

Everts, Don; Schaupp Doug. *I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us about Their Path to Jesus*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008

Conversion of postmodern

Mysterious

Organic

Five Thresholds of Postmodern Conversion

From distrust to trust

From complacent to curious

From being closed to change to being open to change in their life

From meandering to seeking

To cross the threshold of the Kingdom itself

Threshold One: Trusting a Christian

Our reaction to distrust: we defend, bruise, avoid, judge, argue

Five habits to build trust: Pray; Learn; Bond; Affirm; Welcome

Threshold Two: Becoming Curious

Curiosity Changes Lives

Ways to Provoke Curiosity: Encourage questions; Use parables; Live curiously;

Threshold Three: Opening Up to Change

Soul-Awakening Events

- Choose relevant topics
- Find Unique Angles
- Use the Arts
- Create a Safe Place
- Lead; don't pressure

Threshold Four: Seeking After God

- Seekers seek Jesus, not just God
- Seekers count the cost
- Seekers spend time with Christians

Model... Provide an Example

- Show them how to build their lives on Jesus word
- Open up your prayer life to them
- Provide satisfying answers to their initial questions
- Model seeking

Threshold Five: Entering the Kingdom

This final threshold, this decision to repent and enter the kingdom, is a part of a much longer process—an intense spiritual, emotional, mysterious process that has been going on

over time. There is a sense of urgency, yes. But we can't let that urgency, that desire for our friend to finally cross the line, tempt us into oversimplifying (or reducing) exactly what it means to "cross the goal line" rather than to call someone to fully, knowingly and comprehensively enter the kingdom. But this robs them of the intense cost and intense joy of entering the kingdom.

### Living in the Kingdom

#### New Habits Within the First Eight Weeks

- Get them praying
- Get them studying the Scripture
- Get them connected with community
- Get them to tell their story
- Get them serving in some way