

# YOUTH STRATEGY

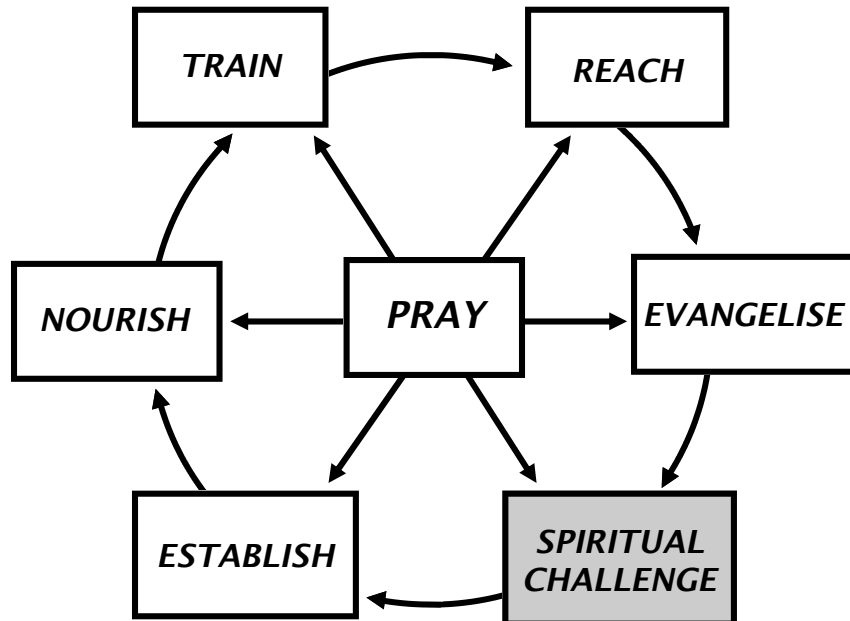
PRAY  
REACH  
EVANGELISE

## SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGE

ESTABLISH  
NOURISH  
TRAIN

*Deuteronomy 30:19 "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."*

It is important to invite people to respond once they have been presented with the gospel message. Our response to God's word is important. In a sense, we draw a line in the sand every time we challenge someone and we urge them to cross it.



# SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGE

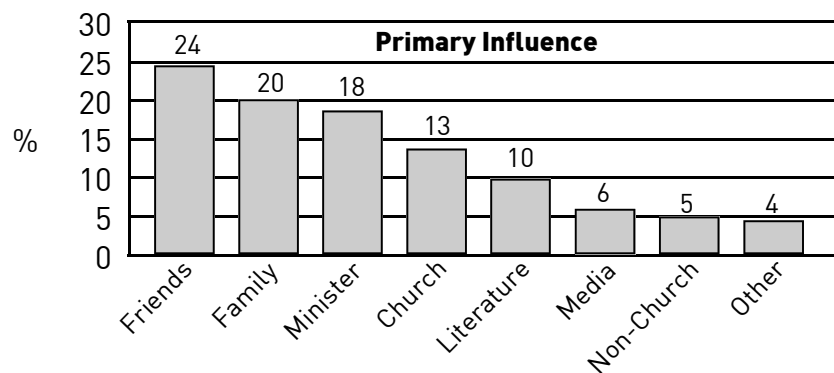


*"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."  
- Colossians 1:28*

# SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGE



A survey in New Zealand revealed that the primary influence for the majority of Christians in deciding to trust in Jesus was a relationship they had with someone who was already a Christian.



Survey your group to see what the Primary Influence was for them in deciding to trust in Jesus. Although your group will be too small to accurately assess percentages, the chances are that the majority were influenced by a person they knew who was already a Christian.

Survey your group again to see how many of them responded to a direct invitation to trust in Jesus?

## The Importance Of Challenge

Newton's First law of motion states that "A body remains in its state of rest or of uniform motion unless acted upon by an external unbalanced force." In other words nothing will change unless an external force is applied.

In the light of what we've studied so far, we could come up with a similar law for the spiritual state of a person. Namely, "A person remains in their state of rebellion or opposition to God unless challenged by the gospel".

## Check It Out!

The gospel message itself is powerful to save people. As it is heard, the Holy Spirit works through the message to convict the hearer of their guilt (John 16:7-11) and consequent need for salvation. This is seen clearly at the end of Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:37.

1. What does Peter then challenge the people to do in response to the message they have heard?
2. What does Jesus call on people to do in Mark 1:14-15?

Calling on people to "repent and believe" is an important part of evangelism. It's what we call the Spiritual Challenge.

It's not just a New Testament practice either. You can see it at the end of Moses' speech in Deuteronomy 30:19 and again at the end of Joshua's speech in Joshua 24:15.

3. Why do you think we find it hard to challenge people?

Telling somebody the good news about Jesus requires a strong trust in the power of the gospel to save and the presence of Jesus' Spirit with us to help. However, calling on a person to turn to Christ requires compassion (for the eternal state of the person), conviction (that without Jesus they are lost) and courage (to put our relationship at risk).

4. What do you notice about how Paul challenged King Agrippa in Acts 26:24-29?
5. How should we go about calling on people to repent according to 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and 1 Peter 3:15-16?

Although spiritual challenges are important when evangelising others. We should also continue to challenge one another as we journey towards maturity in Christ together (Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 4:2).

*Pray together for compassion, conviction and courage to spiritually challenge your friends as well as each other.*

