



Fresh Expressions as a Runway to Living out Discipleship: How Missional Initiatives Become Fresh Expressions



Where are you in the Fresh Expressions journey?



How would you rate your discipleship and FX openness culture in your setting on a scale of 0 (no desire for FX) to 10 (lots of desire for FX)?

Why?

Stages 1-3: A Heart Issue—Why do this?

- Pray
- Seek out shining eyes
- Share/celebrate stories of differences made
- Focused Bible studies on Acts and Jesus
- Design necessary Sermon series. Hearts need softened.



Stages 4-7: A Strategy Issue—How do we do this?

- Pray
- Seek out shining eyes
- Empower
- Give permission
- Talk about with leadership board/Sermon series/Bible studies/APEST survey. Action needs taken with shift from neutral to proactive/Disciple's Journey



Stages 8-10: A Momentum Issue—What we do

- Pray
- Share/celebrate stories of differences made
- Weave into discipleship formation--we replicate what we celebrate
- Innovators and Early adopters and early majority and late majority.
- Shift from tolerance to missional/incarnational is expected and fostered
- Disciple's Journey alignment



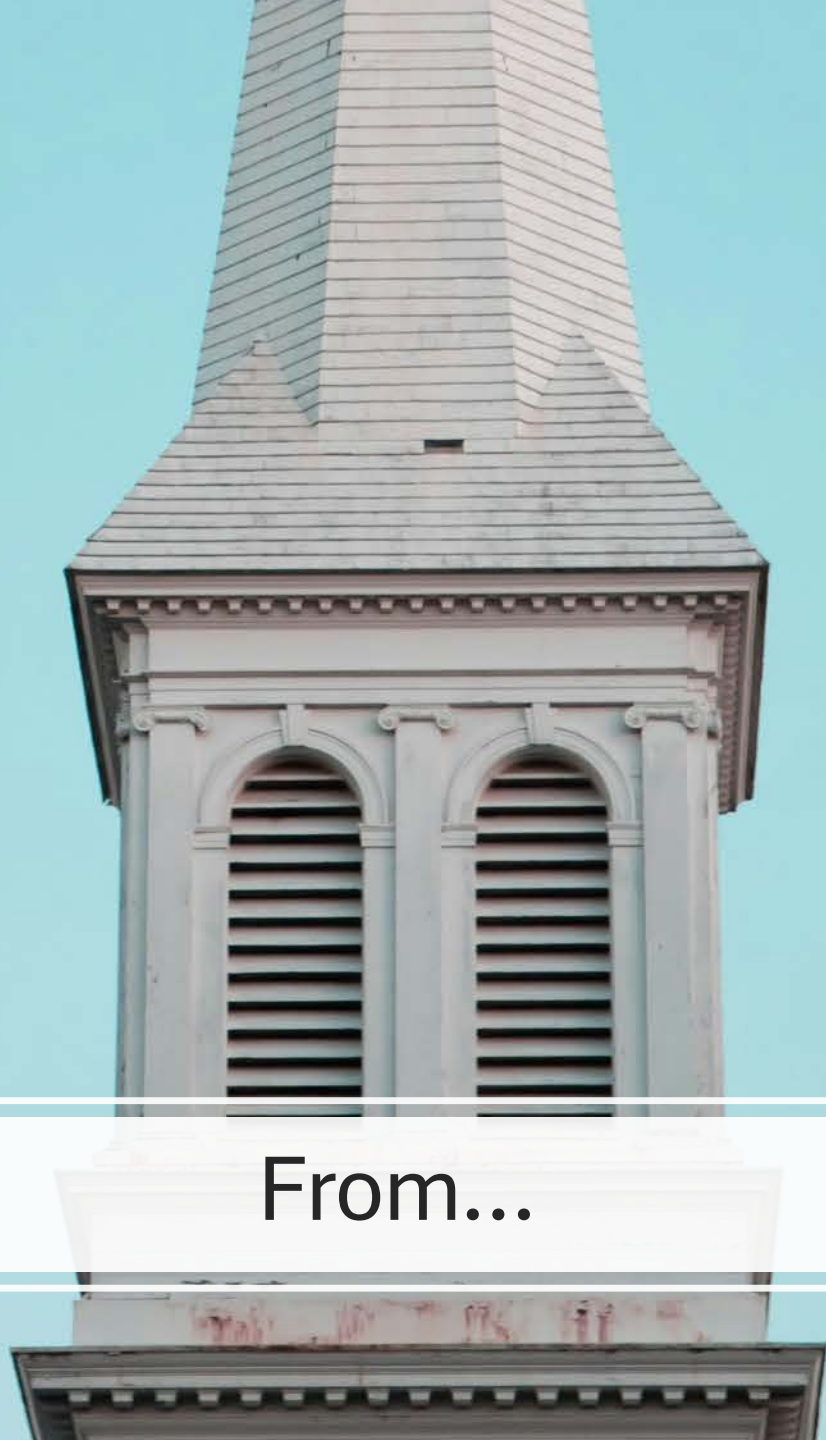
A Discipleship Heart Leads to FX Reality

Fresh Expression Leadership involves energizing a community of people **toward their own transformation** in order to experience a new reality.

