

Session Three

Engaging Lost People

Live an Authentic and Visible Christian Life

People appreciate honesty, so don't apologize. Be open to share that you are a follower of Jesus and that what you do is because Jesus loves you and He has been such a blessing in your life that you want to be available to let Jesus love them through you. Be involved in activities where you can work and play with community people. You should be known **not as a religious person, but as a joyful and genuinely spiritual person.**

Engage Lost People and Transform Your Community

Look for needs and serve the community to meet those needs. These need not be big or expensive projects, but simply doing deeds of kindness that show that you truly do love them and want to help them make their lives better and more fulfilling.

Transforming Our Community

A Strategy to Fulfill the Great Commission

The Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:18-20

What is a Disciple?

A Disciple is:

A person who has received Christ and is following the teachings of Christ!
or

A Disciple is one who is living like Christ not just learning about Christ!

How Did Jesus Live?

He taught people about God's Kingdom.

He healed the sick.

He fed the hungry.

He gave sight to the blind.

He gave hope to the hopeless.

Jesus Met People at Their Point of Need!

Influencing Our Community

Bacterial or Viral Strategy?

Bacteria: If you had a cold and you coughed close me. The bacteria would try to invade my body. My body would do all it could to resist and fight against the bacteria. If your bacteria, however, was very strong or if my immune system was weak I could catch your cold. I would also become aware very soon that I had a cold and I would take medication to eradicate the negative bacteria from my body.

Virus: A virus is different. It attacks my body by changing the DNA of my body. It may take days or even years before I am aware that anything is wrong. By the time I am aware of the problem (that I have been changed) it may be too late to stop the virus.

Bacterial or Viral Strategy

To apply these truths to Church planting and fulfilling the Great Commission we need to understand that when we go into a community and preach the gospel it is a bacterial approach and often we will experience immediate resistance. Their response is to protect their religion or belief system that they believe we are attacking. They may even take extreme measures or persecution (like medication) to suppress or eradicate us from the community!

A more effective approach could be to go into a community and **be true followers of Christ!** Share the love of God in visible and practical ways by doing deeds of kindness, helping the leaders to improve the quality of life for everyone in the community. By providing needed services, people will ask who we are and why we care so much for them.

As we **work along-side community people** we will have opportunities to share with them our love for God and His love for them. They will be more likely to listen and understand the love of God because they have seen it in action in our lives.

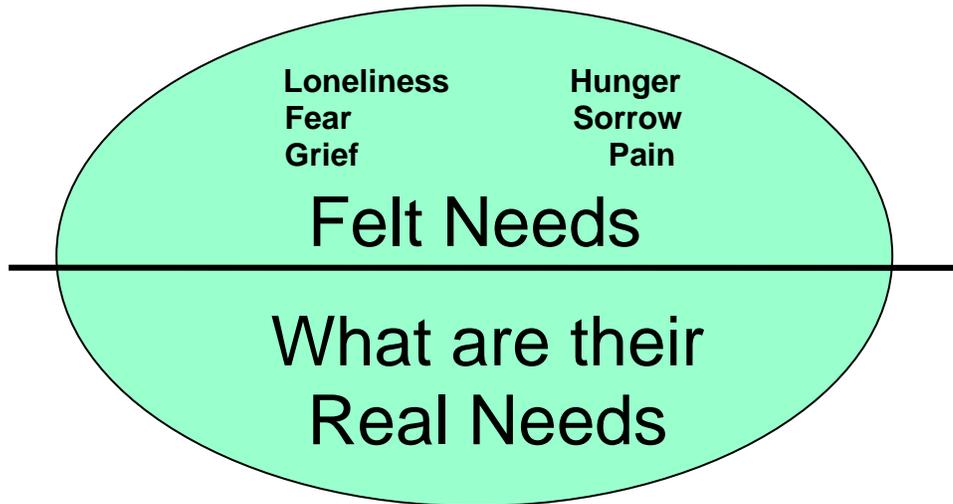
Without social and religious resistance they will be open to investigate what being a follower of Jesus is about and discover the good news of the gospel and receive Jesus Christ as their own personal Lord and Savior.

We need to demonstrate the Gospel.

As more and more people become disciples of Jesus Christ the result will increasingly be transformed communities!

