



# A NAVIGATORS DISCIPLESHIP TOOL: [Q] WHO/WHAT IS A LABOURER?

Jesus told his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Mt. 9:37). As Navigators, we long to see this spiritual harvest. In fact, our calling focuses on this idea of raising up a new generation of labourers for this harvest. The calling of The Navigators is, "to advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost." A labourer, simply put, is a follower of Jesus engaged in the mission of Jesus.

Where do we begin to grow as a labourer who advances the gospel? Consider this resource as a map to live out the practices of a labourer and how to begin to deeply invest in the spiritual lives of others you care about. Our prayer is that as you follow Jesus and grow in skill as a labourer, you will learn how to help others right where you are to follow Jesus Christ.



## LABOURING BEGINS WITH HEART CONVICTIONS

**HEART** for God and compassion for people who are lost without Christ motivates our labouring. "We love because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Labourers have a 'heart for the whole person' and 'compassion for the vulnerable and broken' (Navigators Vision). Matthew 9:36-38, Isaiah 61:1-3

**CONVICTION** that God wants to reach people through every believer in Jesus with the gospel. Sharing the gospel and making disciples is something God calls each one of us to. The good news is that Jesus promises to be with us and empower us to be His ambassadors. Matthew 28:18-20, John 15:1-8. 2 Cor 5:18-21

Out of these heart convictions, a labourer is someone who demonstrates the following practices:

# 6 PRACTICES OF A LABOURER

How are you doing in each of the following practices? Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to grow in any of these areas? If so, what is a good next step, and who could you do this with?

## TOGETHER

**Labourers work together and need one another**

*Philippians 1:27; Heb. 10:24-25*

Paul urged the Philippians to be "striving together as one for the faith of the gospel." (Phil 1:27). As expressed in The Navigators Vision, "Both personally and in committed communities, they (labourers) seek to know and pursue the purposes of God." For labourers, faith communities are not the ultimate goal – they are a means to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into their relational networks and the nation.

## JESUS

**Labourers walk with God.**

*Acts 4:13; Philippians 3:8-10*

Labourers have a passion to know, love, and become like Jesus. They walk faithfully, humbly, and obediently with God. Their ministry to friends and family overflows from their relationship with God.

## WORD

**Labourers know and live out of the Scriptures in their daily lives.**

*2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17*

Labourers are marked by 'deep engagement with and obedience to the Scriptures as the Word of God' (The Navigators Vision). They know how to read the Bible, study it, talk about it, live it out in their daily lives, and pass it on to others.

## AMONG

**Labourers are faithfully present like salt and light among people who are lost to God.**

*Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:12*

Labourers intentionally love, serve, and share the gospel with their lives and their words. Like Jesus, they intentionally seek out relationships with people who don't yet know Jesus, looking to help them move closer to Christ as Saviour and Lord.

## PRAYER

**Labourers persevere in prayer for others.**

*Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18*

Labourers realise that coming to believe in Jesus and experiencing spiritual transformation is the work of God's Spirit. Labourers play a key role in praying personally for and with fellow labourers.

## DISCIPLESHIP & GENERATIONS

**Labourers Intentionally share faith AND invest in the faith journeys of others.**

*Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Thess. 2:8*

Out of love labourers intentionally invest their lives into the spiritual growth of others, life to life. Anything that helps others move closer to Jesus is part of making disciples. Labourers help others catch a vision for investing in the spiritual growth of friends. This creates a ripple effect of new spiritual generations who follow Jesus and are committed to making disciples.

