



Connecting Others to God

September 2, 2018

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have.

Icebreaker: Play “Introduce My Hero.” There are currently four presidents sculpted into Mt. Rushmore. If you could add another person, who would it be and why?

Key Verse: *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.* Acts 20:24

Can you say the NewPointe Mission Statement? In one way or another, that’s why you’re here: “To lead people to realize and reach their full potential in Jesus Christ.” The goal is to personally connect with God through salvation, connect with others in healthy community, and then connect others to God for a fulfilling life here and throughout eternity. Pursuing those three vital relationships is the path to reaching our full potential in Christ. It keeps us from the subtle but dangerous trap of simply “being religious.”

Since you are in the group today, the chances are pretty good that the first two steps are ongoing in your life. The third vital relationship, where you intentionally pursue people to connect them to Jesus, is a responsibility for every believer, because every person who has ever lived will be alive forever someplace. Paul’s passion for this was so huge that he said nothing else in his life was worth holding on to except this: sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and connecting others to God. It was the defining passion of his life. We are called to the same passion and fervor.

What would you say is your defining passion? For this passion we are called to by Jesus, how high is your flame burning now? What difference is sharing the Good News making in your life now? How can you add value to people? How can you keep your “saltiness” high to be confident to go where they are and meet them at their point of need? How can you help them experience belonging before they experience believing?

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message Sunday?

What are some dangers of “being religious”?

“How do you know if you are really following Jesus? You have a deep concern and passion for those who do not know Him.” Discuss. Agree or disagree that this is a dividing point?

How does a deep concern for others to come to Christ exhibit itself?

You have to earn the right to share the good news. How did a person who was vital in leading you to Christ get the right to share with you? Currently, how are you earning the right to share the truth of Jesus with someone you know?

Discuss: “God doesn’t change us to accept us. He accepts us in order to change us.”

LOOK IT OVER <<<

“You value people when you have a greater desire to connect with them rather than correct them.” Discuss.

Why is it vital to “keep your bearings in Christ” when you are connecting with people who do not follow Jesus? How can you do this well without offending them, OR losing your own witness?

We talk about building bridges into other people’s lives in order to share the truth of Jesus with them. There comes a day when you have to actually cross the bridge and tell them. What makes it difficult? How do you know when the time is right?

“Lifestyle evangelism is by far the most effective way of sharing the good news. Over 75% of the people who are converted came through the witness of a friend or family member.” Discuss practical pointers for keeping the door open here.

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Invest in a relationship.
- 2) Invite them to church next Sunday for Friends Day.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 3:16

Tuesday: Matthew 4:19

Wednesday: Matthew 9:36-39; Matthew 5:13

Thursday: 1 Peter 3:15

Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)