Fresh Expressions is about taking
the church Jesus loves



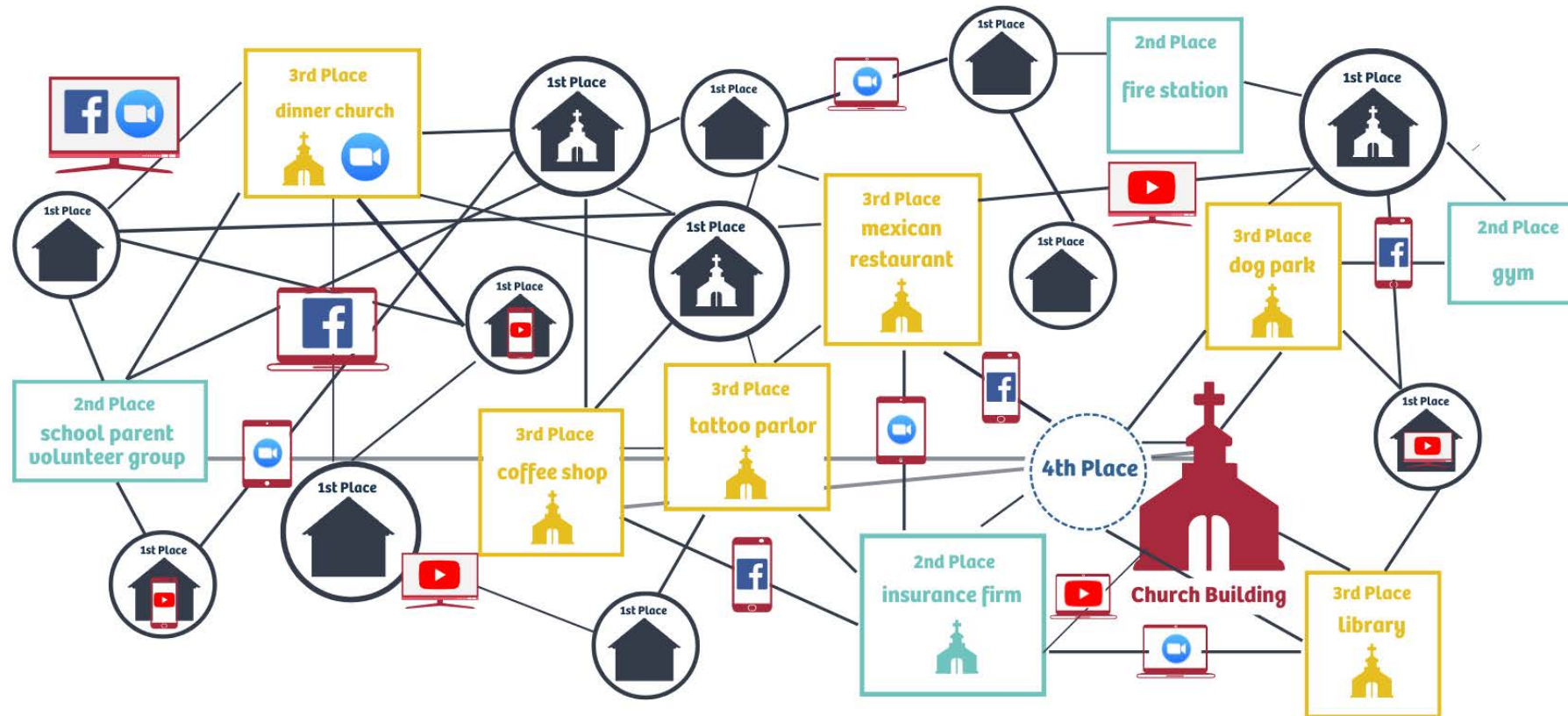
closer to
the people
Jesus
loves



From...

To...

■ The Blended Ecology Ecosystem



Expect Sabotage

“People do not resist change, they resist loss.”

Leadership experts: Marty Linksy,
Alexander Grashow, Ron Heifez

This = why discipleship is so important

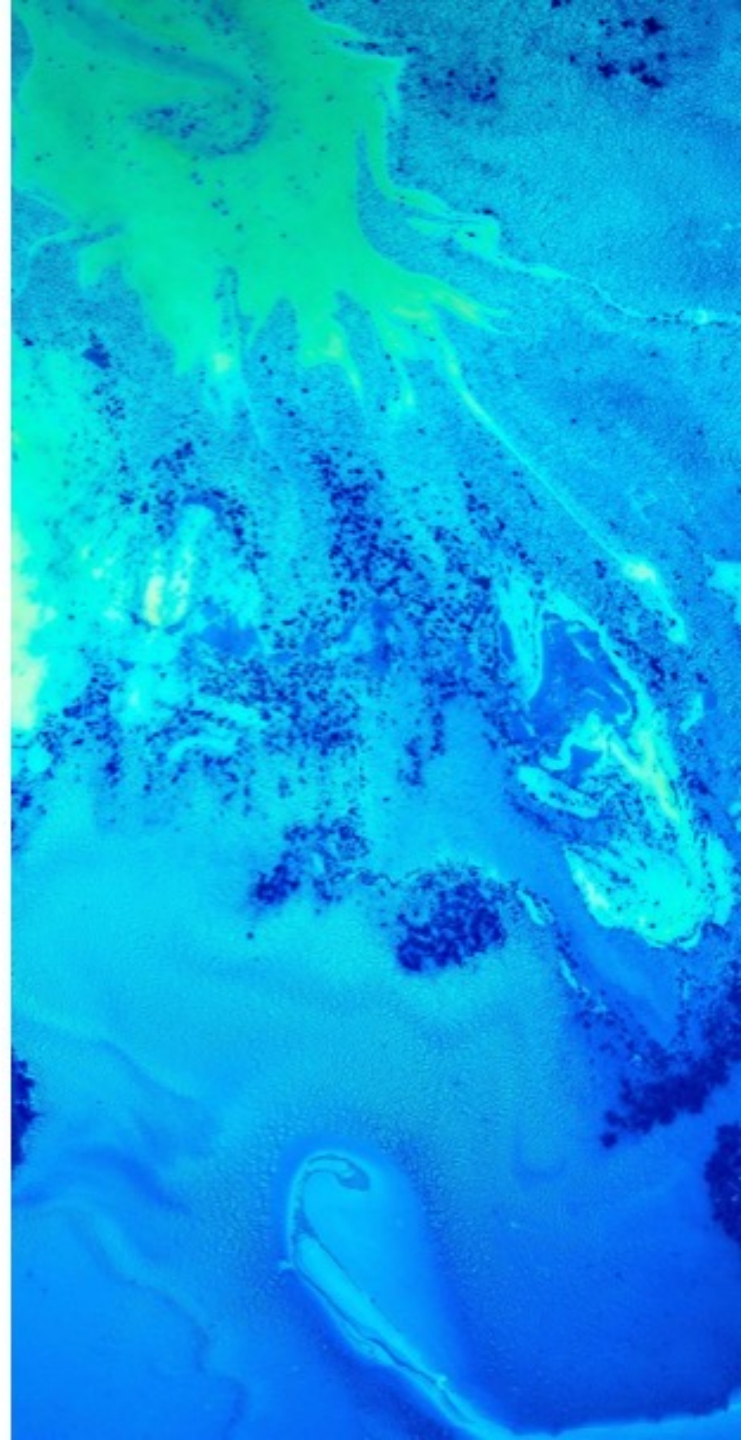


ARE WE REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?

