HABITS OF A MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE: FIND GRACIOUSLY {Additional Lesson for strongly religious context} dh 2021, Lesson 4b

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## INTRODUCTION

Often people do not find People of Peace because they way they talk about their spiritual life is a turn-off to their listeners. We who are from Christian backgrounds use words, do things, and eat things that are not biblically wrong, but turn-off lost people—especially Muslims.

The best way to find People of Peace is through loving acts of service that are coupled with spiritual statements that show you are a spiritual person who obeys God’s Word. But…

If I offend someone, it’s very rare they will want to listen to me. (Example: Have someone put their feet up on someone else’s chair.)

In groups, go over your 3-column studies of 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Read the text, then have each person read their middle columns. Ask them about applications.

In small groups, ask people to make lists:

* How did Paul become “like” lost people, without compromising his faith in Christ? What are some examples of specific things he did/didn’t do that he says. (For example, Paul says he “cut his hair for the Jews” (Acts 18:18), he didn’t eat certain meats, etc.)
* What things to Christians do which are offensive to Muslims? (Have them think about things local believers do/don’t do in your context, as well as outside groups including Americans, Christians in other countries, etc.)

**EXERCISE – FRUIT SKIT.** Take a nice orange or apple to class, but don’t let anyone see it. Then take blank sheets of white paper and write in large letters they offensive things they said Christians do, one on each sheet of paper, then wrap up the orange in layers of these papers. Finally, place the orange in a garbage can. Then tell the class you have something delicious and nutritious for them—would anyone want to volunteer to eat it? Then hold up the garbage can and bid them to come and eat.

After the skit is over, break people into groups to discuss lessons from the skit. (The orange represents Jesus/the gospel, the layers of paper represent cultural practices that keep people from seeing the Gospel, the garbage can represents the Church or “Christianity” which is repulsive to most Muslims.)

## PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Ask people what should they do if they have been living in a way/doing things that are offensive to Muslims?

* Ask people to sit quietly and circle things *they* have done on this list.
* Lead a time of repentance for these things which may have made people stumble.
* Tell them to practice making apologies for their behavior. If they personally have not done these things, help them realize they probably represent a group that has done things that are offensive. They can say, “On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Christians, Americans, men, women, etc.) I want to apologize for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the offensive behavior). That is *not* the Way of Jesus.”

## ADOPTING A NEW APPROACH TO REACHING OTHERS

How does the “Person of Peace” strategy differ from traditional approaches to reaching others? Make a list of contrasts as a group. How specifically could you do this in your context this week? (Note: If you have a reason to exist in a community, you may be the PoP. Now you need to get *your own family and friends together to do Discovery Group*.)

* Using simple stick figures, draw out how this approach versus the traditional approach.
* Modify this sentence to fit your context: “Would you and your family be interested in looking directly at the Bible to discover the story of God?” Practice asking each other to a Discovery Group.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

* Go out among lost people and talk to them about God. If they say anything that they don’t like about Christians or about your faith, apologize to them. Tell them that is NOT the Way of Jesus. (Alternatively, do out and specifically ask people what they think of Christians. Ask them what they find offensive about them? Then apologize “on behalf of Christians.”)
* Do a 3-column study on John 6:43-45

What does it say?

*(Write the text word-for-word.)*

What does it mean?

*(Write it in my own words.)*

What must I do to obey?

*(My “I will…” statement.)*

With whom will I share?