

« **Your house** », **in the biblical sense**. « As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD » (Joshua 24:15). Your house is everyone who lives under your roof – a large family, a couple, a single parent, or you alone before God. A household of one is a household, and this altar is for it, fully.

Staying with someone on the way toward Jesus

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations — teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20 · FOUNDING TEXT OF S4

In S3, you named 3 people. You prayed with their photo.

In S4, you learn to **stay with them** — not to convert them.

Conversion belongs to God. Accompaniment belongs to you.

WHAT S4 IS NOT

A theology course. An evangelism script. A technique of persuasion.

WHAT S4 IS

Three ordinary conversations. A practice run. A map of someone's journey.

The full progression

R1

Home · Repair the altar · Wound laid down · First gesture passed on

R2

Depth · Worship lived · Forgiveness deepened · Torch passed to the children

R3

Mission · Gift identified · Style named · 3 first names in the Oikos

R4

Discipleship · 3 conversations practiced · Real rehearsal · Map of the journey

Opening — Feedback from the field

Oikos testimonies · prayers for the 3 first names · anchor Matt. 28:19-20

20 min

Diagnosis — Where I am with my Oikos

Living review · mapping on paper · no questionnaire

20 min

Workshop A — The 3 conversations of discipleship

Life · Death · Decision · learning to speak without a ready-made script

35 min

Break

10 min



Workshop B — Rehearsal: I practice

In pairs · roles · 15 min of real conversation · sharing back

40 min



Workshop C — The map of the journey

Draw a person's journey · prayer with the photo · next step

40 min



Sending — The keys of the Kingdom

Laying on of hands · commissioning · baptismal blessing

15 min

Materials for S4

- **Opening:** Oikos cards from S3 (each person brings their own)
- **Workshop A:** A5 cards “The 3 conversations” (1 per person), pens
- **Workshop B:** Chairs arranged in pairs, face to face — with no table between them
- **Workshop C:** Large blank A4 sheets (1 per person), colored pencils, felt-tip pens, phones
- **Sending:** Commissioning cards (1 per household), anointing oil (optional)

BLOCK 1

Opening — Feedback from the field

□ 20 min · 0:00–0:20

Continuation of S3: In Session 3, each household physically left the room — commitment card in hand, 3 names written. In Session 4, we begin by gathering what has happened since. Not a report — a living testimony.

WORSHIP · 8 MIN. · MISSIONARY ANCHOR

1 **Sending hymn (3 min.)** — A recommissioning hymn. During the music: *“Raise your S3 commitment card if you brought it.”* Those who have it raise it. No judgment for the others.

2 **Anchor P2 — Honor the Lord before serving (2 min.)**
“Jesus, before calling His disciples, spent the night in prayer. Before discipling anyone — your morning time with Him is the source.”

Mark 1:35 — “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.”

Isaiah 50:4 — “Morning by morning He awakens, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.”

3 **Asking for the Holy Spirit (2 min.) — P4**
The facilitator says: *“Without His Spirit, these conversations will produce nothing. Let us ask for Him now.”* A quiet prayer, standing, hands outstretched.

John 7:37 — “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” — It is the Spirit who creates the thirst in the one you accompany. Not you.

4 **Slow reading (1 min.)** — The facilitator reads Matthew 28:19–20 over an instrumental background. Then: *“To make a disciple is not to convince. It is to walk beside someone until they see Jesus.”*

5 **Spontaneous prayer of the first names (2 min.)** — The facilitator invites: *“Say a first name from your Oikos aloud — the one you prayed for this week.”* The first names rise in the room. Silence 30 seconds. Then the facilitator: *“These first names — God has heard them since before you said them.”*

FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD · 12 MIN.

