

Threshold 1: Initial Trust

What to look out for:

- Positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, something or someone (which might be you!) identifiably Christian

How can you help:

- Embody the virtues
 - Although difficult, virtues of faith, hope and love are very powerful compared to reasoning for changing lives
 - Showing love, kindness to the person
 - Building bridges of trust

Threshold 2: Spiritual Curiosity

What to look out for:

- 3 stages of curiosity:
 - Awareness - realising that there are more possibilities in life, like having a relationship with God
 - Engagement - taking steps on their own to pursue their curiosity by making friends with a Christian, reading about Jesus, etc.
 - Exchange - moving from merely listening and semi-covert examination of Christians and their faith to actively asking questions and exchanging ideas

How can you help:

- One powerful way to rouse curiosity is to share your testimony
- Share aspects of the faith based on the questions they may have

Threshold 3: Spiritual Openness

What to look out for:

- Open to the possibility of personal and spiritual change

How can you help:

- Practice nonjudgemental truthfulness - talk about your own struggles of faith, how you look to God to enable you to change
- Ask thought provoking questions - what do you do when life gets hard, where is God in all this for you, etc
- Help them connect the dots - remind them how God has been at work in their lives.
- Ask them if you can pray for them

Threshold 4: Spiritual Seeking

What to look out for:

- Ponders more about the nature of God
- Desiring a personal relationship with Jesus

How can you help:

- Help them focus on the person of Jesus
- Introduce them to other disciples so they can experience life in Christian community
- Show them what life is like for an authentic disciple of Jesus whose struggles are real and whose victories are therefore believable
- Share how the sacraments and life of the Church have nourished your relationship with Jesus

Threshold 5: Intentional Discipleship

What to look out for:

- Making the final decision whether or not to follow Jesus
 - Desiring to align their lives to what God wants of them
- Requires a deliberate act of the will to go deeper in their relationship with God
- Actively unlearning old habits that they recognise lead them away from God

How can you help:

- Encouragement is important, especially for those who are on the brink
- If someone says no, ask 'why not'
 - Try to address those blocks or help set them aside for now
 - Tremendous obstacles can suddenly appear, which is why sustained intercessory prayer is crucial

*Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you—oracle of the Lord.*
JEREMIAH 1:8