



[GENEVAPUSH.COM/PLANTINGAUSTRALIA](http://GENEVAPUSH.COM/PLANTINGAUSTRALIA)

# GOSPEL INTERSECTIONS

How does the Gospel intersect with those you're trying to reach? To reach people with the Gospel we need to know two things. The first is the Gospel. We're going to assume you've got, although it's always worth reminding ourselves of. The second is who we're trying to reach. In the last chapter we started building a big picture of where we might plant and who might be in that area. This chapter focuses on how the Gospel intersects with people in this context. This is beginning to ask the questions of contextualisation.

In the following chapters, we'll begin to unpack considerations around the poetry and the plumbing for your church. That is, how you speak about what you're doing, vision-casting and the structures/systems that support these big dreams. This poetry and plumbing flows from and is shaped by questions of contextualisation. The Gospel is unchanging but the way it connects with, speaks to and dissects the culture of the people you're trying to reach will vary.

Tim Keller puts it this way: *"Giving people the Bible's answers, which they may not all want to hear, to questions about life that people in their particular time and place are asking, in language and forms they can comprehend, and through appeals and arguments with force they can feel, even if they reject them."*

**Contextualisation is about holding firm to God's teaching, while clearing all non-Gospel roadblocks so that people can encounter Jesus.** This will shape our language, our gatherings, our teaching and our systems. Everything we do will be run through the lens of the Gospel and applied to the context we're trying to reach. One of the key exercises is to build a picture of the typical person your church plant is trying to reach. As you consider your plant, start thinking about factors like geography, lifestyle, idols, Gospel receptivity, worldview and neighbourhood concerns.

As you're considering these questions, you might come to realise that there is a subculture within the broader community that you're better positioned to reach. While our prayer is that anyone who walks in the door of our church can come to know Jesus and have life, in order to shape our ministry and present the Gospel in a way that connects, it can be helpful to build one (or a few) persona(s).

Let's hear from a few planters as they begin to identify and articulate the people they are trying to reach.

*'Five years in we realised that we were gathering people like us. Because we had been transient to Mackay, we were attracting transients. So we did a big re-think. We knew what Mackay Mike and Mackay Mel looked like. Mackay Mike and Mel are avid Facebook users but they don't even have a website for their business. Instead, they drive around town looking at billboards everywhere. So we decided to put less effort into our website to focus more on Facebook and we also engaged a billboard in town.'*  
(Jai and Jay-Ellen Wright, Mackay).



*'We have a focus on reaching 25-35 year olds. That's the largest demographic in our area and the fastest growing.  
(Josh and Sarah Allen, Melbourne).*

*'We are trying to reach migrant communities, particularly Asians. We want to reach both first and second generation migrants because families are really the key to see the gospel make inroads into migrant communities'.  
(Peter and Karen Ko, Sydney).*



Knowing who you're trying to reach does not change the Gospel, but it does shape how you bring that Gospel to them. The purpose in building your plant with this shape is not to exclude some, but to acknowledge that you have finite resources. You need to wisely use what you have and focus your resources for the most impact.

So as you consider this for your plant, keep asking the question: am I trying to plant the church of my dreams, or the church this community needs to help them come to know Jesus?

# GET ASSESSED

'Planting a church is hard work. Geneva Push wants to inspire, equip and unleash as many new church planters as possible. This starts with our rigorous assessment process. We use a detailed process and behavioural interview developed by experienced church planters to assess whether you have the character, conviction and competency to plant a church. Upon completion and subject to being recommended to plant, our church planters and church planting couples are supported through one to one coaching, a genuine peer network, training events and resourcing within the context of a network committed to seeing new churches evangelised into existence across Australia.

You should get assessed between 12-24 months from your anticipated launch date. We encourage all our planters to spend the time preparing well before starting a new church. A long lead time gives you the option to work on areas of growth, build a launch team and begin praying for and evangelising your community.

**[genevapush.com/get-assessed](https://genevapush.com/get-assessed)**



[GENEVAPUSH.COM/PLANTINGAUSTRALIA](http://GENEVAPUSH.COM/PLANTINGAUSTRALIA)

© 2021 Geneva Push®

44 Margaret St, Sydney.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version®  
2011.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form  
or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior  
permission of Geneva Push®.