

Series: Going Public with Your Faith (Part 1)

Think Process

Dr. Les Hughes

August 16, 2009 (#4 of Series)

Announcements

For today, eight weeks from now, 10 year vision and strategy for Westwood in the immediate future.

Scripture: John 4:35-38

Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

Group Session

Opening Question

In the video shown in worship, a gentleman was apparently prayer walking and praying about how he can reach those around Him. At the end he used the words of Isaiah, saying, "Here am I. Send me." What keeps most believers from honestly saying, "God, use me"?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. What bad experiences have you had trying to share your faith? How did it make you feel?

What positive experiences have you had? How did God use that?

2. Read the passage above. How "white" are the fields in your sphere of influence or circle of friends, coworkers and neighbors?

3. What does it say to you about the process of evangelism when the passages say that one person sows and another one reaps? (process, teamwork, equal rejoicing, time)

Lesson #1 is this: **Evangelism and discipleship are a process, not just an event.**

Do we devalue the sowing process? (This is a duh question that is more of a challenge than a discussion question.)

4. Les discussed our process of discipleship: Connect with God, Grow with Believers, Serve in the Church and Live on Mission. If we see this process as progressive in nature, where do you think most believers at Westwood are? Just for your thoughts, where are you? Do you think most people are stagnated in this growth process or making progress toward being people who "live on mission?"

5. Lesson 2 is this: **God has equipped each of us to play a critical role in helping people know Him.** Are there any people in your life (friends, colleagues or neighbors) who may know no others believers who are concerned, praying, and working to share with them the Gospel? If this is true and we feel unqualified to share Christ, what are the first steps?

6. Les shared three cold, hard facts. Which of the following is most motivating to you? Why

Cold Hard Facts:

- a. God has a distribution plan for the Good News about Jesus, and we're it.
- b. We need a fresh approach.
- c. We can and are expected to participate with God in His (Gospel) distribution plan.

7. God blesses our willingness and obedience. What kind of blessings can we expect from our willingness in the areas of sharing Christ with others?

Closing Challenge

We also have a number of tools in order to share our faith. We have our orders. We have God's supernatural power. The final tool is our willingness and obedience. Close the lesson today with some silent time, prayerfully considering our willingness in light of those around us who are in need of a relationship with Christ.

Other Passages Referenced

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

John 20:21

"... as the Father has sent me, so send I you."