

D

iscipleship

A Journey in

FEBRUARY 2008

B E P S M A L L G R O U P L E A D E R ' S G U I D E

THE RADAR 1

**JOURNEY IN
DISCIPLESHIP:** 4-13
FEB10- MARCH 8

**SIMPLE PROCESS OF
DISCIPLESHIP** 14



THE RADAR

Helping keep your small group on the same frequency!

Family Nights

Thursdays at 6pm. We will post the names of folks in each of our small groups during the last two weeks of Family Nights so that people may recognize friends. If you have spoken to someone who you think would enjoy being in a small group please invite them or let me know how I can help get them connected!

Cornerstone

Our next Cornerstone meeting is Thursday, March 6 at 7pm. This should be a great time with leaders from youth and children's ministry joining us!

NOTICE:

The format of the RADAR is a little different. It contains both studies for Journey in the Word & small groups. Feel free to reference either for preparation or during your meetings.



Contact me:

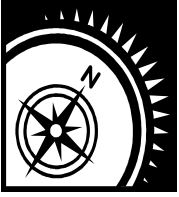
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How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 10

Journey in the Word

Key Concept: Justice

Analysis

First, let's understand an example Jesus gives of someone who seeks justice and shows mercy. Read Luke 10: 25-37.

What does the text expose about the lawyer's heart? Contrast the Samaritan & the lawyer. What does this passage teach us. (Discuss then read the summary)

Summary

Jesus commends the Samaritan, who was despised by the Jew, as being a better neighbor because he sought justice and showed mercy at great personal expense. It teaches that everyone is our neighbor and that we should treat everyone justly even at great personal expense. Time, energy, money, reputation- are the things Christ is calling us to sacrifice in order to pursue justice and show grace & mercy to our neighbor.

Application

Just as the Samaritan, we must enter into the ugly situations of life in order to bring justice and mercy. How do we love people while still showing justice and mercy? Discuss the following scenarios one at a time and think of the various practical implications to your life such as time, energy, money, & reputation. Don't forget to consider both types a justice.

- Helping the poor without encouraging irresponsibility?
- Serving drug addicts & abortionists without approving their behavior?
- Helping people recover from broken marriages without condoning their unbiblical divorce?
- What other complex justice issues can you think of?

Conclusion, the gospel informs and directs the way we apply justice & mercy. God's holiness and Jesus' costly blood shed for sin commands me to call people out of sin for His glory and their good. The love of Christ for me, a sinner, compels me to love other sinners by empathizing with them and helping them bear their burdens.

How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 10- February 16



Analysis

☞ First, let's understand an example Jesus gives of someone who seeks justice and shows mercy. Read Luke 10: 25-37.

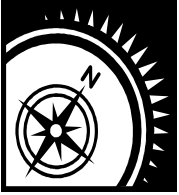
Summary

Jesus commends the Samaritan, who was despised by the Jew, as being a better neighbor because he sought justice and showed mercy at great personal expense. The many personal expenses—time, energy, money, reputation—are the things Christ is calling us to sacrifice in order to pursue justice and show grace & mercy.

Application

- ☞ Describe typical reactions when we see people being treated unfairly. Describe a situation where you were treated unfairly. What affect did it have on you? How was it resolved?
- ☞ Would you be willing to share an episode where you treated someone unfairly? How was it resolved?
- ☞ Apathy seems to be a significant reason that injustice goes unchecked? What are typical causes for apathy? Describe a time when you sought justice and won justice for yourself or someone else. What did you learn from that experience?

Small Group



How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 17

Journey in the Word

Key Concept: Justice

*** There will be a deacon in your group today. These questions are for him and give you and the group a time to interact with the deaconate. ***

- ☞ Describe your experience as a deacon. How long?
When did you begin? Describe how God called you to be a deacon.

- ☞ What do BEP deacons do?

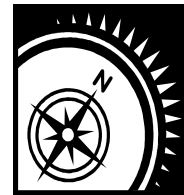
- ☞ What is the most satisfying aspect of working for justice and mercy for people?

- ☞ What is the most difficult aspect?

