

LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO THE STORIES OF THE WORLD AROUND YOU



TO THRIVE, A CONGREGATION MUST BE AWARE OF THE
NEEDS, ASPIRATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES OF
ITS WIDER CONTEXT.



I TELL YOU, OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK AT THE
FIELDS! THEY ARE RIPE FOR HARVEST...

- ☐ WHAT ARE THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY?
- ☐ SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN YOUR CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE?



**THE WORLD AROUND US PRESENTS
NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES**

THE WORLD AROUND US PRESENTS NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES



- ☐ MOST SIGNIFICANT
CHANGE IN AREA
DURING LAST DECADE?
- ☐ WHAT ONE CHANGE IN
THE COMMUNITY
WOULD MAKE A
POSITIVE DIFFERENCE
IN PEOPLE'S LIVES
- ☐ WHO ARE POSSIBLE
PARTNERS?

☐ WHAT IS LIFE LIKE HERE?

☐ WHERE IS "SHALOM" FOUND OR NOT FOUND?

☐ WHERE ARE SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM? WHERE IS GOD AT WORK ALREADY?

☐ LOOKING AROUND, WHERE ARE SIGNS OF CARE OR NEGLECT? PERMANENCE OR TRANSIENCE? COMMUNITY OR ISOLATION? AFFLUENCE OR POVERTY?

☐ WHAT ARE THE FAVOURITE "THIRD PLACES"?

**THE WORLD AROUND US PRESENTS
NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES**

THE WORLD AROUND US PRESENTS NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

- ☐ WHAT'S TALKED ABOUT IN THE NEWS?
ON WEBSITES & SOCIAL MEDIA? IN THE GATHERING PLACES?
- ☐ "BE A DETECTIVE!"
- ☐ WHAT GOOD NEWS WILL THEY RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO FIRST?



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Bringing Clarity to Identity, Purpose & Action



Missional Clarity: Formed out of the Interaction of Narratives



CLEAR THE WAY...



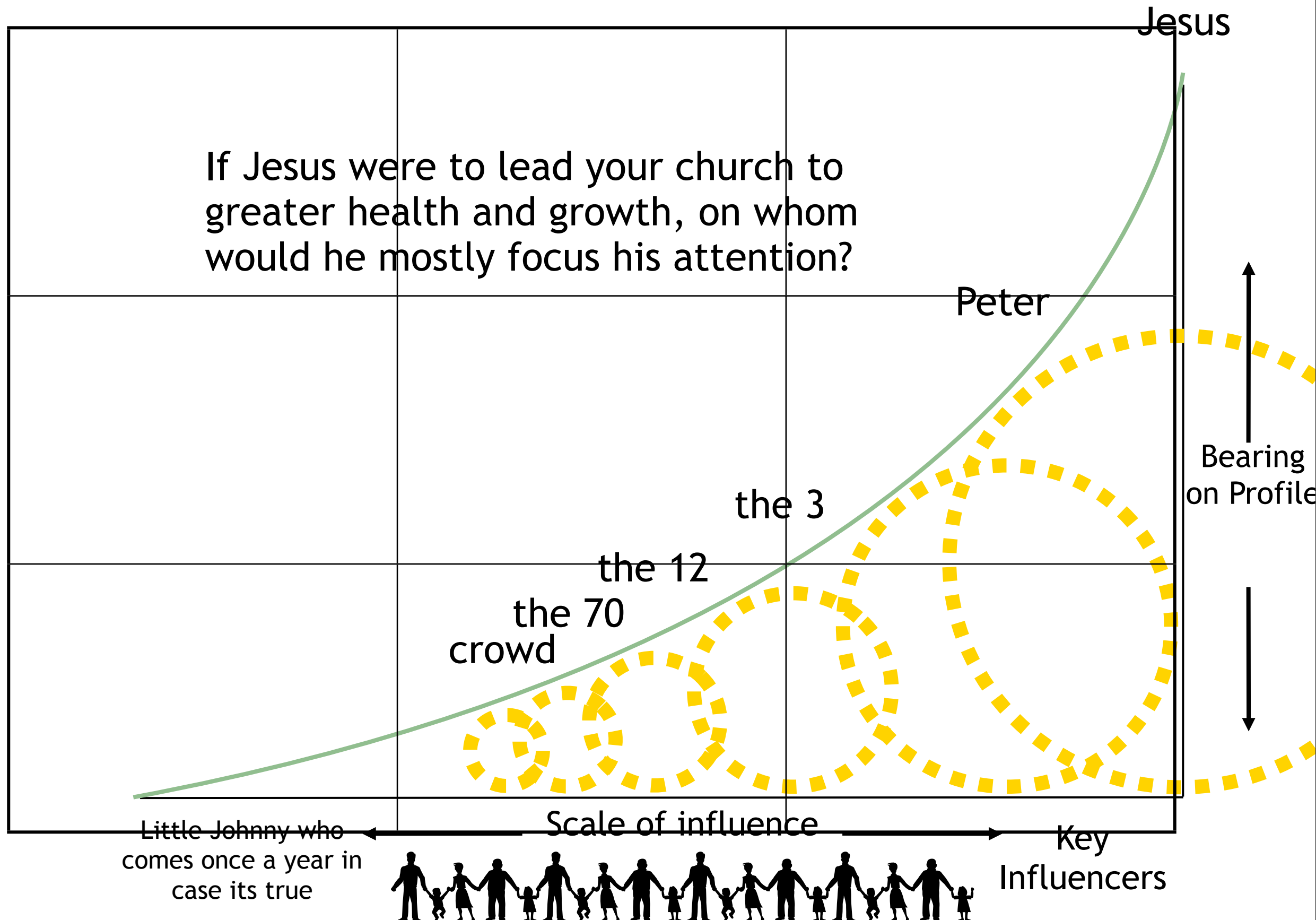
SHAPING THE CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE

SET YOUR COMPASS...

