

Seacoast Vintage

Small Group Questions: Part 2: The Well of Reaching People

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Read: Luke 9:1-2, 6 and Luke 10:1, 17-20

Reflect

We read in the passages listed above that Jesus called/appointed the twelve and 72 others to go before him in his authority and power to drive out demons, to cure diseases, and to proclaim the Kingdom of God. They proclaimed the good news and were healing people everywhere. As astounding as this must have been, Jesus instructed those who had experienced these miraculous things, to not focus on all that had been done but rather focus on the names that were now recorded in heaven. Pastor Josh highlights the fact that Jesus didn't diminish the miraculous but highlighted the greater miracle- That those who were lost, were now found. Their names forever written in heaven. Have you experienced God's power in your life personally? Have you experienced the miraculous? How can these experiences be used as "spring boards" to proclaim the Kingdom of God and share the Good news?

Pastor Josh highlights 4 ways that we can effectively reach people in his message. Review and discuss each point, focusing on ways this might come easy to you and ways that might be a challenge.

1. Accept the responsibility.
 - a. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:20
As believers we are called ambassadors of Christ. "God has called us personally to reach those around us personally". Discuss the importance of personally connecting with those around you. What opportunities do you have naturally with those around you? What hinderances do you face in taking personal responsibility?
2. Develop a relationship.
 - a. Read Luke 19:1-10
As we read the story of Zacchaeus, we realize he wasn't a favorite in the community. He was a man of means but had no friends. To see over the crowd, he had to climb a tree just to see Jesus and this is exactly where Jesus meets him. Jesus "sees" Zacchaeus. Pastor Josh shares how guilt is a "lousy" motivator, it may change our behavior for a while but does not have lasting and true effect. What is the great motivator? Jesus saw Zacchaeus right where he was, in every way and chose to meet with him. Zacchaeus responded to the kindness and love shown and salvation came to his house that day. Discuss what we can learn from this passage, how will this effect our life and our relationships with both those who don't know the Lord as well as those who do.
3. Share your story.
 - a. John 4:28 -30
People can't always identify with your personal successes, but they can always identify with your pain and suffering. How might sharing your story, even if it's not polished and tied up in a pretty package matter to those around you? Discuss the impact of hearing and sharing stories that highlight the power of God.
4. Give a personal invitation
 - a. John 1:40-42
In this passage, we read that Andrew, after hearing Jesus and believing, goes and finds his brother sharing with him "we have found the messiah". Discuss the power of personal invitation.

Respond

What has come to mind as you have discussed and reviewed these things? Are there hinderances to connecting personally with those around you? If so, how can you grow in these areas? Pray and take heart- God has given those who believe on His name, power and authority to proclaim his Kingdom and His good news!