

Introduction: We are doing a lot of preparation to move to our new location at Best western Inn near Laughed sky train station on North Road.

Moving to this new location is one of the most exciting times for our church. There are many uncertainties, but we are walking by faith and not by sight, and God is pleased with this. I believe God will accomplish great things for His glory.

One of the most exciting opportunities around the Lougheed sky train station is the great number of people we will be able to reach.

Our church will be accessible to many more people by bus and sky train. Students who don't have a car can access our church easily. There are new high-rises that are being built, and many new families are moving into the area. There will be many believers looking for a good local church, and we expect many visitors to come to our new location.

Moreover, we will have many opportunities of sharing the gospel to the large residential areas, the large number of people that go through the sky train station and bus stops and the many people that are shopping at Lougheed mall.

I believe it has been God's plan to place our church at this primary location to reach the lost more effectively. I believe our church is ready to be a light to reach the lost and make disciples for Christ.

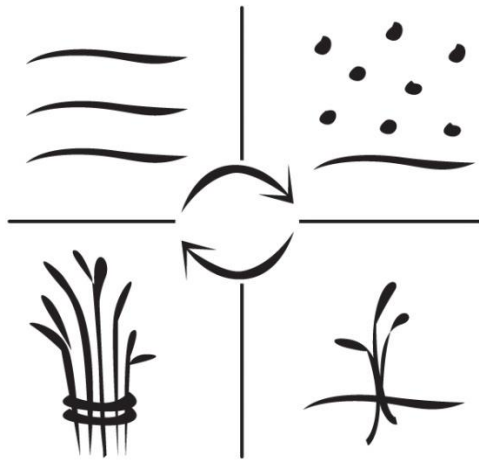
I think we see the great opportunities and desire to reach the lost, but what are we exactly going to do to reach the lost? What can we do to be a shining light in the new area we are going to be?

The answers are in the Bible. Jesus has taught us what we have to specifically do to reach the lost. The instruction Jesus gives us is very simple.

Mark 4:26-29 ²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Jesus is teaching that the kingdom of God is like a farmer who goes into the field. Here is a picture that shows 4 responsibilities of a farmer. First, the farmer enters an empty field. Second, he plants the seed. Third, the seed sprouts and grows while he is sleeping. Fourth, he will harvest it after it has grown. Finally, the farmer will keep some seeds and plants it again and the process will continue.

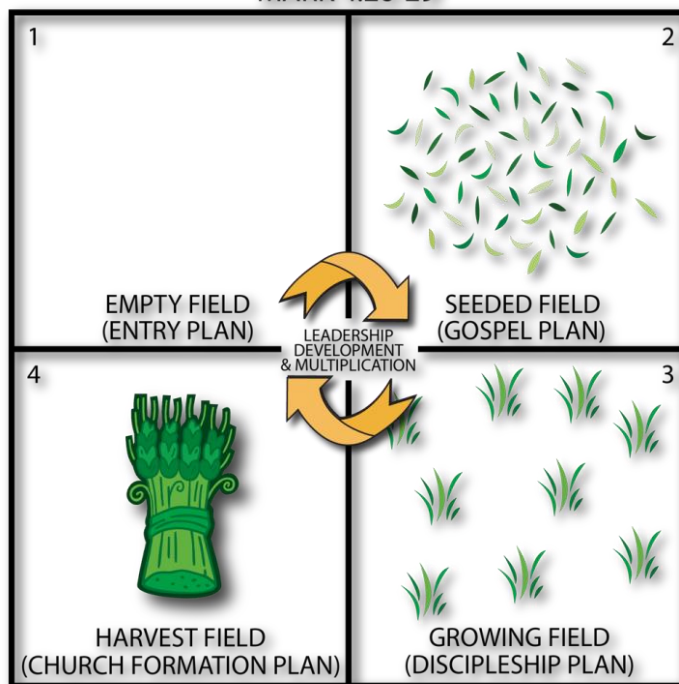
MARK 4:26-29



Jesus says this is what the kingdom of God looks like and what we should be doing. Here is another picture made by the Four Fields ministry to help us understand what we need to be doing according to Mark 4.

First, we enter the field, which is the world that needs the gospel. Second, we plant the gospel seed in the hearts of the lost. Third, we disciple those who believe the gospel and do Bible study with those who are interested in the gospel. In the fourth field, believers are connected to a local church.

THE FOUR FIELDS OF KINGDOM GROWTH MARK 4:26-29



God's plan is for this cycle to repeat itself so more and more disciples will be trained and multiplied. The more disciples there are to enter the field, the more gospel seed that can be planted, and we will see more people saved and added to the church.