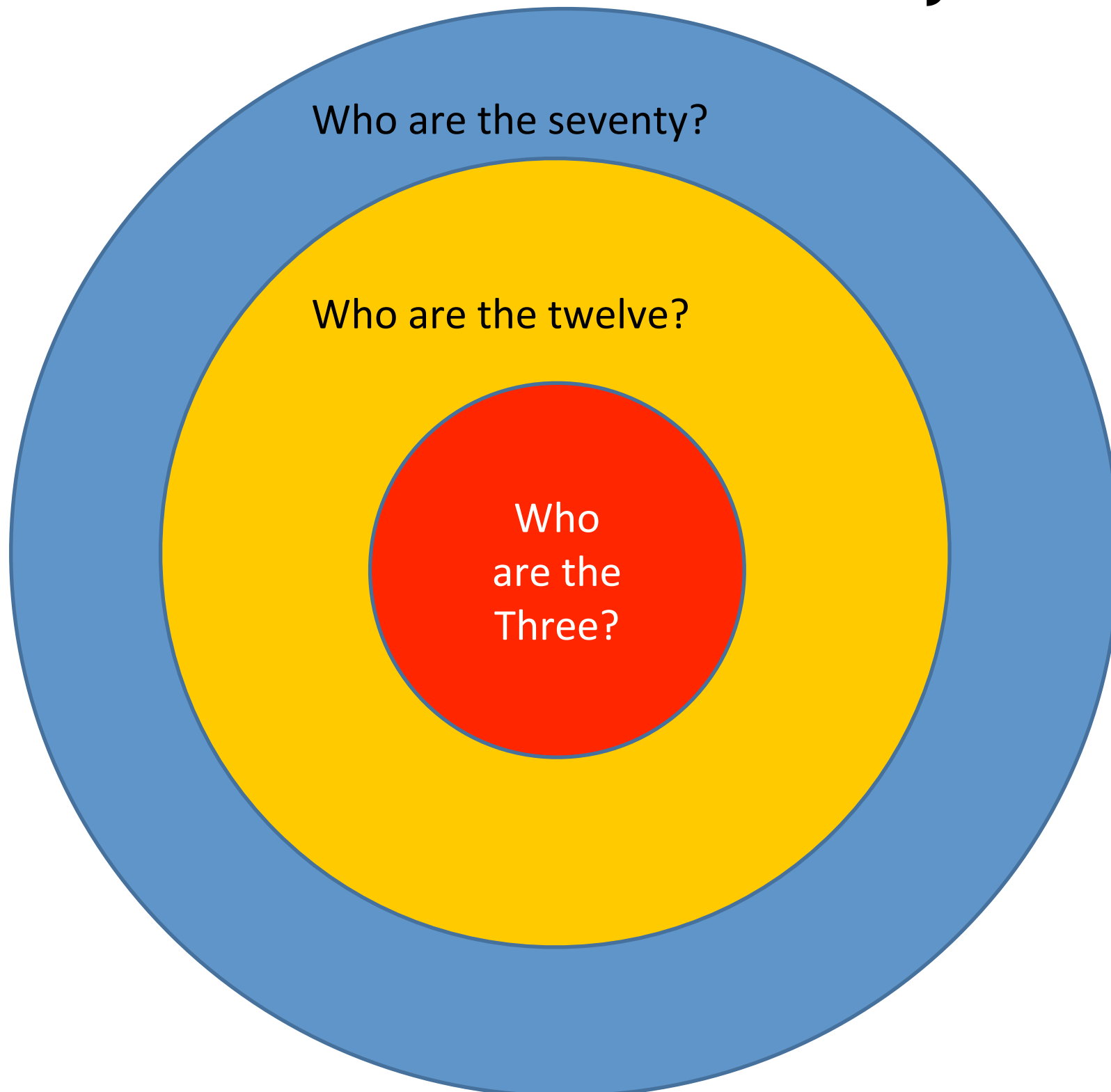
- ☐ PRIORITY TO PEOPLE
DIMENSION
- ☐ CONNECT TO PAST
- ☐ BUILD FROM CURRENT
SKILLS
- ☐ IMPACT ON BUILDING
UP CONGREGATION



If Jesus were to lead your church to greater health and growth, on whom would he mostly focus his attention?



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Take a few minutes and write down the answers....

How will you begin to engage them in being the change you want to see?

INSIGHT TO ACTION...



1. SHARE ONE INSIGHT YOU FOUND PARTICULARLY HELPFUL.
2. NAME SOMETHING TO FOLLOW UP ON RIGHT AWAY.

SHAPED BY A LIVING HOPE

Fostering Renewal in Rural and Small Congregations



- CHRISTIANS THRIVE WHEN THEY ALLOW THEIR LIVES TODAY TO BE SHAPED BY GOD'S TOMORROW!



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