

CULTIVATING

- praying for our focus area
- making friends
- learning their stories
- finding people in our missional communities' focus area
- building relationships
- listening to the Spirit in prayer
- focusing the majority of our time together in relational settings that connect us to the people we believe God has called us to reach

Key Activities during This Season:

- praying for people by name
- prayer-walking in our focus area
- building relationships
- throwing parties to meet people
- including our new friends with our MC family
- spend less time in the living room and more time making friends and building relationships

Does our missional community have a particular common thread among everyone, eg...

- everyone's kids attend same school
- we all live in the same neighbourhood
- there's a common hobby everyone likes, etc.
- if no one does, that's OK, but sometimes this exercise can help our MC identify common interests that lead to common, everyday interactions, that could lead to a common desire for mission

Do we already have close friendships in our focus area, or do we need to focus on cultivating new ones in our neighbourhood or network?

- If we already have close friendships, let's move forward to sowing
- If not, we need to decide how we're going to begin cultivating relationships with the people in our network or neighbourhood
- What specifically do we want to commit to doing throughout the next three months to cultivate relationships with the people we're trying to reach?
- Think through our everyday rhythms. What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighbourhood or network?

Examples:

- prayer-walking weekly
- planning a games night
- taking spare produce to neighbours to get to know them
- hosting BBQs in the front yard
- inviting coworkers to weekly lunches
- looking for ways to serve and bless
- hosting holiday parties
- going to community groups and volunteering to help with something, etc.

SOWING:

Sowing is the season where we begin to share our lives with the people we've connected with and sow "gospel seeds."

- sharing our story, speaking of Jesus, and displaying a gospel-centred life to our friends
- because we've done the hard work of cultivating, our friends trust us and love us at this point, so our sharing of Christ is only natural
- as the Spirit leads, we're beginning to invite them into our Missional Community meetings, Sunday gatherings, and other social activities in our church family
- sowing also involves nurturing, watering, and protecting the "gospel seeds" we have sown. This might look like additional conversations, clearing up any confusion, praying fervently for salvation, and serving the people we're sharing with
- some of the people we're reaching won't come to faith in Christ. This isn't because we didn't share our faith well enough or because we were too pushy. They chose to reject the gospel and not hear the truths of Jesus. However, let's not let that stop us praying fervently for them to come to faith in Christ.

Key Activities during This Season:

- sharing the gospel in conversations and through everyday rhythms
- inviting friends into the life and gatherings of church family
- deepening relationships and trust
- fervently praying for friends by name
- we might need to spend good time in the living room and around the dinner table discussing the scriptures, going through the Story of God, and planning more mission

What specifically do we want to commit to doing throughout the next three months to sow the gospel among the people we're trying to reach?

- Think through our everyday rhythms.
- What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighbourhood or network?

Examples:

- planning a guys' night or girls' night where we can invite our friends into the life of the group
- inviting those we're closest with to go through the Story of God with our MC
- asking our friends how we can pray for them and letting them know when we do, etc.

HARVESTING:

Harvesting is the season when we see our friends come to believe in Christ and trust in Him for salvation and life. This usually happens in mini-stages, we know we're in the season of harvesting when...

- we see the Spirit at work in our friends' lives
- we see our friends responding to the gospel in positive ways
- they have recognized their need for Jesus in their lives
- they are reading the Bible and praying with us
- they are motivated to serve with us

- the pinnacle of the harvesting season comes when our friends officially repent and believe in Christ and are adopted into God's family! Once this happens, we continue the discipleship process as we live life as a family.

Key Activities during This Season:

- sharing the truth of the scripture
- praying with our friends
- serving others with our friends
- encouraging faith decisions, and calling our friends to believe.

What specifically do we want to commit to doing throughout the next three months to call our friends to life in Christ?

- remember, if we're in the season of harvest, our friends trust us and the Spirit IS WORKING in their lives.
- think through our everyday rhythms. What rhythms best fit the culture of our neighbourhood or network?

Examples:

- consistently inviting our friends to Sunday gatherings
- studying a gospel-rich book of the Bible as an MC
- inviting friends to join us
- getting together weekly as an MC to pray for their salvation, etc.