

ENGAGING YOUR CONTEXT | Participant Guide

Video Prework

In [this 17-minute video](#), professor and author Dan Ariely talks about the importance of trust.

Link: <https://youtu.be/k5MfuwMNcMo?si=4XlqOoJqTWq4greD>

Scriptural Foothold

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

Luke 10:1-7 NRSV

Food for Thought

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out the disciples in a manner that leaves them exposed and vulnerable, dependent upon those they are commissioned to share God’s peace with. This requires trust. And, yet the available data tells us that public trust in religious leaders and the institutions they represent has plummeted.

Engaging your ministry context in today’s context will require developing trust with your neighbors as they are increasingly convinced that you have their goodwill in mind.

For Reflection *(please write down your answers)*

1. What must you do when you have lost someone’s trust?
2. Where are you being sent into the harvest fields? Describe your ministry context in as much detail as you can.
3. Where are you feeling vulnerable and exposed?
4. Make a list of 6 people who might be your persons of peace in your ministry context.

Taking Action *(please fill out during our session together)*

In support of cultivating a new faith community:

For me: I commit to _____, starting _____,
and I will ask _____ to be my accountability partner.

For my team: I will teach my team to engage our community on _____.

Additional Resources

Kretzman, John P. and John L. McKnight, *Building Communities from the Inside Out*, Chicago: ACTA Publications, 1993.

Burge, Ryan P., and Perry Bacon Jr. [“It’s Not Just Young White Liberals Who Are Leaving Religion.”](#) *FiveThirtyEight*, 16 Apr. 2021.

