

Accompanier

For adults who accompany YCW & Impact

The Accompanier's role - to Call

The goal of YCW/Impact has always been to form young people as true leaders in life. In order to do this, we must call people together to solve the contradiction they experience between life and faith. Our aim is to group together young people, to take them out of isolation, into small groups where they can examine and analyse their reality and concerns, in order to make transformations to improve their lives.

The initial step of calling the young people involves approaching those young people known to you and asking them to be involved. It's important to decide what age group you are going to invite to join together. As a general rule the group's age range should not span more than three years, so as to ensure that the young people are close in life experience and situation. Once you have engaged the interest of a small group, even just a few young people, they themselves will be in a position to expand the group.

In taking this first step you can try to approach the young person you are inviting with questions such as, "How is everything in your life?" "What are the concerns in your life?" Asking young people what is going on in their lives can help to springboard you into offering a method in which they can make the changes they want to see in their lives. The first young person who recognises the concerns in his or her life will most probably be the first member of the group. By beginning these conversations and posing these questions, you will discover the few individuals needed to make up the beginnings of the group.

Invite them personally – give young people worth

When you ask a young person to come to a meeting, give him or her value. For example say "We're having a meeting on such-and-such an evening to talk about what it's like being a young



Cardinal Cardijn, YCW Founder, calling young people to action

person around here. I think you've got a lot to offer. Will you come?" This is much more effective than posters, although it's a good idea to have a leaflet with all the details on too.

Make a list

Young people will want to know who else is coming. So be ready to tell them who else you are inviting. Have a list of all the young people you are asking, so you can let them know. "I am asking too and they said their friend is coming too."

Young people are the best inviters

Make contact with one or two young people and ask them to do the inviting with you. Young people respond better to other young people.

Don't leave it too long

When you invite young people, it is often best to invite them to a meeting in a few days time or a week away. If you invite people to a meeting next month it is unlikely they will come.

Hold a specific event

It is often best to organise a specific event first and then work from there. Make sure that you are supported by other adults, as suitable supervision and cover are very important if there are young people below 18 years old.

Do not be overly concerned about numbers

Though you may gather large numbers to an event, it is likely that a smaller number will want to commit themselves to a regular meeting. Others may wish

to join in an occasional event or a particular activity. A small number of young people (four to six) is enough to begin a group. Their activity and enthusiasm will soon attract others.

Invite friends to meetings

Discussing particular issues may be an opportunity to invite friends to come along to the meetings and share their experiences. Moreover, young people may be interested in the actions and activities of the group, so keep encouraging members to invite them.

There is never an ideal time to begin forming a group and you just have to make the decision to do it right now. It will quite simply begin when you ask those questions, start those conversations. There are no big decisions, no unachievable targets in terms of initial group size or recruitment drive, all you have to do is begin having these conversations.

We are currently piloting our new resource, which is designed to be really accessible, easy to use and to work for all different types of new groups. It is called Take Out.

Take Out can be a valuable tool at the “calling” stage, as it will help to quickly move and inspire the group into action, giving that sense of achievement that carrying through an action produces. It can also be useful for groups of young people who do not initially know each

other well, as it will throw them into a project and help in that process of bringing them together.

Take Out includes the well-used and recognised Friends and Contacts Chart and opens up the possibilities for how it can be used. The chart provides a context and background for the See-Judge-Act method. It is an effective way to help the group be outgoing, apostolic and caring for the life of others. It widens the view so that you look harder at these areas.

Soon after the group is formed, each member should make out a “Chart”. The group can either use photocopies from the printed sheet provided in the pack or make one of their own. Many YCW members use a notebook rather than a “Chart”. They simply write down the names of their friends and the young people with whom they are in contact in the four different areas of their life: home and family, local neighbourhood, study and work, friends and leisure.