What has happened since S3

Note for the facilitator

Some will have done nothing since S3. No shame. Say: *“What you came looking for this afternoon — that is exactly why we are here.”*

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

MATTHEW 11:28 – P1 OF THE BOOKLET · DISCIPLESHIP STARTS FROM GRACE, NOT FROM PERFORMANCE

- ① **Trios · 5 min.** – Take out the S3 Oikos card. In groups of 3: “What happened with one of the 3 people in your Oikos since the last session? Even a very small moment.”
- ② **Large group · 4 min.** – 3–4 testimonies. The facilitator listens and asks after each one: “And how did you feel in that moment?” One sentence is enough.
- ③ **Link · 3 min.** – The facilitator says: “These ordinary moments – a conversation in a taxi, a shared meal, a message sent – that is already discipleship. This afternoon, we will name how to go further.”

BLOCK 2

Diagnosis — Where I am with my Oikos

□ 20 min · 0:20-0:40

A different format: S1 = YES/NO. S2 = YES/NO. S3 = open questions in pairs. S4 = **a living map on a blank sheet.** No more questionnaire — we draw where we are.

Living map · 12 min. · Individual

Instruction for the facilitator:

Hand out a large blank A4 sheet. Say: “Don’t write words — draw.” Participants draw their Oikos like a geographical map: themselves in the center, the 3 people from S3 around them, lines showing the relational distance (near or far). Then they add a symbol for each person: a flame if the conversation has moved forward, a stone if something is blocked, a path if it is going slowly.

① DRAW YOUR MAP (8 MIN.) · SILENT · SOFT MUSIC

Yourself in the center. The 3 Oikos first names around. The relationship lines. The symbols: moving forward · blocked · ~ slow path.

For the children: draw their friend and add a color for how it is going with them — green (close), orange (a bit far), red (I don’t know how to talk to them).

② SHARING IN PAIRS (4 MIN.)

A SINGLE QUESTION TO ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR

“In your map — which person is closest to hearing about Jesus, in your view?”

③ PERSONAL GROWTH REVIEW · SILENT · 2 MIN.

Without sharing aloud — each one answers in their heart this question:

REVIEW QUESTION — THREAD ACROSS THE 4 SESSIONS

“Since S1 — has my personal life with God (prayer, reading, listening) moved? Even a little?”

This question connects the 4 sessions: the personal altar (S1) the home altar (S1-S2) the mission (S3) discipleship (S4). You cannot accompany someone toward Jesus if you do not walk with Him yourself.

TEACHING · 8 MIN.

Discipleship as a path — not as an event

In the booklet *Return to the Altar*, MacLafferty reminds us that the home altar is not an event — it is a fire we keep burning. Discipleship works the same way. It does not happen in one conversation. It happens over time, in ordinary relationship.

What MacLafferty says (*Return to the Altar*)

“The altar fire is not lit all at once. It requires constant care, regularity, and patience.” The same principle applies to the one you accompany toward Jesus.

What Jesus says (*John 4:35*)

“The fields are already white for harvest.” Some people in your Oikos are already ready. You do not have to create the openness — you must recognize it.

Transition sentence to the workshops:

“Now we are going to learn the 3 conversations that every disciple eventually has. Not a ready-made script — a way of being present to someone.”

WORKSHOP A

The 3 conversations of discipleship

□ 35 min · 0:40–1:15

Continuation of S3 Workshop B: You have identified your missionary style. These 3 conversations adapt to all styles — each one matches a stage of someone’s journey, not a technique.

Every disciple who accompanies someone toward Jesus eventually has these 3 conversations. Not in this exact order. Not all at the same time.

But they all come, at one time or another.

To know they exist is to know how to recognize them when they come.

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you — but with meekness and fear.”

1 PETER 3:15

Run-through — 35 minutes

① BIBLICAL ANCHOR · 4 MIN.

Read John 4:7-26 quickly. Jesus with the woman of Samaria. The facilitator says: “Jesus had the 3 conversations with her — about her life, about her (spiritual) death, about her decision. In 15 minutes. Not a program. An encounter.”

② PRESENTING THE 3 CONVERSATIONS · 10 MIN.

The facilitator presents each conversation with its biblical anchor and its example opening line. See the 3 conversations below.

③ CHOOSE YOUR CONVERSATION · 5 MIN. · INDIVIDUAL

Each participant chooses the conversation that matches the stage of the person in their Oikos **right now**. They write on their card the first name and the chosen conversation.

