

INTERVARSITY AMBITION 18

January 11-14, 2018



“It has always
been my **ambition**
to preach the gospel
where Christ
was not known,
so that I would
not be building
on someone else’s
foundation.”

Romans 15:20

Encounter

We are not Christian entrepreneurs. We don't plant ministries on campuses simply because we like "new things." We plant expressions of the Kingdom of God on campus because we know and love Jesus, and because we believe he wants to "make all things new." It's out of our own profound encounters with God that we receive vision, energy and spiritual power to start something new that renews the campus.

Our first and most important "strategy" is to encounter God ourselves! We do this in scripture, prayer, community, and mission activities. Then, we offer others encounters with God. In a sense, this is all we are doing on campus—encountering God and facilitating others' encounters with God.

Take time during Ambition to encounter God on your own and with others in ways you haven't before. Use your Notes section to spend time journaling how God is speaking to you this weekend. Try these simple questions as a way to begin:

- What's standing out to you from what you've heard, seen, or experienced so far? Why is that significant to you?
- What do you sense God is saying to you?
- How is what you're hearing, feeling, or experiencing consistent with God's character?
- What do you need to move forward? Is anything holding you back or interfering with your obedience to God's calling?

Take time this weekend to thank God for how you have encountered him. Identify someone here at Ambition or back on campus to share your Encounter experience with.

Prayer Walks

Modeled by Paul in Acts 17:16-28, prayer walks are vital to reaching every corner of every campus. Prayer walks help you explore, learn, and interact with people while deepening relationships with mission partners. While at Ambition, prepare to prayer walk the area God is calling you to on campus or the area where you find the people group he is calling you to. When you return to campus, go to that place and follow these steps:

STEP 1: Prepare the “Ground” with Prayer

- Pray the Lord sends workers to this place. (Luke 10:2)
- Pray for open doors for the Word, and for creative ways for the Gospel to be proclaimed. Pray God gives opportunities for spreading the Gospel during this Prayer Walk. (Col 4:3)
- Pray for God to reveal or raise up “people of peace” in the community. Pray you can meet and connect deeply with them. (Luke 10:6)
- Pray for each person you see. Pray that those you encounter would see Jesus, that barriers they have (sin, people, hardness of heart, etc.) would be removed. (2 Cor 4:3-4)

STEP 2: Walk, Observe, and Interact

- Walk through the place.
- Carefully, observe things you may have overlooked before.
- Stop to talk with people. Be friendly. Ask thoughtful questions to learn more about the people and place. Notice if God answers your prayers of bringing “people of peace.”

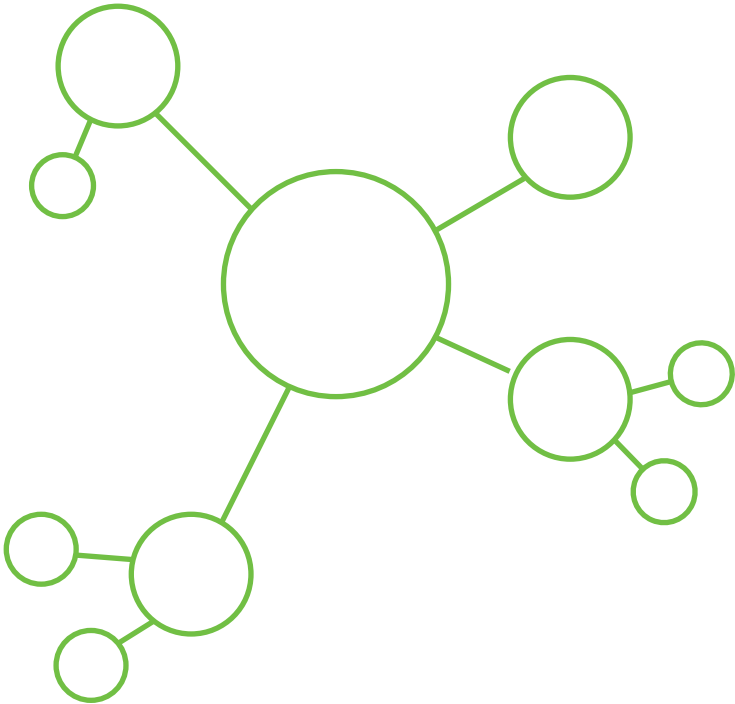
STEP 3: Re-Gather to Talk About What You Saw

- What was this experience like for you? When did you sense God’s presence?
- What do you think God sees when he looks at this place or this community on campus?
- What do you want to learn more about, or who do you want to meet in the future?
- What do you feel God is inviting you to do?

