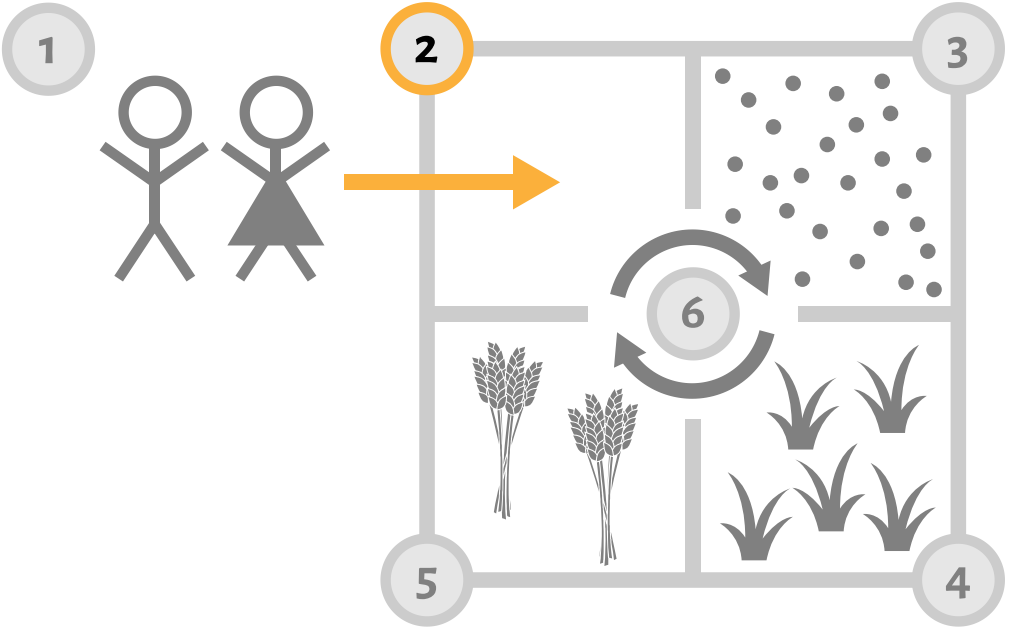


ENTERING EMPTY FIELDS



Growth of God's kingdom begins with believers who enter empty fields. These empty fields are people who do not follow Jesus. Some of these unbelievers we know, and some we have not yet met. We must know how to enter empty fields for the kingdom of God to grow.

How can we enter empty fields of people we have not met yet?



Luke 10:1-12:

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off

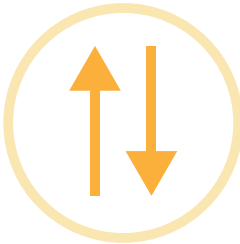
against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town."

We can see how to enter empty fields of people we have not met yet through how Jesus sends out these disciples. In these verses, we learn principles of what to do and what not to do when we enter new fields:

To Do



Go two by two



Pray for more laborers



Go as lambs in the
midst of wolves,
depending on the
Good Shepherd



Enter into a house



Say, "Peace be to this
house!"



Find a person of
peace who receives
truth about Jesus



Remain in the house



Eat and drink what is provided



Pray for healing



Proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God, the gospel



Know how and when to leave a place or person

Not To Do



Do not take more than needed



Do not greet anyone on the road or be distracted from where God leads



Do not go from house to house

We can apply these principles when we enter empty fields of people we have not met yet. Our focus as sent ones should be to find persons of peace who receive truth about Jesus and are willing to take steps to follow him. We remain with these people and continue to lead them in steps of faith. These

principles may not apply directly to every context, but they provide wisdom for an approach to engage with people who are new to us.

How can we enter empty fields of people we already know?



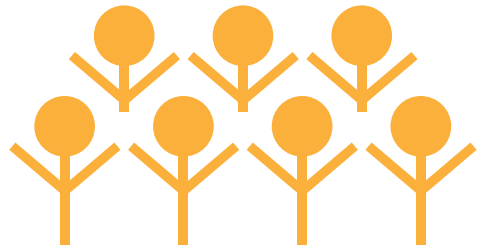
Acts 16:25-34:

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And

they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

The Lord desires that all believe in Jesus, and we should desire this too. And a pattern often repeated in the Bible is that someone who believes in Jesus first goes to invite their families and friends to believe in Jesus. This is the case with the account of Paul, Silas, and the jailer. Paul and Silas tell the jailer that he and his household will be saved. That night the message of Jesus spreads to the jailer's household. The jailer's family believes and is baptized that very night.

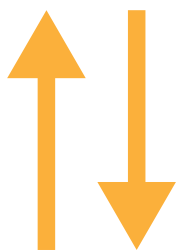
One way that we can be effective witnesses is to notice the people we already know and seek their salvation. To do this, we can take some time to list at least 30 names of



people that we already know who do not follow Jesus. These people are close to us, but far from God. These people are not growing in their relationship with God. These people can be family members, coworkers, classmates, shop owners, or any other person you know. God can use us in the empty fields of these people.

Using our list as a guide, we can faithfully pray for, love, and share the gospel of Jesus with these people.

List 30 Names



Pray



Love



Share Gospel

For Kingdom Growth

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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this material for kingdom growth. Your service in the Lord is never in vain.