

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Broaden Your Horizons

Definition: As our world changes, we need to look for new ways to talk to others about Jesus . As circumstances change, it provides a wider range of opportunities and choices. We need to broaden our horizons . We need new ideas on how to share our faith no matter the setting or circumstance.

Audio Segment: Simple Acts of Kindness *John Whitehouse*

Segment Questions:

- What is one of the most incredible vistas you have ever seen?
- Where do you land on the comfort level of talking to others about Jesus? (Scale 1 to 10; 1 = very uncomfortable; 10 = natural, almost daily practice).
- Briefly describe how you came to faith in Christ (who was involved, the setting, timeframe, your age, etc).
- What are some of the lessons or principles we learn about sharing our faith from the story of the paralyzed man from Mark 2?
- How much training have you had in how to share your faith?

Action Questions:

- The John Whitehouse audio talks about being aware of the needs around you to reach out to others. What is an example you have had or seen where “need awareness” opened a door to talk about Jesus?
- To what degree did the people who were involved in your coming to faith broaden their horizons to reach you?
- What is it that most keeps you from sharing your faith more often?
- For the next couple of minutes, brainstorm some wider opportunities and choices (*e.g. broaden your horizon*) ways to share your faith. [*note - we will do this question as a whole group*]

Personal Application: What can you do in the days to come to keep your radar on to make a difference in those around you? Do you know anyone that could use your attention and help?

Broaden Your Horizon

Billy Graham's last Crusade was his funeral. The gospel was clearly presented to a worldwide audience. Billy was known as an evangelist. He spoke live to more people than anybody in history. He had a passion for telling people about Jesus. You may have encountered others who are similar. Maybe you are someone who often finds yourself in faith conversations with people.

For many though, you find it hard to talk to other about their need for a Savior. Why is that so? Is it inadequate training. Is it too personal. Are you afraid of rejection. Do you find you that your walk may not match your talk. Or is it that your thinking about "doing evangelism" is a bit too narrow.

The phrase "broaden your horizon" is defined as "to make you see a wider range of opportunities and choices." Many enjoy hiking in the mountains where this phrase is especially poignant. Picture yourself walking through a narrow canyon of increasing altitude. For miles your view has consisted of cliffs and trees. Then you break out at the top and you see peaks and valleys everywhere. Where moments before you only saw a single path, now there is an abundance of options that this vista provides.

Do you need to broaden your horizons when it comes to sharing your faith. Are there other ways of doing it that you just have not considered? The five daily devotional titles in this plan are: Faith replaces fear, online conversations, unexpected horizons, simple acts of kindness and ready-stop-share.

Matthew 5:15-16 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Colossians 4:5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

John 13:34-35 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Mark 2:1-12 When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"