



Being Missional

Where You Live, Work, and Play

Contents

Session	Topic	Page
	Introduction	Pg. 3
	How to use this study	Pg. 4
Session 1	Preparation for Session 1	Pg. 5
	Being Missional <i>Where I Live</i>	Pg. 5
	God's Heart & Prayer	Pg. 9
Session 2	Preparation for Session 2	Pg. 13
	Being Missional <i>Where I Work</i>	Pg. 13
	The Darkness & the Process	Pg. 15
Session 3	Preparation for Session 3	Pg. 17
	Being Missional <i>Where I Play</i>	Pg. 17
	Relationships & Jesus	Pg. 19
Session 4	Community Group Assignment: Reach Out to Your Neighbors!	Pg. 21
	How to Share Christ's Love Con conversationally & Visually	Pg. 22
	Telling Your Story	Pg. 25
	Recommended Books & Websites	Pg. 27

A huge "Thank You" goes to Terry Colwell! Much of the content of this study originated from him. Thanks Terry! Check out Terry's ministry at <http://l2l.org>.

Introduction

Welcome to *Being Missional Where You Live, Work, and Play!* There is nothing more important than grasping the Great Commandment... “Love the Lord Your God...and Love Your Neighbor as Yourself” (Matthew 22: 34-40). God’s desire is that we would love Him and would love others. And, there is no better way to share God’s love than to share it with those who do not know Him. God’s heart is for the lost! As His followers, our desire should be to have His heart. That is what this study is about... developing a heart after God that translates into missional action in every “arena” of our life... where we live, where we work, and where we play.

That’s why we’ve developed this guide to help you see all of life through the lens of God’s heart. Through these materials, you’ll find your perspective shifting towards God’s heart. And you’ll find that being missional where you live, work, and play is easier than you think.

How to use this study

1. Four sessions comprise this study:
 - a. The first three should be completed in the “typical” community group format.
 - b. In the fourth session, your group will live out what you have learned.
2. Please start this study in January and have it as your goal to complete the study by the end of February.
3. During the group sessions:
 - a. **Concentrate** 2/3 of your time on **the biblical principles and Scriptures** related to those (in session 1, “God’s Heart” & “Prayer,” in session 2, the “Darkness” & “The Process,” in session 3, “Relationships” & “Jesus”).
 - 1) Read aloud and discuss the “Big Idea” as a group
 - 2) Watch the movie clip and discuss the questions
 - 3) Divide up the “Principles” between group members. Ask each person to read the corresponding Bible passage and summarize that principle
 - 4) Do the application questions as a group
 - b. **Concentrate** 1/3 of your time on the **session preparation questions**. The preparation will mainly cover the second part of each session (“Being Missional...”).
4. Please complete the session preparation **before** you come to each session.
 - a. That means you have preparation work before session 1!
 - b. For instance, if your group plans to do session 1 on January 8th, please make sure the group does the session preparation on page 5 before coming to this first session.

Preparation for Session 1

- Read the section entitled **Being Missional *Where I Live*** (below).
 - Three sub-sections comprise this portion of the session: “Stop Witnessing...And Start Loving,” “Loving My Neighborhood,” and an “Individual Exercise.”
- “Stop Witnessing... and Start Loving” contains a series of statements that build on one another. Recount a time when you “witnessed” instead of “being a witness.” If you could do it over now, how would that encounter look differently?
- “Loving My Neighborhood” talks about the principle of “Moths and Cockroaches.” Who might these folks be in your life and how might you change how you interact with them?
- Complete the below “Individual Exercise” without asking your spouse or kids for information. ☺ Discuss with the group how you did.
- Read the Addendum. What is one or two creative things you could do in your neighborhood to meet your neighbors?
- Meet a new neighbor this week and introduce yourself

BEING MISSIONAL *WHERE I LIVE*

STOP WITNESSING... AND START LOVING

1. A greater impact can be made for advancing the good news of Christ when we focus on “**being a witness**” rather than on “**witnessing**”.
 - Witnessing is often thought of as something that we do within an allotted period of time (i.e. going witnessing) with a canned presentation, and to the recipient feels like a sales pitch for a product we want them to buy.
 - Being a witness can be thought of as “a way of life” where those around us, whom we are investing in relationally, experience Christ’s love, grace, and forgiveness each and every day, through our actions and words.