Network Mapping

Network Maps help us identify whom we know and how we can interact with them to reach every corner of every campus. This simple activity can quickly reveal your immediate mission field and help you see what God sees in the communities around you.

To create your own Network Map, take a piece of paper and a pen (or a few colored pens). Write your name in the middle, and then name the places (outside your Christian group or church) where you interact with people frequently. Then, write down the names of people you know around each place. And draw lines connecting people to the places, following this example:



Questions to consider about your networks:

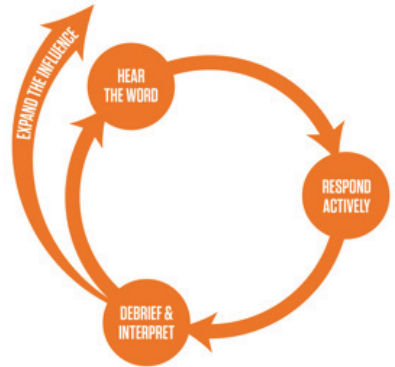
- Who is already a follower of Jesus and a potential partner in reaching others in a network? Ask them to add names of people they know to your Network Map.
- Who seems open or interested in exploring who Jesus is and what it means to follow him? What would be a natural next step for them?
- Who knows you are a Christian? Who knows why you are a Christian (because you have explained it to them)?
- Whom have you invited to something? How can you follow up with them?
- Looking over the whole map, where do you see the most spiritual potential?
- Which people in your network are strong connectors to further networks?

Deeper questions to ask God when you pray over your networks:

- What do you want me/us to see here?
- Why have you placed these particular people in our lives?
- Is there a place or people group you want to send us to?
- What is your vision for these people? What do you want to see happen among them?
- What have you given us that we should pass on to them?
- What do we need to do to prepare ourselves? Is there an attitude, skill or knowledge we need to be effective in this? Is there something we need to repent of or let go?

4 - Discipleship Cycles

Your best framework for reaching every corner of every campus and leading a missional community on campus is the Discipleship Cycle. Jesus developed disciples by teaching them, inviting them into missional experiences, and interpreting those experiences to provide greater understanding. Each part of the Discipleship Cycle—Hear the Word, Respond Actively, Debrief & Interpret—are necessary as they feed, as well as need, one another.



Hear the Word by Following Jesus

- Study and learn Scripture.
- Listen to God in prayer.
- Commit to a practical response.
- Ask “Who? How? When?”

Respond Actively into Mission

- Identify an activity to accomplish together then or a “take-home-experiment” everyone does individually.
- Allow for creativity and fun.
- Take risks and do things out of your comfort zone.

Debrief & Interpret

- Share stories from your experience: What was encouraging? What was challenging?
- What did you learn about the way God works?
- What do you want to see or experience more of? Whom do you wish was with you?
- Be thankful and celebrate what God is doing.
- Ask “What is the next step? Where do we go from here? How can we expand the influence?”

5 - Mission Coaching

Behind every successful athlete is an effective coach. In the same way, Mission Coaches come alongside students/faculty who want to start something new on their campus. Effective Mission Coaches do these things:

- Help planters gain clarity about their vision and goals.
 - “What’s your vision? What do you believe God wants to do in this corner/community of campus?”
 - “What would you like to see happen by the end of the semester or year?”
- Listen well. Ask follow up questions to get the whole picture.
 - “What signs do you see that show God is at work?”
 - “What will you need to figure out or overcome? What training or resources will you need for that?”
- Be clear and specific about next steps.
 - “List 3 things you’ll do next and when you’ll do them.”
- Always debrief their last activities & experiences.
 - “What can we celebrate? What do you wish went differently?”
 - “What are you learning about ministry with these people? What are you learning about yourself as a planter & leader?”
 - “Where do we go from here? How can we build on the momentum we see?”
- Seek God for answers.
 - Don’t try to be an expert—you don’t need to have all the answers. It’s more valuable for you to point planters towards God.
 - “Let’s stop here and ask God to show us what’s the next step...”
- Keep using the Ambition Greenhouse worksheets or download the Start Something New handbook as your roadmap (www.startsomethingnew.org). These resources provide helpful steps and ideas!

Notes

The image features a background with a vertical color gradient from teal at the top to a darker green at the bottom. Overlaid on this background are numerous vertical white lines of varying lengths and positions, creating a rhythmic, abstract pattern. At the bottom of the image, the text "EVERY CORNER. EVERY CAMPUS." is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

EVERY CORNER.
EVERY CAMPUS.