- ☞ In what ways would you like to see more people involved in what the deaconate is doing?

How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 17-23



Key Concept: Justice

- œ How do we partner with the deaconate at BEP to pursue justice and mercy for people in our community?
- œ It seems that people outside the church are more willing to seek the deaconate's help than those inside. Without passing judgment on those outside why are people inside the church hesitant to seek help?
- œ What can we do to help the deaconate serve the people in need in the body?
- œ When should we encourage people to go to the deaconate for help? When & how should we help them ourselves?

Small Group



How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 24

Journey in the Word

Key Concept: Evangelism

In the next three weeks, we want to master a simple method for communicating the Gospel message. The hope is to have a simple outline that would allow you to share the good news to someone on an airplane in 15 minutes or to a neighbor over the course of a life time. The goal of this paradigm is to communicate what people need to know in order to be saved. As we love people by sharing the hope of Christ, we will prayerfully leave the results of our evangelism to God.

This simple paradigm can be remembered

GOD- MAN-CHRIST-RESPONSE

For discussion: The objective of this time is to develop your own way of communicating the Gospel by learning from others.

- ☞ **GOD**-What do people need to know about God in order to be saved? What Scriptures could you share to explain? What illustrations have you heard or used to communicate this to people? *Simple answer: God is holy and worthy of the utmost honor. He is merciful, gracious and loving toward his Creation.*
- ☞ **MAN**-What do people need to know about Man in order to be saved? What Scriptures could you share to explain? What illustrations have you heard or used to communicate this to people? *Simple answer: Created with a purpose, yet we are sinful and separated from God by sin.*
- ☞ **CHRIST**-What do people need to know about Christ in order to be saved? What Scriptures could you share to explain? What illustrations have you heard or used to communicate this to people? *Simple answer: Christ lived, died and was raised from the dead in order to bear the punishment that sinful people deserve and pay the debt of love we are unable to pay.*
- ☞ **RESPONSE**-What do people need to know about the proper response to the above information in order to be saved? What Scriptures could you share to explain? What illustrations have you heard or used to communicate this to people? *Simple answer: We receive this gift by acknowledging our need for a Savior, transferring our hope of salvation and submitting the control of our lives to Him.*

How to I relate to my neighbor?

February 24-March 1



Key Concept: Evangelism

☞ Read the following about evangelism. Reference the Scriptures given and discuss any questions or comments.

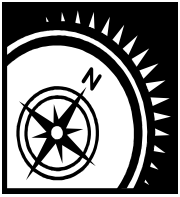
- Everyone does it. Not only the apostles (5:24) but every Christian (8:4) did evangelism--communicated the gospel. They did this endlessly (5:24.)
- Everyone does it differently. The gospel is not presented identically in every setting, but rather is adapted to different audiences. The gospel can be put in different 'nutshells': see 2 Cor.5:19-21; Mark 1:14-15; Rom.1:1-4, 16-17; 1 Cor.15:1-5; Phil.2:5-11; 1 Tim.2:5-6; Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 1:8-2:1; 3:8b; 5:1.
- Yet the gospel has a definite content. Luke refers to the word, the message, the gospel (cf. 11:19; 13:26; 15:7; 20:32.) When Cornelius' household "received" the message (11:1), the Holy Spirit fell on them (10:44). The gospel is a set of core truths which, when understood and received, converts and saves us.

☞ In Acts the main "method" of evangelism is not a program or a well-oiled scheme at all. Rather it is literally 'household' or "Oikos" gospelizing (10:2,24; 16:15,31; 18:8.)

- "Oikos" is the Greek word for "household," but it means far more than the nuclear family. A Graeco-Roman household contained not only several generations of the same family, but also servants, their families, friends, and business associates.
- An "oikos" is a web of common kinship affinity (relatives), geographical affinity (neighbors), vocational affinity (co-workers), associational affinities (special interest colleagues), and plain friends.
- "Oikos" evangelism is the most personally demanding of all methods, because it requires that you be a changed person, transformed by the gospel. Your life is the main attractor and evidence for the truth of the faith. In "oikos" evangelism, your life is under observation by those who don't believe. You can't run and you can't hide! If your character is flawed (or even unexceptional), you won't be effective.
- "Oikos" evangelism is non-manipulative. The person outside the faith is "in the driver's seat." He or she gets to raise questions and determines the speed of the process. There is no "canned" presentation. He or she gets a very good view of how Christianity works in a life. In short, all the "advantages" of oikos evangelism are for the person who does not believe, not for the believer. No wonder it is so effective.