However, why are we not seeing more people getting saved and added to the church? The biggest problem is there are so few believers that are planting the gospel seed. Remember what Jesus said in,

Matthew 9:37-38 ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

That is the problem with many churches today. We are not spending enough time witnessing. If there are more believers entering the field and witnessing, we will see a large number of people saved. This is what God has promised.

We have a great army here at Bridge Community Church. Imagine the great multitude that will be saved if all of us faithfully went out into the field to plant the gospel seed? We will find the harvest that is plentiful and many people who are ready to receive the Gospel.

Jesus also tells us to pray in Matthew 9:38. All these 4 steps must be uplifted to God with prayer. God is the only one who can convict the lost and change their hearts, and all our efforts will be in vain without God.

If we want to see God bless our church and see multiplication of disciples and the lost saved, we have to follow God's way of ministry. God has made it very simple for us what to do, and too many churches have made it too complicated or not doing what God has commanded them. We just have to do what Jesus said, and that is the best way to see God's blessing. Let's take some time on each of these four fields to see what God wants us to do.

For the first empty field, we need an entry plan to reach the lost. Jesus Christ had an entry plan to reach the lost, and we will follow Christ's example.

1. Jesus went to those who were in physically and spiritually need. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, showed compassion to the worst sinners. We have to also minister to the hungry, to the poor, to the sick, to those who are grieving, because those people are looking for hope. This is why the Potters Place Ministry is an effective ministry.
2. Jesus also went to the synagogue to share the gospel with the religious people and those who are interested in spiritual things. This is what the early Apostles did as well. They will go to a village, and one of the first places they went was the synagogues who had knowledge of God and believed in the Scriptures.

We should also have a plan to look for people who are interested in spiritual things. I was told by a Missionary who has done extensive research, that large number of people that are getting saved today are those who went to Sunday School when they were younger or had some connection with a church when they were younger.

These people are often open to what the Bible says and prepared by God to be saved.

3. Jesus went and spent time with those who have soft hearts to be saved. Jesus will visit a village to preach the gospel, but if people were not interested, it says in,

Matthew 13:58 ⁵⁸ And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Jesus moved to the next village to find people who are open to the gospel. We should look for those who have soft hearts and ready to be saved.

Our entry plan is to find and minister to these three groups of people, the physically needy, to those who are interested in spiritual things, and those who have soft hearts that are prepared by God.

These people may be few, but we will be able to find them in the large crowds of people around the sky train station. Our new location has so much potential.

For the second field, we have a simple plan to share the gospel that all believers of all ages will be able to do any time and any place. It is to share our salvation testimony.

In John 4, we find the woman at the well who has no theological training. After a short time of meeting Jesus, she goes back to her town and gives her testimony. As an result,

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony,

She didn't have any training, but she immediately went to give her testimony. We can also share with others what God has done in our life through Christ. This is one of the most powerful and effective way to give the gospel. We will take a look at this more in our discipleship program after lunch.

For the third growing field. We have two groups of people as our target. Unbelievers and believers.

If we find unbelievers that are interested in spiritual things, we will do a Bible study so they will learn more about Christ so they can eventually accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I believe the Gospel of John is an excellent place to go to because it gives specific evidence to prove that Jesus is God.

For believers, we will disciple them to be disciple makers. God has told all of us in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples. This is why we are going through the discipleship program called Training 4 Trainers in our church.

For the fourth harvest field, we want our church to be a community where people can be a part of and help one another and encourage one another. As the body of Christ, we want unity in the church. We want to be a true family in Christ. All of us have been wonderful gifts from God, and we want to provide different areas where people can flourish using their gifts for the Lord.

When a church has a plan for each one of these four fields, we will see a repetition of this cycle and multiplication of disciples. God is going to bless the church if we would simply follow God's way of ministry.

If a church has no action plan for even one of these fields, the cycle will stop, and there will be no growth.

Many churches have become comfortable with where they are at, and the most common area they fail in is the second and third field. Believers are not faithfully planting the gospel seed and discipleship is not happening in many churches.

Our church is going to be different about these two fields of ministry. For the second field, we have a gospel plan.

When we go and share the gospel, we usually meet three types of unbelievers. The unbelievers are like a traffic light. Jesus also spoke of them in Mark 4:3-8 and said they are like different soils. First, there are the **red lights**. You try to give them the gospel, and they say immediately no. They are not interested in the gospel and they are like the hard soil. When you meet these red lights, you move on to find someone else to share the gospel with.