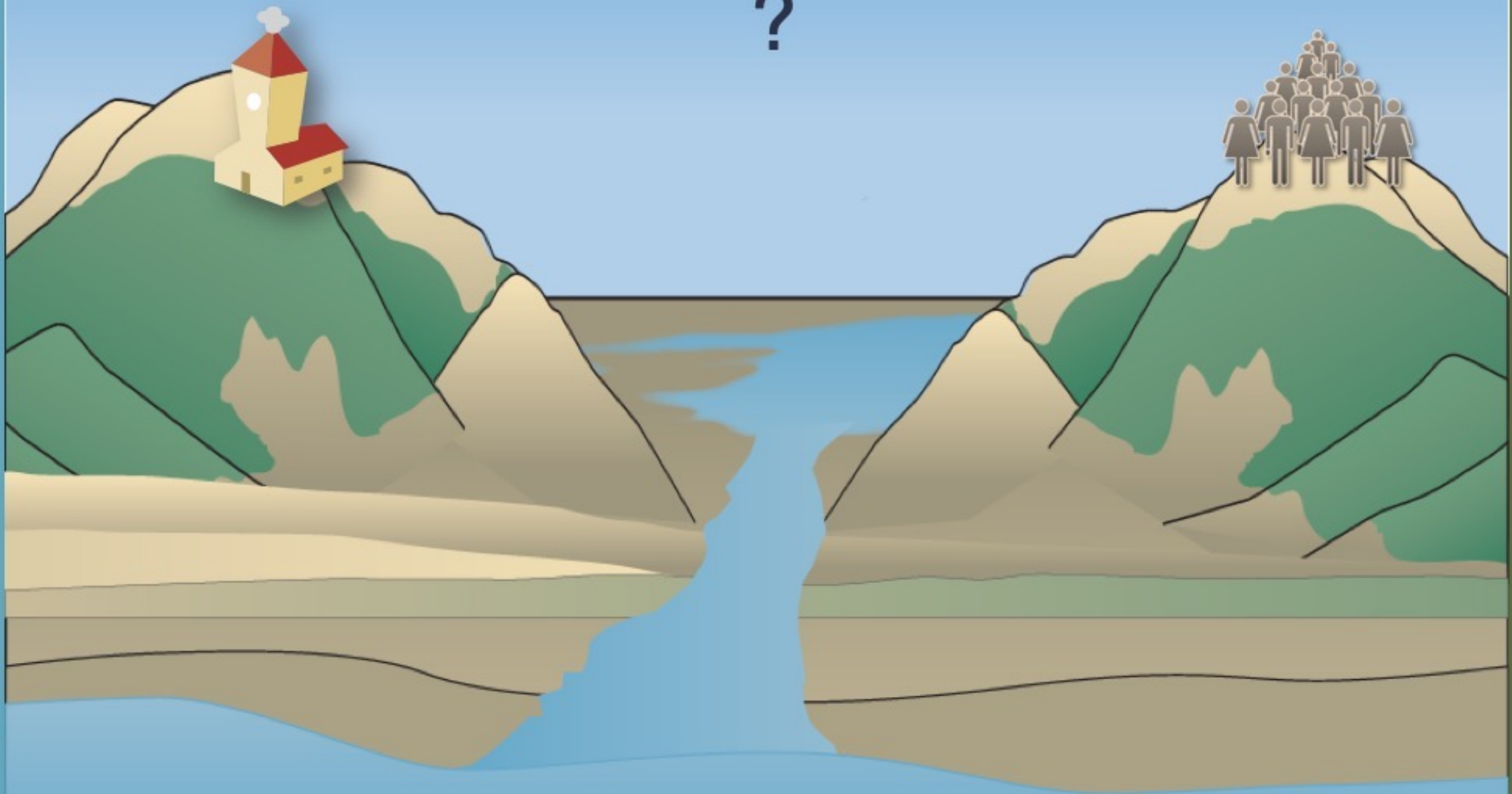
How many are? How many are not?

****Ask your leadership**

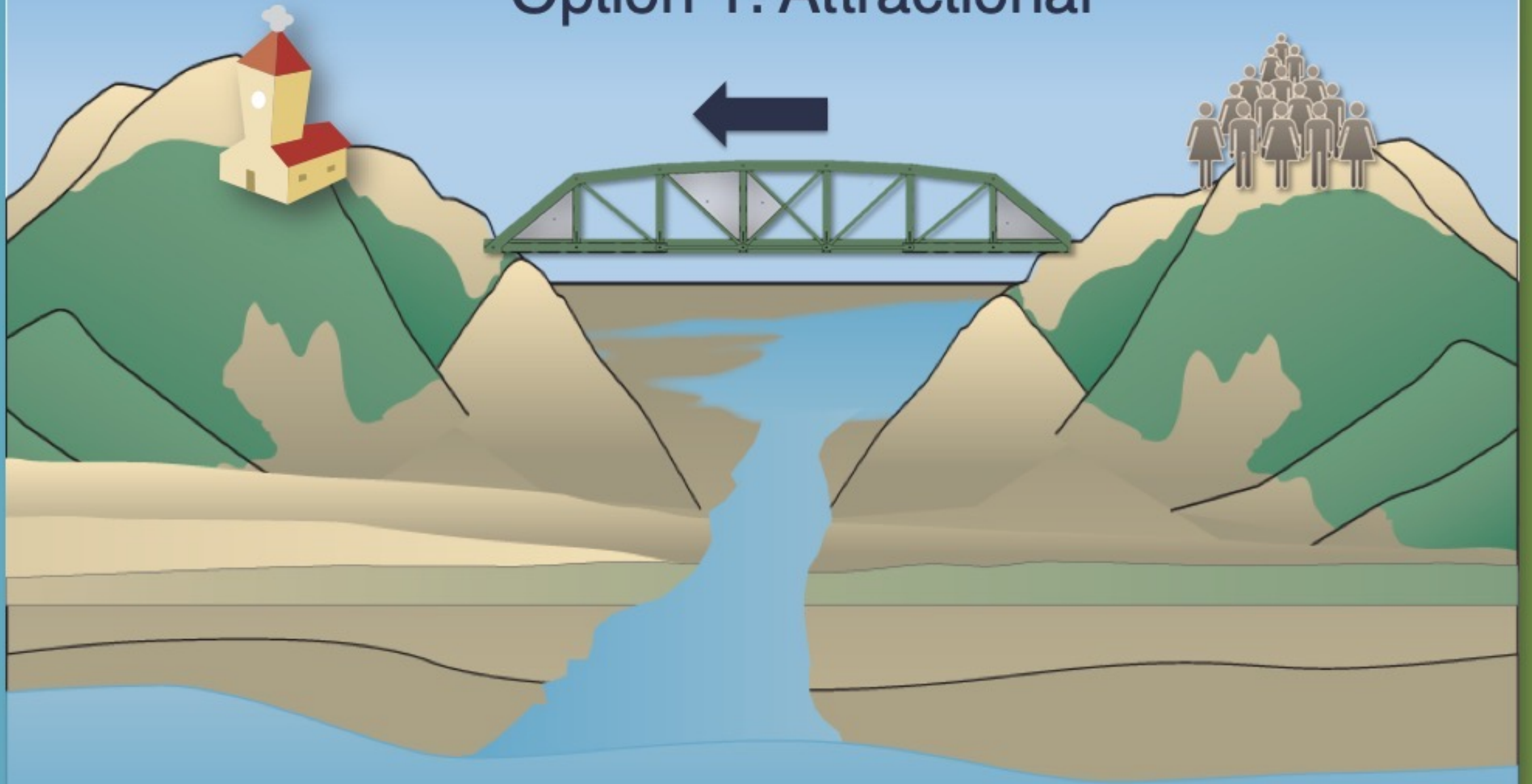
A FRESH EXPRESSION is a
form of church for our
changing culture
established primarily
for the benefit of
people who are NOT YET
members of any church



