

TOOL: Expanding Our Intercession

Lift others in prayer • Daily



Introduction

The heart of this tool is to expand your view of **who** you might be interceding for and to expand your view of **how** you intercede for them.

Expand our view of our connections

When we think of intercession, we tend to begin with those whose lives bump up against us the most. However, when we start to consider the needs beyond our closest circles, we begin to find connection with people outside of our normal spheres. It helps us understand how interconnected we are and gives us a larger view of the world around us.

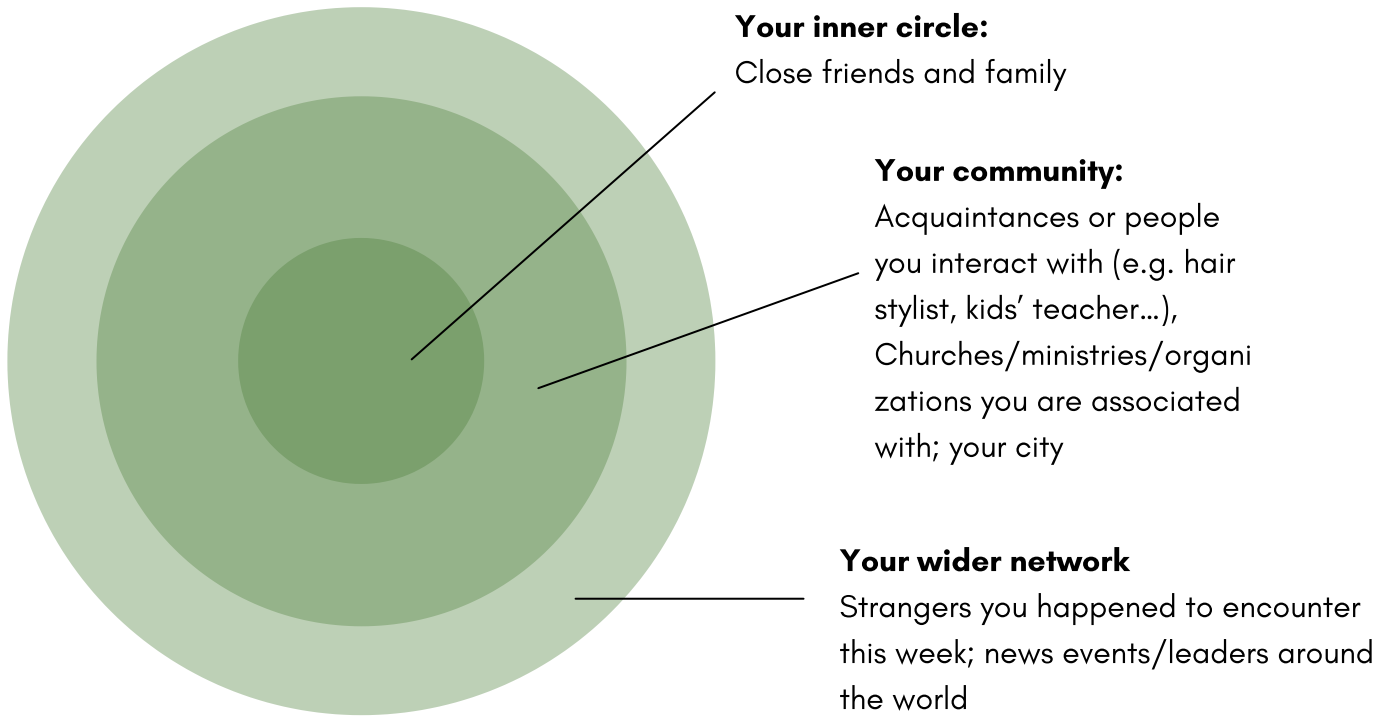
Expand our view of others

If we're honest, sometimes intercession is our way of attempting to fix the people around us, but true intercession is partnering with God in a powerful way in someone else's life.

"True intercession involves bringing the person, or the circumstance that seems to be crashing in on you, before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance. People describe intercession by saying, 'It is putting yourself in someone else's place.' That is not true! Intercession is putting yourself in God's place; it is having His mind and His perspective." Oswald Chambers

Practice

STEP ONE: to begin with, let's expand our view of who we are interceding for. Refer to the figure below.



Consider the circles of your relationships. Name three to five people/circumstances in each sphere that you want to commit to intercede for this week.

STEP TWO: Each day this week, pick one person from each category, and spend some time asking God to show you what God might want to pray for them. Feel free to confess what you want for them - give that anxiety to God, and then ask the Spirit to help you pray what God might want for them.

STEP THREE: As you wrap up your time practicing this, take some time to reflect on who is not on your list. Who are the people in these spheres of your life that you might have overlooked in the margins? Who are the people in these spheres that you might not want to intercede for? Spend some time asking God to give you eyes to see these spheres the way God does.

Debrief your experience

After practicing with this tool, debrief your experience with your Praxis Group. Below are some questions to process together:

- Check in on life. (Where are you experiencing Christ's presence this week? What burdens are you carrying?)
- What did you learn from this practice?
- Describe your experience with this practice. (What feelings came up, what went well, what got in the way? How has it impacted your relationship with God?)
- What is the next step for you?