

# Building stepping stones to faith

## session handout

### How did it go?

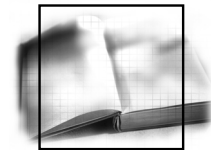
Review your experience of prayer and service since you last met:

- *Have there been any significant answers to prayer?*
- *Have you been able to keep to the discipline of praying regularly?*
- *Describe your experiences of serving in the way you planned last time.*
- *Has anything happened in you or in others as a result of the serving?*



### Witnesses and stepping stones

- *Step 1 in 'Living the gospel' is to pray for your oikos.*
- *Step 2 is to love and serve your oikos.*
- *Step 3 is to be a witness as best you can.*



### Responding to questions

Not all of us have the gift of evangelism – but we are all called to be witnesses. As we pray for people and serve people, they will begin to ask us questions.

1 Peter 3.15-16:

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear; so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

### Building stepping stones

Read 1 Corinthians 9.19-23.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Paul's principle here is going to where people are: not just physically but spiritually. Once we have come to that point, we can build stepping stones for people as individuals and as a group.

## Building stepping stones to faith



### Stepping stones for individuals:

- Look through the list of 'individual stepping stones' on the supplementary hand-out. Put a tick by each one you think you could build for someone in your oikos.
- Talk in your triplet about your finished list. Compare notes on the kinds of thing you feel able to do and to say to someone who is enquiring about faith.
- Think about how you are going to serve your oikos in the coming week and pray together for the shared names.

### Stepping stones for groups

- Look through the list of possible stepping stones for groups to organize (you may be able to add to the suggestions here).
- Think through the people you have been praying for and serving in your oikos. Which of them would come to which kind of event?
- Decide on one 'stepping stone' event you can arrange as a group: set a date; begin to make plans and to pray.

### Stepping stones for churches

- List the stepping stones that already exist and which you can make use of as a group.
- List the ways people can go further and learn more about the faith or be nurtured in faith in the life of the church.
- Are there any new stepping stones that it may be helpful for the whole church to consider?

## Putting it into practice

Continue to pray for the people on your prayer list each day and for your two prayer partners.

Continue to serve your oikos.

Look for opportunities to build personal stepping stones.



### Bible reading

About sharing faith:

John 1.35-42	Acts 8.27-40
John 2.1-11	Acts 9.10-19
John 4.1-26	Acts 19.8-12
Acts 3.1-10	Philippians 2.1-13