

Real with Others

Sandals strategy for reaching people

1. We believe every person needs a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields." Matthew 9:36-38 NLT

DISCUSSION: Is there someone in your life that needs to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? How are you connecting with them? Do you treat them like they should know better or like they are one without sight? How do you show them compassion?

DISCUSSION: Are you being intentional in the conversations you have with them? (By intentional, I don't mean shoving Jesus in people's faces but I do mean looking for opportunities to share Christ/your faith and taking them, not just "waiting" for things to happen)

2. We believe in meeting people wherever they are in life

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. 1 Corinthians 9:22 NLT

Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well" - but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? James 2:15 NLT

DISCUSSION: How are you being both empathetic and sympathetic with those around you? How do you show them the love of Jesus as He would? What are some practical ways that you can get into people's lives?

DISCUSSION: How are you allowing the Gospel of Jesus Christ change your life now?

3. We believe that how we speak is as important as what we speak

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. Colossians 4:5-6 NLT

DISCUSSION: Instead of telling others how they should feel and behave, how are you connecting with the way they already feel and behave? How is your conversation with others gracious? How are others connecting with Jesus through your words?

DISCUSSION: What are some mistakes you have made in dealing with non-believers? What is the easiest way for you to talk to people about church/God? (Intentional relationship, intellectual, invite to church, testimony, direct/confrontational) How can you use that approach this week?

4. We believe that God's power works best within broken people

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" - and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Brokenness means that:

- I am constantly aware of the life Jesus saved me from, and the grace I currently need.
- I am open and honest about my current struggles and sins.
- I never judge people, but see them as broken people who need Jesus.

DISCUSSION: In what way do you know your brokenness based on the definitions above? How does this small group know each other's brokenness based upon the definitions above?

DISCUSSION: How are you displaying to the "world" that you are a broken person? Do you feel the need to put up a Christian front or can you be honest about your sin and shortcomings with them?

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend 5-7 minutes talking to God about your sin and how much you need Him as a Savior. Ask Him what areas of your life you are not showing appreciation in.