

the **postmodern**
transition:

ministry in a new world

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1. The relational factor:

Count conversations, not just conversions.

See evangelism as a relational dance, not a win/lose conquest.

In many places today, people will not become Christians unless they meet and get to know a Christian and Christian community which inspires them with curiosity and hope.

This is similar to the first and second centuries ...

Many misconceptions must be overcome - and that can only be done by authentic, living examples of Christian discipleship and community.

2. The narrative factor:

It's about their story, your story, and God's story.

When Christian faith presents itself as a system of belief, postmodern people are often skeptical.

But when it presents itself as a redemptive way of life within human history, they see something unique and hopeful.

3. The communal factor:

Our churches must be converted into missional communities of disciple-making.

The greatest hermeneutic of the gospel is a community that lives by it. (Newbigin)

Belonging precedes believing and becoming.

How can we create safe places?

What makes our churches unsafe?

4. The process or journey factor:

Instead of “evangelism/follow-up” or “decision/discipleship,” think disciple-making -- a holistic progress, not an isolated conversion event.

How do we integrate processes with milestones ...

Patience with urgency ...

Exploration with decision and more exploration ...

5. The Holy Spirit factor

Believe that God is already “out there” and at work with everyone (either trying to get in, or to get out!) ... not just “in here” in the church.

Helping people interpret their spiritual experiences ... as “spiritual consultants.”

Helping people have spiritual experiences ...
charismatic and contemplative pathways.

6. The learning factor

See evangelism as part of your discipleship,
not just the other person's.

Remember Cornelius.

How can we experience conversion through evangelism?

7. The missional factor:

See evangelism as recruiting people for God's mission on earth, not just souls for heaven.

How can we involve people with us in mission - so they experience the joy of service?

8. The service factor:

The words of the gospel must be accompanied by the deeds and spirit of the gospel ... deeds of service and a servant's heart.

How might our people serve their neighbors?

