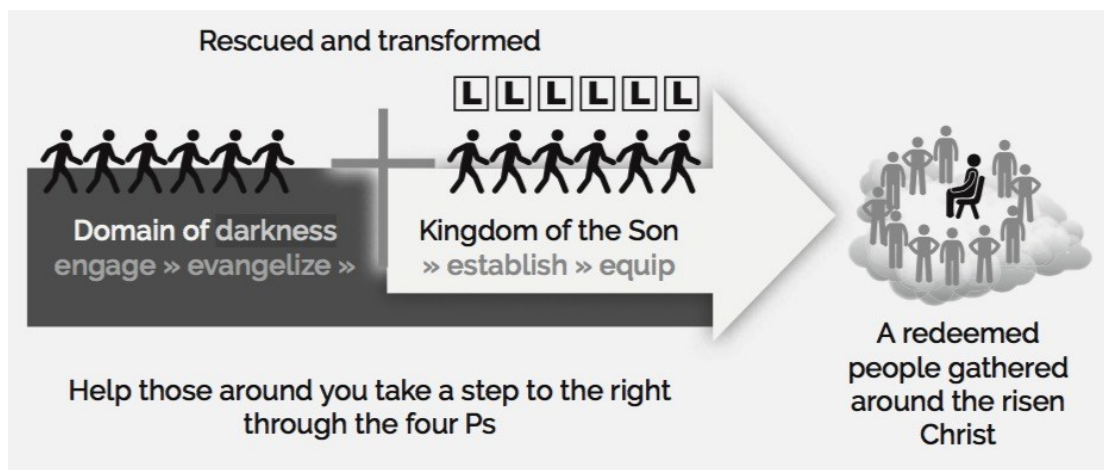


# Loving your church

## Building

What is my role in building my brothers and sisters on Sunday?



**The 4 E's:**

**The 4 P's:**

Notes:

### Interviews with ministry leaders

As a result of the interviews what is one thing you learned about the value of praying for brothers and sisters leading Sunday ministries?

## **1. Loving by building before church**

As we think through the purpose of gathering together as God's people, what can we be praying for with regards to the following aspects of our gathering?

In a small group spend 10-15 minutes constructing a prayer that you could pray before you come to church each week (perhaps during the week, the day/night before, or before you get ready for church on Sunday). Keep the 4 E's of Engage > Evangelise > Establish > Equip in mind as you think about what to pray.

What would you pray for each of the following categories?

### **Those leading & serving in a Sunday ministry**

Preacher:

MC/Service Leader:

Bible Reader:

Band/ & Leader:

Kids ministry team:

Welcoming team:

Sound & I.T team:

Morning tea/supper:

Other Sunday ministries:

**For the congregation**

For God to draw newcomers, people who have been invited, and those irregular or hesitating about coming:

To prepare the hearts of God’s people & shape them through is word:

To love & serve one another:

**For myself**

Your heart:

Transformation:

Direction re who to encourage, serve, lovingly correct:

Where to sit:

Your ministry of the pew (praying with someone, bouncing off the sermon etc.):

**My Commitment**

The most realistic time for me to spend \_\_\_\_\_ minutes praying for our Sunday gathering is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ & I are committed to reminding each other to pray this building prayer before our Sunday gatherings during the five Sunday’s in April.

Their Phone Number is: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Loving by building during church

- Why praying where to sit is a key.
- Ministry of the Pew: How to building my brothers and sisters at church

The sermon: Listening to build self and others.

Before you listen to the following mini-sermon look a the outline for sermon note taking found in Matthias Media's *The Growth Group Notebook*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUw2ySX1jcU>

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Passage: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Notes:**

**I never knew that:**

**I was reminded that:**

**A question that still remains for me:**

**Application for me:**

**A truth I could share:**

**Key verse to remember:**

**My prayer response (repentance/thanks/praise):**

## **The don'ts of bouncing from the sermon**

Avoid cornering someone with questions like:

- What did you get out of the sermon?
- What's do you need to repent of after hearing that sermon?
- What are you going to change as a result of the sermon?

## **The do's of bouncing from the sermon**

Keep it open or share something that gives them a chance to respond:

- It was great to be reminded.....
- I was reflecting on the sermon. I never knew that.....
- I love the passage we looked at today because.....

## **Other conversation points:**

- You know, I don't know if I've ever heard your Christian story and how you came to faith?
- Is there something I can pray for you?

Like anything, it takes practice to feel natural talking about the sermon, Jesus, and the Bible. We are comfortable talking about the weather, the weekend, the family, work, and sport. We've been doing that all our lives. There's a place for talking about these things and it can be loving and appropriate to do so. But, becoming comfortable discussing the sermon, the word, and Jesus (building our brothers and sisters with the word) might take some time and practice. If enough of us stick with it soon it will become our culture, *'the way we do things around here'*. More importantly, people will grow.