☞ Discuss the concept of 'household gospeling.' What would be necessary to be effective in this? What is the most difficult aspect of this? What practical things could you do to be better at this?

Small Group



How to I relate to my neighbor?

March 2

Journey in the Word

Key Concept: Evangelism

First, let us review and revisit GMCR. Has any questions arose through the week concerning what someone must know in order to be saved? Take a moment as a group and share what you remember to be to key Scriptures and illustrations in communicating each point. *GOD- MAN- CHRIST- REPSONSE*

Now Listen to the following and discuss your thoughts.

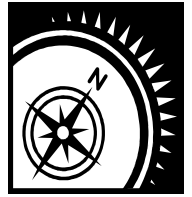
In Acts the main “method” of evangelism is not a program or a well-oiled scheme at all. Rather it is literally ‘household’ or “Oikos” gospelizing “Oikos” is the Greek word for “household,” but it means far more than the nuclear family. A Graeco-Roman household contained not only several generations of the same family, but also servants, their families, friends, and business associates. An “oikos” is a web of common kinship affinity (relatives), geographical affinity (neighbors), vocational affinity (co-workers), associational affinities (special interest colleagues), and plain friends. “Oikos” evangelism is the most personally demanding of all methods, because it requires that you be a changed person, transformed by the gospel. Your life is the main attractor and evidence for the truth of the faith. In “oikos” evangelism, your life is under observation by those who don’t believe. You can’t run and you can’t hide! If your character is flawed (or even unexceptional), you won’t be effective. “Oikos” evangelism is non-manipulative. The person outside the faith is “in the driver’s seat.” He or she gets to raise questions and determines the speed of the process. There is no “canned” presentation. He or she gets a very good view of how Christianity works in a life. In short, all the “advantages” of oikos evangelism are for the person who does not believe, not for the believer. No wonder it is so effective.

Discuss:

- ☞ In simplest terms your “oikos” is your sphere of influence. What is your “oikos”?
- ☞ What do you find comforting about this type of evangelism? What do you find challenging?
- ☞ If “the person outside the faith is “in the driver’s seat” then we have to be prepared to answer hard questions. Should we be able to answer all of their questions? What do we do when they stump us?
- ☞ If “oikos” evangelism is not a “canned presentation” then why would we learn a paradigm like GOD- MAN- CHRIST- RESPONSE?

How to I relate to my neighbor?

March 2-March 9



Key Concept: Evangelism

Now, we will discuss what is often the most difficult part of evangelism. That is “getting the conversation started.” First, remember this. For many of us evangelism is not a shared event with someone, but a shared life with someone with many “mini- decisions” along the way. While conversion may look like climactic event, most people have gone through a journey to get there. The big question we will ask is “how do we relationally connect with the specific place in their journey in a empathetic & compassionate way in order to speak the Gospel into that situation?”

Our goal is to discern a ‘theme of relevance’ for sharing the gospel with your friend or relative. That is, on the basis of listening and serving, recognize which ‘avenue in to the heart’ would be the best way to talk about the need for and the provision of God’s grace. Discuss these possible “avenues to the heart”

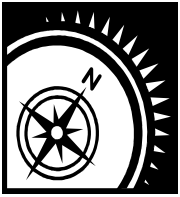
- Relationship. “Would you like to know God personally?” (God designed us to know him personally. Our sin and guilt are barriers to that relationship. JC's death opens the way, etc.)
- Fulfillment. “Why don't we find we are really getting satisfaction out of life?” (God designed us for himself. Our sin leads us to worship the wrong things, which leads to lack of self-worth and emptiness. Through Jesus' work we can know God's total love and presence which alone fulfills.)
- Justice. “What hope do we have for justice and triumph of good?” (If there is no judge, than human rights are an illusion and so is the prospect of justice. But if there is a judge, then there is hope for the world, but it makes us anxious and guilty. JC is the judge who was judged, so he can be both judge and savior of those who believe)
- Meaning. “What are you living for, why try to achieve it?” What is your life "centered" on? Can you understand your problems in terms of an inadequate "center?"
- Strength/power: “ How do you get the energy to keep on? To face your problems?”
- Guilt “How do you deal with your conscience?”
- Death how do you face it?