- *“My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn’t be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own and to let them know with words, handshakes and hugs that you do not simply like them – but truly love them.” - Henri Nouwen*
- 2. **Missional fruitfulness begins with planting seeds**, and we place great value on opportunities to love and serve people (even when we’re unable to make a verbal presentation of the gospel) because acts of love and service build trust in relationships.
 - *“Good Deeds lead to Good Will. Good Will leads to Good News.” - Eric Swanson*
 - *“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant. To plant the Kingdom of God and see it grow, you need good seed and good soil. Bad people make good soil because they have a lot of fertilizer in their lives.” - Neil Cole*
- 3. Just as planted seeds take time to produce fruit, **trusted relationships take time to develop** (often years).
- 4. Just as a plant needs water and sunlight to grow, **people need love and prayer**, so we must be sure to give our attention to investing in both.
- 5. Making a Kingdom difference is allowing God to work through us to bring the characteristics of the Kingdom of God (i.e. love, humility, servant-hood, compassion, justice, peace, etc.) to the community. **Making a Kingdom difference happens only when we treat people, not as “projects” but with value, love, and respect.** Evangelism without love feels manipulative and methodical, but evangelism in the context of a true heart of love for others attracts people to the gospel. We’ll know the difference by how willing we are to love and continue investing ourselves in people who don’t accept the gospel. If our tendency is to “move on” and become impatient with people because they won’t listen to or accept the gospel, then it’s quite possible that we are not loving that person the way Jesus would. The more we invest ourselves in loving people without condition, the more people we’ll see God bring into His Kingdom, through us.

LOVING MY NEIGHBOR[HOOD]

1. **Some of the best ways to make a difference in our neighborhood and to build friendships with neighbors** is to: a) serve where there are needs b) practice hospitality c) be a peacemaker
2. **S.A.L.T.** (from Rick Warren) - **S**ee people as Jesus does. **A**cept people unconditionally. **L**ove people sacrificially. **T**ouch people where the need is.
3. **Ideas include:** coordinating a neighborhood food drive, starting a quarterly Coffee Social, putting together the neighborhood newsletter, starting or serving on the New Neighbor Welcome Committee, taking meals to new moms, coordinating recreational and social activities (i.e. softball team, pool party, Christmas caroling, etc).
4. **The Principle of *Moths & Cockroaches*** guides us in how to know who to invest in relationally. What do cockroaches do when you enter into a dark room and turn on the light? They scatter. What do moths do when you enter into a dark room and turn on the light? They are attracted to the light. In the same way, when we bring the light of the gospel into dark places, some people will scatter from you, while others will be attracted to you. Instead of spending all our time trying to get the cockroaches out from under the dresser, we need to spend our time investing in the moths that are hanging around embracing the light that has been shown to them.
5. **Whimsy** (def): the ability to laugh, make light of, or downplay the words, behavior, and worldview of Sojourners that might offend.
 - a. *Whimsy* is deeply tied to *posture* as we remember that behavior doesn't change until the heart changes.
 - b. Whimsy allows people to be themselves. Whimsy allows you to be with people regardless of their angle of life without casting any judgment their way. It paves the way for them to feel comfortable enough to be themselves, feel loved, and dignified as human beings. It's not making an issue out of anything that isn't the main issue. That simply means that we don't flinch at sin or bad language or nasty t-shirts or crude music or Sojourners who overindulge. Whimsy may be the missing element

of Christ-like love in today's world. – *Hugh Halter and Matt Smay*
(*The Incarnational Kingdom*)

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE

“YOUR NEIGHBORS’ – NAMES – FACTS – HOPES AND HURTS”

Instructions:

- The 9 boxes below represent 9 homes on your street.
- Who are the 8 families who live beside you, across the street, and on the backside of your property?
- Can you list the following for each family:
 - Their names
 - Some basic information about them... where they work, what are their hobbies, etc.?
 - What are some of their hurts?
- How did you do? If you did not do well, why do you think that is? What changes do you need to make, to change your outcome?

