

Making evangelism a way of life.

Meet the family week 1

PODCAST OVERVIEW

See and be seen.

Samuel in the Old Testament was told that God does not look on the outward appearance.

1. Can you acknowledge and then set aside your day. You might be happy or have left your home angry, set it aside.
2. Can you acknowledge and then set aside character and personality traits you tend to like or dislike in others. To not do so prevents you from letting others change.
3. Be willing to learn the habit of seeing and looking for what God sees in people. ALL of it, the good and the not so good. Do not take ownership, what you see doesn't belong to you, it doesn't even belong to them. It belongs to God, he purchased it, he values it.
4. As you encounter the other person, what do you see? What do you see from the inside out? You may see a massive strength or perhaps see weakness. You might see patterns that are praiseworthy or causing strain or damage.
5. Learn to fix your eyes on what God is looking at. Like Samuel you may feel drawn to all sorts of traits but the one to draw to, dwell on, respond to is the one God is highlighting.
6. Philippians 4v8 is a good framework to filter and response you might make to what you see.
7. It is a two way thing. Allow all of the above to be your experience of 'being seen'. It will require humility, slowing down, reflecting, trust. Always a good counterweight to pride.
8. Practice this in your little community every week so it becomes second nature to practice when you meet those who are yet to know Jesus for themselves.

Hear and be heard.

1. Double listening. Listen to the person and be asking the Holy Spirit to interrupt as and when the Spirit would want to so you are hearing God as well.
2. You can't really be sure if a prompt is from you or the Holy Spirit. Your initial response might be to take note of what you hear and sit on it but allow it to grow or evaporate as you wait. A response does not always need to be in the now!
3. What is the mood music coming out of the person's life as you engage with them?
4. What is the mood music of heaven over the person's life as God engages with them?
5. Listening is the spectrum which ranges between you and the Holy Spirit. You are not after an either or outcome but both.
6. What 'rings true'? What are you 'reading between the lines'? Listen to that.

7. When it seems right respond. Respond responsibly! It's not a 'thus saith the Lord' but can I tease out what I'm thinking or feeling with you. This is a good way to do what the bible says with regard to, 'testing the spirit' behind what we hear/receive. If it's from you, great, relationship has been strengthened. If it's from the Holy Spirit, God will have moved something or added momentum to the life of the hearer and relationship has been deepened between them and God and between them and the whole community.
8. Practice this in your little community every week so it becomes second nature to practice when you meet those who are yet to know Jesus for themselves.

Lean in to release value.

1. Love looks like something! What will your love look like in your words? What will love look like practically?
2. Can love look like challenge? Your challenge is limited to the extent that trust exists. Before you challenge invest in trust as its foundation stone.
3. Leaning in means leaning away from the day you've had, what you need to do before tomorrow, your phone and your preferences. To lean towards another person requires learning how they receive being valued, it means you in that moment preferring them over all the things you are leaning away from.
4. Releasing value is not adding value. Jesus has already established the fullness of their value. Our job is to highlight it, uncover it but mainly release it so it becomes active in the other.
5. Valuing is not simply being nice. It is being the one who disciples the other for the good of your both. After all in a few minutes it will be their turn to disciple you.
6. Proverbs 27 v 7-11 As Iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another. Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honoured. As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.
7. As you listen to another person TREASURE what you hear, do not MEASURE what you hear. To be treasured is to be loved as God loves.
8. Practice this in your little community every week so it becomes second nature to practice when you meet those who are yet to know Jesus for themselves.

If you can learn and use this kind of seeing, hearing and valuing, it will be invaluable to your evangelism and heighten your expectation of God.

When you gather together in your meet-up.

The space that we want to carve out needs to be;

1. **Welcoming.** A sense that you and the others belong.
2. **Safe.** Otherwise who'd ever take a risk. Practice confidentiality.
3. **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.

A few last thoughts

1. Do you understand? If not ask, either in your group or get in contact with Neville, Emma or David.
2. As the year goes by 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, distraction, fear or too much information. Who in your reunion 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 motivate you 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. When committing to an action, break it down into 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 this community and with God.