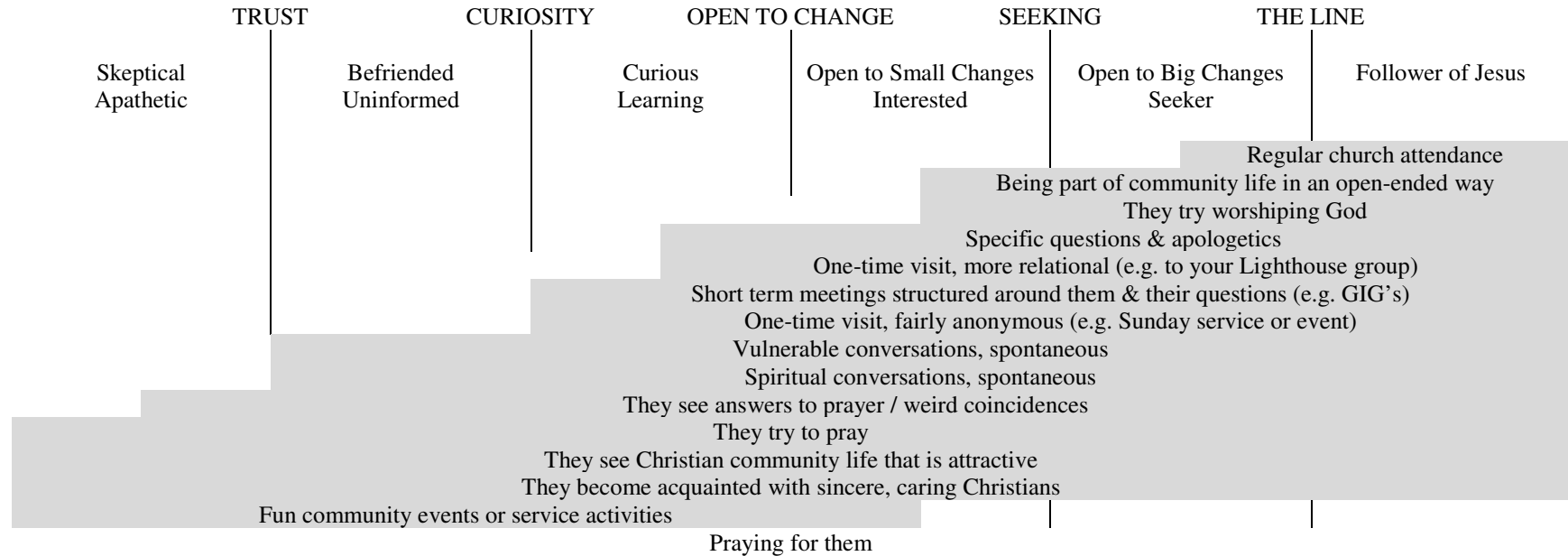


# Evangelism 101

## Five Thresholds to Conversion

Mako A. Nagasawa, distilled from Don Everts and Doug Schaupp, *I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Skeptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus*



Category	Common Barriers To Cross	What Helps	Threshold
<b>Skeptical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vague uneasiness with Christians or Christianity</li> <li>basic negative views of Christianity (foolishness, narrow-mindedness, intellectual softness)</li> </ul>	Counterexamples to assumptions; Jesus-disciples who provide authentic, warm, and real friendships	<p><b>1)</b> Trust — willingness to trust Christianity as viable, plausible.</p> <p><i>PRAY that internal reservations be broken; for their needs; for authentic Christians to be in their lives</i></p>
<b>Uninformed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seeing Christianity as behavioral guidelines only</li> <li>lack of understanding about becoming Christian, the Christian life</li> <li>busy-ness, other concerns that crowd out curiosity, indifference</li> </ul>	Christians who live different lives; friends who are transparent with struggles and show how Jesus enters in; a larger community that is different and attractive	<p><b>2)</b> To get curious – look into the claims of Jesus.</p> <p><i>PRAY that they'd be dissatisfied with their lives and hope for more; for opps for good conversations; for real witnessing</i></p>
<b>Open</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fear of authority</li> <li>fear of unknown, change</li> <li>fear of fellowship being more than social</li> <li>lack of personal honesty, self-awareness</li> <li>willingness to be open to God</li> </ul>	Christians who live different lives; friends who are transparent with struggles and show how Jesus enters in; a larger community that is different and attractive	<p><b>3)</b> To be curious enough to 'add something' to one's life – a willingness to change one's schedule to find satisfying answers to questions</p> <p><i>PRAY that they'd be dissatisfied with their lives and hope for more; for opps for good conversations; for real witnessing</i></p>
<b>Curious</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fear of trusting a community rather than just oneself for growth; fear of being vulnerable</li> <li>fear of their own needs (what would it really be like to trust Jesus?)</li> <li>lack of practical next steps</li> <li>lack of encouragement to find out more (b/c not many others investigate their real, spiritual needs)</li> <li>cynicism</li> </ul>	Safe places to explore questions; gentle inquiries about their spiritual needs; encouragement or push to seek; asking them about their next steps; praying with them	<p><b>4)</b> Seeking – intentional pursuit of God for real life change</p> <p><i>PRAY for urgency to seek real relationship with Jesus; for soft-heartedness; opps to explore personal questions</i></p>
<b>Seeking OR Hostile &amp; Angry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lack of clarity around decision</li> <li>difficulties that might lay ahead</li> <li>trusting a community for growth</li> <li>bad history/experiences with Christians or the church; hypocrisy</li> <li>strong distaste for Christians or Christianity based on information they have actively collected</li> </ul>	'Seeker sensitive' activities that help them experience God; satisfying answers to key questions; clear invitation to a decision and clarity about the costs; welcoming community to help and support	<p><b>5)</b> Crossing the line – decision to actively make Jesus Lord and Savior, and to pursue discipleship in community</p> <p><i>PRAY for them to perceive Jesus as ultimately valuable; for them to make a decision</i></p>

#### Other Thoughts

1. One difficulty in sharing Jesus is that we think that we have to become really good friends with non-Christians before we share our faith with them. But other people might be ready to talk more deeply! God has already been working in the person.
2. I find I'm better at dealing with people at certain stages better than others.
3. I need to understand how to 'read' or interpret God being at work in people.