

SCHOOL OF FAITH

7 STEPS TO BECOMING EVERYDAY MISSIONARIES

STEP 1: KNOWING WE ARE SENT

Every day missionaries know they are sent each day by the Lord Jesus into a mission field he has already prepared for them.

Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' Matthew 9:37-38

Something to consider

What is your mission field? Do you love it? Are you content and glad that God has chosen you to go into this particular harvest each day?

Something to try

Start each day with this prayer: "Good morning, Lord. This is a day you have made, and I will rejoice and be glad in it. Please send me into your mission field today and give me opportunities to speak to people about you." It's a prayer that the Lord of the harvest loves to answer!

STEP 2: INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE OF PEACE

Everyday missionaries recognise they are called to invest their time in their people of peace – listening to them and spending time doing life with them.

'Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.' 1Thessalonians 2:8

Something to consider

Think through the "people of peace" in your life – that is, the ones who are open to talking about faith and life. God has given you these specific people as part of your mission field! Are you investing time in sharing your life with them and praying for opportunities to share your faith with them?

STEP 3: UNDERSTANDING OUR CULTURE AND RESPONDING WITH AN ALTERNATIVE

Everyday missionaries understand what messages people are hearing that block out the fullness of grace and truth found in Jesus.

James Sire describes a worldview as 'a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions which we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.'

Our role is to say 'it doesn't have to be that way' and then to give an alternative view of reality framed by the gospel and shaped by what we are learning from Scripture and applying in our lives.

Some questions to consider

- How could what you're currently learning in Scripture speak into the lives of your "people of peace"?
- What are these people's struggles, hopes, and fears? What presuppositions do they view the world with?
- How can you respond with an alternative view that is good news of great joy to all who believe and receive?

STEP 4: LEARNING THE ART OF ASKING QUESTIONS

Everyday missionaries learn the art of asking questions.

Tim Keller defines a defeater belief like this: 'Every culture hostile to Christianity holds to a set of "common-sense" consensus beliefs that automatically make Christianity seem implausible to people'

We can use questions to deconstruct people's beliefs.

Questions include:

- What do you mean by that?
- Where do you get your information from / what is the basis of that?
- How do you know that to be true?
- What if you're wrong?

Questions can reveal the inconsistencies and arbitrariness of people's logic. Questions also help people see the limits of their beliefs and give an opportunity to demonstrate how much more is found in Jesus by comparison.

Something to try

Try asking questions of people you talk to today. Use questions to help you understand some of their objections to faith and to point out the inconsistencies, presuppositions and false assumptions in their arguments.

STEP 5: REPLACING IDOLS WITH THE GRACE OF CHRIST

Everyday missionaries challenge people who are holding onto created things for their source of security, identity and purpose rather than the creator who made us to know those things through him. An idol is a good thing such as career or possessions or relationships that has become the ultimate thing and has taken God's role of providing worth and salvation. 'Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.' Jonah 2:8

Everyday missionaries learn from the expulsive method that rejects an idol by taking hold of something far better. They are walking talking living adverts to God's goodness. They know the unsurpassing greatness of Christ so they can show and tell that to others.

Some questions to consider

Think about your "people of peace"

- What are the some of the idols that they are holding on to?
- What identity, security, or sense of purpose do these idols seem to offer?
- How do you see that these idols will ultimately fail your friends?
- How does God's grace in the gospel far exceed what these idols seem to promise?.

STEP 6: EXPLAINING YOUR SOUNDTRACK

Everyday missionaries explain their gospel-driven soundtrack. 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks about the reason for the hope we have.' 1 Peter 3:15

Christian difference 1. I know who I am: 'God's dearly loved child'

Unconditional love is the most powerful gift a human being can know. It's a love that gives unmerited favour that isn't liable to be withdrawn through our underperformance or when our mask slips – the mask is off and still God says, 'I love you so much that I sent my son as an atoning sacrifice for your sin so I could be with you in eternity.'

Christian difference 2. I know what I'm here for: 'God's creation transformer'

Christians know they've been put on the planet on purpose for a purpose. Everything I do on this earth has significance when I see that it contributes to God's redemption purpose of building a people for eternity.

Christian difference 3. I know where I'm going: 'God's happy ending home with him'

The hope of a Christian is knowing there is a happy ever after. There is a new creation to come where all the suffering and mess of this world will be answered with resurrection life on the new restored earth. As a result I can know now the first-fruits as God gives me his peace and a joy by his Holy Spirit in me.

Something to try

Why are you glad to be a Christian right now?" Be ready to explain your hope to people in three ways:

- I know who I am: a dearly loved child of God.
- I know what I'm here for: to live for God's eternal purposes each day.
- I know where I'm going: toward the new creation with God forever.

STEP 7: TELLING THE STORY OF SALVATION TO A WORLD IN DARKNESS

Everyday missionaries let the light of the gospel shine among our friends, neighbours, and co-workers by telling the story of God breaking into our world, identifying with us, bearing the penalty for our sin, adopting us into His family, and redeeming us along with the rest of creation.

False doctrines:

- I'm not a sinner. it's not my fault
- I'm good enough for God already
- all "good" people go to heaven.

The four truths of Scripture:

1. God and creation intention
2. Sin and separation from a holy God
3. Redemption by grace through Christ and not be works
4. New creation home at last.

Some questions to consider

As you talk with your "people of peace," which of the four great truths of Scripture do they seem to misunderstand?

- The foundations of God and creation
- How sin causes separation
- The story of redemption through grace, not good deeds
- The future dawn of the new creation and being home at last.

How can you help shed light on truths that your friends are misunderstanding?