# 5 Thresholds of Faith

*The “five thresholds of postmodern conversion” are concepts developed by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp in their book, I Once Was Lost.*

Below are summaries of the journey people take as they are drawn by Jesus toward Him.

People are not a project but humans, loved by Jesus, on a journey towards or away from his presence. As we look for ways to help ONE friend we love find The God who loves them, hopefully this framework will help you engage them.

## THRESHOLD 1: Trusting a Christian

The journey of faith usually takes place when an individual outside of faith begins to significantly trust a follower of Jesus. Most often, followers of Jesus are suspect and distrust has become the norm. This may be unpleasant for followers of Jesus and can result in defensive posture that makes trust even more difficult.

**How can we as followers of Jesus pray rather than become defensive, learn instead**

**of attack, engage instead of avoiding, affirm the good rather than judge the bad and welcome instead of arguing?**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** I try to value all kinds of people, but I don’t usually trust Christians.

**THRESHOLD 2: Becoming Curious**

The stage of curiosity tends to unfold over time. It’s a subtle shift from being passive to being provoked to think differently. Jesus lived a curious life and asked hundreds of questions in the gospels to provoke curiosity in others.

**How can we live strange lives that produce curiosity while engaging with**

**questions instead of preaching?**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** The stage of curiosity tends to unfold over time and usually has three levels of intensity. It's a subtle shift from being passive to being provoked to think differently.

**THRESHOLD 3: Opening to Change**

This is the hardest threshold to cross and where a lot of people turn back or stay where they are without moving forward. However, this is the stage where the Holy Spirit is especially at work, and when a person can finally become willing to make changes in their lifestyle.

**How can we walk with others in patience, praying for the Spirit to move,**

**while challenging like Jesus (nudge, mirror illogic and connecting dots)?**

 **KEY STATEMENT:** I’m open to seeing if God can meet a need in my life

 **THRESHOLD 4: Seeking After God**

This threshold is about coming to a conclusion. To follow or not follow Jesus. There may not be a lot of questions about behavioral change here because they are just about to make a decision about Jesus.

**How can we help them count the cost of following Jesus and show them the incredible family they will join if they do?**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** I’m searching for deeper meaning? Could Jesus be worth following?

**THRESHOLD 5: Entering the Kingdom**

This is the point when the person decides to follow Jesus! They have decided they want to cross a real and eternally significant line. They go from seeking to commitment. They look Jesus in the face and say “I do.”

**How can we clearly proclaim the heart, truth and call of the gospel through**

**an invitation to commitment?**

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** I’m ready to follow Jesus with my whole life.

**Walking With People Through Questions**

Questions and conversations help us walk with our ONE as they journey through the thresholds. Below is a framework of gospel-conversation milestones and some key questions to help you intentionally engage those conversations.

As you identify your ONE and begin to look for ways to help them find The God who loves them, take time to discern the threshold they are in and become familiar with the questions that correspond to their journey towards Jesus. This is a great time for peer coaching and contextualizing more questions. Spend time praying and making commitments to engage your ONE this week.

## THEIR STORY (Trusting a Christian)

*Ask questions of origin*

* What is your family like?
* What was it like for you growing up?
* What do you like or dislike?
* What’s your faith background?

## THEIR VALUES (Becoming Curious)

*Ask questions of purpose*

* Why do you do what you do?
* Who is your all-time favorite leader? Why?
* If money was no object, what philanthropic activity would you give to?
* What is the most important thing in your life?
* What type of spiritual experiences have you had?
* What rubs you wrong about the church? about the world?

## THEIR NEEDS (Open to Change)

*Ask questions of improvement*

* What do you wish was better about yourself?
* What would you say is your biggest flaw?
* What is your biggest regret? Fear?
* What would you change about your relationship with God?

## THEIR OPENNESS (Seeking After God)

*Ask questions of investigation*

* If you could ask Jesus for anything, what would it be?
* What do you wish Jesus could offer you?
* Referring to your need, would you like to investigate what Jesus says?
* Would you like to attend a (spiritual event)?

## THE INVITE (Entering the Kingdom)

*Ask questions of commitment*

* Are you ready to call Jesus your Lord?
* What’s keeping you from following Jesus?
* Share the gospel