

A home from home

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.

WHAT NEXT?

You can use the notes here or your own notes in one of two ways.

The notes can be the raw material that you use to fill in the mind heart worksheet (available to download from the reunion website).

OR

Use your own notes (or the ones above) to be the base material to identify what it has stirred in you and what your response is.

Either way. In your group we are not looking for your agreement or disagreement points to the teaching resource.

1. We are looking to hear what it stirred in you (it might be fear or faith based!).
2. Is there anything in it or in your reaction that you need to incorporate into life or respond to in a practical way?
3. What next?

It isn't always a case that we action plan everything we hear, sometimes a commitment looks like a change of attitude or acknowledging a change in thinking.

If this week's material can be acted on then I'd strongly encourage you to do that. That may not be in the next week but in the next month/next year.

If this is the case, what 4 or 5 actions do you think you need to move towards. Avoid vagueness and avoid the grandly impossible!

REUNION GATHERED

The space that reunion 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.

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 reunion 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 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 call you on when it feels to 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 reunion community and with God.