	YOU	

Session 1

God's Heart & Prayer

THE BIG IDEA – God's Heart

God's heart is for the lost! Out of our relationship with Him, we will be compelled from the heart to love what He loves. This will naturally lead us to a love for unbelievers and our lives will take on an eternal significance as God uses us to reach those who are not yet in relationship with Him.

THE BIG IDEA - Prayer

Evangelism is collaboration between God and man, and prayer is a supernatural connection between you, God, and unbelievers. Therefore prayer is essential as the first action step of the heart.

Movie Clip: Watch the following movie clip as a group. After viewing it, please answer the below questions. www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/most/the-bridge.

1. Discuss how the clip displayed the love of the father.
2. How does this parallel the love of God for those who don't know Him?
3. How should I apply this to my life?

PRINCIPLES

God's Heart

- The work of reaching outsiders must be God inspired. Read John 15:16.
- God's heart is for the lost. Read Luke 15:3-7 and Luke 19:10.
- We must have a passion and reason why we are sharing Christ. Read 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 17-20 and 1 Peter 2:9.
- All of our missional efforts must be motivated by the compelling love of Christ, not out of duty but out of love. Read Romans 5:6-11.

Prayer

- We must start by asking God to search and cleanse our hearts. Read Psalm 51:10-13 and James 5:16.
- Only God can give us a broken heart and a passion to reach the lost. Read Psalm 51:17 and Matt. 4:19-20.
- Prayer must be rightly motivated and consistent. Read Col. 4:2-4.
- Prayer is the answer to the shortage of laborers. Read 2 Cor. 5:16.

APPLICATION

- How is your relationship with God?
- How does your personal value system align with God's? How does your heart align (or not) with His heart?
- Pray for a heart that is right before God for the work He wants to do through you.
- Pray for opportunities. Create a "Top 10" list and start praying for these people by name fervently and consistently (your group leader will supply cards for you during this session)
- Pray for other laborers

ADDENDUM

PRACTICAL "HOW TO" OF NEIGHBOR[HOOD] MINISTRY:

Meet your neighbors.

- Take walks in your neighborhood, hang out at the pool, and introduce yourself to people.
 - "Hi, my name is _____. I haven't met you yet. We live in the neighborhood at (street name). What's your name?"

Get to know your neighbors.

- Ask questions.
- Ask people about and listen to their stories.
 - Where are you from?
 - How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

- What brought you here?
- How did you and your spouse meet?
- So, give me the big picture. You may not have been asked this question before, but I know that every person has a unique and interesting story. What is your “story?”

Spend time with your neighbors.

- Game nights
- Dinner invitations
- Meet at the park
- Matthew Parties (a mix of Christian and non-Christian people at a party)

Be careful not to share your faith too soon.

- Don't concern yourself right off the bat with “sharing your faith.” People are most receptive to spiritual conversations when: a) there's a foundation of trust b) they're going through a transition (i.e. new job, new baby, etc) c) they're going through a valley (i.e. divorce, sickness, death).
- Prioritize developing friendships and building trust. This will probably take 6 months to 3 years.

Pray

- While you develop friendships, pray fervently for those you are building relationships with, and respond to questions they may ask about spiritual issues, but be discerning not to dive into spiritual topics too soon. Pray also that the Holy Spirit will give you discernment to know when to have a spiritual conversation.

Share your faith in the context of life

- Often times, the most effective method of sharing our faith is in the context of real life conversations. Canned presentations can often turn people off (unless you can pull it off as being natural).
- Be an open book with your neighbors. Let them see your weaknesses, challenges, and hurts, and then share your faith in that context.

