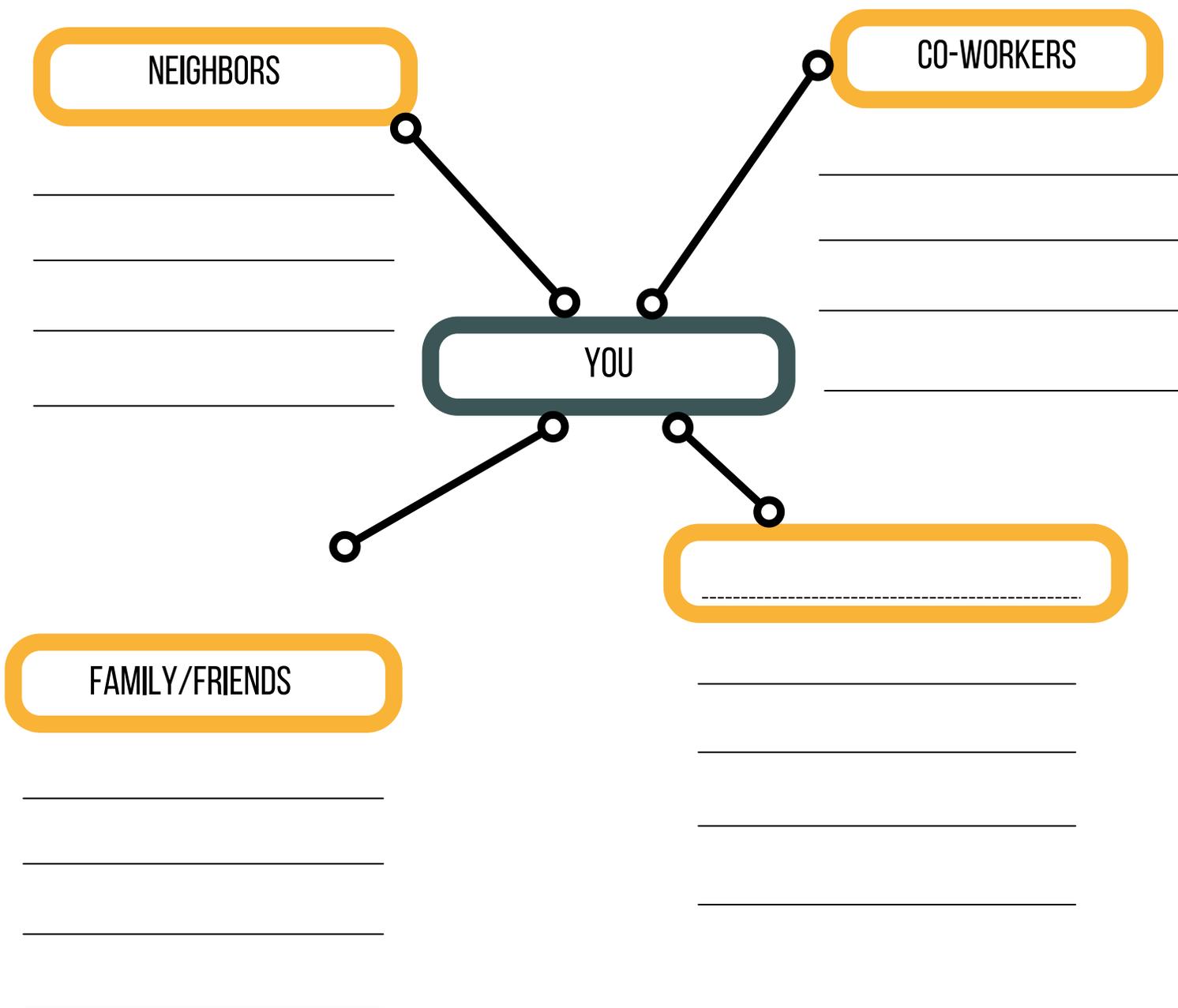
For more ideas, have a group discussion on what social activities others would enjoy and get some dates on the calendar:

# RELATIONAL MAPPING

If you don't know where God has planted you and to whom you're called, it can be difficult to know where to direct your prayers, your time, and your efforts as you seek to engage in mission.

The Relational Mapping exercise looks at the different contexts in which God has planted you, and helps you identify the people he has called you to engage within those areas.

Once you've completed this exercise, a great next step is to take some of these names and pray for them using the B.L.E.S.S. 5 prayer (see below).



