

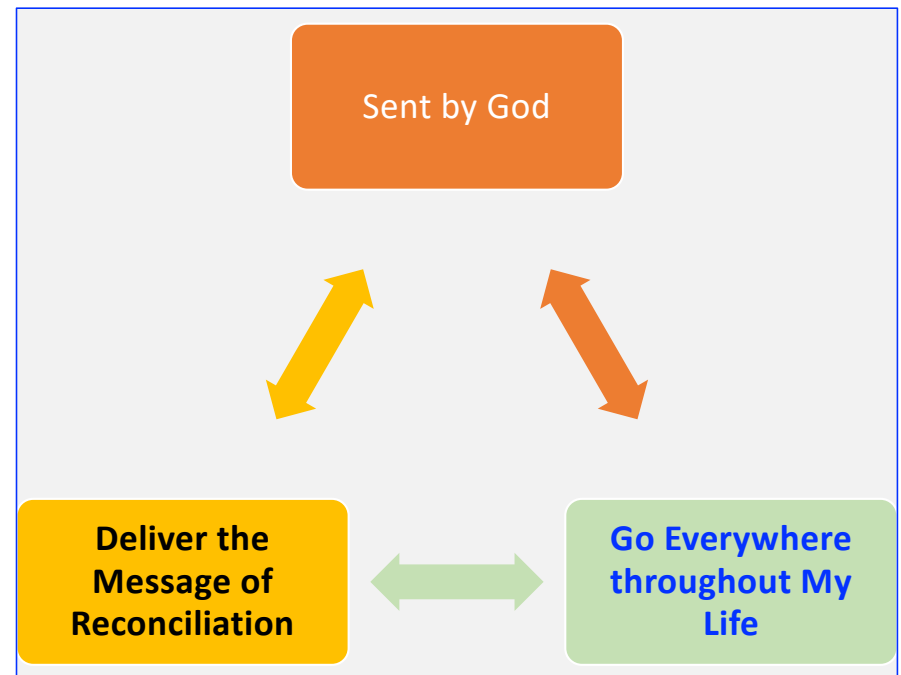
Ambassadors of Christ (5)



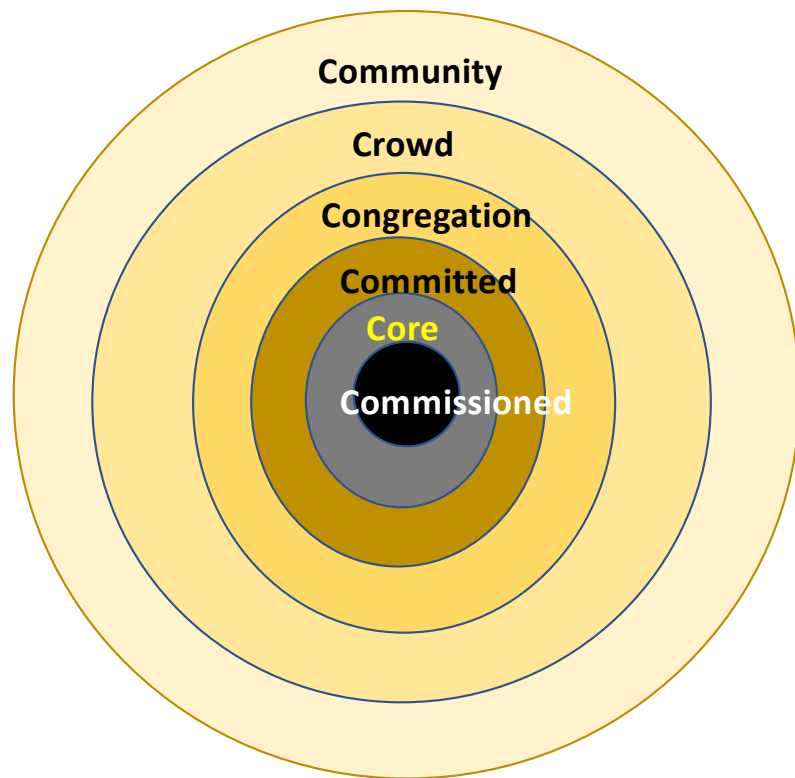
<https://www.shalomgrove.net/our-services>

Christ's Ambassador Model

We are **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God
(2 Corinthians 5:20)