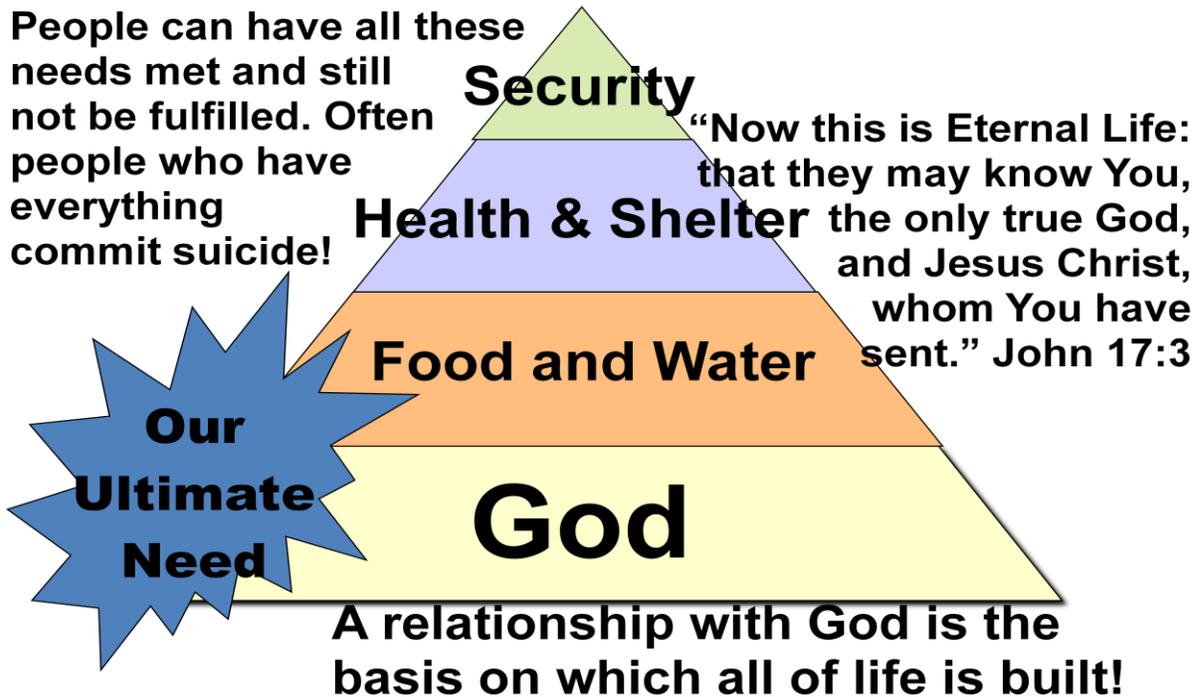
Instead of planting a Church for a handful of Believers to meet week by week in isolation from their neighbors, the Gospel would spread (Like a good virus) throughout the community until there are sufficient Believers to create a Christian world view in all areas of society.

Understanding Felt Needs and Real Needs



Awareness of Real Needs

People can have all these needs met and still not be fulfilled. Often people who have everything commit suicide!



How Does Meeting Needs Help Fulfill the Great Commission?

You show that you are concerned about them as a person when you:

Display God’s Love in Practical ways

Relieve their Pain and Suffering

Comfort them in their time of Sorrow

Help them Improve their Quality of Life

Help them understand their Purpose, Meaning, Value and Significance

Give them Hope for the Future and a desire to know God and His Eternal Life

It is Not Enough Just to Meet Felt Needs!

Their Ultimate Need is to Know God in a Personal Way

They Must See the Gospel in the Life of the Messenger

They Must Hear and Understand the Gospel Message

They Must be given an Opportunity to Receive Jesus Christ as their Personal Saviour and Lord

What Kind of Person would make a Good Messenger?

One who has received Christ as his/her Savior and Lord

One who Knows God and Loves Him

One who is successful in Living the Christian Life

One who is Sharing his/her Faith

One who is Discipling those he/she leads to the Lord

A True Disciple of Christ is:

A person who has received Christ and is following the teachings of Christ!

One who is living like Christ not just learning about Christ!

***A Disciple of Jesus Loves God and
Loves his Neighbor as Himself!***

Faith in Action!

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead....”

James 2:14 - 17

Intentional Disciple Making

To produce such disciples, the Church must:

- Reach Lost people

Have an intentional strategy that exposes interested people to the truths about God and the Bible and invites them to establish their faith and walk with God.

As a group, reach out to friends and family through deeds of kindness.

Equip New Believers to live and share the Gospel.

Develop sufficient leaders to be able to expand the Discovery Group ministry to include more and more people from the community.