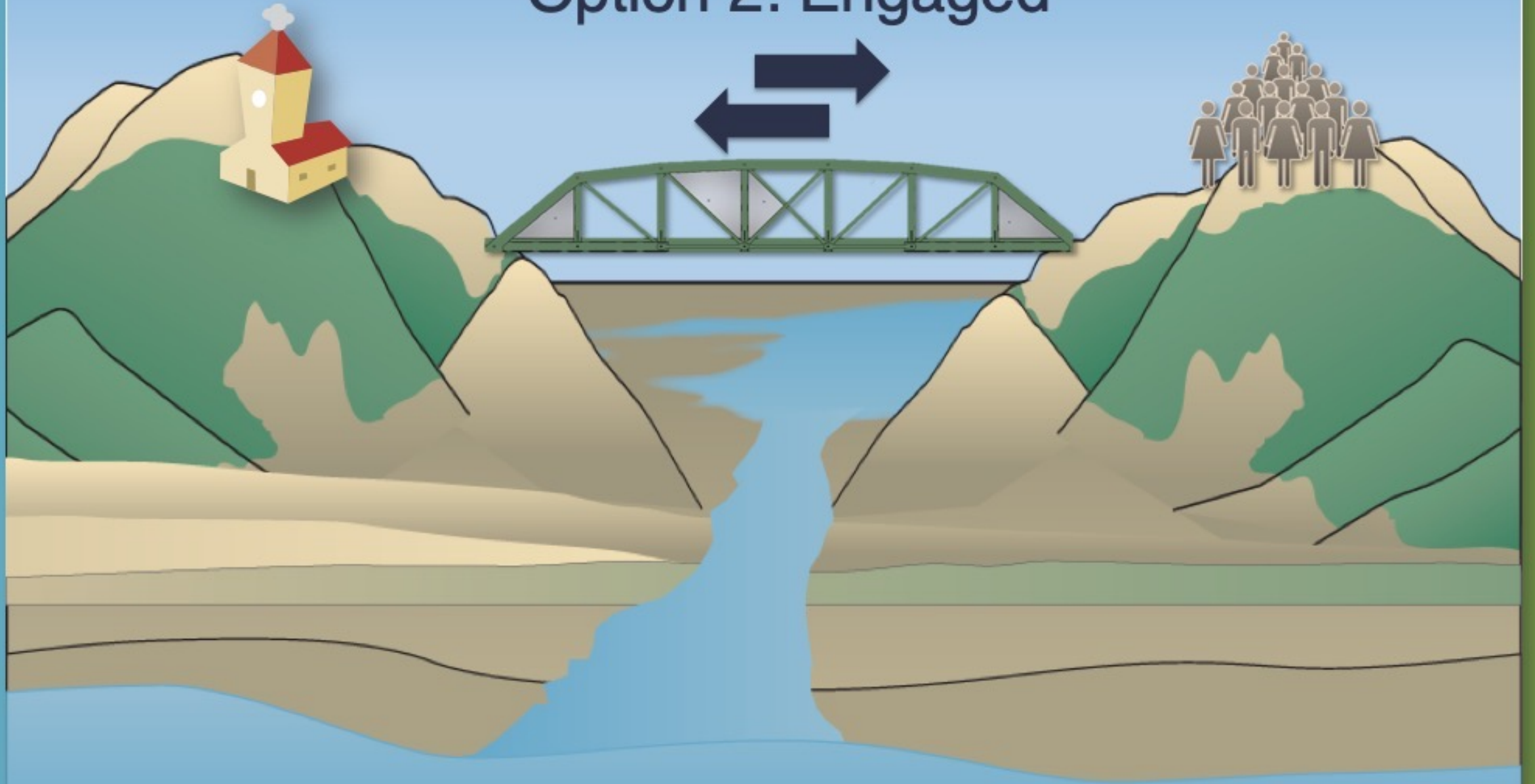
?