# B.L.E.S.S. 5 PRAYER

Like the early church, if we desire to see the birth and continuation of a house church movement, our individual lives and gatherings have to be rooted in consistent prayer.

The B.L.E.S.S. 5 prayer is a tool that you can use individually or with your house church to regularly pray for and bless those who don't know Jesus in the places that God has planted you.

## Instructions:

Choose 5 people you are in relationship with who don't know Jesus and write their names below. Pray and bless for them 5 minutes a day, 5 days a week using the B.L.E.S.S. acrostic below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**B - Body** (Health, protection, strength)

**L - Labor** (Reward, security, provision)

**E - Emotional** (Joy, peace, hope)

**S - Social** (Love, relationships, family/friends)

**S - Spiritual** (Salvation, faith, grace)

If you're struggling to think of anyone you know who isn't a Christ follower, pray for opportunities and ways to engage with those who don't know Jesus in the places God has planted you.

"PRAYER MOVEMENTS PRECEDE HOUSE CHURCH MOVEMENTS"

# B.L.E.S.S. RHYTHMS

Our mission to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matt 28:18-20) finds its roots in the original mission to go and be a blessing to others (Gen 12:1-3). This means that blessing others and seeing people come to know, love, and serve Jesus are linked together.

The B.L.E.S.S. rhythms described below are a practical and accessible way for you and your HC to engage in mission in the everyday moments and encounters of life.



## **B - Begin with prayer**

Pray for people by name in the places where God has planted you. Ask God for opportunities to get to know people who don't know Jesus.



## **L - Listen**

Instead of talking, focus on asking questions, listening well and learning about others' stories. (See "4H's of Listening")



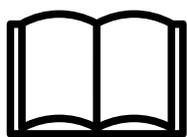
## **E - Eat**

Invite those people you have been praying for and listening to, to share a meal or grab a coffee.



## **S - Serve**

As you build relationships, pay attention to any practical needs that come up and offer to help.



## **S - Share your story**

Look for opportunities to share what a difference Jesus has made in your life. Don't feel like you have to tell your life story all at once. Think "bite-size" stories.

# 4H'S OF LISTENING

Building relationships with people who don't know Jesus is central to the mission of making and multiplying disciples.

However initiating conversations with our neighbors, co-workers or others in the places that God has planted us can create anxiety, and can often feel intimidating. We can find ourselves worried about what to say or how to fill the awkward silences that come up during our conversation.

A great place to start is by simply asking questions and listening well. Jesus did this all the time when interacting with people. Asking questions is a great way to get to know people who God has called you to and takes the pressure off of always have something interesting to say.

Here are a few simple questions that can help you engage in these conversations:

1. **HISTORY.** Tell me about your story.
2. **HEART.** What do you love to do?
3. **HOPES.** What are your dreams?
4. **HURTS.** How are you doing with...?

Notice that each question takes the conversation a little bit deeper. Don't feel like every time you have a conversation with someone that you need to ask all four questions. Pick one and see where it takes you.

You'll often find as people share that it will lead to more opportunities to ask questions and build deeper relationships.

Take mental notes of their responses so you don't forget and can ask follow up questions next time. Also, pay attention to any ways that you can practically love and serve them in the future.

"THE FIRST ACT OF LOVE IS ALWAYS THE GIVING OF ATTENTION"  
- DALLAS WILLARD

# WORSHIP IDEAS

Often when we think of worship, we primarily think of singing songs. While this is an expression of worship, it's by no means the only expression. Read the list below for some creative ideas on how to engage in worship together as a house church:

- Look at a piece of art. Ask, "How does this painting prompt admiration for God?"
- Incorporate communion as part of your mealtime
- Hand everyone a nail. Read Matthew 27:11-65 out loud. Talk about what Jesus did on the cross. Pray together and thank Jesus for his sacrifice.
- Write a psalm. Use this outline: "God, I feel... But you are... So, I will..." Take time afterward to have people share their psalms out loud.
- Turn off all the lights and light a single candle. Read John 8:12 out loud. Talk about Jesus being the light of the world and about what it means for us to be the light of the world.
- Go on a walk together in a scenic place. Have people share what they most enjoy about what they are seeing and experiencing and direct this delight towards God in praise.
- Share a testimony of healing. After, allow others to share their desire for healing. Finish by anointing them with oil and praying for healing.

