



3-D LIVING: DEVELOPING AUTHENTIC SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIPS

By Bill Yaccino, Spiritual Discovery Ministry, Willow Creek Church¹

The Great Commandment

“The most important one,” Jesus answered, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one. Love the Lord God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these”. (Mark 12:28-31)

LOVE cannot be overstated!

- Jesus elevated love above all other commands.
- LOVING GOD cannot be separated from LOVING PEOPLE!

3-D LIVING²

- Decide to wonder/engage
- Discover stories
- Discern next steps

WE NEED EACH OTHER

- We are biblically incorrect when we assert that all we need is God!
- While God is the source of all that we need, man has a genuine, God-given need to experience God’s love through others.
- If God created us with needs that are only met through relationship...NEEDS are not wrong!

CARE ENOUGH TO WONDER

- Hang out together
- Drop clues right away
- Look for open windows

DISCOVER STORIES

- Engage in spiritual conversations
- Seek first to understand
- Ask great questions
- Listen well

¹ Adapted from a talk presented at Feb 18-20, 2005 First Free “Fear Factor Faceoff” Winter Retreat

² Ideas for “3D Living” originate from Bill Hybels and Gary Poole, Willow Creek Community Church

DISCERN NEXT STEPS

- Decide to engage
- Discover stories
- Serve needs
- Offer to pray
- Give resources
- Bring to outreach events
- Invite to church services
- Enfold into small groups
- Share the message
- Guide across the line of faith

TEN VALID EMOTIONAL NEEDS³

Security	Ro 12:16,18
Comfort	Ro 12:15b2 Cor 1:3-4
Attention	1 Cor 12:25
Acceptance	Ro 15:7;
Appreciation	Col 3:15b; 1 Cor 11:2
Support	Gal 6:2
Encouragement	1 Thess 5:11; Heb 10:24
Affection	1 Thess 2:8; Ro 16:16
Respect	1 Pet 2:17; Ro 12:10
Approval	Ro 14:18; Mk 1:11

SOME WAYS WE CAN MEET THOSE NEEDS

- Express comfort by providing a meal for a neighbor who is experiencing a difficult time
- Demonstrate acceptance by inviting a friend to your home for a simple meal
- Show appreciation by throwing a party or giving a gift to rejoice with someone's success
- Demonstrate respect by writing a note expressing thanks for a person's impact on your life
- Show support by mowing a neighbor's lawn while they are on vacation
- Express encouragement by babysitting for a couple that needs an evening out

3-D LIVING

- A person who focuses only on communicating truth is a Cactus Christian, with a powerful message, but no audience
- A person who focuses only on meeting needs is a Chameleon Christian, with a receptive audience, but no message
- A person who maintains 3D living meets valid needs AND communicates truth. They are Contagious Christians, with both receptive audience and a powerful message.

³Taken from *Ten Valid Intimacy Needs*, Dr. David Ferguson, Intimate Life Ministries

SOME "3-D" EXERCISES FOR INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUPS

Do You Know Your Neighbors?

Category	Points	Neighbor One	Neighbor Two	Neighbor Three
First & Last Name	1 for every person	_____ _____ _____ Points:	_____ _____ _____ Points:	_____ _____ _____ Points:
Make/Model of car	1 for each car	_____ _____ Points:	_____ _____ Points:	_____ _____ Points:
Current Job	1 for each job known	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Former Jobs	1 for each former job	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Hometown of Adults (Homestate is not IL)	2 for each hometowns	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Religious/Church Background	3 points for each adult	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Current Church Affiliation	1 point per household (1 point if you know they have none)	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Favorite Vacation Spot	2 points for favorite spot	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Hobbies or Sports	2 points for every hobby or sport known	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Favorite TV Show	3 points if known	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Number of Siblings	2 points for every adult	_____ Points:	_____ Points:	_____ Points:
Total Per Column	Add the totals of each column	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
In an emergency, would your neighbor call you:	First-4, Soon-3, Eventually-2, Doubtful-1, Not!-0	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
When going on vacation, how hard is it to ask them to mow your yard?	Easy Ask-3, Hard As-2, I'd have to pay 'em-1, long grass for two weeks-0	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
You need a 6am lift to the airport. Would you ask your neighbor?	He already owes me-3, No problem-2, In a pinch-1, Taxi!-0	_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
New Column Totals		_____ _____	_____ _____	_____ _____
Grand Total	Add all three column totals together	_____		

***Neighbors could be a person, family, or set of roommates. Points can be scored for every person in household.

Discern Next Steps

	Friend # 1	Friend # 2	Friend # 3
<i>Decide to Engage.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Discover Stories.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Serve Needs.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Offer to Pray.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Give Resources.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Bring to Outreach Events.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Invite to Church Services.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Enfold Into Small Groups.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Share the Message.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Guide Across the Line of Faith.....</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	When?	When?	When?

DECIDE TO WONDER

Often, I hear Christians say, "I wonder why my neighbor is not open to the Gospel," or "I wonder what it's going to take to get 'so-and-so' to trust in Christ." While those are valid concerns, it makes me wonder if you really care for them, or if you are just trying to get them across 'the line of faith'.

Have you ever wondered about their life? What makes them tick? What ticks them off? What makes them laugh? What do they fear?

Pray with Wonder!

5x5x5x5

Begin to pray for :

**Five Neighbors, for
Five Minutes a Day, for
Five Days a Week, for
Five Weeks**

FACILITATING SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY

Evangelism does not start with us talking to our neighbors about God. It begins when we start talking to God about our neighbors!

Our prayers of wonder will move people closer to the Father, as he draws them nearer to Himself (John 6:44). Additionally, our "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving (should) be made for everyone (so that they) come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:1,4)

B L E S S Them Through Prayer

- B— BODY, health, protection, strength
- L— LABOR, work, income, security
- E— EMOTIONAL, joy, peace, hope
- S— SOCIAL, love, marriage, family, friends
- S— SPIRITUAL, salvation, faith, grace

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