

# In My Spheres of Influence- Community

## Joining God's Team – part 7

February 18, 2024

Life Vision Statement:

By God's grace, to step forward as God's man or woman,  
**in my spheres of influence**, to serve His purposes, for His glory.

### **DAY 1: Spheres of influence**

#### 1. Spheres

- a. These are the places where I intersect with people.
- b. Generally, you will have more influence with people with whom you have repeated contact:

#### 2. Next to each of the spheres of influence, jot down people that come to your mind:

- a. Marriage – Your spouse, married friends,
- b. Family – your kids, your kids' friends and parents, school activities and relationships, youth sports connections, etc.
- c. Extended family – Both in-laws and “out-laws”
- d. Career – work relationships, your boss, your co-workers, those who work for you, vendors,
- e. Neighbors -
- f. Community – clerks at restaurants, grocery stores, places you shop, coaching little league sports, girl scouts, boy scouts, etc.
- g. Church – newer people to our community, children of other parents, people with whom you serve together,
- h. School (as a student) – others students, teachers, coaches, admin, etc.
- i. School (as a parent) – students, other parents, PTA, planning school events, etc.

#### 3. Influence

- a. Influence is not a matter of having a leadership position.
  - b. Influence is like being a thermostat, not a thermometer. It affects the temperature.
  - c. What is the difference between being a thermostat versus a thermometer?
4. Your purpose is bigger than “me and my family,” as we used to say in Texas. Your purpose is tied to the people God has put around you in your life! What strikes you from today's writing?

## DAY 2: Purpose and influence

### 1. Purpose

a. We are not just “passing through.” We are not just living for the weekend. We are not just living for our vacation.

b. As a friend of mine used to say, “We are pregnant with purpose.” Our lives are meant to have an influence with the people around us.

*Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*

a. Salt has two great qualities.

b. First, salt acts as a preservative. In the American old west, settlers were able to keep their meat, whether it be pigs, hogs, chickens, beef, or venison over long periods of time by caking it in salt.

c. Second, salt adds flavor

*Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.*

d. How you talk to people, how you converse, your attitude towards people is to be seasoned with salt.

4. Being salt with people is reflecting something of the character of Jesus in the way you speak to others, how you treat them, the nature of relational air you affect.

5. Who is someone you know who relates with salt, adding flavor to conversations, flavoring relationships? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What strikes you about the way they relate to people?

Part of the way we influence people is relationally and personally

7. What strikes you about being salt to the people in your community?

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### DAY 3: That missing “it”

1. People all around you are searching for that missing “it,” that elusive quality or thing or experience that brings them peace, contentment, and deep connection.
  
2. The missing “it” is Jesus, and more specifically, the life of Jesus both in us and through us to others.
  
3. It is most readily seen in three ways:
  - a. How we relate to people,
  - b. How we live, outwardly,
  - c. Our character, demeanor, what people “sense” that we have (the fruits of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-23)

4. Jesus describes the way influence happens as a light shining in the darkness.

*Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

a. YOU are the light of the world. That’s how Jesus sees you! Is that how you see yourself?

b. How does Jesus describe the light?

c. Jesus describes the absurdity of turning on a light and then hiding it. Do you find yourself sometimes hiding your light? What reasons come to mind?

d. Jesus commands us to take the initiative.

(1) Light is seen through our deeds, which includes our attitudes, reactions, and how we relate to people.

(2) He draws this teaching full circle, but giving us a vision of people around us who come out of darkness into His light, and then glorify God for their new life!

5. What strikes you from today’s writing?

## **DAY 4: Your community**

1. Jot down the names of people you know in your “community.”

a. Neighbors:

b. People you know through youth sports like Little League baseball, AYSO soccer, etc.:

c. People you know at school, either as a student or, if you have children at school, people you know at their school, like PTA, school plays and practices, helping in the classroom, etc.

d. Regular places you visit and shop. Grocery store and drug store clerks, wait staff at restaurants and coffee shops, places you shop, etc.

e. Youth activities: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Tae Kwon Do classes, etc.

2. Here are some examples of things you might do with people in your community. (You get extra “points” by asking a fellow church member to team up with you on one or more of these).

- Baking cookies, bread, a pie for a neighbor(s)
- Taking a simple, potted plant to a neighbor on Thanksgiving
- Learning people’s names at restaurants and stores. Begin calling them by name
- Volunteer at school functions, like PTA events
- Volunteer in your child’s classroom. Get to know other moms and dads
- Volunteer to be an assistant coach, team mom, etc., on a little league team
- Ask your child’s teacher at school if there is something you can do to help
- Volunteer to wash an elderly person’s car in your neighborhood
- Ask a neighbor, or several, over for a Saturday lunch
- Invite several people to do movie and dessert on Saturday
- Get a few guys to play basketball at the local park
- If you exercise, find several people who do the same exercise
- Join a pickleball club
- Tip generously
- Invite some people over for a simple dinner and a murder mystery game night
- Invite neighbors to do a July 4 joint cook-out for lunch. Rent a bounce house for kids.

3. What strikes you from today’s writing?