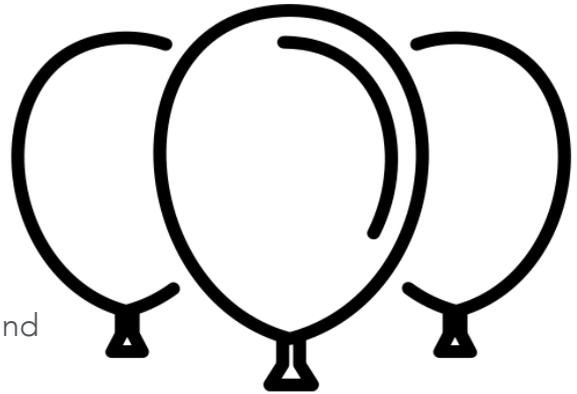




Overcoming Outreach Obstacles

Barriers Game

Imagine that the balloons represent the gospel, people inside the circle are the unreached, people outside the circle are missionaries or evangelists, and the rest are barriers to the gospel.



How well did the missionaries/evangelists do? Was their task difficult? Why?

Did the unreached know what was happening? Did they all receive the gospel?

What are some of the barriers keeping people from receiving and understanding the Good News about Jesus?

Although there are at least two billion Christians in the world, millions of people are waiting to hear about Jesus for the first time. **What can we do about this problem in our community?**





Problem Solving Regarding "Bridges"

Work on your own or with others to answer the questions below. Use a separate sheet of paper. Feel free to add other categories you think are important.

Culture/Religion

- What are the differences between you and the children you are trying to reach? List as many ideas as possible.

- What are some ideas and strategies for "crossing these bridges" so you can communicate and develop relationships?

Language

- What are the differences between you and the children you are trying to reach in terms of language?

- What will you do to ensure that children understand your vocabulary?



Families

- In what ways can families present obstacles to reaching children?
- In what ways can families present opportunities?
- In what ways will you connect with families as you reach out to children?

Other Churches

- What other churches are in your area? How will your outreach impact them?
- Which churches might have people interested in working along with you to reach children in your area?
- What bridges do you need to build with other churches so that "the world will know we are Christians by our love for one another"? (John 13:35)

Time & Process

- Where are children on their journey toward believing in Jesus?
- Do we expect them to believe immediately and follow Jesus or is there a process involved?



Is This About Money?

Do we need a lot of money in order to do outreach?

- How many men did Gideon need to defeat the Midianites? _____
- How much funding did the disciples have when they went out two by two? _____
- How many people were fed with five loaves and two fish? _____
- How much did Jesus need to do His work on earth? _____
- How much did the early church need to grow from a few hundred to millions and millions in just a few decades after Jesus death and resurrection? _____

Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

Who is your source of supply?

Are you ready to see how He will surprise you to meet your need?