## FACILITATING DISCUSSION

Whether you're leading the sermon discussion questions or facilitating the bible study guide, here are some helpful tips to remember:

- Don't feel like you have to get through all of the content. Pay attention to where Holy Spirit is drawing your attention.
- Ask clarifying questions to draw out further responses.
  - What do you mean?
  - Can you explain?
  - Tell me more about that.
- Try rephrasing the question if people are having trouble understanding.
- Don't be afraid of silence. Often people need time to process.
- If someone is dominating the conversation, ask to hear from someone you haven't heard from yet
- Come back to those who get cut off
- Refrain from answering all the questions as the leader
- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know" or "let's come back to that next week when we've had some time to look into that."

# PRAYER WALK

In order for us to engage in mission in a compelling way, we first have to understand the culture of the places God has planted us in and the perspectives of the people he has called us to.

## Instructions:

Pick a location where God has planted you or your HC in this season e.g. your neighborhood, workplace, coffee shop, etc. Take some time to prayerfully walk around that location and ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the challenges and pain that exist in this place?
  - Who are those in need? What does good news sound like to them?
  - What idols are worshipped? What do people care about most?
  - Where are the places that people are congregating? How can we be present there?
- Where are the celebrations? How can we affirm and join in?
  - What provokes/frustrates you? Where do you see God already at work?
  - What do you sense Holy Spirit is saying to us/you in all this?

Take note of what stands out and stirs in you during your prayer walk. If you meet anyone as you are walking around, be available to chat. Pay attention if Holy Spirit prompts you to pray for or serve them in any way.

Afterward, discuss your thoughts and experience with your house church. Allow the answers to these questions to direct you as you discern how God is calling you into mission in the place that he has planted you.

# LEADERSHIP SQUARE

The Leadership Square is a helpful tool that guides you through the stages of disciple-making. This can provide a useful framework as you apprentice future house church leaders.

## **D-1, L-1: I do, you watch.**

The disciple is being led by the leader. The leader has to be very directive.

*Eg. you ask your apprentice to pay attention to how you facilitate the sermon discussion questions. After you ask them for feedback on what they noticed.*

## **D-2, L-2: I do, you help.**

The leader does the work but invites the disciple to help where they can. The leader has to be the visionary coach.

*Eg. you encourage your apprentice to think of a question they could ask to help with discussion. You provide feedback after the discussion.*

## **D-3, L-3: You do, I help.**

The disciple steps up and the leader hands off the leadership while still helping and protecting.

*Eg you ask your apprentice to lead the discussion time and you will help when necessary. You provide feedback after the discussion.*

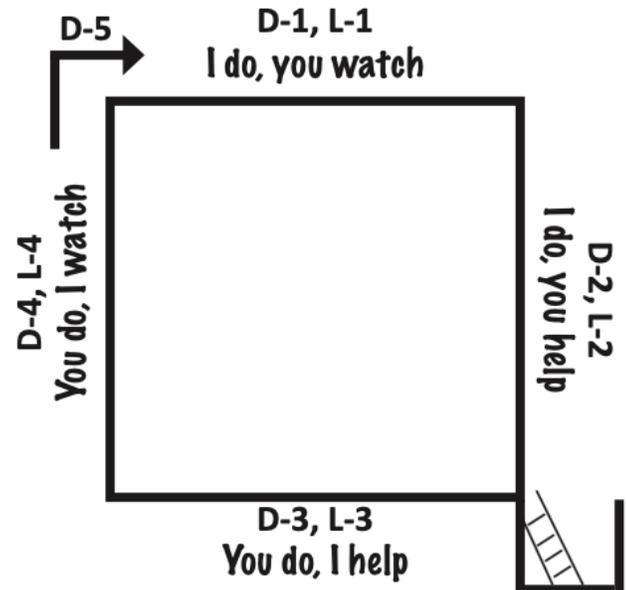
## **D-4, L-4: You do, I watch.**

This is delegation. The disciple is doing it and you are watching them do it.

*Eg. your apprentice is facilitating the discussion without relying on your help.*

**D-5:** Your disciple turns into a leader and begins to make their own disciples. This is how the Kingdom grows.

*Eg. your apprentice now models what it looks like to facilitate the sermon discussion questions to another apprentice.*



“D” - disciple, “L”-leader (disciple maker)

“JUST LIKE INSIDE EVERY SEED IS THE POTENTIAL OF AN ENTIRE FOREST, SO INSIDE EVERY BELIEVER IS A POTENTIAL MOVEMENT.”

- ALAN HIRSCH