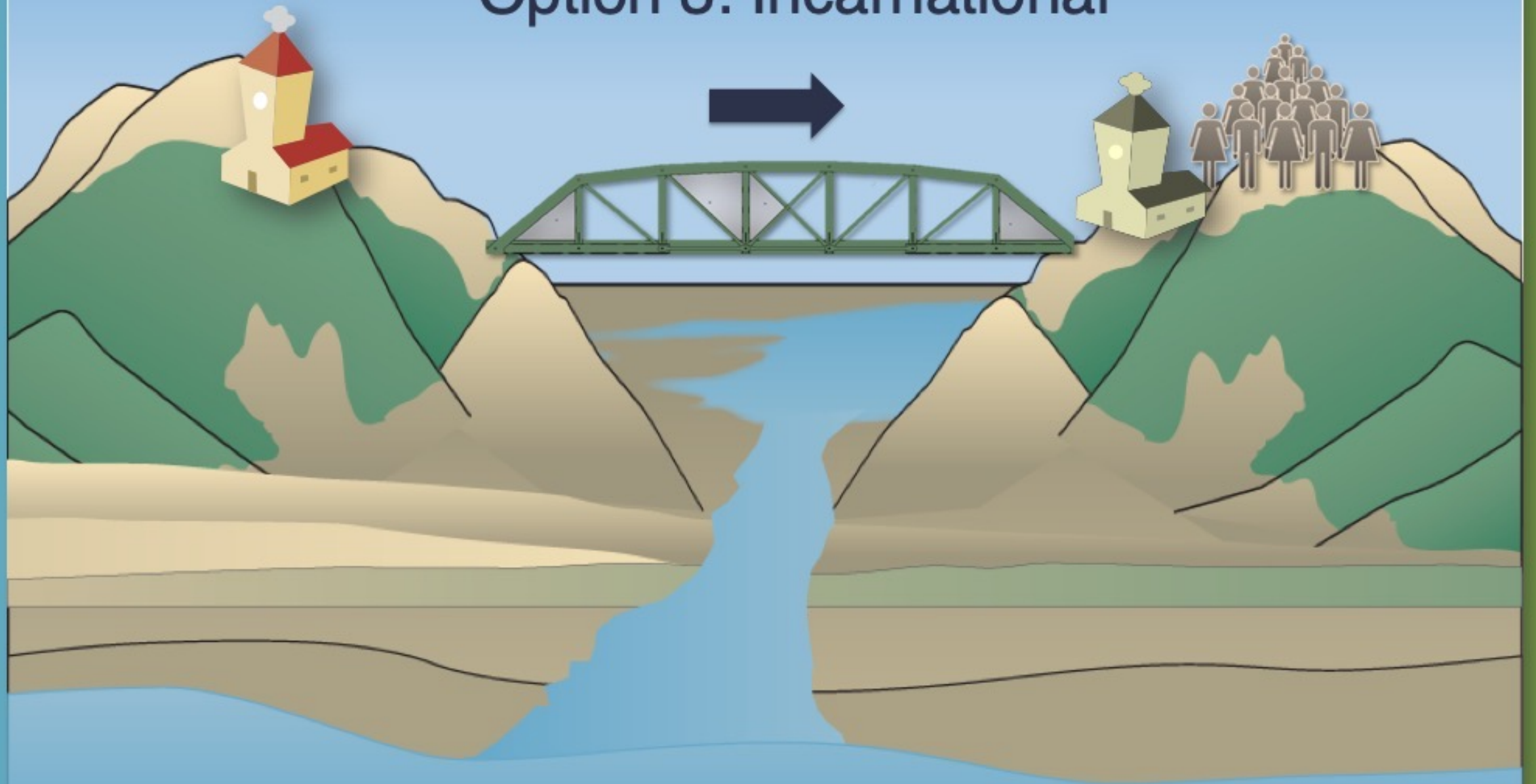
Option 1: Attractional



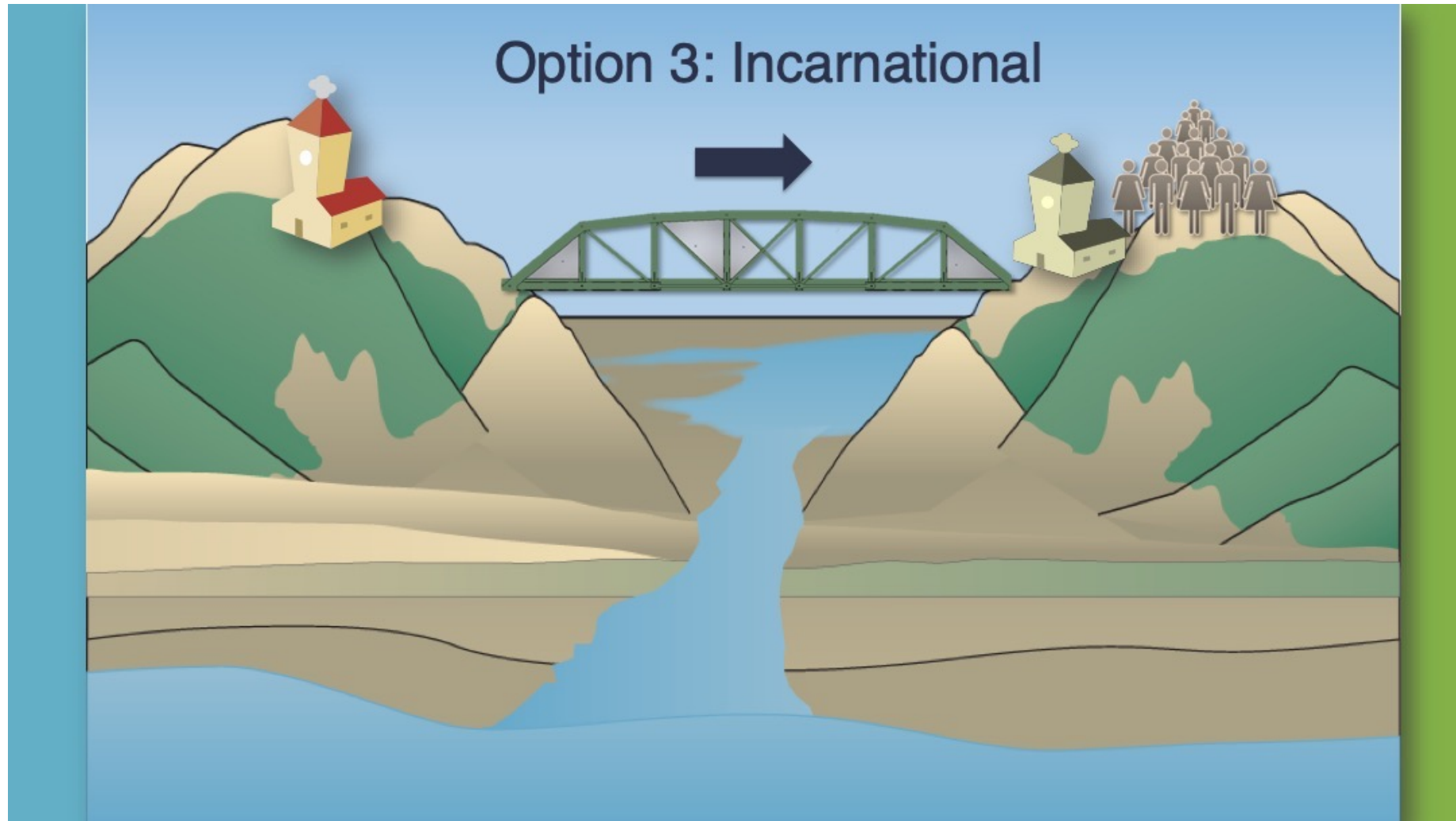
Option 2: Engaged



Option 3: Incarnational



How do we actually live into FX reality?



Pay Attention!

Some Pharisees and Sadducees were on him again, pressing him to prove himself to them. He told them, “You have a saying that goes, ‘Red sky at night, sailor’s delight; red sky at morning, sailors take warning.’ You find it easy enough to forecast the weather—why can’t you read the signs of the times?”

Matthew 16:1-3 (Message Version)





Jesus the master
semiotician

Consider:

John 3 and John 4

Parables

**Where did Jesus do
ministry?**



The Word became
flesh and blood,
and moved into the
neighborhood.

John 1:14 (Msg Version)



1

LISTENING



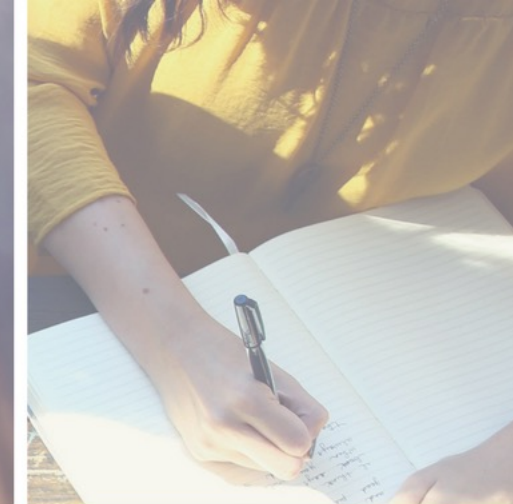
2

**LOVING &
SERVING**



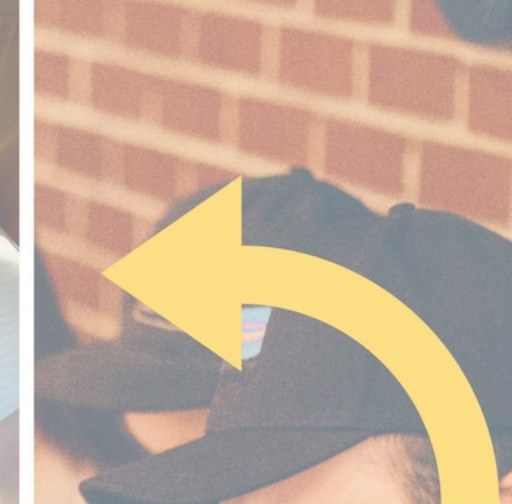
3

**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**



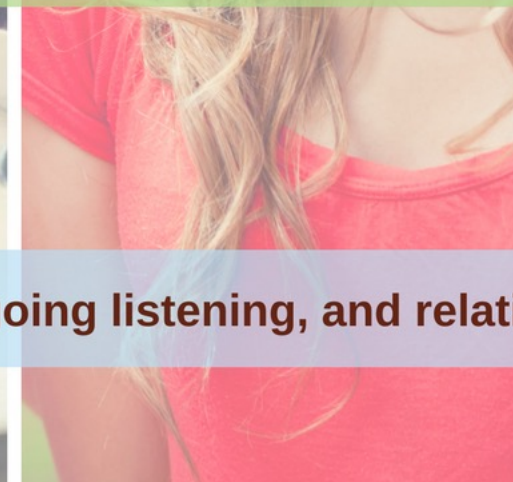
