

reunion everyone everywhere encountering God's love

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 7 parts of the 8.
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)

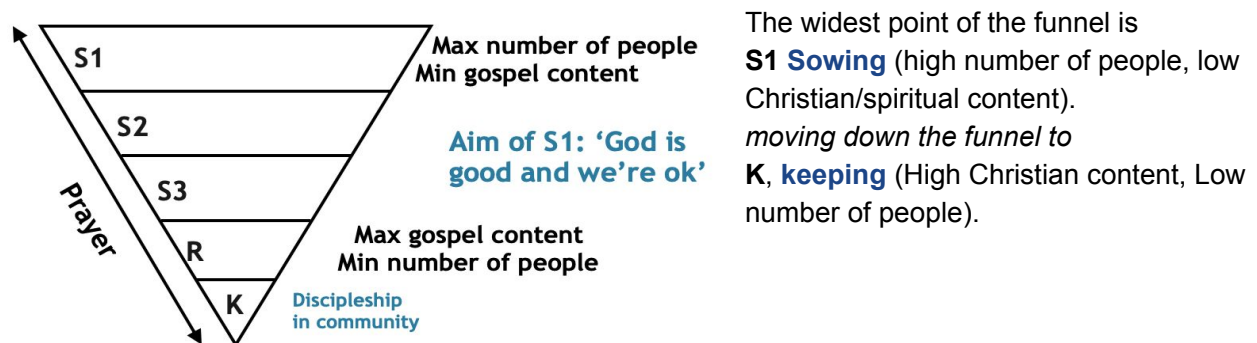
Building on the trusting relationship with the person of peace.

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.



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

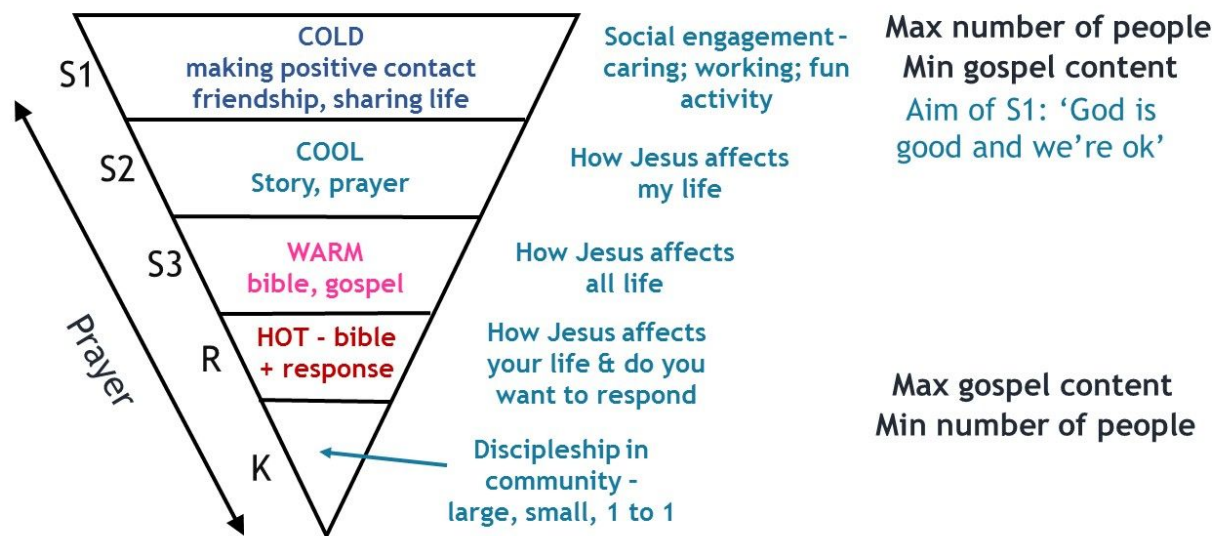
Natter cafe

- **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



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 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 reunion community and with God.