④ CRAFT YOUR OPENING LINE · 8 MIN. · INDIVIDUAL + PAIRS

Each person writes *their own opening line* for their conversation — in their own words, with the person’s name. Not the text on the card — their own wording. Then they read it quietly to their neighbor. The neighbor says: “Does this sentence sound like you?”

⑤ BRIEF SHARING · 5 MIN.

3 volunteers: their Oikos first name + the chosen conversation + their opening line. The facilitator affirms: “That is your voice. That is what opens doors.”

For the children

The facilitator asks them a single question: “If your friend one day asks you why you go to church – what will you say?” Each child says their answer aloud. No correction – just encouragement.

The 3 conversations

1

The conversation about LIFE

John 4:7 – “Give Me a drink.” / Luke 19:5 – “Zacchaeus, come down.” / John 7:37 – “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me.”

You talk about *their* life – not yours, not the Church, not the Bible. You ask questions about what matters to them. You listen with no ulterior motive. It is the Holy Spirit who creates the thirst – not you. You simply recognize the openness.

Possible opening lines:

- “What matters most to you right now?”
- “How are you really – beyond the everyday?”
- “What do you miss most in your life right now?”

2

The conversation about MEANING and DEATH

John 4:13-14 – “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.” / Hebrews 9:27

You open the question of deep meaning – life after death, suffering, hope. Not a theology course. A real question asked with respect. This conversation often comes during a bereavement, an illness, a crisis.

Possible opening lines:

- “When you think about death – do you believe there is something after?”
- “For you, is there meaning in everything you are going through?”
- “Do you have peace somewhere – or is it emptiness?”

3

The conversation about DECISION

John 4:25-26 – “I am the Messiah.” / Acts 2:37-38 – “What shall we do?”

You invite a decision – not pressure. This conversation comes when the person is ready, not when you decide. They say: “What must I do?” – and you help them take the step. This is the conversation of baptism.

Possible opening lines:

- “Would you like to know Jesus personally – not just talk about Him?”
- “Are you ready to entrust your life to Him?”
- “Would you like us to pray together about this now?”

Golden rule: Do not jump to conversation 3 if the person is still at conversation 1. Each conversation has its moment. Forcing conversation 3 too early closes the door.

My card – The 3 conversations · to take away

TRANSITION

Break

□ 10 min · 1:15–1:25

Preparing Workshop B

- Arrange the chairs in pairs face to face throughout the room. **No table between them.** The conversation happens between two people, not behind an obstacle.
- When resuming: 30 seconds of silence. Then the transition sentence.

Transition sentence:

“You have learned the 3 conversations. Now you are going to have one – for real. Not pretend. A real conversation, here, with someone from this room.”

P4 – Before the rehearsal: ask for the Spirit

These 30 seconds of silence when resuming: each one prays silently. *“Father, may Your Spirit speak through my mouth and open the other’s heart.”*

Acts 1:8

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.” – Not your eloquence. His power.

P3 – The Word in the conversation

“Your word is a lamp to my feet.” (Ps 119:105) – In the 3 conversations, you do not need a ready-made script – you have the Word you meditate on each morning. It will come naturally.

WORKSHOP B

Rehearsal — I practice a real conversation

□ 40 min · 1:25–2:05

Continuation of Workshop A: In Session 2, the households rehearsed home worship here — and it changed everything. In Session 4, we rehearse a discipleship conversation here. The principle is the same: you cannot do outside what you have not practiced inside.

This rehearsal is not a theatrical role-play.

It is a **real conversation** — about real questions — with a real person.

The one playing the unbelieving friend says **what they would really think** in that situation.

What comes out often surprises — and that is the moment discipleship begins.

Run-through — 40 minutes

① INSTRUCTIONS · 4 MIN. · FACILITATOR

Form pairs (or trios if the number is odd). Explain the 2 roles: **Disciple** — use your opening line and your chosen conversation. **Friend** — you are the person in their Oikos. You respond naturally, without making it easy or impossible. See the detailed instructions below.

② REHEARSAL ROUND 1 · 8 MIN.

Person A = Disciple. Person B = Unbelieving friend. The conversation starts. The facilitator moves around in silence. No interruption.