4

**EXPLORING
DISCIPLE-
SHIP**



5

**CHURCH
TAKING
SHAPE**



Underpinned by prayer, on-going listening, and relationship with the wider church

Listening

Who are you listening to?
Observing? Connecting with in
your community?





The Power of Listening

Listening is a lost art

Listening is needed perhaps more than ever

We were blessed with two ears--and only one mouth

Stop and listen now... what did you notice that you had not noticed before?

LISTENING

What people group have you identified to pay attention to?



Contextual

“Jesus became
flesh and blood

and moved into
the
neighborhood.”

~John 1:14
MSG

The Power of CI: Know Your Context

Know your own
missional context

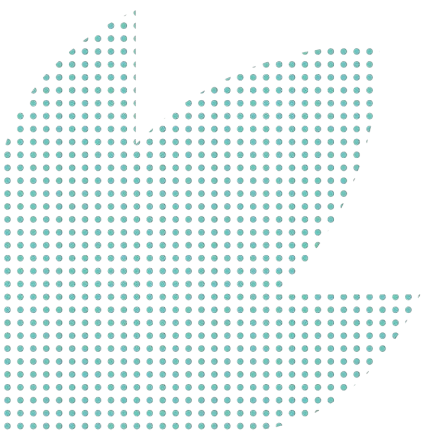


Loving & Serving

What do you think it might look like to

LOVE AND SERVE

with the people group God is putting on
your heart for this exercise?



Missional

“As the
Father has
sent me,

so I am
sending
you...”