- Be gracious in how you share your faith. Be thinking more of how they need to hear your faith, than how you want to share it. It may not be the same thing.
- Think of “evangelism” as trying to move people closer to God, instead of trying to get every person you talk with to committing their life to Christ in that one conversation. Remember, that God uses some to sow the seed, some to water, and some to harvest. Occasionally, we’re privileged to share in all three, but often, we are one link in the chain to bring someone into relationship with Christ.
- When you sense an open door, walk through it, trusting God to give you the words to say.
- Be patient. Bill Hybels shares that he had 7 years of trash night conversations with his across-the-street neighbor before he came to Christ.

Preparation for Session 2

- Continue to pray for your “Top 10” list.
- Read the section **Being Missional *Where I Work*** (below).
 - This section has two subsections: “A Paradigm Shift” and “10 Non-obnoxious Ways...”
- What paradigm have you found yourself in where you work? If you need to make a change, what could be some steps to do that?
- Write out two changes you plan to implement in your workplace to more effectively share your faith.

Being Missional *Where I Work*

A PARADIGM SHIFT

Consider the two types of Christians: the first type is those who are bound up in the activities and pressures of life. Life drowns out the fact that they are Christians. They are the ones who say things like: “spiritual things just never come up at work.” Then there is the category of Christians whose faith seems to just flow from life’s activities, even though they also may have extremely hectic lives. The difference with them, however, is that they have a fruitful influence in the lives of others around them.

There is a fundamental difference in these two types of Christians: to the first kind of Christian, Christianity has taken a back seat... *what they do is more important than their Christian faith.* To the second kind of Christian, *faith and responsibility to God are always in first place.* Higher than a career. Higher than being accepted by others. Higher than any circumstance.

Ask yourself the following question by inserting your profession or life activity into the blank:

Am I a _____ who “happens” to be a Christian or a Christian who “happens” to be a _____?

Christians who “happen” to go to school or be a lawyer or be a homemaker will always place their faith and the responsibility to touch lives for Jesus first. Their perspective is that God put them there so that they could be a living testimony of Jesus to those around them.

10 Non-Obnoxious Ways to Share Your Faith at Work

As you deepen friendships with co-workers, ask sincere questions and truly listen in a spirit of caring as they share about their lives. When appropriate, tell others you're praying for them. (Then make sure you actually *do* pray!)

1. Make it a daily habit to pray as you drive to work or as you walk into the office; ask God to help you see your workplace as a mission field.
2. Refuse to hide or play-down the importance of your faith. When it naturally fits a conversation, freely talk about the role your church, prayer, Scripture, and Christian community have in your life. Let others see the joy and purpose you find in your faith.
3. Emphasize the importance of God's love for all people by initiating opportunities to lead your co-workers in service or charity. For example, lead a canned food drive for a local food pantry or organize your company's annual blood drive. When appropriate, share in conversation how you are motivated to help others by God's character and his love.
4. Start or join a lunch-time Bible study or prayer group at your office.
5. Strive for excellence and integrity in your work. Don't be a slacker or a poor worker; be the person that co-workers and supervisors can rely on to do a solid job.
6. Form a prayer partnership with a Christian co-worker; meet together regularly to discuss your efforts to shine Christ's light at work, and pray for specific co-worker relationships.
7. As you deepen your relationship with a non-Christian co-worker, invite her for lunch off-site or to a weekend night out for a movie and coffee. Being out of the workplace environment will set a more open tone as you talk and get to know each other better. Being off-site will also allow you more freedom to talk directly about your faith and to share the gospel.
8. Invite interested co-workers to social events with your Christian friends, to your small group Bible study, or to events at your church. As holidays such as Christmas or Easter approach, invite a co-worker to attend church with you; many people who don't regularly attend church are open to coming on an important holiday.
9. Be attentive to the Holy Spirit's leading. When you're unsure about whether or not to say something about your faith, check in with God. He'll nudge you in the right direction and will give you the words to say ([Mark 13:11](#)).

