

Case Study 1

Aubrey is a teenager who has been attending your church for the past year. She did not grow up in church and she does not have strong connections with most members of the congregation. Aubrey is quiet; the teens who grew up in the church are more comfortable being up front and participating. Aubrey mostly slips in and out each Sunday. As you've watched Aubrey, you've wondered about her story and what message or gifts she might have to offer the church.

- » How can you nurture Aubrey so she can share her “truths” with the rest of the congregation?
- » How can you help the congregation be receptive to the ways that Aubrey might witness to Jesus in their midst?

Case Study 2

The number of immigrants in your community is growing. You have overheard long-term members of the community—at the grocery store, bank, and in the local paper's editorial section—speak disparagingly of the newcomers, even making comments that sound overtly racist. You raise your concerns with your Sunday school class at church. You wonder:

- » How can our congregation prepare a way for Jesus in this situation of prejudice and animosity?
- » How can we help to bridge the divide that is growing in our community?

Case Study 3

A friend of yours suddenly and tragically experiences the loss of their spouse. The friend is overcome with grief, and angry with God for allowing this loss to occur. You want to support your friend, but are unsure what you should say or how to respond.

- » What might you do or how might you be a presence to this friend that prepares a way for Jesus' healing presence?

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