


# Small Group Meeting notes - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2001

## World Affirming Evangelism - part 2

Welcome	Tell us about someone who you admire who is not a Christian, why do you admire them?
Worship	
Word	<p>Lets get practical and look at how part 1 of this study changes the way we take part in evangelism - we will be looking at the funnel model (you may like to draw this picture)</p>  <p><b>STAGE 1- Sowing seeds</b>          We do not know where people are in the process of meeting God. If they are far away from God, showing them love is a pretty safe way of helping them move towards Him.</p> <p><i>What sort of things can we do for our friends to show them love?</i></p> <p>But we do not just want their journey to hell to be more comfortable, so it is important to tell them why we are loving them - be nice in the name of the LORD i.e. "I am a follower of Jesus, and that's the sort of thing he would have done"</p> <p>This activity involves us loving many people (a scattering approach) and has a very low gospel content.</p> <p>But how effective is it likely to be?</p> <p><b>APPLICATION</b></p> <p><i>How many people do you know who are not Christians? (people with whom you talk, not just close friends)</i></p> <p>You may get a wide range of answers here. Try to get an average.</p> <p>2% of the UK population are (practising) Christians, therefore for every 50 people, 1 is a Christian - that's you by the way.</p> <p>On average then most people know, or meet a Christian regularly.</p> <p>So if we each show love to the 50 people that we know then we can reach the nation "being nice in the name of the Lord."</p> <p><i>What can you do as a small group to support each other in this activity?</i></p> <p>BREAK for prayer.</p> <p><b>STAGE 2 - Growing</b>          People are inquisitive (nosy) by nature. The next stage they go through is when they want to know more about why you are loving them. Your role is to respond to their questions with stories about your experiences. Or when people make statements about faith then we can tell our story (experience) in response.</p>

*Why is telling your story a good way to get a message across?*

This is a post-modern way of communicating, acceptable in our society because everyone's experiences are seen as valid and "truth" to them.

*But why are people not too comfortable asking about our faith directly even though they may be desperate to know more?*

*How do we give people assurances that we don't mind talking about our stories of faith?*

#### **APPLICATION**

Relationship evangelism (the new definition as above) is a good way of doing it.

*How does your small group support you in this area of relationship building?*

You are providing situations in which your closer friends feel able to ask questions or discuss faith with you.

Have you ever considered how strange it is for a group of people to meet together to discuss and pray about some very personal things? When they don't really know each other that well?

We are now going to discuss what your small group does and how it does things... hopefully to prompt some ideas about how you might like to change the way you approach your time together....

*Would you feel comfortable inviting your friends to your regular small group meeting? If not why not?*

Consider the following areas:

- Subject matter
- Spirituality
- Language
- Location
- Environment
- Personalities

Discuss whether you should turn some or all of your meetings into "not" meetings, can you still achieve your reasons for meeting while at the same time allowing your group to involve more friends to take part in the fun (remember how Cornelius got to where he was in part 1).

#### **Ideas:**

You may plan "social" or "out reach" activities in your program events, but how about being able to invite your friends to any of your meetings, to discuss some stuff really useful to all of you?

You may consider arranging discussions on "life" issues such as money/investment/debt, parenting (young/teen/elderly), stress, community life, education, politics. The bible has some excellent advice about these issues.

Some more practical activities may include asking for their help in organising and doing an evening/trip/session/paint a house/community activity. Or watching a video together with food, then discuss the points it made (in a sociable way, not a formal critique).

BREAK for prayer.

#### **STAGE 3 - Reaping**

At this stage people are beginning to ask more specific questions about the gospel and our faith - it is time to hand over to the church structure to help us out

	<p>with a well structured tour of the gospel and life following the King (not Elvis).</p> <p>It is during this stage that people choose to make a commitment to follow Jesus, or put it off. Again the church structure can help with this conversion process.</p> <p><b>APPLICATION</b></p> <p>ALPHA courses, church meetings, etc.</p> <p>It is at this stage that people hop over into the Kingdom of God.</p> <p><b>Stage 4 - Keeping</b>  This is a vital stage where new Christians are nurtured, disciplined and often involves personal mentoring from within your small group. A subject for another whole discussion.</p> <p>Note that the neck gets narrower!</p>
<p><b>Witness</b></p>	

- **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.