10. God's put you right where he wants you—he's got a plan for you to shine his light in your workplace! So invite God to challenge you about bringing your faith to work. You may be surprised by how un-Alice-like evangelism at work can be!

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Session 2

The Darkness & The Process

THE BIG IDEA – The Darkness

Unbelievers live in a state of total spiritual blindness and imprisonment – it is our privilege to bring the light of Christ into their darkness. A right view of their condition will help us gain a heart of compassion and wisdom that will equip us to navigate the darkness and reach them.

THE BIG IDEA – The Process

Like farming, evangelism is a process rather than an event. In farming, the cultivation of the soil is the most time intensive part of the process – it is the same in evangelism. The key to remember in “spiritual farming” is that God controls the process and we join with Him.

Movie Clip: Watch the following movie clip as a group. After viewing it, please answer the below questions. www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/molokai/i-care-and-god-cares.

1. Relate this clip to the above “Big Idea” surrounding the darkness that nonbelievers find themselves in?
2. Discuss the reaction of Father Damien to the leper (at the end of the scene). How did he confront the darkness?

PRINCIPLES

The Darkness

- We must remember where we came from to be effective. Read Eph. 2:1-3; 5:8
- We are commanded to be in the world but not of the world. Read Titus 2:11-12

- People who don't know Christ are spiritually blind and dead – we cannot expect them to understand spiritual truth. Read 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- We are called to go into the darkness and let our lives shine as we reflect the image of God. Read 2 Cor. 5:16
- The lost are not the enemy; they are spiritual POW's. Read 2 Cor. 4:4

The Process

- In the process of reaching unbelievers, God has a role and man has a role. Read 1 Cor. 3:6-8
- Like farming, evangelism involves cultivating, sowing, and harvesting. Read John 4:37-38
- The entire process takes time; and, the cultivation phase is the most time intensive. Read Matt. 13:3-9
- Evangelism is taking the initiative to help a person move one step closer in the process. Read Mark 10:45

APPLICATION

- Thinking about the spiritual blindness and imprisonment of unbelievers... have you (wrongfully) placed any expectations on the unbelievers in your life? If so, what?
- Think of at least three folks on your Top 10 list and write out a cultivation step for each. Then, commit to do those steps.

Preparation for Session 3

- Read the section *Being Missional Where I Play* (below).
- This section mentions three “L” principles:
 - *Leaving* – what would leaving look like for you and your family?
 - *Listening* – how are you doing here? Do you find yourself doing more talking or listening?
 - *Living Among* – how are you doing here? Are you involved in any non-Christian groups? What changes should/can you make?
- Map out your spheres/networks of influence. Think in terms of categories: Family, Friends, Faith, Values, Leisure, and Work. Who are non-Christians you know in each category?

Being Missional Where I Play

1. The natural question is, “**What activities of culture can we participate in?**” The answer is that we are free to do anything as long as it doesn’t violate Scripture, isn’t morally or ethically wrong, and doesn’t violate our own conscience.
 - a. Quote to consider... “*I try to live life in such a way that uptight Christians doubt my salvation, while non-Christians ask questions.*” – Steve Brown
2. *Leaving (def)*: Intentionally giving up what is comfy, easy, and familiar and going somewhere else, doing something different, and giving up time so that we can connect with people.
 - a. Leaving is about replacing personal or Christian activities with time spent building relationships with people in the surrounding culture. i.e. SACRIFICE
 - b. Leaving is about being “out there.” Instead of doing my work in my office, I plant myself in the community at a local hang out where there are increased possibilities of running into people and starting conversations. i.e. BECOMING UNCOMFORTABLE
3. *Listening (def)*: the art of asking (good) questions. i.e. Todd Howard built a fire pit and asked guys questions for a year and just listened to them, before he ever invited them into any real meaningful conversation.

