

Ripple Effect: Evangelism

John 1:1-3, 14; Matthew 5:13-14; Romans 5:8

5/21/23

Discussion Questions

Prepare:

When you think of the word what images come to mind? What experiences have you had with doing evangelism?

Passage:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:1-3, 14

1. Has your life benefited from knowing Jesus? If so, share how.
2. How many of you know people, family members, friends, people you bump into routinely, whose lives would be better off if they knew Jesus? Share their names. At the end of the meeting pray for each person that God would use you or bring someone into their life who has the ability to connect them to the Lord.
3. Have you ever thought about how hard it was for God, who is so different from us, to come down from the comforts of heaven and come into our world and speak to us about spiritual matters at a level we could understand? How does a Genius speak to a preschooler about math?
4. Have you ever been some place where you felt like a fish out of water? How hard is it to develop a relationship with a person who is very different from you?
5. Have you been able to develop a friendship with someone the opposite of you? If so, what parameters or boundaries did you have to set in order to protect the relationship so it remained healthy?
6. What did you hear from the message that will help you "evangelize" more effectively or naturally?
7. What fears do people have about evangelism? Are they real or fake fears?
8. What style of evangelism is definitely not you? What style do you find to be counter-productive?
9. Have you ever tried to force a spiritual conversation? What happened?
10. Share a time when you had an unexpected but very natural conversation about spiritual matters with someone who did not know the Lord.
11. Have you ever experienced a "nudge" from God? Perhaps you thought it was your imagination but you acted on it anyway and it turned out to be a God-thing. Share your story.

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12. *"Evangelism begins with associating with people who are different from you."* What do you think about that statement?

13. What does this passage say about evangelism?

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:13-14

14. Read the Parable of the Soils (Called "of the Sower" in many Bibles) in Luke 8. Reflect on what it says about evangelism. Do you see it as good news or bad news?

15. *"In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted."* Exodus 40:36-37

Have you ever been impatient in a relationship and you pushed too hard to "evangelize" the person? How do you know when a person is ready to talk about spiritual matters?

16. Do you agree with what society says, that we are becoming more and more secular as a result more and more resistant to spiritual conversations or do you believe it's a lie? What evidence do you have for your opinion?

17. Have you seen Christians offering a "fire hose" instead of a cup of Living Waters when having a spiritual conversation with a friend? By "fire hose" I mean, they try to share the entire Christian message in one sitting.

Pray for an opportunity in the coming weeks to "walk across the room" to begin a new relationship with a person that is outside of your social circle.