

Small Group Meeting notes - 10th July 2001

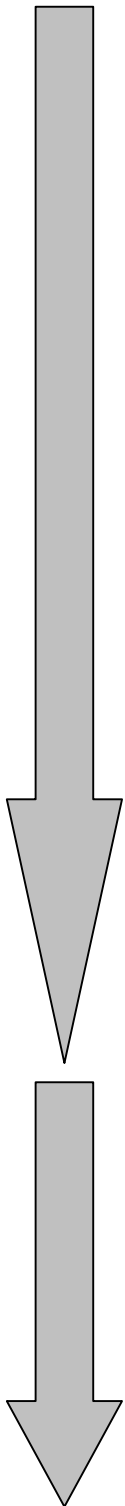
World Affirming Evangelism - part 1

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| <p>Welcome</p> | <p>Tell us about someone who you admire who is not a Christian, why do you admire them?</p> |
| <p>Worship</p> | |
| <p>Word</p> | <p>Read Acts 10 - Cornelius <i>Why was Cornelius not part of the Jewish church?</i></p> <p><i>Why did the Jewish church not welcome him in?</i></p> <p><i>Why was Cornelius considered a good / religious man?</i></p> <p><i>How was he able to be a good man when he wasn't a Christian?</i></p> <p><i>What do other "good" people do today? What is normally our opinion of these people and what they do?</i></p> <p><i>Is this God at work or just people's own effort?</i></p> <p>Conclude and summarise your discussions. God is at work in people who are not Christians.</p> <hr/> <p>Draw 2 large boxes on a piece of paper, labelled A and B</p> <p><i>What do people think God is like? Put answers in box A</i></p> <p><i>What do people think Christians are like? Put answers in box B</i></p> <p>Take a word from each box and try the following sentence:</p> <p>So... a straight gospel message to a stranger is like asking them to believe in a God who is (box A), and join a club of (box B).</p> <p>No wonder we have difficulties when we dive straight into the classic repent and be saved speech!</p> <p>Instead when we meet people we would like people to be left knowing they had been GIGAWOK'd (God Is Good And We're OK).</p> <p>Ask a few people to describe how they came to know Jesus.</p> <p>Show and describe the Engle scale (attached) and ask the same people to describe their conversion experience again, but this time using the terms on the scale. Not all stories will follow this pattern, that's OK, the scale is just one particular model of the process. The point to make is that in most cases conversion is a process.</p> <p><i>Where was Cornelius on this scale when Peter met him?</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>How do you think Cornelius got to be at this point on the scale?</i></p> <p>Ask people to consider those for whom they are praying on a regular basis at the moment, and describe where they think they are on the scale.</p> <p>APPLICATION: Pray now for our friends to move a few steps towards knowing God (not necessarily in the specific order described in the Engle scale)</p> <p>How about a new definition of evangelism to describe the relationship that Jesus wants us to have with our friends: "Evangelism is leaving people more positively disposed towards the gospel, ready for their next encounter with a Christian"</p> <p><i>Who is responsible for this process? (think about and absorb the implications of this)</i></p> <p><i>God uses us in this process, why and how? (we are part of a team)</i></p> <p><i>In our story from Acts what did Peter have to do in order to be part of God's process?</i> Hear and obey, 1 step at a time.</p> <p><i>How many people were involved in your conversion stories if you truthfully consider all the steps you took?</i></p> <p><i>How does this discussion change the way you view evangelism?</i></p> <p>Perhaps spend some time praying for our friends, reflecting on what we have learnt, pray for each other that Jesus would affirm each of us in this new style of evangelism and equip us for his service.</p> |
| Witness | |

- **Jesus at the Centre** - Meeting with Jesus at core. Only Jesus changes people.
- **Every member in ministry** - Every member feeling they have a ministry and role key to revival.
- **Every member growing** - Every person taking responsibility for their personal holiness and growth in their walk with Christ.
- **Multiplication** - The spreading of the gospel and making disciples at the heart of groups.
- **Sacrificial love** - Jesus demonstrated love by sacrifice. His the challenge to all.
- **Community** - The building of relationships both within and without the group produces community.
- **Honesty** - Honesty is the lifeblood of community and the doorway to Christian growth.

The Engle scale (modified)



- 12 No God framework
- 11 Experience of emptiness
- 10 God framework
- 9 Vague awareness and belief in God
- 8 Wondering if God can be known
- 7 Aware of Jesus
- 6 Interested in Jesus
- 5 Experience of Christian love
- 4 Aware of the basic facts of the gospel
- 3 Aware of personal need
- 2 Grasp the implications of the gospel
- 1 Challenged to respond personally
- 0 Repentance and faith
- +1 Holy Spirit and baptism
- +2 Functioning member of local Church
- +3 Continuing growth in character, lifestyle and service
- +4 Part of Team Leadership