

COME ON IN, THE WATER IS LOVELY.

OBJECTIVE

1. To get an overview of Person/People of peace as mentioned in Luke 10.
2. To understand the remaining principles.
3. To understand how we respond differently in different relationships.

PODCAST OVERVIEW

Bullet points from Mary Hopkins material (with additional part by Bob).

1. Person of Peace and the role of Preparation and Power.
2. How to help people journey towards Jesus.
3. Establishing a culture of sowing, reaping, keeping.

7. Power and Preparation (continued from last week)

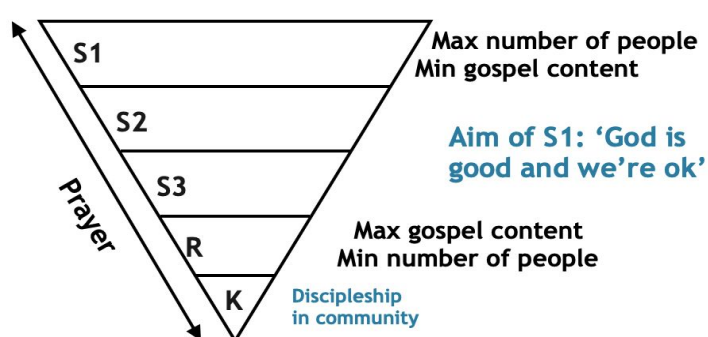
Building on the trusting relationship with the person of peace.

The motive is and remains love.

The most loving thing we can do is to introduce someone to Jesus.

The preparation (Mary Hopkins)

The funnel as types of pools. Don't get caught up in the diagram its only to help illustrate points.



The widest point of the funnel is **S1 Sowing** (high number of people, low Christian/spiritual content).
moving down the funnel to
K, keeping (High Christian content, Low number of people).

S1 (Sowing)

Getting to know people where they realise that Christians are not so bad after all and don't bite.
God is good and Christians are OK.

- Social contact with people. No Christian contact. Just getting to know people.
- Meeting new people.
- Joining clubs.

- Inviting people for food.
- Sports team.

S2 (Sowing)

- Sharing our story with people (testimony).

S3 (Sowing)

- Sharing bible truth but with no response required.

R (Reaping)

- Truth of the bible about Jesus is shared but a call/challenge/invitation to respond.

K (Keeping)

- People come into discipleship within community.
- That community might start as a one to one if more suitable. Or a small group to begin with.

Principles

1. We invite people from one level to the next.
2. They move at their own pace and **only** when they are ready.
3. Everybody is moving and we help them journey further often by invitation and asking (*see below under invitation*).
4. Prayer happening through all stages.
5. We do and speak as best fits the culture, the trust and the willingness of the person.

Invitation

- An invitation does not always mean an invitation to a next event.
- It can be an invitation into a deeper level of conversation.
- Ask permission to share more deeply. regardless of a yes or no response, it doesn't break trust.

View each layer of the funnel as a pool.

The largest section being S1 is the coolest and the Keeping section is the warmest pool. Our tendency is to heat up the existing pool, we introduce Christianity into the existing culture/pool/activity. This is very tempting but not the most appropriate approach.

We need to build on trust and invitation.

A person expecting safe space that we have set or agreed with them is then surprised by bringing another aspect to bear on it that was unexpected, unwelcome and not agreed/prepared for. The big danger is that we have trust broken.

We keep sowing... sowing... sowing at each level.

Example

Alpha. Sits between sowing 2 level and reaping. Pools of relationship.

- **S1 (Sowing)** Social, fun, friendship
- **S2 (Sowing)** How Jesus affects MY life.
- **S3 (Sowing)** How Jesus affects ALL life.
- **R (Reaping)** How does Jesus affect YOUR life?