The second people are the **yellow lights**. They are interested in spiritual things, and they have questions, and they don't mind listening to you about the Bible and Jesus. These are like the thorny soil and the rocky soil that Jesus spoke about.

The third people are the **green lights**. They are the good soil, and their heart is tender, and they are convicted that they are sinners, and they are ready to believe and put faith in Jesus Christ and bear fruit.

We are looking for the yellow and green lights, but are we able to distinguish them from the red lights? From outside appearances, we are not able to tell who is green, yellow, or red. Then what do we have to do? We have to share the gospel with all of them. We are not able to tell what light they are until we share the gospel. This is why Jesus said the

kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters the seed to the whole field and all four soils. It is our responsibility to share the Gospel with everyone.

If they are a red light, we don't repeatedly bang their head with the Bible.

Illustration: I think the mistake Christians often make is that we often focus too much of our time on the red lights.

I want you to imagine that your loved one is sick and needs the attention of a medical doctor immediately. You hear that there is a medical doctor at a coffee shop near you. You immediately go to the coffee shop to look for the medical doctor. What would you do? You will go to each person and ask if he or she is a medical doctor and you won't stop until you find the right person.

What if I decided to sit next to a person who is sitting at the table and started a one hour conversation to build a relationship, or decided to build a relationship with the person for one whole year while my loved one is dying? After few months I finally asked him, "By the way, are you a medical doctor?" After he says, "No, I am not a medical doctor," what if I said, "I think you are wrong. Why don't I buy you some coffee and buy you some food so you will change your mind." I will also invite you over to my house and make some food for you, and you might become a medical doctor.

I know this sounds ridiculous, but this is what we Christians are often doing with unbelievers who are red lights and not ready to receive the gospel. We cannot save them and change their hearts. God is the only one who can save someone, so we have to go to the next person and not stop until we find the person God has prepared to be saved.

This doesn't mean we completely give up on the red lights. God can change even those red lights and turn them to yellow, and God can change them to green. We have to pray that God will soften their hearts. Paul said in,

1 Corinthians 3:6 ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

The unbelievers are at different spiritual stages. You may be like Paul who gives the gospel to someone for the first time and they reject. But, God will bring another believer in the future to water the seed and bear fruit and another person will come to harvest it.

We now know what to do when we meet a red light person. What should we do when we meet someone who is a yellow light and open to Christianity?

Here is what you can do now for the third field for the growth plan.

What you can do is offer to do a Bible study through the gospel of John to learn about Jesus Christ. Actually, don't tell them you want to do a Bible study because that sounds too formal and they can be intimidated.

You can call it an open discussion on the Bible about who is Jesus Christ. The goal is to find out more about who is Jesus Christ and talk about how does that information relate to me?

The best textbook to use is the Bible because the Word of God is authoritative, and the Holy Spirit will use the Word to convict sinners.

Romans 10:17 ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

After you start the Bible study, the Holy Spirit will convict them of their sin through the Bible, and they will learn more about the person of Jesus.

A Green light person might be saved by a 5 minute gospel presentation, but green light people are few. There are many yell light people, and if we want to see them saved, a 5 minute gospel presentation is not enough.

The benefit of a Bible discussion is the unbeliever will spend time with you and see that you live out what you believe. Jesus said, "By this, they will know that you are my disciple, by your love for one another."

There is an evangelist named Jim Peterson who did what I have told you today for over 25 years. He has written a book called "Living Proof" about the results from this ministry.

Jim Peterson would find people who are yellow lights. Then he will do Bible discussions through the Gospel of John. Sometimes one on one, sometimes in small groups or large groups. He said he always had more unbelievers than believers so the unbelievers don't feel like they are ganged up on. The reason for having other believers is so that the believers could show them the love of Jesus and live out the truth. His goal was to bring the unbelievers closer to Jesus through each meeting.

Jim says the result was, most of the people turned to green lights and got saved. Jim says in his book that people didn't get saved only a handful of times. This is also what we want to do at our church.

Conclusion: We will be moving to the new location on May 22nd, and our grand opening is going to be on June 29. We would like to start a large flyer distribution from May 22nd and continue it until June 29 for about one month to find the yellow and green light people. We will ask these yellow and green light people to come to our grand opening on June 29, and we would like to offer a Bible discussion group that they can attend and learn about who Jesus is. We will show them the love of Jesus and live out the truth.

After they are saved, we would disciple them to become disciple makers so the cycle will continue and disciples will be multiplied.

This is one of the most exciting times for our church. Please prayerfully consider helping distribute flyers together with us for about one month to find the yellow and green lights that God desires to be saved.

Matthew 9:37-38 ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."