~John 20:21



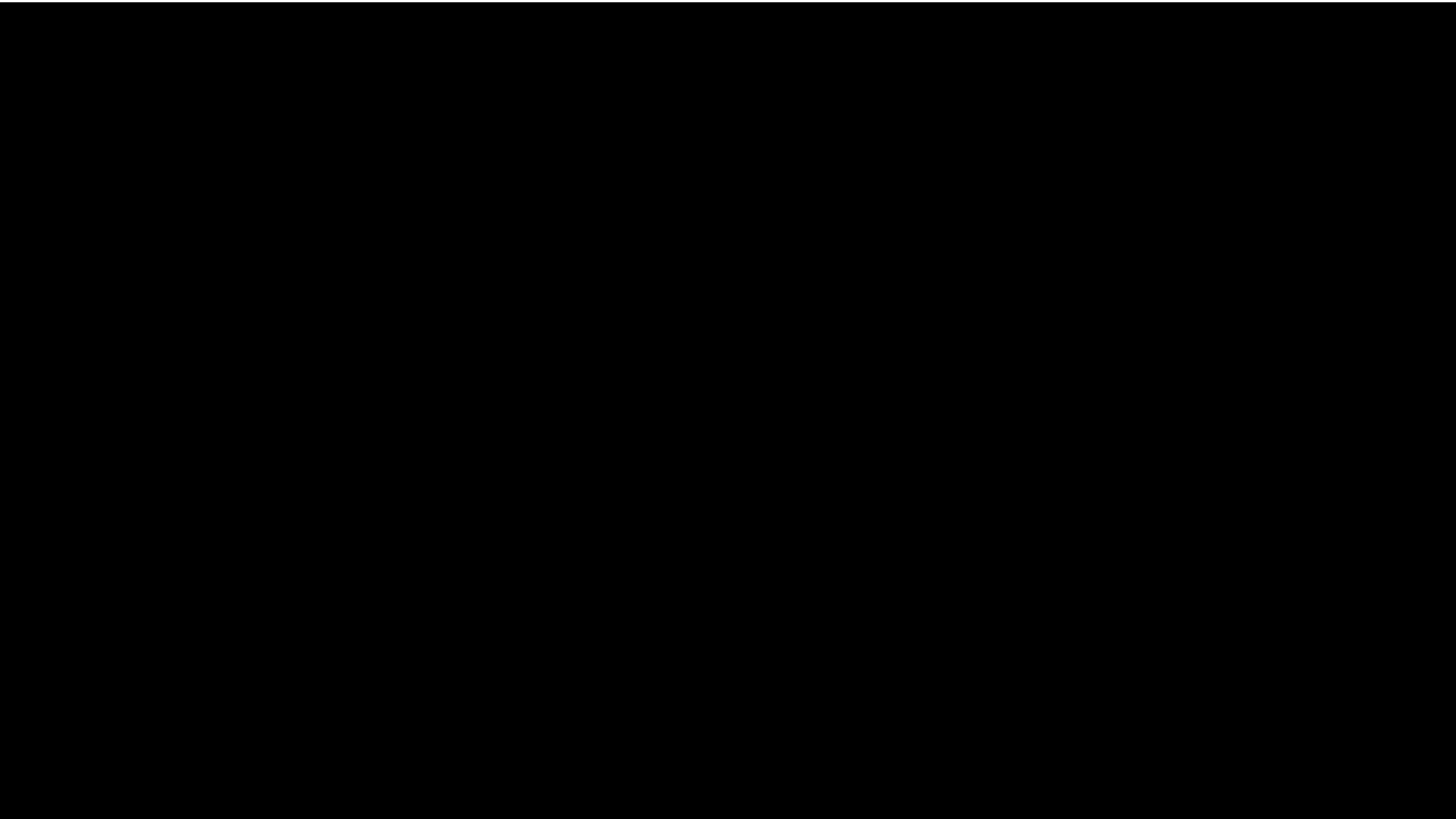
“

Mission involves moving
out of oneself and
TAKING THE RISK
of entering another world.

”

~Graham Cray



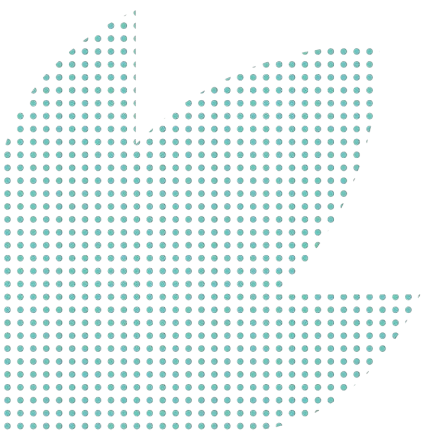


Building Community

What do you think it might look like to

BUILD COMMUNITY

with the people group God is putting on
your heart?



It is surely a fact of inexhaustible significance that what our Lord left behind him was not a book, nor a creed, nor a system of thought, nor a rule of life but a

visible community

He committed the entire work of salvation to that community.

”

~Lesslie Newbigin, The Household of God

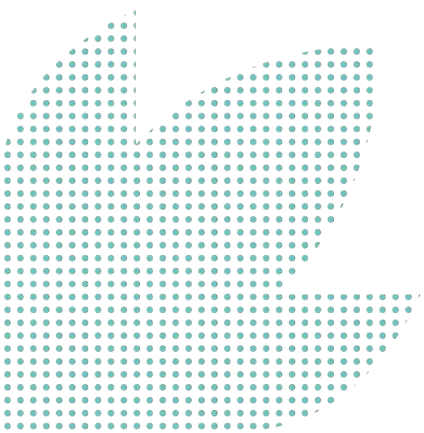


Exploring Discipleship

To what degree can our

discipleship practices

happen closer to people's lives?



Two Types of Discipleship in a FX

Informal Discipleship

Formal Discipleship





Formational/Informal

“Go and make disciples of all nations...”

-Matthew 28:19

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

-Matthew 11:28

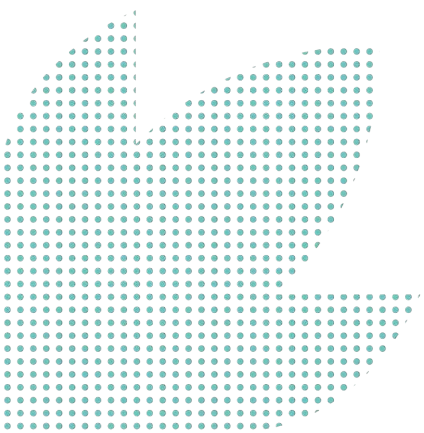


Church Takes Shape


How might you

IMAGINE WORSHIP

that would make sense with the people group that you've been considering today?



Ecclesial



“When they arrived, they called the *ekklesia* together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles.”

