

Lesson 6: JESUS' STRATEGY FOR REACHING THE UNREACHED

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Focus on reaching Persons of Peace in their groups, *not* individuals. This is key. A PoP = one who welcomes you and brings his group (oikos) to listen to the message.
- Jesus had a strategy for reaching the lost. Try to live out the "Jesus strategy" as literally as possible and see what happens in your context!
- Keep moving on if you're not finding a PoP.

1) Review Lesson 5 in pairs

- **Review** memory verse & Top 3 lessons learned
- Ask participants how they **obeyed** the Scripture from the last lesson.

Review in large group

- Ask which non-Christians they **talked** to and if any responded with interest to starting a **Discovery Group**. If some did respond stop, make sure you talk to the trainee(s) right after the meeting to help them know what to do.
- **Pray** for any who responded
- Remind them of idea **process** over time allowing time for discovery.

2) Discovery Bible Study: Luke 10:1-16 & Matthew 9:35 - 10:16

- A) Ask them to write out what they would do if tasked to reach a community or an ethnic group. Be as specific as possible.
- B) **Say** something like this: the Great Commission often leads to "the Great Confusion" because people don't understand how Jesus ministered and sent his disciples. However, Jesus sent his disciples several times *with essentially the same strategy that he had first done himself with them*. It seems there are at least 3 times:
- 1) Matthew 10 – the 12 just to Jews
 - 2) Luke 9 – the 12 (possibly to both Jews and Gentiles)
 - 3) Luke 10 – 70 others to Jews *and* Gentiles
- C) Give half the group Luke 10:1-16 and half the group Matthew 9: 35 - 10:16. Make two lists for each passage (with verses listed – see below for examples):
- 1) What the disciples were told **to do** and **not to do**.
 - 2) What kind of **person** does Jesus say to look for? (Be as specific as possible to try to identify the characteristics of such persons.)

Tell them **NOT to interpret** but write as simply and as close to the text as possible.

Example from Luke 10 v. 1 – sent 2x2 ahead of Jesus to place he was going to come
v. 2 – Pray for the Lord to send out workers into Harvest

**What kind of person
did Jesus say look for?**

Lk 10:

5	opens his household to you (Greek for household = oikos – family / circle of influence)
6	receives your peace
7	is hospitable – feeds and lodges you
16	listens to you (Kingdom of God); does not reject you (so they are listening to Jesus and not rejecting Jesus)

**What a Sent Disciple
Does & Does not Do**

Lk 10:

1	goes two by two
1	goes where Jesus sends (where Jesus is coming later)
2	prays for more laborers to be sent out into the harvest field
3	like sheep among wolves (goes with danger all around)
4	leaves behind money, baggage, tools
4	does not greet anyone on road (stays focused on goal)
5	offers peace to a household (family)
6	if a person of peace is there, peace remains – if not it returns to you.
7	Stays there, eats and drinks what is offered
8	eats whatever is offered
8	heals the sick
9	tells the message of the Kingdom of God
10	if not received, announces warning, then leaves
16	realizes message is accepted as accepting Jesus or is rejected as they reject Jesus

Mt 10:

11	is a worthy person
11	lets you stay in their oikos
12	is a worthy oikos that receives blessing
14	receives you and listens to you (Kingdom of God)

Mt 9 & 10:

38	pray to Lord for harvest workers
1	given authority over demons and to heal
6	go only to the Jews not Samaritans
7	proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven
8	heals the sick, raises the dead, casts out demons
10	doesn't take gold, bag, etc.
11	looks for/seek out worthy person
11	finds/spends time with possible PoP
12	gives greeting
13	gives blessing
14	proclaims the message of the Kingdom
14	if not received, then leaves

D) Now have the groups put their lists on the whiteboard or poster paper. Pick the two most complete lists and put them side by side. Have the large group identify common elements and have someone circle those on the list.

If the participants miss anything from the lists above, ask questions about specific verses so they discover more complete information.

