

Greeting - Pinky shake - What is a small act of kindness, or word of encouragement that someone did for you that made your day?

Recap

Step 1: Knowing we are sent

Step 2: Investing in our people of peace (FRANK = Friends Relatives Associates Neighbors Kids)

Preview

Step 3: Understanding our culture and responding with an alternative

Step 4: Learning the art of asking questions

Step 3: Understanding our culture and responding with an alternative -

We are created, to be blessed, & to bless -

Wisdom = the right way to think and act based on your worldview - Ask - Receive - Live God's wisdom to share it with others out of love.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

We the church are a group of people that have experienced a major transformation - connected to God, declared righteous, a new people group - family set aside for God

Peter describes the radical change by describing it as coming out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

190811 Being and Everyday Missionary - Understanding or culture and responding with an alternative
Do you realize that we are strangers in a dark world – that because we are people of light, we see the world in a whole different way, and therefore live different lives. Being a special people to point people to Jesus, the Bible says, when they see the ‘good deeds’ of a transformed life. A life that shows unconditional love leads people to look for the source – we show them the cross of Christ.

So the question is this: Do you know how blessed you are? Therefore are you being a blessing to others?

Prinking Time: The blessed to bless test: (Prinking Slide)

1. When you speak to people, is your aim to give them your abundant favour or just to get what you want and move on?

2. Within your church fellowship, are you devoted to blessing others by sharing with those who have need out of the abundance God has given you (Acts 2:42)?
– Do you know which gifts you’ve been given by Christ and are you using them to build others up (Eph. 4:15–16)?

3. Are you blessing people you know who aren’t yet Christian believers by telling them about the Lord Jesus?

4. As you begin the day in prayer, is your request that God would show you how you can be a blessing that day?
– Here’s a great prayer: Lord, please give me an opportunity to do something amazing for you by being your blessing to others.

5. When you make decisions about your use of time and money, is your motivation how you can maximize your ability to bless others or to look after yourself?

Listening to our People of Peace and Responding with a Biblical Alternative

1 Peter 3:13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and

190811 Being and Everyday Missionary - Understanding or culture and responding with an alternative always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

When talking to friends about the Lord Jesus it helps to begin with an explanation of how knowing him as Lord and Saviour transforms us – rather than focussing on complex theories of propitiation.

Yes, our friends do need to know how Christ's death paid for their forgiveness and how much it cost him. But don't they need to see the beauty of the Christian life in action and hear the music of salvation before they will be ready to look into how new life in Christ was achieved?

Everyday missionaries understand what messages people are hearing that block out the fullness of grace and truth found in Jesus.

The third step in being everyday missionaries is to listen and understand the messages people are hearing that block, drowned, distract, deter, inoculate, anesthetize out the fullness of grace and truth that is found in Jesus.

As missionaries, our role is to say 'it doesn't have to be that way' and then to give an alternative view of reality/ life/ worldview/ personal experience/ life story framed by the gospel and shaped by what we're learning from Scripture and applying in our lives.

Our heart affects every thought, decision and action we take, and the heart is strongly influenced by our assumptions about life, origins, God, human nature, relationships, destiny, purpose, meaning, etc..

The danger is that people's fundamental view of life is based on false presuppositions or is derived from a very limited field of beliefs that's had the width of God's life giving realities removed.

Discuss: What are some common beliefs that keep people from listening to the Gospel?

Medium Groups

1. We need only open a newspaper to see that religious beliefs can cause harm. But to say that religion is bad for you is like saying, “Drugs are bad for you,” without distinguishing cocaine from life-saving medication. In general, religious participation appears to be good for your health and happiness. Turn this data on its head and the trend toward secularization in America is a public-health crisis. (21)
2. Modern Western society teaches me to prioritize discovering my authentic self, peeling back the onion layers of my identity and living out of what I find there at all costs. But from a Christian perspective, who I am in relation to God is my authentic self. I find myself not in the depths of my psychology but in the depths of his heart. And when he calls you or me “child,” “beloved,” “friend,” that’s who we are, and any other identity—male, female, father, mother, child, friend—flows out of that. (173)
3. Belief in a rational Creator God provides the first and best foundation for the scientific enterprise. . . . Just as atheism cannot ground our ethical beliefs, so it cannot justify our science. (110, 112)
4.
 - a. The question we must always ask of suffering is this: What could possibly be worth it? Jesus’s flabbergasting claim is that he is. (200)
 - b. Suffering is not an embarrassment to the Christian faith. It is the thread with which Christ’s name is stitched into our lives. (205)

Large Group - Christian Alternative to the Worldview

The challenge for us? To understand our culture in order to respond with an alternative view of reality - a life with a view of Jesus - abides in Christ - seeks His will - listens and responds to the Holy Spirit and God’s Word

Jesus demonstrates the importance of listening to culture – Jesus and the woman at the well - John 4

In the Disney film Enchanted, the character from fairy tale land challenges the views she hears from the so called 'real world' with the simple phrase '**but it doesn't have to be that way.**'

When we hear our POP share fundamentally flawed beliefs it is our role is to say 'it doesn't have to be that way' and then share your alternative view shaped by the gospel. Don't become a Rhino or an Armadillo yourself.

How do we do that? By taking what we learn from Scripture and experience in our walk with Jesus and compare our reality with the false reality people have let guide their hearts.

It's when we do that comparison of what goes on in our hearts and affects how we behave (bible based spirit lead) that reveals Christ alive in us, the hope of glory - the hidden part of a transformed life - the truth that Jesus is reality.

As we see the struggles, hopes and fears they express we can respond with an alternative that is good news of great joy to all who believe and receive.

Some Questions to consider

1. How could what you are currently learning in Scripture speak into the lives of your People Of Peace?
2. What are these peoples struggles, hopes, and fears? What assumptions and presuppositions do they view the world with?
3. How can you respond with an alternative view that is good news of great joy to all who believe and receive?