~Acts 14:27



Upward



Inward



Enduring
Marks of the
Church



Outward



Part of





Traditional Christian Ecclesiology

One (Inward)

Holy (Upward)

Catholic (Part of)

Apostolic (Outward)

















Fresh Expressions:



- **Emerge out of:**
 - **Natural connections**
 - **Developing friendships**
 - **Shared practices**

A Fresh Expression:



- **Will connect with people**
 - **Off your church's radar**
 - **On your church's radar to serve but who you aren't currently engaging**

“Church no longer has the option, if it ever had, of relating to people as if they were all the same... contextualizing the church is the attempt to be church in ways that are both faithful to Jesus and appropriate to the people the church serves...



churches will look different because they are engaging different people. ”

~Mike Moynagh, “A Church for Every Context”

“If church is what happens when people encounter the

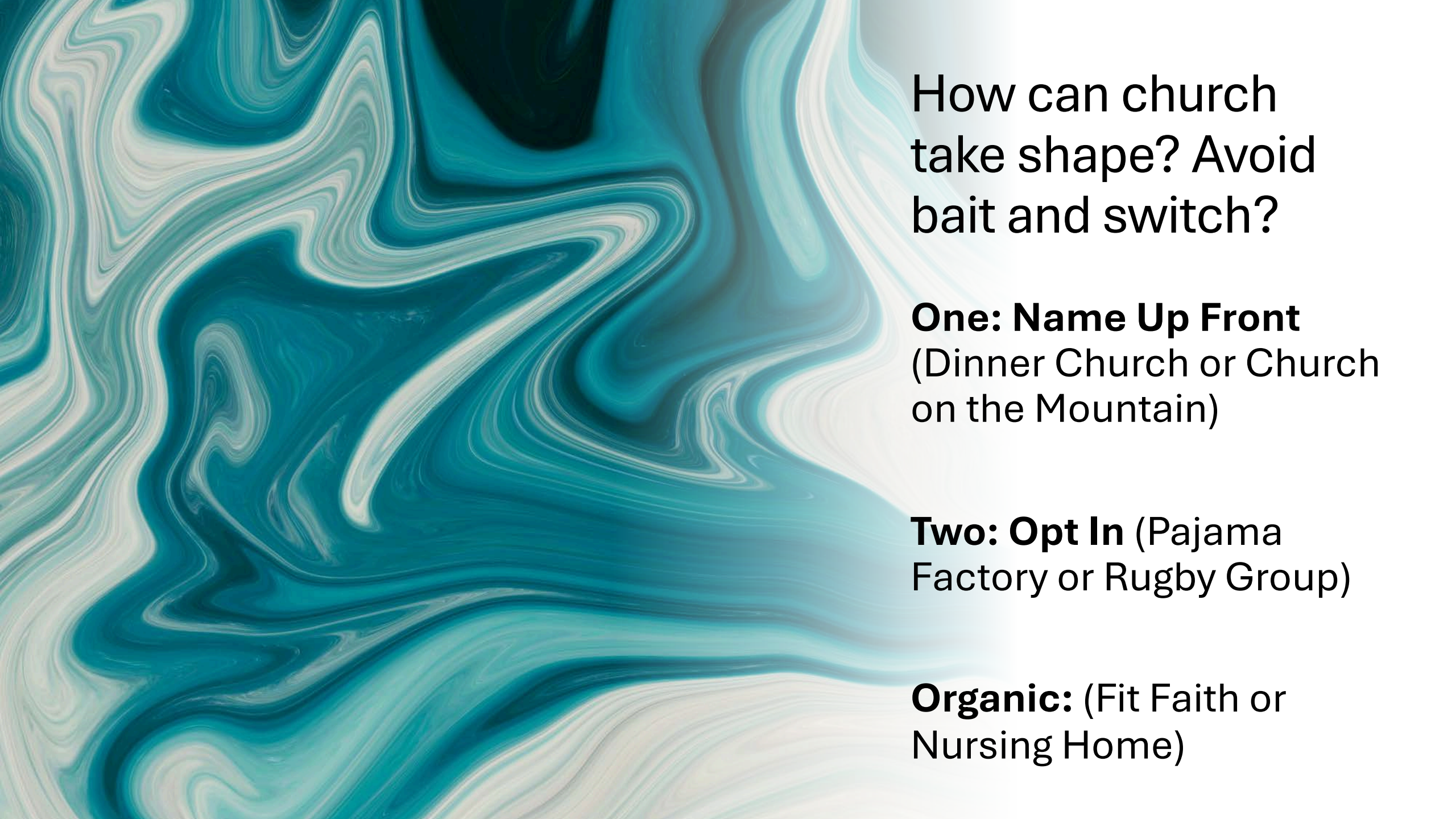
risen Jesus

and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other, there is

plenty of theological room for diversity of rhythm and style. ”

~Rowan Williams, former Archbishop, Church of England





How can church
take shape? Avoid
bait and switch?

One: Name Up Front
(Dinner Church or Church
on the Mountain)

Two: Opt In (Pajama
Factory or Rugby Group)

Organic: (Fit Faith or
Nursing Home)





**From
Missional
Outreach to
Fresh
Expressions**

Explore an existing outreach ministry.
What stage is it at?

*Listening? Loving/Serving? Community?
Discipleship? Church?*

What is the next stage/step needed
towards an FX reality?

Consider:

Food Pantries

Recreational Sports (Soccer Club, Hiking,
Volleyball, etc.)

Tutoring Opportunities


Other?

Consider the 5 stages of Fresh Expressions:

- Where can you LISTEN?
- Where can you LOVE/SERVE?
- Where can you build COMMUNITY?
- Where can you offer discipleship?
- Where can church occur?



**Lord what
would you
have me do?**

A photograph of a sunset over a field. The sun is a bright white circle on the horizon, surrounded by a glow of orange and red. The sky is a mix of blue and white. In the foreground, the top of a car's dashboard is visible, featuring a circular gauge with the text "TURN TO CLEAR VISION".

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19





Questions? Thoughts? Comments?

Discuss:

What most excites you about moving in this direction?

What are some of the biggest challenges you see to moving forward in this direction? Where will the most resistance come from?

What is the biggest question you have so far as you contemplate this direction?

Who are the pioneers in your midst? Who are your supporters? Who are your permission givers?