③ SHARING BACK ROUND 1 · 4 MIN. · IN PAIRS

QUESTION FOR THE FRIEND (WHO PLAYED THE UNBELIEVER)

“What opened you up — and what closed you down in that conversation?”

④ REHEARSAL ROUND 2 · 8 MIN. · ROLES REVERSED

Roles reversed. Person B is now the Disciple. Each one experiences both sides.

⑤ SHARING BACK IN THE LARGE GROUP · 10 MIN.

QUESTION 1 — TO THE DISCIPLE

“What was the hardest thing in that conversation?”

QUESTION 2 — TO THE FRIEND

“When you played the unbeliever — what would really have touched you if someone had said that to you in real life?”

QUESTION 3 – TO EVERYONE

“What will you change in the way you approach your Oikos after this workshop?”

© COMMISSIONING PRAYER · 6 MIN.

In pairs – each one places a hand on the other’s shoulder and prays for the person in their Oikos by first name. No formula. Just the first name and one sentence to God.

Instructions for the 2 roles

THE DISCIPLE’S ROLE

- Start with your personal opening line.
- Listen truly – don’t look for your next argument.
- Do not force the conversation toward decision if it is not there yet.
- End with a question or an invitation – not with a conclusion.

THE FRIEND’S ROLE (UNBELIEVER)

- Be natural – think of someone around you who could be in that situation.
- Don’t make it too easy (accept everything) or impossible (reject everything).
- Ask real questions if you feel like it – unbelievers have them.
- Say honestly what would have touched you or closed you in that conversation.

WORKSHOP C

The map of the journey

□ 40 min · 2:05-2:45

Continuation of Workshops A & B: You know which conversations exist. You have practiced one. Now you draw the journey of a person in your Oikos — where they are, what draws them closer, the next concrete step for you.

MacLafferty reminds us in *Return to the Altar* that the family fire is kept going stone by stone.

Discipleship works the same way: **step by step, rather than in a single leap.**

The journey map helps you see where someone is — so you don't ask them to leap too far.

"The path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day."

PROVERBS 4:18

Run-through — 40 minutes

① BIBLICAL ANCHOR · 4 MIN.

Read Mark 12:34 — "You are not far from the kingdom of God." The facilitator says: "Jesus saw where people were on their journey. Not to judge them. To know how to continue with them."

② DRAW THE JOURNEY MAP · 12 MIN. · INDIVIDUAL

On the large A4 sheet: draw the journey of a person in your Oikos according to the map below. Soft music. The facilitator moves around without speaking.

③ PRAYER WITH THIS PERSON'S PHOTO · 6 MIN.

This time the prayer shifts register:

- 1 Open the photo. Hold the phone face up. Look at this face.
- 2 The facilitator says: "Tell God where you think this person is on their journey." Silence 40 seconds.
- 3 "Ask God what you must do in the next stage of this journey." Silence 60 seconds.
- 4 Turn the phone over. Write the next concrete step on the map.

④ NEXT CONCRETE STEP · 8 MIN. · INDIVIDUAL + SHARING

On the map: write a precise action, doable within 7 days, that matches the person's stage on their journey. Then share in pairs.

QUESTION TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

“What will you concretely do for [name] this week?”

⑤ FAMILY-AS-MISSION, COLLECTIVE · 10 MIN.

Key moment – The family as a collective missionary agent

Each member has their own card. This moment creates a shared mission. A child praying for the same neighbor as their father, a mother accompanying the same person as her husband – it is more powerful than uncoordinated parallel efforts.

- 1 Each member shares their card quietly among themselves.
- 2 The family chooses together **one priority person** – the one they all feel called toward. If it is already in the S1 prayer box, all the better: the Oikos card and the prayer box come together.
- 3 Each member says how their gift and their style can help accompany this same person: “With my gift of service, I can help them.” “With my invitation style, I can bring them to the table.”
- 4 Pray together quietly for this person. The children pray too.

REVIEW QUESTION – GROWTH ACROSS THE 4 SESSIONS

“Can you name one way you have grown spiritually – personally – since Session 1?”

