

Reaching Out Together

Philippians 1:5.... *'because of your partnership in the gospel'*

Summary:

God has wired us for relationships; we are not meant to live isolated lives. The church is a wonderful community that we can belong to but it must not become a 'holy huddle'. We have been given a mission by God... to take His love to the whole world.

Pray Together

You cannot force anyone to love God: people can reject your arguments and they may refuse to listen to your logic but they are powerless against your prayers. Pray for an opportunity to share with your friends... even doing this will make you more aware.

Appeal to common interests

Paul was eager to relate to as many people as possible. We need to stop and think about the many things we have in common with those we come into contact with: common experiences, interests, needs and hurts. Sometimes we just need to have some fun together

Reach out in love

We must be very careful about our motive when we reach out: we are not to do it out of guilt or duty; we should not do it to make us look good or try and earn the favour of God. We tell others about Jesus because we have the greatest news in the world, we have a heart of gratitude and because God is love!

Tell your story

In his first letter to the church Peter reminds them what a wonderful inheritance they have in Christ... a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.... That you may proclaim! We are not asked to be the judge or the attorney – we are witnesses of what God has done in our life.

Nurture friendships

We know that Jesus was accused of being a drunkard and a glutton – he loved people and being with them. The danger with too many Christians is that we end up at either extreme: isolated from the world or imitating it. We are to be insulated from the world but are called to infiltrate it.

Expect God to act

We know that God loves faith: Jesus reached out and touched the paralytic because his friends carried him there on a mat! Though few folk come to Jesus when they first hear we should not get discouraged and give up. A little faith in a big God will bring results

Represent God with your life

We are to be Christians who live it and share it, communicate and demonstrate the good news, those who show and tell. The most dangerous prayer that you can pray is 'God use me'.

Application:

Please select from the following questions and do not attempt them all. Encourage all to take part and to be honest. Please give time to pray for each other.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. Make a list of people that you as a cell can pray for to invite to your group, church or Alpha.
3. Pray for each other that God will give you a deeper love for other people.
4. Tell one other person your story in 2 minutes. Challenge each other to tell someone outside the group this week and share next week how it went.
5. What is your temptation to isolate or imitate? How do you overcome this?
6. We know faith is essential. How do you grow your faith when it comes to sharing the good news?
7. What interests lead you to mix with others? How are you using those opportunities to share about Jesus?

Pray for the Alpha Course!

Book a table or 2 for the quiz night and invite some friends to join you.

Plan a cell social that you will invite friends to.