As young people reflect on the past week, the people mentioned in their chart should be their primary concern. It is among, and with the people they mix with everyday, that the young people are first called to act as servants of the Kingdom of God and bearers of Jesus’ message of love, truth, peace and justice. At the outset it is often the life of a friend which arouses strong

feelings, for example, the desire to help a friend out of a difficulty. We become attentive. We listen. We learn how to get to know and understand someone. We have to make space within ourselves in order to allow the life of a friend to become important to us. This way of looking at things opens us up, and this way of listening makes us grow and discover other insights, other cultures, other worlds. Everything comes into sharp focus and has a new feel about it. Our judgements change, and our whole reasoning in that situation then takes on the reality. We then can no longer tolerate it being treated with contempt, crushed or disregarded.

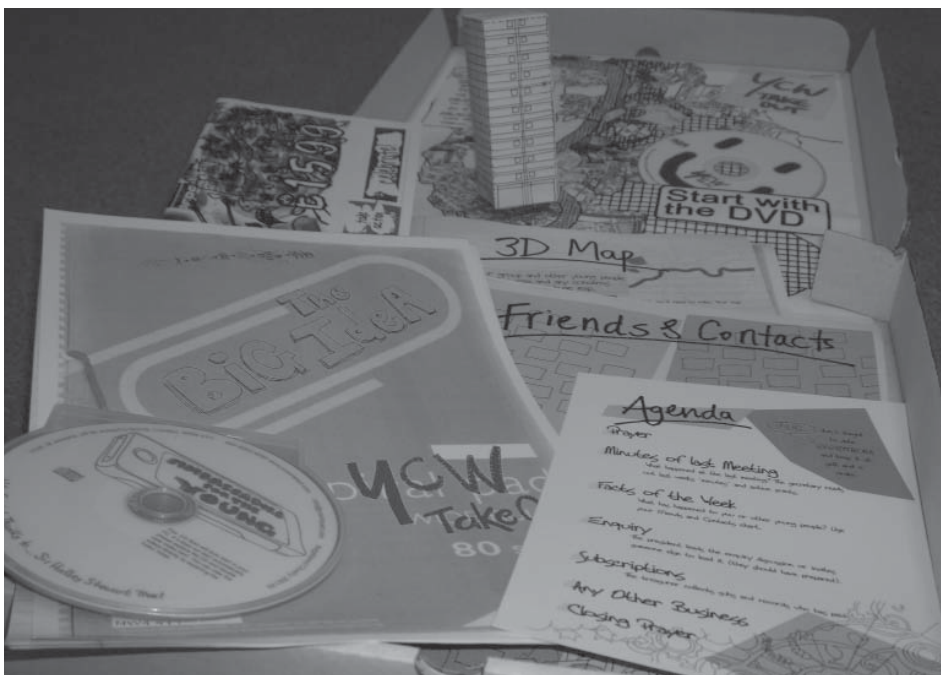
The active engagement of young people in the life of their friends shapes the way that they enter into communion with God. It is a place where they meet and experience who God is. Clearly Scripture shows that God wants everyone, including his young people, to live full and dignified lives (John 10:10). When members of a YCW or Impact group begin to pay attention to their friends, support them and work with them to give their lives new meaning, these young people are living out this ambition of God.

The Friends and Contacts Chart reinforces YCW’s goal of evangelizing young people by immersing the method into the centre of their lives, as it takes them together with their whole world and environment.

These are some of the basic questions that are revisited again and again and help us to start this process:

- Who are your friends?
- What do they do?
- What are their needs?
- How do they react to things?

A YCW or Impact meeting may appear to revolve around a theme (work, racism, drugs, crime, study, etc.), but actually has these same friends as its starting point, so knowing how to use this tool and continually reflecting back to it is an important discipline and should never be ignored or underestimated.



Friends and Contacts Chart

Home and Family	Write the names of people you see regularly in the boxes. (You don't have to know them well)	Friends and Leisure
<p>Your Name: _____</p> <p><i>Choose a name off your chart:</i></p> <p>What do you know about their life: their family, interests, work or study, difficulties?</p> <p>How am I called to respond to them this week?</p> <p>What is my attitude to them going to be this week?</p>		
Work or College	<i>Your Friends and Contacts Chart (or list) helps you to think about who you are in contact with, who you influence and who influences you.</i>	Local Neighbourhood

which they work and live, highlighting any concerns they may have.