- D) Three main responses (characteristics) that can be summarized about a “Person of Peace”
- **WELCOMES / HOSTS us** – often feeds us and wants us to stay in their home
 - **OPENS** their **Oikos** (family/group/community/network) to the Good News
 - **LISTENS** to us as we share about God /a new spiritual message (Not necessarily receives the message, but willing to listen to it.) So obviously this is a **LOST** person.

We are looking for *sharers* not *seekers*.

- E) Now make a new, simple list describing the strategy we see in these passages (focus on verbs primarily). In other words what was the strategic “pattern” Jesus uses in these passages?

Summary: What were the main things to do in Jesus’ Strategy? (ask questions to help them remember if they miss any of these. You might have a few additions (which is fine if they are from these passages).

1. **Selected** by Jesus
2. **Pray**
3. **Go** where God sends you (despite danger and without resources)
4. **Tell** about the Kingdom
5. **Heal** (meet needs in various ways)
6. **Find** a Person of Peace
7. **Enter** their Oikos
8. If receptive—**stay** (and **eat**)
9. **Minister to** them (heal the sick, cast out demons, etc)
10. **Tell** about the Kingdom of God
11. If no response, **warn** them and **leave**

*****NOTE: Very Important!*****

If you believe you’ve found a real “Person of Peace” (PoP) and a household of peace, **STAY** with them! If you can, actually sleep at their house for several days or more. If not, you still need to drop other involvements and **STAY ON THEM** intensively trying to meet them every couple of days. Waiting for a week to begin chronological Bible studies will **NOT** be enough. Be intentional. Be bold. Stay focused on them. Many workers have been too relaxed only to return later and find their PoP has become closed. Don’t wait—get as much time as you can with the PoP and family **now!**

- F) **Small Group Discussion:** Could you use this strategy in your context? How would it have to be modified? If you have time, review this as a large group.

Don’t work with “one hand tied behind your back”. On one hand we proclaim the Kingdom and on the other we heal the sick and meet other needs. Some groups just talk without serving people while others just meet needs without telling about God. We MUST do both. In many DMMs, the best way to find Persons of Peace is to meet needs and tell about God as a result.

Transition – the following practice and exercise is to prepare people for their fieldwork and prayerwork this week.

Practice: Practice asking “Is there anyone who is sick or has a problem that I can pray for?” If they don’t have any specific request but want to be prayed for, you can still pray a prayer of blessing. Try using the “**BLESS**” acronym to help you remember what to pray when praying for the lost:

- B – Body
- L – Livelihood
- E – Emotional Health
- S – Social health
- S – Spiritual health.

Pray aloud, using language that they understand in a prayer style they’ll appreciate. You may want to talk before or after about how Jesus often healed people and you are praying in His power. Consider using John 16:33 if they are hesitant to be prayed for in Jesus’ Name.

Exercise:

- **List** Family, Friends, and Acquaintances who may be a PoP.
- **Plan** when you can visit them this week (see below).
- **Pair up** and pray for each other’s people on their list.

Some work until the next training session:

Homework: Find and list Bible characters who you think have characteristics of a Person of Peace. (At least 10 people—male or female—with the reference listed.)

Field Work:

- **Visit** anyone this week who is a potential PoP (bring a partner if possible). If you have more than you can handle this week, try to visit at least 3.
- Also look to go out at least once this week with a partner from this training looking for PoPs.
- When talking to a potential PoP, tell them you like to pray for them and their family/friends. Ask: “**Is there anyone who is sick or has a problem that I can pray for?**” If they don’t have any specific requests but want to be prayed for, you can still pray a prayer of blessing. Try using the “BLESS” tool.
 - If/when God heals/works or even if they are just interested ask them: “**Would you and your family and friends like to learn more from God’s Holy Book?**”

Memorize: Luke 10:2-3

Hand Gesture: Ask how could you summarize the main teaching of this lesson with a body movement or hand gesture? Have all participants stand up and do the gesture together. (Example for Lesson 6 – Have people stand and put hands up to eyes as if searching for something, i.e. a person of peace!) Now do all the gestures in order for all the lessons so far starting with lesson 1.