



The **ROOFTOP**

Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

PERSONAL JOURNAL

NAME:

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
STEP ONE: ENCOUNTER	5
STEP TWO: ENGAGE	10
STEP THREE: EXPAND	16

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WHAT IS 'THE ROOFTOP'?

The Rooftop was conceived in a Virginia hotel room. Dennis Pethers, the author of the More to Life evangelism resources, was praying and listening to a colleague read aloud the story of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10-11. As the story was being read, Dennis was deeply impressed with what took place during Peter's experience of praying on the rooftop.

This experience was a pivotal moment in the history of the church. Like Peter, we stand at another pivotal moment in church history. And the question remains: **"What are we going to do at this moment in our history?"**

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

The Rooftop has its scriptural foundation in Acts 10 and 11. It is the story of Peter and Cornelius. This story has three key aspects:

- 1 Peter's Rooftop **'Encounter'**. As Peter was praying on the rooftop he had an encounter with God that revolutionized his understanding of evangelism.
- 2 Peter went to the house of Cornelius to **'Engage'** with people beyond the walls. Having encountered God and realized that he 'should not call unclean anything that God has called clean', Peter went to the house of a gentile and preached the gospel. He broke out of the constraints of what he had inherited and preached the gospel 'outside' of the walls of Judaism—he 'engaged' with the lost.
- 3 As a result, the Kingdom could **'Expand'**. The gospel was set free from the constraints of Judaism and was now able to spread across the whole world—the good news of Jesus is for those BEYOND THE WALLS.

Peter's experience on the rooftop was a pivotal moment for the church. Had he not been on the rooftop (praying) where he received a fresh vision from God, he may never have evangelized the gentiles.

He needed a fresh vision of God's passion for the lost to take him beyond what he had always known and to face the new reality. Here was his new reality: He saw that God loves people who do not conform to all of the customs that he had always been familiar with!

For Peter, the rooftop experience was a pivotal crossroads. The church today is at a similar crossroads. Previous generations have been raised within church contexts and have understood and were familiar with our customs. Now, across generations there are increasing numbers of people who never attend church and know little or nothing about Jesus.



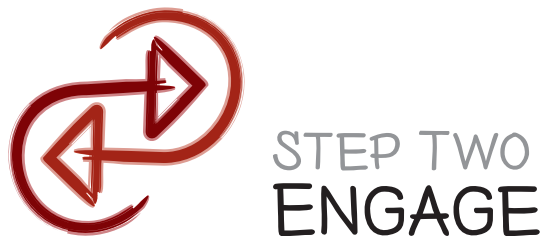
THE ROOFTOP THREE-STEP JOURNEY

Based on the experience of Peter in Acts 10 and 11, 'The Rooftop' is a three-step process that will help you to join Jesus in His mission and share the gospel with people who are beyond the walls of the church.

The three-step process is:



It all begins with an encounter with God that takes place on a rooftop. During this encounter you will seek a fresh vision of God's heart for the lost.



Following the 'Rooftop Encounter' you will be equipped to engage with lost people beyond the walls of the church.



As new people become followers of Christ you will equip these to reach others.

SESSION ONE: ATTITUDE



Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip.

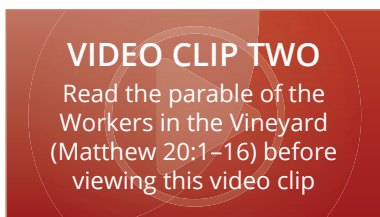


DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

Now discuss the following questions:

- As you asked God to give you a fresh vision of His heart for the lost on the rooftop, what happened?
- How do you feel about engaging with people who have different views and pursue a different lifestyle to you? Which words best explain how you feel?



Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip.



DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

Now discuss the following questions:

- Imagine you worked for a company that followed the employment policy of the vineyard owner, HONESTLY share how you would feel if this happened to you. How would you feel about the people that did less but got the same reward? How would you feel about the owner of the company who acted in this way?
- In what ways can these same feelings affect the ways that we, as Christians, may view lost people?



DO

Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to see lost people as Jesus sees them. Be specific:



DOWNLOAD

Share the thing that you intend to do and then pray into each other's situations.

