



# 5 THRESHOLDS ACTIVE RESPONSE

## START WITH VISION

Who do you see? Who are the people in your life? Where do you hope to see God at work? Read Acts 17. Ask God to help you see where he is already at work. Make a network map\* of people in your life (in your lab, dorm/apartment, internship). Pray over your list. Are there one or two people who God seems to be highlighting to you? Begin to pray with someone for those people. Invite God to help you see how he is already at work in their lives. Ask God to increase your desire to see them come to faith in Jesus. What about the Gospel might be really good news to them?

## THRESHOLDS

Based upon evidence observed about how a postmodern person moves towards faith in Jesus, there seem to be common thresholds. These are like chasms that need to be crossed and which build upon each other as postmoderns have journeyed toward faith. Understanding these thresholds helps us navigate the best next steps as we prayerfully try to help our friends move one step closer to finding Jesus. This chart has a series of questions, all related to the 5 Thresholds. We believe God is at work on our campuses, but we need his help to see that! We need God to be working in us, preparing us to reach out to folks in our labs, cohorts, living spaces, etc. Below are questions for you to consider; potential conversation starters and practical responses/applications for each threshold. Conversation starters are designed to build on each other as you go deeper in relationship and as your friends become more curious about Jesus.

THRESHOLD	WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...	WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?	WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?	CONVERSATION STARTERS	APPLICATION RESPONSE
 <b>TRUST</b>	<p><i>They need to know that I genuinely care about them. They are not my "project".</i></p> <p>Am I trustworthy?            What does it look like when someone begins to trust?            What are markers of trust?</p>	<p>What does it mean for me to be trustworthy? Do I show interest in their story? Do I listen well? <i>Do I make time for them?</i> How do I create space for them?</p> <p>How can you tell when people don't trust you? How do you feel when people make snap judgments about you?</p>	<p>What does it mean to love your neighbor in this context? What might it cost you in terms of time and freedom in order to become a learner about this friend? What will you sacrifice in order to build trust (time, resources, information)?</p> <p>Do your work out in a more public space. <i>Attend social events with your department.</i></p>	<p><b>Learn about them:</b>  <i>What do you like to do outside of lab? What holidays do you celebrate in your country?</i></p> <p>Share with someone in your small group a name and date by which you want to have this conversation.</p> <p><i>Tell me about your research? Why are you passionate about it? Why did you choose this field/project?</i></p>	<p><i>Pray and identify one person with whom God wants you to build trust with this week.</i></p> <p>How can you build this relationship? Is there something in your field that you could learn from this person? As you're listening and learning, share your appreciation with this person.</p> <p>What is one event in your department that you could attend, just to be with your colleagues and get to know them better?</p>
 <b>CURIOSITY</b>	<p><i>My friend needs to see real Christianity in my life—a Christianity that challenges their stereotypes.</i></p> <p>Who is the real Jesus, and how does he make a difference in my life/their lives?</p>	<p>How can I make sure that I am experiencing life with God on a daily basis? <i>Do I invite Jesus into my day? Jesus, help me to see you in my life, in my friends, and in my work.</i></p> <p>How can I grow in curiosity about the world and people around me?</p>	<p>What stories can you share about how you are experiencing God? How might you live provocatively so that your friend becomes curious about your faith? What is a good question to ask your friend?</p> <p><i>How can you serve or show generosity in a practical way?</i></p>	<p><b>Is there a prayer need of yours that you could share so that they can see how God answers?</b></p> <p>Ask this friend:  <i>What are your presumptions about Christians? What do you think of Christians? Have you ever experienced God in a personal way?</i></p>	<p>Pray and ask God for a practical step this week that would bless and surprise them.</p> <p><i>Name one person you could ask, "How can I pray for you?"</i></p> <p>Plan a crossover event as a fellowship and invite friends from your department: e.g., "Passion Talks" or Believers in Business.</p>

