



GCI
**CHURCH
HACKS**

START WITH PLACE-SHARING

Why Place-Sharing Matters

In his work on youth ministry, theologian Andrew Root introduces the concept of place-sharing – a relational practice where we enter into the experience of another, offering our presence in solidarity, not as saviors or fixers. Place-sharing reflects the way Jesus shares our place, becoming human, walking with us, and revealing the Father through relationship.

When we engage in place-sharing, we embody a relational, incarnational way of witnessing. We create space for belonging, mutuality, and transformation. Place-sharing isn't about doing something for someone – it's about being with someone in love, humility, and care.

THE HACK: A MONTH OF PRACTICING PLACE-SHARING

Invite your Love Avenue team to build a place-sharing rhythm for one month:



1. Choose a Context for Connection

Pick one consistent, relational space in your neighborhood – a café, community garden, library, class, or local event. Make it your team's "anchor place" for the month.

2. Be Present and Pay Attention

Show up without an agenda. Listen. Learn names. Ask questions. Let conversations unfold naturally. Don't rush it. You're not there to fix; you're there to **share place**.



3. Practice Mutuality

Place-sharing is not one-sided. Share your life, too. Allow others to care for you. Be vulnerable when appropriate. Let real relationship develop.

4. Reflect as a Team



Each week, gather and ask:

- Where did I see God at work this week?
- What surprised me about this experience?
- Who am I being invited to journey with?
- What might sustained presence look like in this place?



HOW PLACE-SHARING SUPPORTS ALL THREE AVENUES



Love Avenue (Witness): Place-sharing deepens our witness by building genuine, consistent relationships in our neighborhood. Instead of inviting people to a program, we are inviting them into our lives. We become neighbors in the truest sense – present, known, and engaged.



Hope Avenue (Worship): Place-sharing enriches our corporate worship by giving us a deeper sense of who we're worshiping with and for. When we know the people in our community, we pray differently, we teach differently, and we shape our gatherings with empathy and welcome.



Faith Avenue (Discipleship): Discipleship is about transformation in the context of relationship. Place-sharing is the soil in which discipleship can grow – offering a model of presence, vulnerability, and shared spiritual journey. It helps faith groups move beyond content to connection.

Want to Go Deeper?

Explore our place-sharing resources, including videos, training tools, and conversation guides to help you and your team practice relational ministry in a Jesus-shaped way:

resources.gci.org/media/placesharing ➡

The Essentials

Place-sharing is the practice of being with others in love and mutuality, reflecting Jesus' incarnational presence. Choose one consistent place to show up each week, practice deep listening, share life authentically, and reflect together as a team. This simple rhythm strengthens your Love Avenue witness, shapes your Hope Avenue worship with empathy, and nurtures Faith Avenue discipleship through real relationships. Sustainable presence leads to meaningful connection and lasting transformation.

Concept of place-sharing developed by Andrew Root, especially in *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From a Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation* (IVP Books, 2007). See also *The Relational Pastor: Sharing in Christ by Sharing Ourselves* (IVP Books, 2013).