

# The Bridge City Summer Connection Challenge

This summer try something new. Think about the 3 different kinds of connections in your spiritual life, and intentionally practice leaning into them.

## Step 1) Take the Challenge.

Let the elders know you're going to do this experiment this summer. Email [schelske@bridgecity.org](mailto:schelske@bridgecity.org) and say, "I'm in!" We'll pray for you and encourage you.

## Step 2) Make some plans.

Sit down and read this sheet. Brainstorm on things you'd like to try for each of the 3 categories. Put them on your calendar, or do whatever you need to do to make your commitment intentional.

## Step 3) Do it!

For the next 12 weeks (June 13 - Sept 5): **Every Day make a Circle 1 Connection. Every Week make a Circle 2 Connection. Every month make a Circle 3 Connection.**

### Circle 1, Every Day

Invest a minimum of 15 minutes every day doing something that creates space for you to connect with God in some way. In 12 weeks that's 84 opportunities. Draw, read, journal, walk, meditate, reflect, write, sing, dance, memorize, recite, or pray. Anything. Try something new. Whatever you do, do it with an prayerful invitation for God to shape your mind and heart.

### Circle 2, Every Week

Every week make an intentional relational connection with someone who is committed to growing spiritually. Go beyond our weekly worship gathering. Go deeper than a "Hi, how are you?" conversation. Have coffee with someone, or lunch, or a conversation on the front porch, Talk while walking, or while working on a project together, or while your kids have a play date. Whatever you do, make an intentional choice to talk about real things, heart things. Encourage each other. Pray about who to connect with, and then schedule it. If you do this every week, that will be 12 opportunities to seek connection with people who love Jesus. (Just to stretch, make some of those people you normally don't spend time with.)

### Circle 3, Every Month

Every month, make a Circle 3 Difference. Find some way to practice making a difference in the world. Do something that lines up with Jesus' heart as you understand it. Serve a neighbor, mow someone's yard, feed someone who is hungry, pick up all the litter on your street, get informed about ways to advocate against sex trafficking, get involved in racial reconciliation, throw a BBQ for your neighborhood, do what you do (hair, taxes, graphic design, music, budgeting) for someone who couldn't normally afford your services, give a Bible study, visit someone in jail. Schedule it so that it really happens. Whatever you do, do it with a prayer for God to bring love and blessing to life in the world around you.

## Step 4) Be Gracious.

The goal here is not inflexible legalism. The goal is to try something new and rekindle vibrancy in your relationship with God. Beating yourself up is not a part of this. Enter into this with expectation. Do what you can. Notice what you experience. Listen. Learn. Agree right now that performance, accomplishment, guilt and shame are simply not a part of this experience.