

Journey CHURCH

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Life on Mission – Leader Guide Session Four: Share

MEMORY VERSE: “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

In this session, we want to talk about being ready for the inevitable “Why are you doing this?” question that will come up when we are genuinely interested in other people. Even if we are reaching out in imperfect ways, the impact of authentic love is so counter to the normal experiences of most people that they are intrigued. So they may open the door with a question. On the other hand, it may be that people appreciate our kindness, but never ask why we do what we do. They may just assume that we’re “nice.” So at some point, God asks us to be bold, and to initiate the conversation. This can be a bit scary. We certainly don’t want to alienate people or push them away from God! And truth be told, we don’t want them to think we’re strange. But because Jesus is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to the Father, then we need to help people know that. We can share the Gospel in a relevant way when we simply tell our own story. We don’t have to be Bible experts or have answers to all of the hard theological questions. We just need to be ready to share our own experiences, and to state clearly and simply how Jesus has changed our lives.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What parts of your spiritual story might be easily related to others?
- 2) Even though Jesus gave all of His followers the “Great Commission” task of making disciples, many of us, as Alan Ahlgrim pointed out, don’t have the gift of evangelism. But we do have the “opportunity” of evangelism.
- 3) No one wants to be preached at. In fact, sometimes the most effective thing you can do is to listen to people. Tell about a time you shared your story. If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently? How?
- 4) If Bill Geiger is right and we should be paying more attention to the ways God prompts us, what examples or experiences can you think of where you strongly suspect God was prompting you to speak or take some action?

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- 5) Pastor Tim encouraged us to engage people by asking them what questions they have about God and faith. Have you ever asked someone that? What happened when you did?
- 6) Each of us is automatically the expert on our own story and our own experience. But most people aren't ready to hear the "epic" version of our story, so what do you think are the important parts of our BC story (before Christ) and our AC story (after Christ) that would help someone understand our hope?