



Pastor Toby Locke
Week 7 – 11/4/18

Planning to Reach Out: INVEST: Living in 3D Matthew 11:19

Introduction: What do we do when our good deeds open up a window of opportunity for connection with lost people?

How do we “Live in 3D”?

⇒ Develop FRIENDSHIPS

- We must BEFRIEND lost people as Jesus did.
Matthew 9:9-13
- We must meet people on their TURF and their TERMS.
1 Corinthians 9:19-22

⇒ Discover People’s STORIES. *Mark 9:14-24*

- We must LISTEN to people. (*vs. 17-18*)
- We must ask CLARIFYING questions. (*vs. 21-22*)
- We must CHALLENGE them to further involvement. (*vs. 23-24*)

⇒ Discern Their Next STEPS. *Acts 8:26-35*

- Assess INTEREST (*vs. 30*)
- Answer QUESTIONS and offer RESOURCES (*vs. 34-35*)

Conclusion: If we want to be taken seriously, we need a real, three-dimensional approach to reaching out to the precious lost ones around us.

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS

Debrief Plan: 11/4/2018

Icebreakers:

1. Who was your first real childhood friend?
2. What was the first story that you remember loving as a child?

Sermon Summary: Our investment in the lives of lost people really accelerates when we intentionally develop authentic friendships with them and, in the process, listen long enough to discover their stories. After that, God asks us to discern their next step and then offer whatever resources we can to help them take that step.

Discussion Questions:

1. Suppose you knew that you were someone’s “project.” How would that affect your openness to that person?

* Develop Friendships:

2. *Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8.* What does it mean to not only share the gospel with people, but to share “our own selves” with them? Are there any hints in the rest of 1 Thess. 2 about what sharing BOTH might look like?
3. Why do we tend to keep our distance when sharing the message w/ people?
4. Brainstorm ways to “seek out friendships” with lost people around you.
5. *Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22.* How can we meet people on their turf and on their terms without compromising our beliefs and standards of holiness?

* Discover People’s Stories:

6. What parts of people’s stories would be really important for us to know in order to share the good news with them?
7. Have you ever had someone who was willing to take the time to really hear your story? How did it feel?

* Discern Their Next Steps:

8. Have you ever been able to give a lost person some resource to help answer their questions about God, life, or whatever? How did it go?
9. How does it actually WORK to follow the Spirit’s guidance in reaching out?

Prayer Prompters: (*Consider splitting into small groups of 2 or 4 to pray!*)

- Ask God to give you wisdom to know what lost people around you need a friend, and then that he’d give you the courage to seek that person out!
- Pray for an opportunity to get to know a specific lost person’s story!