



If we want to influence others for Christ, we have to be close. On Sunday, Amy described a number of barriers that can hold us back from pursuing relationships and effect us getting into the influence zone: biblical issues, spiritual dangers, personal discomforts, fear, cost. What do you need to address in your heart that holds you back for boldly pursuing lost people in love?

- Do I have theological ideas that keep me stuck?
- Do I find non Christians risky, dangerous to the health of my faith?
- Am I afraid of meeting new people?
- Am I afraid of going deeper with known people?
- Do I feel limited with my resources? My time, my money, etc

We move toward growing friendships with people who are far from God in 3 ways. The first way is to *recognize our opportunities*. We need to become *outwardly focused* & see opportunities to connect with people. What opportunities can you see right now for where you can move closer? Are there people you know, people you used to know, or new people you need to meet?

The 2nd way we move closer in relationships is to *relate authentically*. We connect with people honestly & transparently while staying congruent with the way God made us. How would you describe your comfort level with being authentic? How comfortable are you with being you? What opportunities do you have right now to move into greater depths of vulnerability?

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Closeness



The last way we move our relationships into areas of influence is to *respond sacrificially*. This means we meet people with the love of God & a heart of service. How well do you feel you sacrificially respond to others? Do you freely give? In what ways could you grow in sacrificially loving your friends?