The personal altar the home altar the mission toward the Oikos discipleship: that is the full progression of the 4 sessions.

For the children

The child shows their drawing. They say: “My friend [name] is here on the journey. What I will do for them this week: ____.”

Template – The journey map

On your A4 sheet, draw this journey for a specific person in your Oikos.

STAGE 1 · FAR · “I’M NOT SEARCHING”

The person is not yet searching. They live their life. Conversation 1 (about LIFE) begins here – not conversion.

STAGE 2 · CURIOUS · “I’M ASKING QUESTIONS”

The person asks questions – about faith, about death, about meaning. They are not convinced but they are opening up. Conversation 2 (about MEANING) begins here.

STAGE 3 · CONVINCED · “I’M ACTIVELY SEARCHING”

The person actively seeks God. They read, ask precise questions, come to church. They are ready for Conversation 3 (about DECISION).

STAGE 4 · DECISION · “I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS”

The person makes their decision. They ask for baptism. **Your role here:** accompany them toward the baptism class – not handle the baptism alone.

Critical rule of discipleship

Never skip a stage. A person at Stage 1 who receives a Conversation 3 closes down. A person at Stage 3 who does not receive Conversation 3 stalls. The map helps you see where the person is – so you walk *with* them, not ahead of them.

What each person takes away

- The 3-conversations card – with my personalized opening line
- A conversation practiced – I heard what opens and what closes
- The journey map of a person – with their stage and my next step
- A child who knows what to say to their friend and what they will do this week

Sending — The keys of the Kingdom

□ 15 min · 2:45–3:00

Anchoring duo · 2 min

Before you are sent out: turn to **the person next to you** — whoever is there, not necessarily your family — and tell them **the one thing you take away and will do this week**. Listen to theirs. Two sentences each.

Odd number: form a trio. No one is left alone — that is the rule.

Continuation of S1S4: S1 = light raised in the home — the altar kindled. S2 = Ebenezer stone proclaimed — the altar remembered. S3 = physically leaving the room — the altar shining out. S4 = commissioning — the altar that makes disciples. Each sending has been different. Each gesture built on the previous one.

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 16:19

COMMISSIONING PRAYER · 8 MIN.**Standing · In pairs · Laying on of hands · Sending by name**

Each session has had a different sending gesture. S4 is the most personal: a laying-on-of-hands prayer, in pairs, for one then the other.

- 1 The whole room stands. The Workshop B pairs form again. Journey maps in hand.
- 2 Person A places both hands on Person B’s shoulders. Person B says the first name of the person in their Oikos and the stage they are at. Then A prays quietly — a single sentence — for that name and that journey. 90 seconds.
- 3 Swap. Person B places their hands on A. Same protocol. 90 seconds.
- 4 The facilitator prays for the whole room: *“Father, these people we hold in our hands this afternoon — You know them. Give each of us the right words, the patience, and the presence to stay on their journey until they reach You.”*

Sending blessing — Focused on the baptism to come

The parents stand behind their children. Hands on shoulders. Journey maps in their hands.

“Father, we go toward people who do not yet know You.

We will not convert them — You will.

We will not instruct them — Your Spirit will.

We will simply *stay with them*, on their journey, until You have finished Your work.

May every baptism You are preparing for these first names
be preceded by our ordinary faithfulness in relationship.
Send us.”

Hineni. Here am I. Stay with me on this journey.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to us.” – Romans 12:6 · Each family member brings their gift toward the same person.

“You who love God, take Jesus with you wherever you go; and, like the patriarchs of old, erect an altar to the LORD wherever you pitch your tent.” – E. G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 320

AFTER S4 – DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOW-UP

- **30-day review:** Each household shares one step forward on its path card.
- **WhatsApp group:** Share news from your Oikos each week – even a very small moment.
- **When conversation 3 comes:** Contact the pastor. Do not handle the baptism alone – the companion brings, the pastor baptizes.
- **Option – Night of prayer:** spend a night interceding for the first names of your Oikos (the “Option” tab, Appendix 1 of the booklet).

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations — and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20