



# CONNECT

Fast track  
your friendships

You are reading this booklet because you are close to becoming a Connector at igniteYOUTH.

A what?! Let's take it slow....

# Notes



## Introduction: First things First

Before we even try to teach and reach people for Jesus, we need to have a love for people. The bible says that without love we are nothing. It doesn't matter how smart you are. It doesn't even matter what you do or what you know. If you don't have love in your heart for God and people, it just doesn't matter.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 puts it this way:

*If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*

Loving others is not a natural thing for most people. God is the only one who can change us from the inside and give us the ability to take our eyes off ourselves and focus on others. You can't force yourself to care, but you can pray to God to change your heart towards people.

Remember, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

a

6

1



### 3. What does a Connector do?

A. A Connector makes contact with new believers at igniteYOUTH. Their goal is to make sure that new believers feel welcomed and get to know the people around them.

We don't want new believers to feel like, "Now what?!" We want them to start getting to know the people at igniteYOUTH and so the Connector helps them to connect by introducing them to people, inviting them into conversations or games. The goal is to get them involved and interacting

B. A Connector helps new believers find their feet in God. By going through the Encounter booklet with a new believer, the Connector will make sure that growth and understanding are happening in the life of a new believer.

C. A Connector helps other group members feel connected. The role of the Connector is not restricted to new believers. There are other groups in igniteYOUTH meetings other than new believers. Shy people, newcomers and visitors all need to feel connected. Always be on the look out for people on the fringes. They need help getting involved and enjoying themselves.



### 4. How does a Connector connect with new believers?

\* The key to welcoming new people is to be friendly AND sincere. Young people can smell fake people from a mile away.

\* Introduce yourself first. Let them know who you are and then what you want from them.

#### Example 1

Hi there, I'm Sarah.

You're new hey?

What's your name?

Where are you from?

What school do you go to?

Come on let me introduce you to some people.

#### Example 2

Hey there. My name is Thando, we need another person on our team for basketball. Come through.

In whatever you say, be real.

\* New believers want to get to know people and they want to be known, even if it is by one person. Remember, nobody wants to be and feel alone, especially in a room full of people. The Connector must make sure that the new believer knows that they at least have one person to come to.

\* Make sure that the new believer goes home with an Encounter Booklet. Encourage them to read a little bit on their own and offer to go through it with them section by section.

The new believer will attend Fridays and Sundays or just one of the two and they will get used to igniteYOUTH. Remember that you are not the only person who will be interacting with the new believer so, no pressure. You just need to make sure that they are growing in God (Encounter Booklet) and they are never left on the sideline.

As the new believer gets settled in, they will grow in other relationships. This may take a very short time or it may take a very long time. Remember, the goal is for them to grow in God and in relationships so the Connector needs to see that through.



## 5. How can I become a great Connector?

\*Love Jesus and stay in His Word. You can't give what you do not have. It is key to grow in God in order to lead people to a God that YOU know and love.

\*Love people. Remember, anything you do outside of love is meaningless.

\*Get close to people. You can impress people from a distance, but you can only impact their hearts for God when you're close.

\*Do not try to be an expert. Never be afraid to say, "I don't know, but I can find out for you." Remember, a Connector is about building relationships, not pretending like they are perfect.

5



## 1. The need for Connectors

Everybody needs somebody. Rihanna said it, "When the sun shine we'll shine together..." Tupac knew it as he sang, "All I need in this life of sin, just me and my girlfriend." Aristotle said, "Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods."

"Umntu, ngumuntu, ngabantu". The direct translation to this Zulu saying is: a person is a person by other people. It means that a person is built by those around him. We cannot survive on our own. The truth is that we all need friends to help us become great in God. Alone, we fail.



## 2. What is a Connector?

A Connector is a young person who has a relationship with Jesus. They are growing in their walk with God and are keen to see others grow as well. Most importantly, a Connector cares about people and does not want anybody to be or feel left out.

e

2