The Gospel Should Transform:

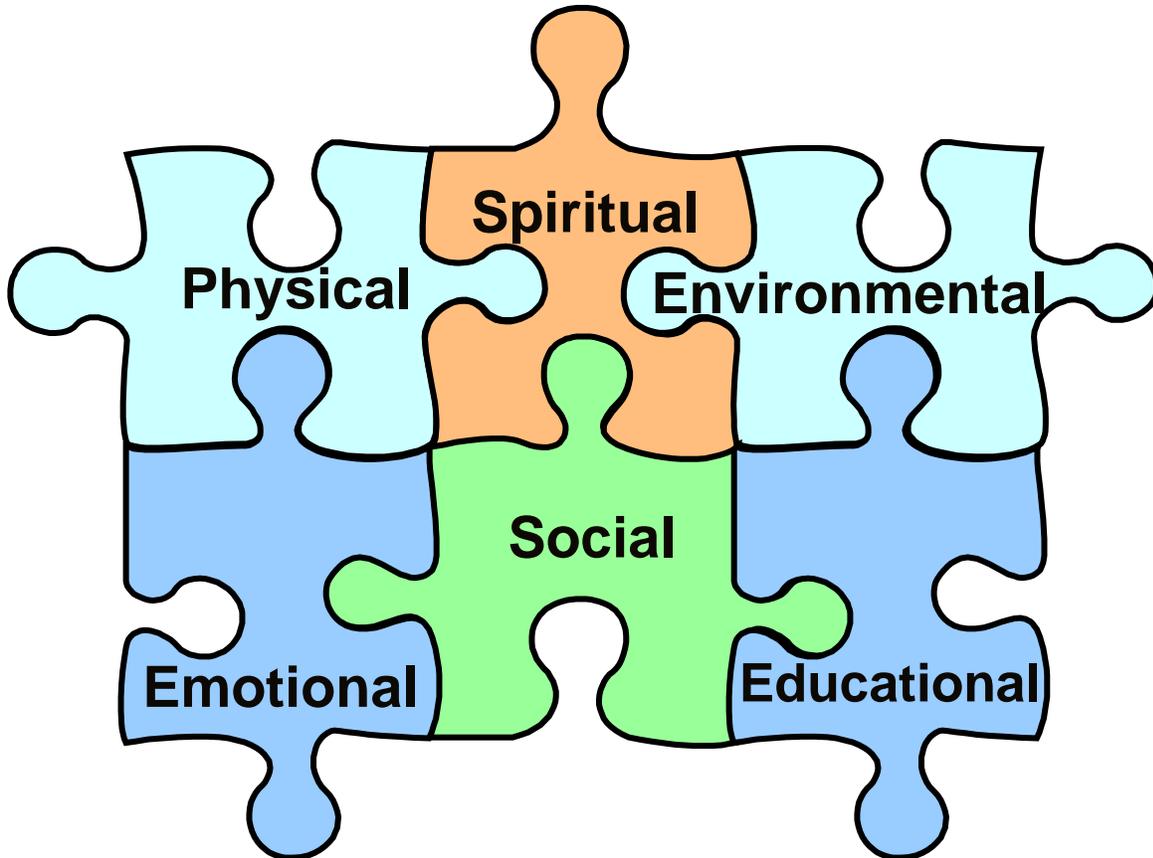
**Individual Lives
Families
Churches
Neighbourhoods**

**Cities
Countries
Our World**

**Disciples of Jesus Christ
will have a Salt and Light
Influence in Our World!**

Total Transformation!

Transformation of the total person, family, silo, community, nation!



The Great Commission will not be accomplished in your community when everyone has heard the gospel, but when the gospel has so changed the lives of those who receive Christ that your community is transformed through them!

Transformed lives + a Plan to Bless those around us with God's Love = a Transformed Community and World!

How Can You Show Your Neighbors that You Love Them?

Let's Discuss Some Projects that You Can Do To Bless Your Community.

Possible Projects (Divide into groups of 4-5 people. Assign each group **one of the following** and have them come-up with several possible projects they could do.) Bring the groups back together and have them share their ideas, as time allows.

- Physical
- Emotional
- Social
- Educational
- Environmental
- Spiritual

Ask; “How will these projects give you access to people so you can start conversations that could lead to spiritual conversations and offer to meet with them in their homes for a Discovery Groups?”

Which project do you believe God would have you begin with as you consider the Many Great Opportunities? (Put an X beside the one above that you will do first.)

What is the Vision?

To have reached every person with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the reproduction of equipped witnessing disciples.

“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
1 Corinthians 15:58

We all need to prepare enough leaders to lead Discovery Groups to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone in our Community and our Country!

Love Our Community With Our Actions and Our Words!