One aspect of ministry of the pew I could try on Sunday is:

Is there someone it would help to start doing this with each week until I become comfortable doing this with others?

### **3. Loving the newcomer**

**Video:** Why we don't invite people to church.

#### **Questions for discussion**

With someone near you discuss what factors, if any, inhibit you from inviting someone to church?

Is there anything you or the church could do to break down those barriers?

Is there anything you could do to connect non-believing friends to other believers in your congregation outside of church? (adds plausibility to the faith).

#### **How you can help a newcomer take one step to the right**

**Video:** Loving newcomers

There is no perfect welcoming/integration formula. The driving principle needs to be love, and loving them will involve developing a heart and some skill in helping them take a step to the right (learn Christ).

The following questions are just suggestions. A conversation with a newcomer will rarely operate in a linear fashion like below. These questions are just a guide.

Getting to know them questions (there are many others)

- Introduce yourself and find out names.
- Do you live nearby?
- Did you grow up in the area?
- Do you work/study nearby?

## Triage

At some point in the conversation, loving them will often mean *triage* questions. We ask *triage* because we are trying to get an idea where they might be on the learning Christ spectrum. We are not trying to pigeonhole and we might get it wrong. But the heart behind it is important.

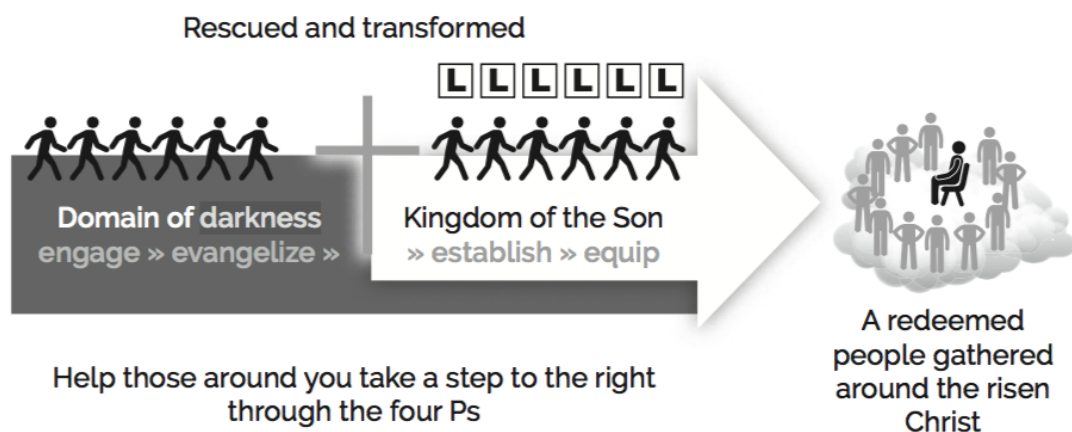
What brought you here today?

Have you been involved with another church?

Are you looking for a church?

What's important for you in a church?

At this point you have to jump into the mental file to think through where this person is at on the moving to the right diagram.



Is there a loving way that I can help them take a step to the right?

Can I help them grow by reading the bible with them?

Is there someone else who might be able to do this?

What does Bulli Anglican have in place to help people grow at each stage?

Whatever the option, it needs to fit them rather than slotting them into our structures or Trellis's. This won't always be neat.

### **Scenarios**

With a partner have a go at asking questions of someone. One person picks one of the categories below without telling their partner. The partner needs to work through similar questions to those above to try to work out what might be a helpful next step for this person. After a few minutes of questioning swap over.

- Not a Christian but enquiring about the Christian faith.
- Not a Christian and been invited by a friend.
- New Christian and new to church.
- Been a Christian for a while, attending another church and looking at whether this is the right church for them.
- Returning to church after many years of drifting away from the Gospel.
- Mature Christian new to the area.

**Notes:**





# My Plan: Helping others take a step to the right

1. Prayefully consider who & how you might, under God, help move someone to the right.
2. Helping others take a step to the right will be costly and might involve a re-ordering of priorities. However, we do encourage you to be realistic. The purpose of this exercise is to help shape your thinking and work at putting it into practice, not to burden you with unrealistic expectations. We've listed Person 1,2,3,4 to help you think through members of your household, not because the expectation is that you need to pick four people in each category to help take a step to the right. How you help each person will vary significantly, both in time and practice.

	My household		World	Small group	At church
Person 1					
Person 2					
Person 3					
Person 4					
How					
When/ frequency					
Notes					
Reflection month 1					
Reflection month 2					
Reflection month 3					

## My Plan: Taking a step to the right myself

Details	Bible Reading	Prayer	Sermon Reflection/ Meditation	Ministry of the pew (detail categories not relevant for this item)	Is there a book to read or a short course to do to help me grow?	Gospel team prep
Frequency?						
Where/when?						
How long for?						
Notes:						