

1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

We are made to connect. “Word of mouth” advertising is essentially just that “connecting” friends and neighbors with a good or service that has been a benefit or warnings others of a good or service that was a disappointment.

- What is a good or service you have experienced that you have told others about?
- When did it not go well with you and you spoke of it to warn others?

TimO’s example:

- I love my auto mechanic and always encourage new folks to Lakeland to try them out.
- I was so ill prepared for my college experience that I warn folks even though it was 40 years ago.

2. Worship: See, Hear, Proclaim – The Lord has done great things for us

Read Psalm 126 and Psalm 107:17-22. Notice the rhythm of being in a difficult experience, God acting, people rejoicing. We can’t help ourselves. We worship from and in God’s goodness to us!

Psalm 126:1-6 (ESV)

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 107:17-22 (ESV)

¹⁷ Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.

²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

²² And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

3. Sermon Reflection:

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: 1 John 1:1-4 (ESV)

Title: This is How We Know: God is Revealed

Teacher: Tim Rice

Introduction: Greeks from Plato believed the Ideal or ideas were separated from the tangible and problems which has lead to “knowledge is King”. We now have a growing population of Agnostics who believe God can't be known by them or by you.

What can we know?

God must enter our world for us to know Him.

Example: Mom in a crib with distraught baby.

Manifest – to make known,

Example: Julie must speak for Tim to know her.

In the beginning – Greek meaning Arch – Meaning Foundation

John is letting the readers understand he “knows” Jesus, as the Arch Type

1. He touched Him
2. Jesus is the Word, the Logos or The Original Cause
3. God has come for us in Jesus.

Questions:

Do you know Jesus?

When or in what circumstances did God crawl into the crib with you to console you?

Why don't we believe?

We have been told but we refuse to believe.

Example: Race claims denied. Explained in Monopoly game.

In 1 the darkness cannot comprehend the light. Can't understand. No reception.

Repentance – Going on record against ourselves

Ex: John testifies against himself by telling how he denied and walked away from Jesus.

Ex: Hit Piece, declaring the wrongs of others vs Autobiography, declaring our wrongness and need

Questions:

What areas of your life are you refusing to believe God?

Fellowship, Joy, Life

Fellowship means Koinania - Partnership, Marriage, Something in common,

Jesus, is the “something in common” God, the Father and all Christians have and then... Everything Else

Being, we

Being loved, we love

Being forgiven, we forgive

Being wrong, we confess

Being transformed, we proclaim

Being made whole, we hope

Being invited, we invite

Being blessed, we bless

Being wronged, we love

Being accused, we understand

Being hated, we pray and serve

Being redeemed, we redeem

How has God treated you? How do see that echoing in how you treat others?

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Prayer Training w Tim Rice

Each week in the worship folder Tim Rice teaches us to pray by inviting us into a pattern of praying with him. He works hard to both show us his heart, reinforce the CBR-Journal pattern, and create a sense of wholeness or fullness in our prayer time with our Father in Heaven, Holy Spirit and Jesus. The pattern of his praying is 1 Worship, 2 Confession 3 Thanksgiving 4 Others 5 Personal transformation. This is a great gift to us and for us.

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Read over 1 John 1:1-4 again. *What do you learn about God's character that moves you to worship?* For instance, what do you gain because God was willing to come to us in Christ? What if He had chosen not to come?
2. *How have you lived as if you can figure God out on your own?* Confess your pride and foolishness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you, and to help you know Him truly by the revelation He's given you in His Word.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has revealed God to us, compared with our vain speculations. Thank Him that He gave us life *because He was willing to lose His; that we gain fellowship with the Father because Jesus lost His.*
4. Who do you know that ignores (even willfully) instructions or warnings that they're given (*it may be you*)? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy on them and open their eyes to how foolish and reckless they are.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy. Pray for a soft heart and a hunger to learn, reading His Word every day (look here for a schedule for daily reading your Bible, *Community Bible Reading*).

5. Mission: Our mission, Making a Mess of Things through "Launchers"

A missionary was giving a devotional to our basketball team that was on a mission trip to his country of Argentina in 1983 and one of our guys asked him about his calling. Bob, the missionary turned to us but answered Kyle by proclaiming that his mission was to make a "mess of things" in the lives and thinking of his friends and then to watch God put it all back together. Our mission is the same as Bob the missionary's by challenging our friends and neighbors to think towards and about God and their responsibility to Him.

So this week our mission is to mess up our Christian and Not Yet Christian friends by asking a few exciting, thought provoking questions and write down their answers and pray for them when we are with our family and CG. We will call these questions, "Launchers" cuz they launch our conversations into the reality of God and his ownership of all things along with revealing our need for Him.

Christian or Not Yet Christian – Launchers

Christian

- How do you know there is a God?
- What is God like? How would you describe Him?
- What is your relationship like?

Not Yet Christian

- How do you know there is a God?
- If atheist, how do you know there is not a God?
 - Why do you like believing there is not a God? What is the advantage?
- What is it like living and believing there is no God?
- How would your life be different if you believed there was a God?