

PEOPLE OF PEACE

OBJECTIVE

1. To get an overview of Person/People of peace as mentioned in Luke 10.
2. To see principles rather than methods used and encouraged by Jesus.
3. To understand our true motivation.

PODCAST OVERVIEW

Bullet points from Bob Hopkins material.

- Principles rather than methods.
- Flexibility to engage with diversity.

MOTIVES

Love. 2 Corinthians 5 v 14

INSPIRATION

Promise of God to act Isaiah 11 v 9; Habakkuk 2 v 14 One day the earth will be filled with the knowledge of God. It is already filled with his Glory. The enemy has blinded our eyes to the Knowledge of the Lord. 2 Cor 4 v 6 We have this ministry.

Looking at Jesus and how he engaged.

FOUNDATIONAL

Jesus uses the picture of a Harvest repeatedly. Looking for harvest, sowing for harvest.

Evangelism is a process because everyone is on a journey.

Our part of the Journey is Sowing, growing, nurturing, reaping and keeping. John 4 v 34-38
Sowing is the harder work.

PROCESS FOR SOWING/FACTORS OF COMING TO FAITH

Length of the process can be different for different people.

When we meet them they can be at a different point on that journey.

Factors can be personality, experiences of life, current circumstance or what God has already done/spoken to them. It is a journey. It is all about relationship. Power of christian community.

About everyday life and lifestyle. About the Jesus who is alive in us that is able to connect with others.

What are the process elements of a journey?

Engel and other examples have the weakness of being too linear, too orderly!

- Don't assume a persons starting point. It is unlikely to be ours.
- Their journey to date may be step by step or look more zig zag and messy, forwards and backwards.

- Following Jesus is rarely just a single decision but a sequence of responses and decisions.

In the John Finney research both primary and secondary factors in people coming to faith are relational.

- It's all about relationship, relationship, relationship.
- The dynamic of having more than one Christian connection (knowing more than one Christian).
- Seeing the interplay and environment between Christians gathered.

The way it used to be!

Head hunting evangelism.

- We go out and bring them in.
- We organise, plan and hold events.
- Scary for the one 'going'.

Another way.

This is not excluding the role of the big event.

- It's how we do our everyday life and is about our lifestyle. We attract to what Jesus has done in us rather than attract to an event.
- It is about Jesus alive in us and that being what connects to others around us.
- Stronger on relationship than event.

HURDLES TO GET OVER

Develop (not yet Christian) quality relationships.

- See the opportunity in listening to introduce the spiritual content to a conversation (not forced or fake).
- That as conversations develop they see connection points to their own life.
- That they know how to respond, an ability to act on what they understand.

8 PRINCIPLES

(over 3 weeks) Matthew 10 and Luke 10 base material, Jesus sending the 12 and the 72

- We go with the faith that there really is a harvest.
- We go vulnerable, responsive to the one in front of us, depending on Jesus rather than 'gadget or gimmick' or target or tick box thinking.
- We look for welcome/engagement. Jesus uses the words 'look for a welcome'. Look for a person of peace, where is there a responsiveness to us.
- The person of peace approach is the antithesis of the unfortunate perception that evangelism is forcing an unwanted message down people's throats that they do not want to hear.

WHAT IS A PERSON OF PEACE?

- There ARE people who will respond to you AND people who do not and that is OK.
- God is way ahead of us. He is already at work, he is involved already.
- There will be relational chemistry. You feel a connection with the person.
- Shalom (Peace) is relational prosperity, relational welcome.
- Acts 16 when they have no connection they actively go looking for people who are open.
- Looking for welcome,
- looking for relational connection/response. If there isn't welcome. Perhaps someone else will have the relational chemistry but just not with you or perhaps not yet.

What if there is no welcome?

It does not say that God doesn't care, it is not saying you are 'bad' at connecting. It is saying that relational connection isn't there at the moment. It might be a 'bad hair day'.

- The chemistry of connection might come on another occasion or God might have someone else to make the connection with them.
- Keep looking, don't force it.
- It should be an open door.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OPEN TO YOU?

Person of peace like a key that opens the door into their wider community.

ENVOY AFTERTHOUGHT

Now it's time to digest with pen and paper. Use the Envoy 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. How do we prepare the soil before/as we sow seed in mission and evangelism?
2. What is your experience of sowing? Would you agree that it is the harder work?
3. Do you agree with Bob's motivation and inspiration for mission? Are you sometimes motivated by different things?
4. Think of a person you are currently praying for/sharing Jesus with. Is the Engel scale/metro map helpful in terms of thinking of their journey of faith?
5. (In this session Bob mentions some research done by John Finney into how people have come to faith. This research was published in 1996. For some exciting up-to-date research into perception of Christianity and evangelism today, check out Talking Jesus).

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.