4. ***Living Among (def):*** participating in the natural activities of the culture around you, with whimsical holiness.
5. **Out of the Box Ministry Ideas**
 - a. Join or start a “New Neighbor Welcome Team”
 - b. Put on a pot of soup one Friday evening per month and invite neighbors to come over for soup, drinks, and conversation.
 - c. Organize an “Ultimate Tasting Party” for neighbors or co-workers
 - d. Build a fire pit and invite neighbors over to enjoy it with you.
 - e. Host a viewing party for the next big sporting event (i.e. College football, NFL, NASCAR race, etc.)
 - f. Get your lawn mower out and mow your neighbor’s lawn (while they’re in or out of town). They’ll be pleasantly surprised!
 - g. Put together a “Best of” guide for your neighborhood that includes helpful contacts for auto repair, plumber, carpet cleaning, handy man, etc.
 - h. Facilitate or coordinate a “how to” workshop on gardening, BBQ / smoking meats, brewing beer, holiday or home decorating, etc.
 - i. Facilitate or coordinate a seminar / discussion on marriage, parenting, finance (i.e. Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University)
 - j. Coordinate a game night (i.e. Bunko, Poker, etc.)
 - k. Organize a “Progressive Game Night” for kids and families
 - l. Start a “Book Club”
 - m. Start a “Golf or Tennis Group”
 - n. Start a “Neighborhood Supper Club” (eat in or go out to eat)
 - o. Organize a “Chili Cook Off” and invite your neighbors to bring a batch for the contest and to be prepared to taste and judge.
 - p. Start a “Community Garden” in your neighborhood, school, or at work.

- q. Start a “Walking or Running Group”
- r. Coordinate a “Yard to Yard Golf Tournament” (i.e. play with plastic golf balls or Frisbee golf)
- s. Have an “Outdoor Movie” using PVC pipes, a King sized bed sheet, projector, speakers, and DVD player.
- t. Host a “Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate Party”
- u. Make (or buy) Windshield De-Icer Spray and give out to neighbors in the winter time. This can be a great relationship / conversation “ice breaker!”

Relationships & Jesus

THE BIG IDEA - Relationships

The vast majority of people encounter Christ through a relationship with another person. Evangelism is relational throughout the process and developing common ground is the starting point for a relationship.

THE BIG IDEA - Jesus

Ultimately, evangelism is all about Jesus! As Christ’s ambassadors, it is our job to befriend and love unbelievers and be available to God for Him to use us to illuminate their darkness with the life, forgiveness and message of Jesus. All of this is a function of our own personal relationship with Him.

MOVIE CLIP: Watch the following movie clip as a group. After viewing it, please answer the below questions. www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/to-end-all-wars/human-beings.

1. What is the main idea of this clip?
2. What lessons can we learn about leadership from this clip? About servant-hood? About relationships? About the value of people?

PRINCIPLES

Relationships

- God considers everyone worthy of a relationship. Read John 3:16

- Growth in your love for unbelievers is God’s design and will. Read Matt. 22:37-40
- Jesus was not being concerned with being called “a friend of sinners” and neither should we. Read Matt. 5:46-47; 11:19
- We cultivate by taking initiative and developing common ground with unbelievers. Read 1 Cor. 9:19-23
- Taking time to build relationships with unbelievers is ministry. 1 Thes. 2:7-8

Jesus

- People naturally want to avoid the light of Christ. Read John 1:4-5
- God’s design is to use His children to love unbelievers and bring Jesus to their darkness. Read Matt. 5:14
- Our work is ultimately to introduce the unbeliever to Jesus. Read 2 Cor. 5:20
- As we enter the sowing and harvesting phases, we shift the emphasis to Jesus and encourage the unbeliever to personally get to know Him. Read 1 Peter 3:15
- Our #1 job is always to maintain our own relationship with Jesus – God is the one who opens the eyes of the unbeliever. John 15:5

APPLICATION

- Where do you currently spend your time? Who are the unbelievers you encounter where common ground is already established?
- Consider how you can be proactive at deepening your relationships with unbelievers.
- Recall when you were an unbeliever what you thought about Jesus and how you avoided Him.
- Describe some key milestones as an unbeliever you recall of Jesus bringing His light into your darkness.
- Think of folks on your Top 10 list – what do you have in common with them (consider interests, concerns, experiences, the way you think, etc.)?
- Write a three minute testimony (see appendix – ***Telling Your Story***) about how you met Jesus that can be shared with someone on your Top 10 list.

