



## Week 1. Transcript of the podcast by Neville Barnes.

Well done on getting through all the blurb and reading all the material, getting up to this point, and welcome to your first podcast. This week, we want to share our faith story with each other, please be generous and gracious with one another. As for some, this may be the first time. If nervous about it, maybe pause this podcast, and write out what you would like to say to others, including briefly life before you had any awareness of Jesus. This helps people get a bigger picture. Of course some people have always been aware of Jesus, and that is okay to say, then share what was going on that began to make you aware of Jesus and wanting, or maybe avoiding following Jesus. For some, this moment will be the shift from Jesus being in the background to being in the foreground, being the centre of life for you. Then lastly, share what impact Jesus has had on you as you started to trust Him and to follow Him. Maybe you have an example of a moment that God became very, very real for you. You can share that. Oh, and keep it short, aim for between seven to eight minutes. So, why are we asking you to start with this? A term you will hear a lot is, 'second nature'. The story of our own lives changed by Jesus is the very best story we have, and it's the one God is most likely to use to reach people around us. And so that's where God is most likely to start, then it's where we would need to be doing it as second nature. So let's start with each other. So I want you to pause the podcast right now and have a go by yourself. Remember, aim for 7-8 minutes. So what was life like before, how did you come into that relationship with Jesus. And what's been the impact, then return here again for the second part of what will happen at your first meetup.

Welcome back to part two. It's often the case that in a group of people, when others are talking, we may tend to half listen. We wait and are fully involved when it's our turn to speak. But then after we have spoken we switch off a little bit, and return to half listening. In envoy, and especially in week one, you have a job to do when you are not sharing your story. I hope you've just had a go at sharing your own story, even with yourself in order to be ready for the group this week. However, the other bit of what you do when you're not speaking is listen to other people as they share their story.

We have a practice, every time we are together.

**Number one. To hear and be heard.**

**Number two. To see and be seen.**

**Number three. To lean in to release value.**

I'm going to explain each of these three things. So why do we push these three things so much? Well, because they are basic building blocks to good evangelism. And so, we practice them every week, in Envoy with each other, so they become second nature to us. When we hear and be heard. When we see and be seen. And then we lean in to release value. The space that sits between us and the other person begins to change. It becomes an accepting space that people feel significant in and in any conversation about Jesus. Those are safe, they are significant and they are accepting both for you and for the other person. Really what we are after is, what does God hear? What does He see? Where or what would He want them to know that He values. So, how do we do this in Envoy? Think of all this, as layers of an onion. They're all valuable layers. The first layer as we hear people is so much a part of us that we don't even think about it. We hear accents. We hear background noises. Of course we hear the facts and the information that they're saying, and it's the facts and the information that opens up that second layer of hearing. And it might originate in them or in us. As you listen, you may feel excited or sad, joy, or fear. This might be in you, or it might be in them, as they speak, but I want you to take note of it. And it's okay to write it down in a notepad, if you wish.

But there is a third layer to hearing that many of us think we can't do or we avoid for the fear that it might be our imagination, and it's hearing what God's reaction is to this person. What would God want them to hear? It's often a quick fleeting thought, but we should scribble it down as it might be the very thing that would really encourage this person. After the person has shared, simply inside yourself say, Holy Spirit, I want to hear from you for this person. I'm going to pick this up again after we cover the 'seeing' explanation. As the overlap between the two is huge.

We're going to stick with the onion example to explain the seeing and being seen. Layer one, again, it's so normal. We don't even know that we're doing it. You see where they are. You see things like fashion, probably age. And as they speak and share their story. They are building in your mind, a picture of their life. And this leads us to layer two. What is it that you see in this picture? What is it you see in them and their character, or their personality or their faith. You're trying to see into the gaps in the picture they are painting, not to find fault, but to find blessing, or find encouragement for them. And the third layer is this, what does God see, or would want them to see. Regardless of whether it's hearing God or seeing what He sees. This is something that's possible for us. It requires faith, because we won't really know if it was God, or if it was our imagination. The only person who will be able to tell us, is the person in front of us who we are listening to and seeing. The Bible says that Spirit cries out to spirit and the person that you're with will know deep in themselves, whether this is from God, or its from you.

**Some things to guide you before you give feedback to someone.**

**Number one is my relationship to this person in a good place. If it's not, then don't share. This is about the acceptance that I mentioned earlier.**

**Number two, does what I think I hear and see, carry any weight for me, would I value hearing this? This is connected to the significance word from earlier.**

**Number three, Is it a safe comment, both for them and for me, will the space stay safe for them because we want them to be able to take risks with what they hear?**

God may remind you of a memory within yourself, he might bring a Bible verse to mind. He might give you a phrase or a word as simple as the word loved, or good, and it might be just weighty and strong in your mind. That might be the very thing that you may need to pass on to this person. Why are we asking you to do this. Well, because God hears and sees the people around us who do not know Him, and He wants to communicate life to them through us between our own story, and then deeply hearing them and really seeing that we are well placed to help them to hear and see God for themselves. And so we practice it in Envoy, so that we get to be good at it.

This leads us to the very last thing to practice. The third thing I said was that we would lean in to release value. The lean in bit is about us setting aside the things that want our attention, and giving our attention to the person in front of us. To lean in means effort, it means focus. It means drawing close to them, but also to draw close to God. The last bit, to release value. It isn't a lack of value in a person, but it might need help getting uncovered. To value may require action on our part. But for this week, we're going to stick to words doing the valuing. And so from layer two and three if possible, share what would uncover value for this person who has just shared their story with you. Value gets released not by us but by God, and it gets released deep within the person.

Again, why do we do this? The greatest and most valuable treasure that we have is Jesus and we want him to be released, deep in the story of people who are around us. It's God's work, but He will most often use our words and our presence in the life of another person to release who He is, into their lives. Again, I just want us to be good at that and we need to practice. As the old saying goes, practice makes perfect. Envoy is a perfect place to put this into practice. I've already asked you to have a go at thinking through your own story. I'm going to ask you to do something else which prepares you as well for this week's meet-up. I'm going to ask you to practice some seeing, hearing, and releasing. Don't worry, it's going to be very safe, and this is your practice run. On the website below this podcast will be two very short videos and I'm talking minutes. I want you to get a notepad and a pen you're going to need to write some stuff. And I want you to watch the video, and I want you to practice hearing and see. Before

you do that Let me simplify down both the hearing, and the seeing to one question for you to use. For hearing. What do I hear behind this person? So after what's the backdrop. What is the mood music behind this person's life? This is both for you layer two, and from God's perspective, the layer three which we spoke off. And now for the seeing. What do I see in front of this person, what's the picture that is being painted in front of them? What is the one that is yet to be painted, both for you and from God's perspective? So that's, what do I hear behind this person? What do I see in front of this person? This is the practice run for you doing it at your first meetup. This way, you have had a go, may feel a little bit more natural when you get to your Meet-up.

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## ***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 Ronan 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 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 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.*