Example

Natter cafe

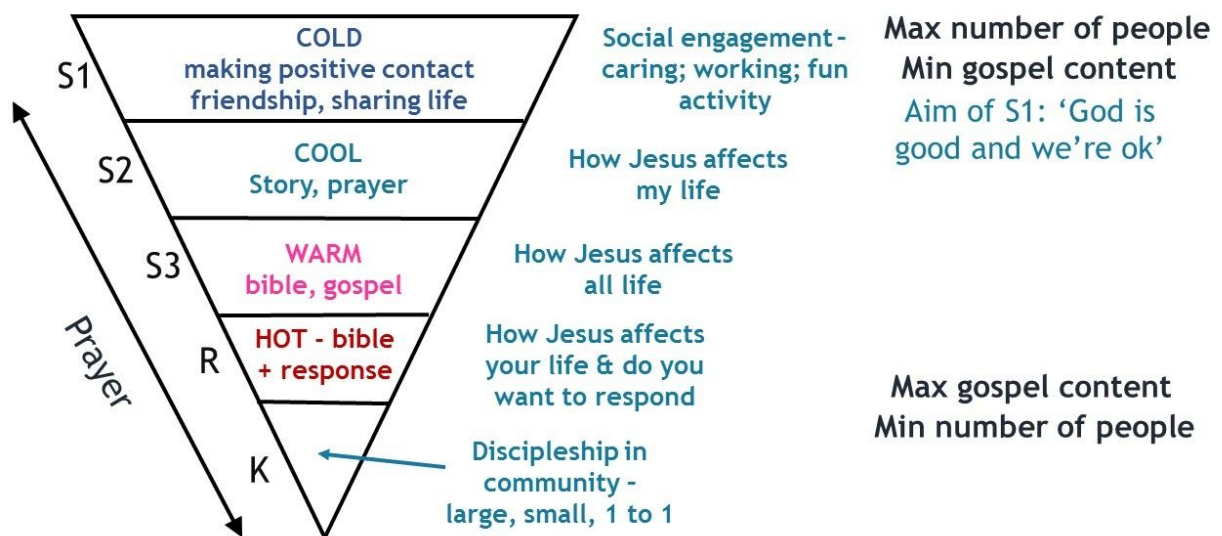
- **S1**
A social cafe/drop in. Games, coffee etc for older, retired people.

- **S2**
In chatting to people, they shared their life and team asked if they'd like prayer and so took people into another space and they prayed.
- **S3**
As people responded and were open they were invited to do an Alpha.
- **R**
People responded to Jesus from within Alpha and they started Natter plus (also covers Keeping). To learn more if still open but not yet responded.
- **K**
Natter with God is a short service for those who are now following Christ. They kept the cafe as safe space and didn't change it but created other spaces/contexts for people to move on/move deeper.

Principles extra.

Two approaches. This works where we either we **create the community** or invitational to **existing community**. Jesus describes the gospel as yeast that spreads through the bread. We might be a coach where we help them introduce the yeast/kingdom into their own neighbourhood, set off relationships. The other way is to invite them to church as it already exists (make sure the time is right to engage a more 'churched' culture.

Pools of Relationship - Pathways



ENVOY AFTERTHOUGHT

Now it's time to digest with pen and paper. Use the afterthought guide to help you process what God may be saying for you through the teaching. Distill your processing and refine what you'll bring to the group for your meet up.

[Envoy Afterthought Guide.](#)

[Envoy Afterthought Guide - how to use](#)

ENVOY GATHERED

The space that Envoy creates needs to be;

1. **Welcome.** A sense that you and the others belong.
2. **Safe.** Otherwise who'd ever take a risk. Practice confidentiality.
3. **Significant.** God's call on you and on the others is significant. Your time and presence is valuable so speak and do the things that come from or arrive into that which is significant. Treat everyone as present even if they can't be with you.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU/YOUR GROUP

1. Can you identify the different contexts in which you would be sowing/reaping/keeping where you are? Is there a cold pool/warmer pool?
2. Invitation is crucial! Spend some time thinking about how you would invite people to move from the one pool to the next in your context...
3. How does all of this apply to your current people of peace? Prayer is what moves people towards response - what are your specific prayers for them?

EXTRA TO THE PODCAST

1. Do you understand? If not ask, either in your group or get in contact with Neville.
2. As time goes by on Envoy you will be reaching moments where you know what you next need to do in mission and evangelism. Self commitment is tough and often withers from pressure or distraction so who in your Envoy community can you ask to check in with you? It won't always be the same person, it's the one who resonates with your 'action plan'. They don't hold you accountable, you hold yourself accountable. They are there to challenge you when you don't bother with your commitment, to call you on when it feels too hard. To laugh with you when it goes wrong. To pray for you throughout. Time bound it so it isn't a for life thing!
3. If committing to an action what are your 4 or 5 next steps. The best way to write these and share them is to think what will it look like so I know it is happening?

4. Paul in Acts 15 describes a decision as seeming good to them and to the Holy Spirit. Keep checking in, teasing things out with your Envoy community and with God.