☞ Have you had conversations like this with people? Describe your experience.

☞ Can you recognize “ avenues in to the heart” of some of your current non-believing friends or relatives? Discuss and strategize together what is your best approach in these specific situations.

☞ Pray together for courage to approach your non believing friends and family and sensitivity to know when and how to do it.

Small Group



How to I relate to my neighbor?

March 1

Journey in the Word

Key Concept: Evangelism

While conversion may look like climactic event, most people have gone through a journey to get there. The big question we will ask is “how do we relationally connect with the specific place in their journey in a empathetic & compassionate way in order to speak the Gospel into their situation?”

- ☞ Our goal is to discern a ‘theme of relevance’ for sharing the gospel with your friend or relative. That is, on the basis of listening and serving, recognize which ‘avenue in to the heart’ would be the best way to talk about the need for and the provision of God’s grace. Discuss these possible “avenues to the heart”
 - Relationship. “Would you like to know God personally?” God designed us to know him personally. Our sin and guilt are barriers to that relationship. Jesus’ death opens the way,
 - Fulfillment. “Why don't we find we are really getting satisfaction out of life?” God designed us for himself. Our sin leads us to worship the wrong things, which leads to lack of self-worth and emptiness. Through Jesus’ work we can know God's total love and presence which alone fulfills.)
 - Justice. “What hope do we have for justice and triumph of good?” If there is no judge, than human rights are an illusion and so is the prospect of justice. But if there is a judge, then there is hope for the world, but it makes us anxious and guilty. Jesus is the judge who was judged, so he can be both judge and savior of those who believe)
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 - Guilt “How do you deal with your conscience?”
 - Death How do you face it?
- ☞ Do you understand what is meant by ‘avenue in to the heart’ ? If not spend time as a group discussing this concept until you can imagine what a conversation like this would look like. Can you think of other avenues?
- ☞ In most cases it takes some building up of relational equity in order to be in a position to talk like this with non believers. What does it take for most of us to build up that kind of equity?
- ☞ What personal character qualities does it take to do evangelism like this?
- ☞ Spend the remainder of the time sharing God’s success stories you’ve seen or frustrations that you have had in evangelism.

How to I relate to my neighbor?

March 1- March 8



Key Concept: Evangelism

Tonight's meeting is devoted entirely to praying for your non believing friends and family.

- œ First, share the names of friends and family you would like to pray for. Describe as much of their situation as you're comfortable.

- œ Pray that God would show you clearly the "avenue into the hearts" (see previous page) of these friends and family members?

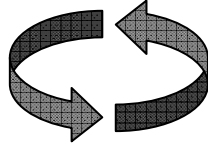
- œ Pray for unmistakable opportunities to share and the courage to take them.

- œ Pray for God's grace upon your friends and family.

Small Group

BEP Adult Ministry

A simple process of discipleship



WORSHIP TOGETHER

Sunday Worship

Set up/ Ushers/ Greeters /Enfolding Team/
Reception Team/Worship Teams/AV Team

LEARN TOGETHER

Adult Christian Education

Journey in the Word/ W2W & Men's Ministry
Bible Studies/Family Nights

SERVE TOGETHER

Ministries & Missions

Deaconate/ Deacon's Assistants/My Brother's
Pantry /Boys & Girls Club/ Habitat for Humanity/
Car Clinic/Fifth Quarter/ Family Club/ Tuesday
Open Gym /Karate Club/Missions

LIVE TOGETHER

Small Groups & Church Fellowships

Small Groups

Couples/ W2W/ Men's / Divorce Care/ College & Career

Church Fellowships

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