

11. Follow up – Principles for Success

20 minute discussion

HOOK Did any of your group have someone who became significant in their life because they gave them time when they were young? What did the 'mentor' do? How did their giving of time make you feel? How did they help you?

LOOK

- We have defined follow up as a 'continued conversation with people who are interested'. How is this different to the traditional approach, which has sometimes been perceived as being about having 'Bible studies with converts'? Why might changing our approach in these ways benefit us today?
- Which do you think is the key hindrance to seeing follow up happen, and why?
 - Disinterest on the part of the person who has supposedly responded and expressed interest?
 - A lack of love in the heart of the Christian friend resulting in them failing to give time to following up with the interested person?
 - A lack of the skill and perspectives set needed to know how to help a person through continuing the conversation meaningfully.
- Regarding option c., could this session have potentially resolved this for you?

BOOK Matthew 13.1-9 – The Parable of the Sower

- Who do each of the four scenarios represent (see Jesus' explanation of the parable in v18-23 if needed)?
- Which of these groups of people do you think might have been able to stay the distance in the faith were they to have had a committed Christian friend journeying alongside them? Is it possible that some of those who 'fall away' do so because they did not receive the 'watering' and 'fertilising' needed?

TOOK

- Each think of a specific non-believing friend who you are praying for. If they expressed interest in learning more about Christian things, what would you do for them? Be specific.
- Consider who you could invite to a discussion group for new believers or interested people - one like 10DayChallenge or Alpha. Is there someone you could invite to meet over coffee to discuss questions they have about the Christian faith, to see if they are interested?

PRAY

- that God would give you a heart for people such that you would be motivated and willing to give them priority with your time.
- that God would lead you to people who are near to faith in Christ or new to faith so you could intentionally invest your time in encouraging them.