

LESSON 28: WIN THE HEART, SHARE THE GOSPEL: EVANGELISM THROUGH BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

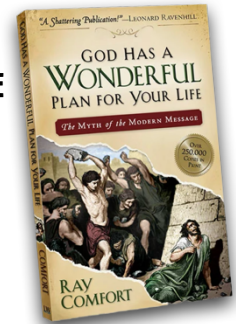


1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8

“BUT WE WERE GENTLE AMONG YOU, JUST AS A NURSING MOTHER CHERISHES HER OWN CHILDREN. SO, AFFECTIONATELY LONGING FOR YOU, WE WERE WELL PLEASED TO IMPART TO YOU NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL OF GOD, BUT ALSO OUR OWN LIVES, BECAUSE YOU HAD BECOME DEAR TO US.”

EVANGELISM FLOWS BEST THROUGH GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS. WIN A PERSON’S HEART WITH CHRIST-LIKE LOVE, AND THEIR EARS WILL BE OPEN TO THE GOSPEL OF GRACE.

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THE BIBLICAL MANDATE FOR RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

JESUS’ EXAMPLE

JOHN 4:6-7 “NOW JACOB’S WELL WAS THERE. JESUS THEREFORE, BEING WEARIED FROM HIS JOURNEY, SAT THUS BY THE WELL. IT WAS ABOUT THE SIXTH HOUR. A WOMAN OF SAMARIA CAME TO DRAW WATER. JESUS SAID TO HER, ‘GIVE ME A DRINK.’”

JESUS LINGERED WITH THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, ENGAGING HER PERSONALLY.

LUKE 19:5 “AND WHEN JESUS CAME TO THE PLACE, HE LOOKED UP AND SAW HIM, AND SAID TO HIM, ‘ZACCHAEUS, MAKE HASTE AND COME DOWN, FOR TODAY I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE.’”

RELATIONSHIP PRECEDED _____ .

PAUL’S PATTERN

ACTS 20:20 “HOW I KEPT BACK NOTHING THAT WAS HELPFUL, BUT PROCLAIMED IT TO YOU, AND TAUGHT YOU PUBLICLY AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.”

PAUL TAUGHT BOTH PUBLICLY AND PERSONALLY, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-8 (NKJV): SEE ABOVE. PAUL WAS GENTLE, AFFECTIONATE, AND SHARED HIS LIFE.

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GREAT COMMISSION WITH GREAT COMPASSION

MATTHEW 28:19-20 “GO THEREFORE AND MAKE _____ OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU...” .

DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WHEN TRUST IS BUILT.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19 “NOW ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD, WHO HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, AND HAS GIVEN US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION, THAT IS, THAT GOD WAS IN CHRIST RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF...”

WINNING THE HEART: BUILDING BRIDGES OF TRUST

BE PRESENT: SLOW DOWN AND SHOW UP CONSISTENTLY WHERE PEOPLE ARE...

ROMANS 12:13 “DISTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS, GIVEN TO HOSPITALITY.”

LISTEN WELL: **JAMES 1:19** “SO THEN, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, LET EVERY MAN BE SWIFT TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK, SLOW TO WRATH.”

ASK GOOD QUESTIONS AND LISTEN WITHOUT RUSHING TO ANSWERS.

SERVE SELFLESSLY: **GALATIANS 5:13** “FOR YOU, BRETHREN, HAVE BEEN CALLED TO LIBERTY; ONLY DO NOT USE LIBERTY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.”

SHARE LIFE: INVITE PEOPLE INTO YOUR MEALS, HOBBIES, OR CELEBRATIONS.

AUTHENTIC TRANSPARENCY: BE REAL ABOUT YOUR STRUGGLES AND POINT TO JESUS AS YOUR STRENGTH.

FROM RELATIONSHIP TO GOSPEL CONVERSATION

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS:

COLOSSIANS 4:3 “MEANWHILE PRAYING ALSO FOR US, THAT GOD WOULD OPEN TO US A DOOR FOR THE WORD, TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST...”

WATCH FOR SPIRIT-LED MOMENTS: ACTS 8:29 “THEN THE SPIRIT SAID TO PHILIP, ‘GO NEAR AND OVERTAKE THIS CHARIOT.’”

SHARE YOUR STORY: REVELATION 12:11 “AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY...”

PRESENT THE GOSPEL CLEARLY:

GOD’S DESIGN: CREATED FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

OUR PROBLEM: SIN SEPARATES (ROMANS 3:23 “FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD”).

GOD’S SOLUTION: JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION (1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4).

OUR RESPONSE: _____ AND FAITH (ACTS 2:38)

ROMANS 10:17 “SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.”

INVITE A RESPONSE, BUT DON’T MANIPULATE: TRUST THE SPIRIT TO CONVICT.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO CULTIVATE GOSPEL FRIENDSHIPS

NEIGHBORHOOD: HOST COOKOUTS, PRAYER-WALK YOUR STREET.

WORKPLACE: SHOW INTEGRITY AND OFFER TO PRAY FOR COWORKERS’ BURDENS.

COMMUNITY: VOLUNTEER IN SCHOOLS OR FOOD PANTRIES.

DIGITAL PRESENCE: SHARE CHRIST-CENTERED POSTS OR CARING TEXTS.

FAMILY: INVOLVE KIDS IN LOVING NEIGHBORS (BAKING COOKIES).

WE LOVE PEOPLE BECAUSE CHRIST LOVES THEM, WHETHER OR NOT THEY BELIEVE.

OVERCOMING COMMON BARRIERS

FEAR OF REJECTION: LUKE 10:16 “HE WHO HEARS YOU HEARS ME, HE WHO REJECTS YOU REJECTS ME...”

BUSYNESS: EVANGELISM IS OUR CALLING, NOT AN ADD-ON.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE: YOU DON’T NEED ALL THE ANSWERS, JUST A FAITHFUL HEART.

PAST HURTS: 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 “FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND.”

CALL TO ACTION

PRAY FOR THREE PEOPLE WHO DON’T KNOW CHRIST.

PLAN ONE INTENTIONAL ACT OF HOSPITALITY OR SERVICE THIS WEEK.

PREPARE A THREE-MINUTE TESTIMONY OF HOW CHRIST CHANGED YOUR LIFE.