“Mapping” provides another opportunity to ensure that young people are aware of what is going on in the lives of other young people, so that they can see more clearly what it is that they are called to transform. Our new Take Out resource encourages a group to create a map of the local area. The idea behind this is to allow the group and other young people in the local area to comment on what life is like, and to voice any concerns that they may have. Take Out includes various different ways in which you can approach creating a “map”. The group can be as creative as they like in how they choose to make the map, and how to map their concerns onto it. Take Out gives ideas and practical resources on how to help a group get started.

As many young people as possible should be invited to give their feedback/ concerns/comments on their lives and local area. The map, therefore, needs to be visually engaging and accessible to other young people. A good way to judge this is to produce something that your group truly believes is engaging and would that they would find attractive themselves. Like the Friends and Contacts Chart it's important to include the four areas of life (home and family, friends and leisure, work or study and local neighbourhood).

Now let's get practical!

Use the Friends and Contacts Chart before the meeting, or during the SEE at the beginning of the meeting. During the SEE spend a few moments thinking about the people on their chart. The meeting leader should ask:

- Has anything happened to them this week?
- Have you got to know them any better?
- Does anyone stand out about whom you are especially concerned? Why?

At the end of a meeting the group can ask:

- Who on my chart can I be of

service to this week?

- Can I share anything we have discussed this week with anyone on my chart?
- Can I stand up for any of my friends or contacts this week?

The Take Out resource provides the practical instructions needed to help the group get started using this powerful and far-reaching tool.

Mapping

The Friends and Contacts Chart is one of the principle tools used in the YCW to map our lives – to do a “proper SEE”. A YCW understanding of “Seeing” involves enabling young people to analyse and comment on their real situations and the area in

The map will paint for the group. It will be an interactive visual representation of the major concerns of the area. From it, a group can plan a whole action campaign, really seeking to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of young people in the local area.

So what's stopping you? The new resource Take Out helps to simplify, support and lead this initial stage in group formation – calling young people together to get to grips with life, and realise that they can make a difference. It is available now and can be ordered from YCW HQ at a cost of £10. It is ideal for new groups, as a way of making contact with young people and getting started, or for existing groups who want to carry out an action campaign.

Gospel Enquiry – “Follow Me”

“As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘follow me and I will make you into fishers of men’. And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.”

Mark 1:16-20 (Jerusalem Bible)

Commentary:



“Follow me” – Jesus’ first words to his disciples are a call to commit themselves. “And at once they left their nets and followed him”, sharing their lot in life with him, leaving behind their old lives, their families and work. Jesus, like the religious teachers of his time, teaches them and has them learn the message which they will pass on to others in the Church. Jesus gives these men a new direction in life. This call to a new life is answered immediately by the men. By showing that Peter and Andrew answer Jesus’ call by giving up their livelihood, and James and John

their family ties, Mark is showing that discipleship calls on us to renounce the ties of this world, whether that be possessions or family ties.

Simon, Andrew, James and John: Jesus already knew them, for he had seen them where John preached. They were not wasters but responsible, committed workers. Today many young workers share this commitment to their work, as well as to making a difference in young people’s lives.

They did not yet know what the Kingdom of God would mean but they trusted Jesus to guide them. This was the beginning of faith for them. Christian faith starts when we take seriously Jesus’ calling to “follow him” and change our way of life to live according to his teaching.

Questions for enquiry:

- Why did Jesus call these four men to leave all things and follow Him?
- What did He need them for?
- Why do we think they went with Him?
- Did they know at this time

what “following Him” would bring to them?

- How do we know?
- What is He calling us to do?
- Can we ask others to share in our work?
- What action will you take?



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