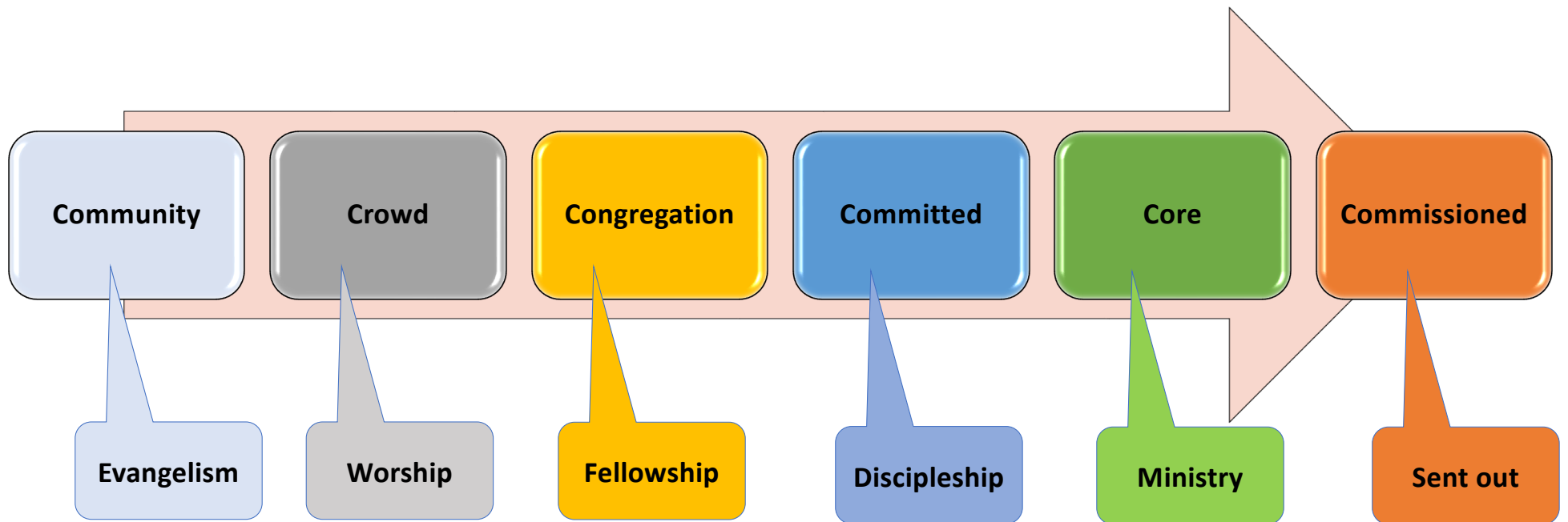


Identify the Target



The Community	The uncommitted people who live within your ministry area
The Crowd	The people who are committed to attending worship each week
The Congregation	Those who have committed to membership
The Committed	Those who have committed to maturity
The Core	Those who have committed to ministry
The Commissioned	Those who have committed to their mission

Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



What is a community?

- Community
 - The target neighborhood or geographical area surrounding the church, often considered the unchurched or non-believers.
 - This target audience is engaged through community service, relationship-building, and relevant preaching designed to connect with their needs.
 - The Christian life is meant to be lived in community, not isolation, and focuses on outreach tools to foster connection and service.
- Targeting your community for evangelism
 - Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. **So there was great joy in that city** (Acts 8:5-8).
 - How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:14).

Community

- Targeting your community for evangelism
 - “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people (Matthew 4:19)
- Jesus’ strategy of fishing for men
 - Know what you are fishing for: You must identify who you are trying to reach.
 - Find out how many people live in your area.
 - Know what kind of people live in your area.
 - Ask what are their values, interests and fears.
 - Ask what do they have already know about the gospel.
- Fishing for people
 - Going out to where people are—regardless of the difficulty—to share the Gospel. It involves using one's influence and faith to draw others to Christ.
 - Fishers of men are called to cast their nets everywhere, meaning in all walks of life, including schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Building an Evangelistic Culture

- Think like an unbeliever.
 - The longer you're a Christian, the more difficult it is to think like a non-Christian. To bridge this gap, we need to spend time with non-Christians, so we can ask questions to understand their needs, interests, and objections to the church.
- Listen first
 - Before delivering a message, you should understand the stagnant areas of their neighborhood.
- Questions you may ask to your community
 - What is the greatest need in your area?
 - Why do you think most people don't attend church?
 - If you were looking for a church, what would you look for?
 - I'm starting a church nearby. What advice do you have for me?

- Relational Bridges (Oikos Strategy)
 - The Gospel spread primarily through Oikos (the Greek word for household or social circle).
 - When Lydia, the Philippian jailer, Cornelius were converted, their entire circles were affected.
 - When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home (Acts 16:15).
 - Paul instructs the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:31-34).
 - They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:47-48).
- Map the network.
 - You may list five unchurched people you already know (barbers, coworkers, parents at the park).

- Service as a Signpost
 - Jesus often healed the body before He addressed the soul.
 - Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father (Matthew 5:16).
 - Tangible Problem Solving. If a neighborhood has a high rate of food insecurity or a lack of after-school care, the church should address that stagnant area creatively.
- Serve the community before preach
 - Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up (1 Corinthians 8:1).
 - To demonstrate character and compassion, making the Gospel plausible to a skeptical community.
 - Demonstrates God's love through actions, building trust and credibility before sharing the message.

- Minister outside of your comfort zone
 - The more comfortable you feel in your worship service, the less comfortable a non-Christian will feel.
 - We need to be willing to change anything in our churches—other than the message of Scripture—to reach new people.
- Radical Hospitality
 - The table was Jesus's primary tool for outreach. He was often criticized for eating with "tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 15:2).
 - The open table initiative. You host one meal a month for a neighbor you don't know well.
 - Create a space where everyone feels they belong before they even believe.

Community: Connect, Listen, Learn & Serve!

- Do prayer walks through your neighborhood. Ask God to help you see the community as He sees it. Invite community members to join you.
- Participate in the life of your community—get into the flow of attending community, school, government events.
- Be interested in things your neighbors are interested in. Ask them questions and learn from them.
- Come close to those on the margins, those who are often overlooked (such as children, women, immigrants, disabilities etc.). Learn what these neighbors know about the community. How can you steward your power to work with them in seeking the peace and wholeness of the community?
- Connect with community organizations working for the common good, such as summer youth programs and vacation Bible schools.