THRESHOLD	WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...	WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?	WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?	CONVERSATION STARTERS	APPLICATION RESPONSE
 <p>OPEN</p>	<p>They may need courage to face the places in their lives where they need change. They may need to realize that their worldview needs to change. Maybe the Holy Spirit is showing them that the worldview they have is shifting as they think about Jesus.</p> <p>They need to become open to the idea that perhaps the “real” Jesus is different than they thought.</p>	<p>Patience, prayers, and faithfulness: <i>Stay faithful in loving and serving your friend and helping to cultivate “good soil” in your friendship.</i></p> <p>Be open to change in your personal life. Tell stories to your friends of ways God is changing you. Invite your friend to join you in serving the poor and underprivileged.</p>	<p>Watch for complacency. <i>Pray and lovingly challenge them.</i> Think about the rich young ruler story (Mark 10:17-27). You might need to help them reframe their story and help them see God’s activity in their life. Acknowledge where you see God’s work in their life.</p> <p>Tell a personal story of when you became open to God changing something in your life. What were internal barriers you had to overcome?</p>	<p>Consider asking: <i>What do you think about Jesus? Have you ever had a God experience? Would you tell me about it?</i></p> <p><i>If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be? What keeps you from change in your life?</i></p> <p><i>Share a story of something practical you changed in your life as a result of knowing Jesus.</i></p>	<p><i>Offer to read scripture together (GIG). Help them to imagine themselves in the text.</i> What would you say to Jesus if you were there?</p> <p>Invite: <i>Hey you seem curious about Jesus, would you like to read a book together to explore this? (Tim Keller’s Reason for God).</i></p> <p>Invite them to serve with you in some way.</p>
 <p>SEEKING</p>	<p><i>Seekers want to spend time with Christians. They are curious and want to have their questions answered.</i> They need help clarifying their quest, and prioritizing what are their most pressing questions. What is their most honest question for Jesus?</p>	<p>Invite, invite, invite! Welcome, welcome, welcome!</p> <p>Be in prayer that you will be continually filled with the Spirit and available to share from that place.</p> <p><i>Be aware of our “Christianese” and lingo that may be confusing. Translate for them.</i></p>	<p>Live out the kingdom of God in front of them.</p> <p><i>Invite them to join your small group to see Christianity lived out in community.</i></p> <p>Model seeking—help them to see how you seek to follow Jesus.</p> <p>Encourage them to commit to seeking after God and getting their questions answered.</p>	<p>Ask: <i>If you could ask Jesus one important question, what would it be?</i></p> <p><i>How is your view of Jesus changing?</i></p> <p><i>Are you interested in taking an adult look at Jesus?</i></p>	<p><i>Invite them to study scripture with you.</i> Notice how people respond to Jesus. (Peter, when Jesus gets in his boat; Nicodemus, Zacchaeus)</p> <p>Ask: <i>How would you respond to Jesus if you were in the story?</i></p> <p>Share a story about how you respond to Jesus.</p>
 <p>FOLLOWER</p>	<p>They need to understand 1) that they need to make a choice about following Jesus, and 2) how to make that choice.</p> <p>They need to see that the Lord Jesus is worthy of their allegiance, and Jesus is inviting them to respond.</p>	<p>Pray for them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to speak.</p> <p><i>Be willing to be the one who offers them a call to faith.</i></p>	<p><i>Practice, with a Christian, inviting someone to put their faith in Jesus.</i> Get comfortable with this part of the process. Share The Big Story or a similar Gospel presentation and invite them to choose Jesus. (Think about making a call to faith in your small group/ large group.)</p> <p>Study passages that talk about lostness and salvation: the pearl, the treasure, the two sons, etc.</p>	<p>Ask: <i>Hey, you seem pretty interested in Jesus, can we meet for coffee some time? I would love to tell you about how I started my journey as a Christian and see if I can answer any questions you might have.</i></p> <p><i>Is there anything standing in the way of you becoming a Christian today?</i></p> <p><i>Would you like to make a decision to follow Jesus now?</i></p>	<p><i>Be appropriately urgent about the decision in front of them.</i></p> <p>Ask: <i>What’s keeping you from making a decision?</i></p> <p>Help them sort through their road blocks.</p> <p>Explain that you found it helpful to make a decision about following Jesus.</p> <p>Invite them: <i>Would you like to make a decision about following Jesus?</i></p>

\*This can also be done as a small group activity. In twos and threes list everyone in the small group, and then list everyone they know on campus (a prayer map). Do a moment of listening prayer, led by the small group leader. Ask God for the eyes of the Spirit to see the way Paul saw in Athens. Consider a prayer walk in your building or on campus. Is there anyone who comes to mind who seems spiritually open and/or hungry? Who are the neighbors God might be calling you to love on campus? Is there anyone in your department or dorm? How can you lean into this relationship this week?



## TRUST

### WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

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They need to know that I genuinely care about them. They are not my "project".

Am I trustworthy?

What does it look like when someone begins to trust?  
What are markers of trust?

### WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

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What does it mean for me to be trustworthy? Do I show interest in their story? Do I listen well? [Do I make time for them?](#) How do I create space for them?

How can you tell when people don't trust you?  
How do you feel when people make snap judgments about you?

### WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

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What does it mean to love your neighbor in this context? What might it cost you in terms of time and freedom in order to become a learner about this friend? What will you sacrifice in order to build trust (time, resources, information)?

Do your work out in a more public space. [Attend social events with your department.](#)

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

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[Learn about them:](#)  
*What do you like to do outside of lab? What holidays do you celebrate in your country?*

Share with someone in your small group a name and date by which you want to have this conversation.

*Tell me about your research? Why are you passionate about it? Why did you choose this field/project?*

### APPLICATION RESPONSE

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[Pray and identify one person with whom God wants you to build trust with this week.](#)

How can you build this relationship? Is there something in your field that you could learn from this person? As you're listening and learning, share your appreciation with this person.

What is one event in your department that you could attend, just to be with your colleagues and get to know them better?



## CURIOSITY

### WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

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*My friend needs to see real Christianity in my life—a Christianity that challenges their stereotypes.*

Who is the real Jesus, and how does he make a difference in my life/their lives?

### WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

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How can I make sure that I am experiencing life with God on a daily basis? *Do I invite Jesus into my day? Jesus, help me to see you in my life, in my friends, and in my work.*

How can I grow in curiosity about the world and people around me?

### WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

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What stories can you share about how you are experiencing God? How might you live provocatively so that your friend becomes curious about your faith? What is a good question to ask your friend?

*How can you serve or show generosity in a practical way?*

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

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*Is there a prayer need of yours that you could share so that they can see how God answers?*

Ask this friend: *What are your presumptions about Christians? What do you think of Christians? Have you ever experienced God in a personal way?*

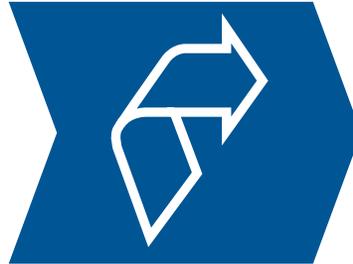
### APPLICATION RESPONSE

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Pray and ask God for a practical step this week that would bless and surprise them.

*Name one person you could ask, "How can I pray for you?"*

Plan a crossover event as a fellowship and invite friends from your department: e.g., "Passion Talks" or Believers in Business.



## OPEN

### WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

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They may need courage to face the places in their lives where they need change.

They may need to realize that their worldview needs to change. Maybe the Holy Spirit is showing them that the worldview they have is shifting as they think about Jesus.

They need to become open to the idea that perhaps the “real” Jesus is different than they thought.

### WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

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Patience, prayers, and faithfulness: *Stay faithful in loving and serving your friend and helping to cultivate “good soil” in your friendship.*

Be open to change in your personal life. Tell stories to your friends of ways God is changing you. Invite your friend to join you in serving the poor and underprivileged.

### WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

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Watch for complacency. *Pray and lovingly challenge them.*

Think about the rich young ruler story (Mark 10:17-27). You might need to help them reframe their story and help them see God’s activity in their life. Acknowledge where you see God’s work in their life.

Tell a personal story of when you became open to God changing something in your life. What were internal barriers you had to overcome?

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

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Consider asking:  
*What do you think about Jesus? Have you ever had a God experience? Would you tell me about it?*

*If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be? What keeps you from change in your life?*

*Share a story of something practical you changed in your life as a result of knowing Jesus.*

### APPLICATION RESPONSE

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*Offer to read scripture together (GIG). Help them to imagine themselves in the text. What would you say to Jesus if you were there?*

Invite:  
*Hey you seem curious about Jesus, would you like to read a book together to explore this? (Tim Keller’s Reason for God).*

Invite them to serve with you in some way.



## SEEKING

### WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

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Seekers want to spend time with Christians. They are curious and want to have their questions answered. They need help clarifying their quest, and prioritizing what are their most pressing questions. What is their most honest question for Jesus?

### WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

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Invite, invite, invite!  
Welcome, welcome, welcome!  
Be in prayer that you will be continually filled with the Spirit and available to share from that place.  
*Be aware of our "Christianese" and lingo that may be confusing. Translate for them.*

### WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

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Live out the kingdom of God in front of them.  
*Invite them to join your small group to see Christianity lived out in community.*  
Model seeking—help them to see how you seek to follow Jesus.  
Encourage them to commit to seeking after God and getting their questions answered.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

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Ask:  
*If you could ask Jesus one important question, what would it be?*  
*How is your view of Jesus changing?*  
*Are you interested in taking an adult look at Jesus?*

### APPLICATION RESPONSE

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*Invite them to study scripture with you.* Notice how people respond to Jesus. (Peter, when Jesus gets in his boat; Nicodemus, Zacchaeus)  
Ask:  
*How would you respond to Jesus if you were in the story?*  
Share a story about how you respond to Jesus.



## FOLLOWER

### WHAT MY FRIEND NEEDS...

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They need to understand  
1) that they need to make a choice about following Jesus, and  
2) how to make that choice.

They need to see that the Lord Jesus is worthy of their allegiance, and Jesus is inviting them to respond.

### WHAT CAN I DO (POSTURE)?

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Pray for them. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the right words to speak.

Be willing to be the one who offers them a call to faith.

### WHAT CAN I DO (ACTIONS)?

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Practice, with a Christian, inviting someone to put their faith in Jesus. Get comfortable with this part of the process. Share The Big Story or a similar Gospel presentation and invite them to choose Jesus. (Think about making a call to faith in your small group/large group.)

Study passages that talk about lostness and salvation: the pearl, the treasure, the two sons, etc.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

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Ask:  
*Hey, you seem pretty interested in Jesus, can we meet for coffee some time? I would love to tell you about how I started my journey as a Christian and see if I can answer any questions you might have.*

*Is there anything standing in the way of you becoming a Christian today?*

*Would you like to make a decision to follow Jesus now?*

### APPLICATION RESPONSE

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Be appropriately urgent about the decision in front of them.

Ask:  
*What's keeping you from making a decision?*

Help them sort through their road blocks.

Explain that you found it helpful to make a decision about following Jesus.

Invite them:  
*Would you like to make a decision about following Jesus?*