Session 4

Community Group Assignment

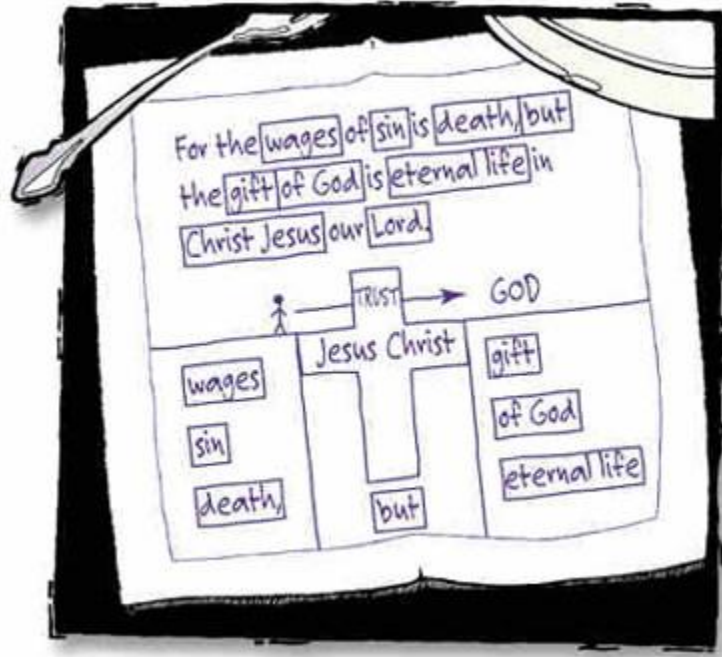
REACH OUT TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS SIMPLE!!!

1. As a group, choose **one** of the 21 ideas in the “Out of the Box Ministry Ideas” section (pgs. 11-12) and do it! Since most of your group may not live in the same geographic area, prayerfully choose a neighborhood/subdivision from one of your group members.
2. Please do this assignment between January 23rd and the end of February.
3. Tell us about it! Post photos, video, stories, and so on at www.fbcserve.com!

How to Share Christ's Love Conversationally & Visually

By Randy D. Raysbrook



Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism they must memorize a complex illustration and a multitude of verses. But the Gospel is most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and simplicity.

One-Verse Evangelism(r) is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism(r) is also sensitive to peoples' busy schedules because it can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes.

Here's a brief look at how it works. Let's say God's leading you to share the Gospel with your neighbor, Jeff. Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper or a napkin: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NIV). Then put your Bible away. Ask Jeff if he would like to see a simple picture based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with people.

wages

Circle this word and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn wages from God for how we have lived our lives.

sin

Draw a circle around "sin," asking your friend what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or merely excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," add that that's one of the things sin does-it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

death,

Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation.

but

While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in thought is coming. What we have just looked at is bad news; what follows is good news.

gift

Draw a circle around this word. Ask, "If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?" Remind your friend that someone must purchase every gift.

of God

Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It's so special that no one else can give it. Ask, "How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?"

eternal life

Circle these two words next, and then ask, "How would you define these words?" Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, "What is the opposite of separation from God?"

Christ Jesus

Draw these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that every gift has a giver, and only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

TRUST

Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that friends trust each other, and tell your friend that Jesus wants a trusting friendship with him. All he has to do is admit that he is responsible for the "sin" of either fighting or excluding God from his life. That is what trust means—trusting that Jesus wants to forgive us for rejecting Him from our lives. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says "Yes," invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people, especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible, perhaps beginning in the gospel of John.

