

*how do i live the gospel in my world?*

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**Ministry Helps:  
What Are Tangible  
Ways To Reach  
My Peers?**



# Ministry Helps!

## INTRO

Now that we've talked about abiding in Christ and sharing our faith as a lifestyle through loving people, how do we go about pursuing friendships with our peers, both individually and with our ministry team? The concepts and practices discussed in this section are things that can and should flow naturally out of you abiding in Christ and abiding together with your team. Hopefully this section will present helpful ideas for reaching your world both on and off campus! Keep them in mind when we move onto the next section, which will help you establish a ministry on your campus!

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## READ

### SOUL AWAKENING

To begin, we need to understand our world and the way people think. We live in a changing culture. People no longer usually respond to "repent and be saved!" and "turn or burn!" methods of sharing the Gospel. So how do we reach people in our world?

Often times, our peers aren't ready to even hear about Jesus until they are made aware of spiritual things, made aware that they even have a spiritual side or a soul. Helping people to discover these things is called "soul awakening" and it is often left out of how we share the gospel!

In a book called, Evangelism Outside The Box, by Rick Richardson, there are some helpful hints for reaching people in today's culture:

1. **Belonging before believing** - people are looking for a group of friends who care for them and love them and help them discover who they are more than they want correct information. So, bring your friend to your small group, or out with your Christian friends...if they feel like they have true friends and are a part of your group, they will start to naturally believe.
2. **Experience before explanation** - people want experiences that are tangible and real, they want to see faith lived out, and want to experience truth, not just have it explained to them. So, live your faith out before your friends, bring them to places where they can experience God with people. You can tell someone till you're blue in the face that a stove is hot, but unless they actually touch it, they won't know for sure. You can tell someone how cool God is, but until they actually see Him working in peoples' lives, they won't get it or want it.

As seen in 1 Corinthians 9:22,23, we want to meet people where they are at, just as God does. Now, that doesn't mean joining your friends in sin so that you can relate to them, it just means sharing Jesus with them in a way that they will best understand it, relate to it, and want it.

..... (continued ...)

**Word Wisdom**

\* 1 Cor. 9:22,23  
I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



# Ministry Helps!

## DISCUSS

### SOUL AWAKENING (cont.)

In your ministry teams, discuss and brainstorm through the following questions as a follow-up to the material you just read:

- Discuss soul awakening. What could you do in your ministry, whether individually or together, to help people become aware of their soul and other spiritual things?
  
- Take some time now to pray silently for those you know who need to have their soul awakened (have someone close after a few minutes).
  
- With these people in mind, and thinking about the three helpful hints above, what are some things that you could do as a team to reach your peers? Think about the specific needs on your campus/in your mission field, and how you can meet those needs together.
  - Examples:
    - Candy for Questions - Students at one high school set up a table in the middle of the quad at lunch and offer candy in exchange for people asking them spiritual questions. If they have an answer, they give it. If not, they say they'll look into it and then follow-up with that person later.
    - The House of Prayer (HOP) - Invite people to come and be prayed for...they don't have to pray, but they will be prayed for if they want.
    - Open Forums - Where people can openly discuss issues/ideas/questions with each other. You can use this to build relationships with people and eventually share your faith.
    - Investigative Bible Studies - Invite people to come and learn/discuss what Jesus and the Bible are all about.
    - By serving your peers, whether it's a clothing drive or bringing popsicles to the football team during their practice and cheering them on. People will wonder why you're doing it!
  
  - Your ideas:





# Ministry Strategies!

## READ

### HOLY EXPERIMENTS

Another idea to try is something called **Holy Experiments**. When you attempt to do programs or events that other people have done, things that have worked for them, then you feel pressured to succeed or have it be a huge hit. However, it doesn't always work that way...your campus/mission field is unique. Holy experiments are different...it basically means this:

- Ask the Lord about the things that break His heart in your world and on your campus. (These are the needs around you that Christ wants to use you to meet in His name!)
- Ask the Lord to stretch you while you **PRAYERFULLY** carry it out to see what God does. (This takes the pressure off of you because the 'experiment' is more about God and less about your success. It takes less planning and more prayer than a program or event!)

No matter what occurs, if you did it in prayer and the Spirit, you have succeeded...you can then **REFLECT** as a group or as an individual to find the lessons the Lord has for you.

You can choose to experience life like an experiment OR like a contest, a game:

**CONTEST:** In a game or contest, someone always wins and someone always loses.

**EXPERIMENT:** An experiment is different, in that a scientist is looking for truth, for what **WILL** happen when he or she tries something **NEW**. The only failure in an experiment is in NOT TRYING IT!

## DISCUSS

### Discuss Holy Experiments in your teams:

- How would your life and ministry change if you did all of it as a "holy experiment" in partnership with God? Could you ever really lose?
- Think through the needs on your campus, or the needs in your friends' lives. What are some holy experiments that you could try out to reach those peers?

### Examples:

Something you can try:

- Ask God for discernment
- List the names of those close to you or those you know who are suffering
- Think about their hopes and needs
- Think of ways you can care for them and spend time with them
- Without making it a big deal, begin to do these things... simply to love them and learn from them because of the way Jesus loves you.
- Reflect on what happens... journal.

A real life example:

A group of students from a school in Tustin know of a place in the Tustin hills where students from their school gather to practice witchcraft and other things. These Christian students, as an experiment, and with parental supervision, went to this place at night and prayed for the students who were there and prayed against all that satan was attempting to do! They stepped out on a limb to see how God would move!



# Ministry Strategies!

## Word Wisdom

### READ

#### \*\*\* GOSPEL SHARING GROUP \*\*\*

\* Heb 10:24,25  
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

A gospel sharing group is a really cool way to abide together as a team, HOWEVER, you can also extend it and invite anyone! You can do this at a ministry meeting, at a Bible club, and it's a great experience for your non-Christian friends too. It's simple, takes almost no preparation, and it's REALLY effective!

Purpose of the group: to deepen our relationship with the Christ and His Body

- The best way to deepen our walk with the Lord AND the best way to introduce our unbelieving friends to Jesus, is for all of us to come face-to-face with Christ Himself. That is exactly what this is.
- No advanced Bible knowledge is needed.
- Emphasis put on personal sharing and using the Word of God to speak to us as His people...carrying on a group conversation with Jesus.
- Consists of 3-8 people who want to follow Jesus more closely.

Preparation needed:

- Choose a passage from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).
- Have a willing ♥.

What to do:

- Ask 1-2 people to open in prayer and ask the Lord to move.
- Have everyone open to the passage (or bring paper copies of the passage). You can either:
  - Go in a circle and have each person read a couple verses. (Pause for a bit between each person)...or...
  - Have one person read through the passage slowly.
- Pause for about 30 seconds to meditate on the passage and talk to God.
- Then, have someone read through the passage one more time, slowly.
- Ask each person to read a verse or phrase that sticks out to them, without comment from others.
- Then take about 5 minutes to be silent before the Lord in prayer, meditating on the passage and talking to the Lord.
- Each person is then encouraged to share what the Lord told them & how they intend to live out their gospel word or phrase during the next week...during this time they can also share what has happened during the past week...good & bad... without comment from the group.
- You can also ask people to share something that the Lord told them from the passage about your campus ministry or reaching out to your friends.
- The group closes in prayer for one another...sometimes it is good to break up in pairs and pray.

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~ *With all this in mind, let's move on to see how you can take it to your campus!* ~