

PAY ATTENTION

Love your neighbour

“Sharing our life and faith can be so intimidating, can’t it? We know that seeing people come to faith in Jesus is the most important decision they will ever make, and it is amazing for us to see God at work in the lives of those we care about. However, if we are honest, most of us would agree that while it is important for us to share our life and faith, it is not easy! We worry about not having the right answers, not having the information we need, and we allow our fear to hold us back. Sometimes we make sharing our life and faith harder than it is!

The Bible gives us a glimpse of Jesus’ mission and method in the gospels. We read that “The Son of Man came...

...To Seek and Save the Lost” (Luke 19:10)

...To give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28)

...Eating and drinking” (Matthew 11:19)

We see Jesus’ MISSION was to serve and save in the first two texts, but His METHOD was hospitality! Jesus’ mission was to serve and save . We see Jesus eating and drinking all throughout scripture!

When you get around a table it opens peoples’ hearts and creates space to be vulnerable and transparent. We live our life at such a fast pace. Jesus took time to slow down, eat with people and take noticed of individuals around Him. He paid attention to what they were saying, He listened to the hurt and the disappointment in their tone of voice, and this opened the door for Jesus to speak truth and blessing into their life. We need to pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing around us. This art of paying attention to what people are expressing around us AND to the Holy Spirit as we engage in conversation, is crucial as we seek to share Christ with those in our lives. These moments when people share their stories, hurts and disappointments, become invitations for us to meet with people where they are and for God to work. Pay attention to little promptings. When we pick up on points of significance in conversations it gives us a glimpse of what’s going on beneath the surface and where we can lean in, show love and foster connection. Slow down and take notice of people’s needs around you.

As you slow down and pay attention to those around you and to the Holy Spirit, you will begin to see the many ways that God is working. The main idea here is that God is already at work in everyone, everywhere around us, and our role is to listen to the Holy Spirit, discover these points of connection where God is working, and join in on that work!

“The table is the great equalizer in relationships. When we eat together we discover the inherent humanity of all people. We share stories. And hopes. And fears. And disappointments. People open up to each other. And we ourselves can open up to share the same things – including our faith in Jesus” (Surprise the World, Pg 47)