



Tommy Axford

After college, nearly four years ago, Tommy and his soon-to-be wife began attending Brentwood Baptist. They began by taking a PLACE class so they could connect with others through service. Today, Tommy and his family are active at Brentwood Baptist, involved in mission journeys, and are connecting others to Christ.

"I went to church growing up, but wasn't active in high school and college because there were zero kids my age and no activities. That was definitely a period when I wasn't practicing what I said I believed. As I got older, I didn't have much of a tie to the church. I just figured I would do church later in life. After college, a couple of guys from work got me connected to a Bible study here at Brentwood Baptist. Bill Long has led that Bible study for two years now and he's been the greatest mentor to me. Because of him, I've slowly taken on leadership training in the church through the TNT class and he's helped me grow in my relationship with Christ. One of the ways I'm now acting as a connector is through DivorceCare for Kids. Coming from a divorced family, it's been a way I've been able to connect with kids and point them to Christ."



Am I a connector?

If you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that's grounded in worship, growing in discipleship, and going out in service, then, yes, you're a connector!

Who is unconnected?

Those who don't have a vital relationship with Christ.

Some people may attend or even be members of a church, but they aren't connected to Christ. They need connectors who will come alongside them and help them understand the difference between being a church member and being a Christ-follower.

Some people may be disenfranchised from Jesus because they are turned off by organized religion. These people need connectors who will be patient with their anger and lovingly live out the true character of Christ before them.

Others may genuinely know very little about Jesus, and what they know may be inaccurate. They need connectors who will invite them to come and see the Jesus of the Gospels and who will investigate with them whether Jesus is who He says He is.

What is connecting?

Connecting is simply introducing unconnected people to Jesus, and helping them get to who He is.

Look around you. Who are the unconnected people where you work, live, and play? How can you build a relationship with them so they'll have opportunities to see Jesus in you or talk about Him with you?

What are connections?

Connections are those moments in life when you have a chance to demonstrate the character of Christ to someone else. They are those opportunities when you and someone who is unconnected can be part of a conversation about the important things in life.

Connections can happen on a mission trip or a shopping trip. They happen in your office or back yard. They happen with people you've just met and with people you've known a long time.

The ultimate connection is the moment you can say to someone else, "I think I know what you're looking for. His name is Jesus. Come and see."

This fall, we'll explore these ideas of what it looks like to be a connector and how you can connect others to Jesus. For more information on the dynamic messages prepared for our upcoming sermon series that will address this topic, check out the ad on the back page.

To get involved in any of these ministries or find a place to serve and connect others to Jesus, go online to BrentwoodBaptist.com.