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Telling Your Story

I. How to organize your story

- A. Before Christ
- B. How you met Christ
- C. After Christ
- D. Concluding Question
- E. Unifying Theme

II. Paul's Story: an example

- A. Before Christ – Acts 26:4-11
- B. How he met Christ – Acts 26:12-18
- C. After Christ – Acts 26:19-23
- D. Concluding Question – “Do you believe the prophets?” (v. 27)
- E. Unifying theme – Paul's intense passion for serving God (first without Christ, then as His follower)

Develop Your Story

A. Before Christ

1. What was your early spiritual background, and how did it affect you as you grew up – your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships?
 - a. If you became a Christian at a young age, you may say something like: *“I grew up in a family where the Bible was taught and can't remember ever not believing in God. So I grew up with sort of a simple belief in Him.”*
 - b. What caused you to begin to consider following Christ?

B. How you met Christ

1. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to receive Christ?

2. Specifically, how did you receive Christ?

C. After Christ (*these questions should address the problem or situation mentioned in your answer to the first question*)

1. How did your life begin to change after you trusted Christ?
2. What other benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian? Especially think of ones that would best relate to the people for which you are praying.
3. Concluding Question
4. It's best to end your story with a concluding question or statement that requires a response from the other person
5. Examples: "So, that's what happened to me. Can you relate to any of it?" "How about you – what's your spiritual background?" "That's my spiritual story. I'd like to hear yours."
 - a. Unifying Theme
 - (1) This is the central issue in each of our stories that illustrate the difference it's made to know and follow Christ.

Live, Work & Play Recommended Books & Websites

“Getting Started” Reading List (top 5):

1. *Making Room for Life* – Randy Frazee

This is an easy, fun book to read, with great ideas about how to slow down the speed of life, to have dinner with your family on a regular basis, and how to make a Kingdom difference in your neighborhood while developing new friendships along the way.

2. *Field Guide to Neighborhood Outreach* – Group Publishing

This book tells the story of Drue & Laura Warner’s neighborhood ministry in Sugar Hill, GA. Drue is Perimeter’s Director of Live, Work & Play Ministries. This book also give excellent, practical ways to build relationships with your neighbors (i.e. Ultimate Tasting Party, Recipe Rally, NASCAR Race Day, etc.).

3. *Mission as Life* – Randy Wallace

This book explores how both individuals and families can create an environment where authentic Christianity can flourish. People grow best in a supportive community, and families can provide the earliest expression of the type of community God intended. Families can become a microcosm of the church as they allow Christ to live through them using their gifts to minister to a hurting world.

4. *Stop Witnessing... and Start Loving* – Paul Borthwick

Effective mission most often happens in the context of love. Paul Borthwick offers a refreshing perspective on missional living that helps free us up from guilt and fear when it comes to sharing our faith. offers 9 great “Heart Builders” to help rekindle and refresh our passion for Christ.

5. *Just Walk Across the Room* – Bill Hybels

A great book with practical ideas and encouragement for how to relate the gospel to people in our daily lives. The pressure’s off! Bill tells of how it took seven years of driveway conversations before his neighbor came to know Christ. Bill gives great real life examples of how to share our faith stories in simple, but effective ways, and how to mix it up with lost people in a natural way that allows us to be ourselves and bear fruit for the Kingdom.

Recommended Websites:

- www.fbcservice.com
- www.hoperoswell.org
- www.worklife.org
- www.oneneed.org
- <http://fbcliving127.wordpress.com>
- www.missionaslife.com

Resource People:

- **Terry Colwell** – Life 2 Life 770-971-9381; tcolwell@L2Lonline.com
- **Kris Eldridge** – FBC Community Outreach Pastor – 770-641-5649 – kris.eldridge@fbconline.org
- **Mark McGoldrick** – Priority Associates; 770-642-9357; mccgoldrick@ipriority.com
- **Murray Tilles** – Light of Messiah; 678-624-1848; tilles@mindspring.com