



GROUP ICE BREAKER

Can you share a time when you had a spiritual conversation or other critical conversation with someone?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step(s) did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will pray, "God, use me."
- I will develop relationships with unchurched people.
- I will get out of my comfort zone.
- I will go out into the world and be the salt of the earth.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

In this series we are tackling how to put feet to our faith one person at a time, last week the sermon tackled step one of this three step process which is developing significant relationships with unchurched people. This week's sermon uncovered the second step which is to help people take next steps spiritually. This is the missing link in a lot of churches, if you don't give people a chance to question and probe spiritual life they will most likely drop out. There are four significant times where people are more open to having spiritual conversations: the first is during times of pain; the second is when they are experiencing guilt or regret, the third is during a shared experience and the fourth is during times of aimlessness. We have to hone our skills to identify these moments and leverage them as opportunities to have spiritual conversations with those with whom we are in relationship. We can seize these moments by being accepting and listening effectively. We can also display humility by saying "I don't know" when we lack answers to questions being posed and grow in our own faith as we seek answers to those questions. Finally, we can prepare ourselves for questions that are often asked by those who are "unchurched," some examples include: How can you believe Jesus is the only way to God? If God is so good, why is there so much suffering in the world? Isn't belief in Jesus anti-intellectual? How can I trust the Bible? I have doubts so I can't be Christian, can I?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Act 1:8. In what ways has this sermon and this scripture redefined or challenged your definition or idea of "witness" and your responsibility in being one?
2. The Golden Triangle of Opportunity includes our workplaces, where we engage in recreation and where we live. Of these three, where and why do you find it more likely to have spiritual conversations?
3. Identify and discuss some strategies that might be helpful in making spiritual conversations more natural.
4. Read John 9:1-34. What does the blind man's experience illuminate about sharing our story with others?
5. Of the four areas discussed, which do you identify with the most: pain, guilt, shared experiences or aimlessness?

A NEW BEGINNING

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. Were any of these four instrumental in beginning your relationship with Jesus?
7. Consider the Golden Triangle again, are there people that are or may be open to spiritual conversations in any of these areas?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will tune in to pain, guilt and aimlessness as opened door opportunities.
- I will look for shared experiences as opened door opportunities.
- I will follow Jesus' model by accepting people where they are.
- I will be bold in conversations and say, "I don't know" when I need to.
- I will prepare for questions unchurched people wrestle with.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Acts 1:8
- Colossians 4:5
- 1 Corinthians 16:9
- 2 Corinthians 7:10
- Psalm 38:4