

(W.O.R.S.H.I.P) - Hurl the Net Daily

(* Review previous lesson ***)**

We believe God is taking the Church through a reformation like he did 500 years ago in Europe under the German monk Martin Luther. We call today's reformation "Reformation 2.0" Why a reformation? Because the current "church model" in the US feeds into the post-Christian era with hundreds of churches closing each month, thousands every year. Under the current model, churches fight, cater, and "market" primarily to BELIEVERS. Thus, the main "growth" that happens in the US today is "transfer growth" or Christians moving from one church to another.

This, of course, is not growth but shuffling things around, so as a whole, the US Church is not birthing many new believers; thus, we are losing ground.

However, Christian churches in many countries around the world are growing with many experiencing explosive growth. What is the difference? Are other countries holier? Less sinful? Love God more? Read the Bible more? The answer is astoundingly simple: they are just doing what Jesus said to do - GO! And share God with others:

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" Matthew 10:7

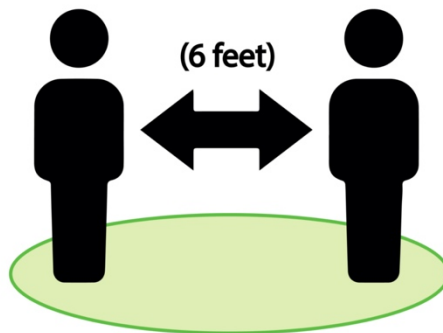
"Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves." Luke 10:3

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations....." Matthew 28:19a

They are simply talking to people as "as they go" about their daily lives. Literally talking to the person in front of them wherever they are. For example, Christianity is illegal in Iran, yet Iran has the fastest growing church in the world! Iranians simply heed what Jesus said, and they talk to people "as they go" (Matthew 10:7) about their daily lives. In the YouTube documentary about the church in Iran, "Sheep Among Wolves," a woman says: "Every day I ask the Lord what part of my testimony I should share with the person sitting in front of me." She describes telling a neighbor about abuse in her own life and how learning about a kind male figure, Jesus, had changed her life. The neighbor wanted to know Jesus.

Note the Iranian woman prays about the person "in front of me." And this is key: pray and "as we go" about our lives we simply need to talk to the person "in front of us." One way that we put it in our church is this: we talk to the person in our 'mission field' which is the 6 ft around us. Anyone that comes within 6 ft from us is fair game to talk to about God! This can be the cashier ringing your purchase, the post office clerk, your waiter/waitress, Uber driver, grocery bagger, the person in front and behind you in a queue, your flight attendant, the person next to you waiting for the bus, your hairdresser, barber, apartment manager, neighbor, etc, etc, etc!

YOUR MISSION FIELD



Indeed, Jesus said “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” Matthew 9:37.

This means:

- 1) There are PLENTY, PLENTY of people ready to be harvested into the Kingdom of God with many being right where you are. These are people that are ready to receive Christ for the first time or come back to God after having been away for a while, maybe even years.
- 2) There are not enough laborers or people willing to work the harvest.

Because there are not enough laborers for the harvest, this makes it critical to do as Jesus said and every believer needs to be a laborer, and that is what Christians in countries experiencing explosive growth are doing: each individual is going and reaping the harvest right in front of them. Great! But just what do you tell people?

First, pray daily that God will bring people within your ‘mission field’ that are READY to receive Him for the first time, or come back to Him – people that have not attended church in a while. Next, **expect** God to answer that prayer. It doesn’t matter what we tell them, but here is something that has worked for many at our church:

- 1) Ask where the person in front you goes to church
“Excuse me, can I ask you a question. Where do you go to church?”
- 2) If they go to church, congratulate them and nothing more needs be said unless they do not go to a Christian church. If they say they do not go to church, invite them and hand them one of our church cards:
“I would like to invite you where I go to church.” (hand them a church card)
- 3) Offer to send more info in case they lose the card:

“In case you lose the card, can I text you some info?”

You will be surprised how most people WILL give you their phone number. There are people at the church now that lost the card, but the person who talked to them had their phone number. Always offer to text instead of directly asking for their number.

Remember, always pray and ask God to give you wisdom in talking to people. Ask him to make you the best “fisher of people” He created you to be. Jesus said:

“..... Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Matthew 4:19

Rely on Him, and He will show you where, how to hurl the net for a good catch!

At our church we truly believe that you will meet people that will change your life and that of others as you “hurl the net” daily. God has worked miraculous meetings. Ask the person teaching you this lesson to tell you about some of the stories of some of the people that are in our church NOW as a result of our going out and hurling the net to fish for people! Doing this is an exciting way to grow in your faith, learn to hear from God, make new friends, and bringing people into the Kingdom of God. As we all do this daily, we will truly see the following verse come alive:

“..... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:47

Infinite numbers of creating situations to talk to people daily exist. For example, one lady in Korea lived in a tall apartment building complex with just an elevator at the bottom and no lobby with space to sit or chat. What did she do? She would wait at the first floor and rode the elevator with people as they came! On the way up, she would simply start talking to them. Moms came with children and hands full of groceries. She would offer to help them carry stuff, establish a simple conversation, and invite them to her apartment for the connection (Bible study) group she had weekly. Many came to Christ as a result of this simple “elevator talk.”

Please watch on YouTube the incredible story of the disciple-making movement in Iran as Iranians do what the Church has done best for millennia: hurl the net and disciple those that come. Are you ready to hurl the net daily?

YouTube – search for “Sheep Among Wolves Volume II”

Discussion:

- 1) What do you think about praying daily for God to “bring people into your path that are ready to receive Him for the first time, or to come back to Him?”
- 2) There is an infinite number of ways to “hurl the net daily,” or talk to people on a regular basis. You and your discipler come up with a few examples of different ways to “hurl the net” daily.
- 3) Think of a way you can “hurl the net daily” and share it with your discipler right now.