



SIDEWALK TO FRONT DOOR

SIDEWALK TO FRONT DOOR, PART 1: CURB APPEAL

We are currently in a seller's market when it comes to our housing boom. People are paying \$50,000 or more above asking price to purchase their dream house. What makes you want to walk through the front door and take a look? *Curb Appeal*. You never will get to see the inside of the foyer if you don't like the house from the curb.

The same idea applies to the church. Amazing, life-changing things can be happening inside the church, but us as Jesus followers must get outside and love and lead people into a church. We must create *curb appeal*.

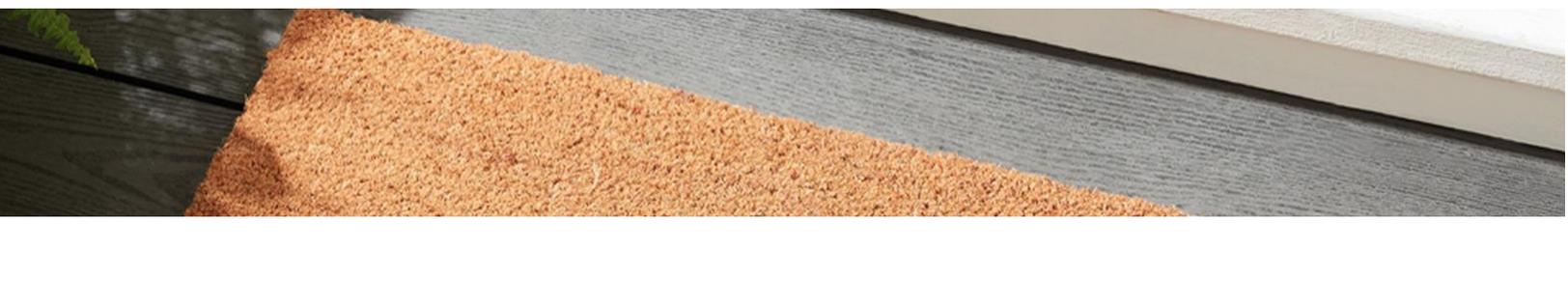
BIG IDEA: Sidewalk environments create curb appeal that can lead to the front door of a church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you grow up in church? If you did, what kind of church was it? Denominational? Was it traditional or contemporary? Did your church have a strategy for reaching people and discipling people? Explain.
2. Many churches start programs that meet needs instead of creating steps that lead to somewhere. For a deeper dive into this, go to www.practicallyspeaking.org and listen to *Practice #2: Think Steps, not Programs*.
3. We have created three environments that will help people take steps toward a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our ministry environments are designed to function like the rooms in a home. We invite *guests* to the **foyer**, develop *friendships* in the **living room** and grow as a *family* around the **kitchen** table. Which one do you think is the most important for an outsider? Most important for someone who wants to go deeper in their faith?
4. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Matthew 5:13-16.*

"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 by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 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. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

5. Jesus says His followers are the salt of the earth. What all does salt do?
 6. Jesus says His followers are the light of the world. What does light do?
 7. What does Jesus tell His listeners to do and not to do as we live our light-filled lives?
 8. There are many parallels between light and Christians. Take time as a group to list as many as you can think of. Reflect on the many properties and uses for light and see how many connections you can draw.
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9. Why is it so rare for Christians to be salt and light in the world? Why is it difficult to live as Jesus describes in the Sermon on the Mount?
10. Who is one person for whom you can be salt and light? What is one thing you can do this week to help that person connect the dots between how you live and the God you serve?
11. If you're a Christian, talk about the people who influenced your faith by being salt and light in your life. What did you learn from their example? If you're not a Christian, talk about followers of Jesus who left you with a good impression of Christianity. What was it about them you liked? How were they different from other Christians you'd met?

MOVING FORWARD

If you're a Christian, it's because someone was salt and light in your life. You've had providential relationships. When you look back on your life, those people were "towns on a hill," showing you the way to God's grace. Their persistence may have been a little irritating, but their love changed your life. *Be salt. Be light. Salt always preserves. Light always shows the way.*

CHANGING YOUR MIND

People do not 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. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:15-16 (NIV)



Our Mission (What we're doing)

To lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this by creating environments where the Holy Spirit can grow people into the three vital relationships intimacy with God, community with insiders and influence with outsiders—that is how we define what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Christ.

oneChurch.tv's Ministry Strategy (How we accomplish our mission)

We have created three environments that will help people take steps toward a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our ministry environments are designed to function like the rooms in a home. We invite *guests* to the **foyer**, develop *friendships* in the **living room** and grow as a *family* around the **kitchen** table.

The Foyer - **foy•er** (foi' er, foi ya') n. an entry. — **(Guest)**

It's the place in your home that serves as the welcome area for guests and new friends. It's the first step, and it's often your only chance to make your guests feel comfortable enough to return. That's exactly how we will design our entry environments at oneChurch.tv. Our Sunday worship services are foyer environments. We want our guests to come back, so we do everything with them in mind. Our foyers are large environments designed to change people's minds about church. These environments are where most people will experience for the first time, and they serve as the perfect place to introduce newcomers to the life of our church.



The Living Room - **liv•ing room** (liv'ing room) n. a room in a home, with sofas, chairs, etc., used for social activities, entertaining guests, etc. — **(Friends)**

Once your guests arrive and are welcomed into your home, you invite them into the living room. Everyone finds a comfortable place to sit, and the interaction begins. At oneChurch.tv, our living room environments are designed to help you connect with people like yourself. Smaller and more interactive than the foyer environment, this is a real-life, genuine opportunity to begin friendships—just like you would in your home. Our living rooms are medium-sized environments designed to change people's minds about connecting. By serving, you will begin to develop relationships with others in a smaller and more interactive environment.



The Kitchen - **kitch•en** (kich'en) n. a room or place for the preparation and cooking of food. — **(Family)**

Webster's definition doesn't help us much, does it? But think about it. What's the most popular room in your home? Where do you end up when friends and family come over? That's right. The kitchen. This is where lasting friendships are made. And that's the kind of environment we are striving for in our community groups. Our kitchen environments are small group environments designed to change people's minds about their priorities. These groups consist of six to eight couples or twelve to fourteen individuals who meet regularly for Bible study and prayer and commit to accountability, friendship and support. They are the safe places to open your heart, share your life, and ask the tough questions.

