



SPEAK FOR YOURSELF

MARKETPLACE MISSION TRIP: WEEK 6

WARM-UP

- Ask one or two people to share how they served someone this past week and how it was received
- Ask *“Have you ever been in a situation where someone else drove the conversation and wouldn’t shut up?”*

PRAYER

Spend 10 minutes in small prayer groups.

- Exchange your *10 Most Wanted* cards
- Spend time praying for co-laborers

LESSON

Many Christians express concern when it comes to conversations with others about Jesus. It is rude to inject religion or politics into conversations. Often, people believe religion and politics are both based on opinions. Our co-workers and friends chose to come to work today to make a living, not have a religious discussion. When we're at work, we should focus on work, not on faith.

These are a few of the objections that we often hear.

Unequipped and awkward

When it comes to sharing the gospel in our place of work, most believers fall into one of two groups: they feel unsure how to do it, or they find it awkward or even inappropriate to engineer a conversation so you can.

People will ask

We don't need to manipulate conversations. Peter tells us people will ask:

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to ...everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you

have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3:15)

Peter says we should prepare to give an answer to everyone who asks. When we serve others outside of our job description, some people will be confused, but others will ask. Now don't get too eager to give them the answer before they ask the question. But God is already calling them to a relationship. He is busy using everything in their lives to draw them to Himself. Your service is one of those things God uses.

Our hope

In God's timing, especially if we follow the first four daily activities, others will ask us about our motives. We should be prepared to answer. We began working on our answer in week four. Our answer

is “the reason for the hope that we have.”

What hope? The hope that we received when we began to follow Jesus (Romans 5:1-5). We follow Him because we experience that hope now when the Holy Spirit uses us to make Jesus visible. This is the hope that causes us to do this study or to take part in the daily activities (pray, appreciate others, know what we believe, serve others, and speak for ourselves). Others see the difference in our lives as a glimpse of that hope.

Your story

You have a story. What has Jesus done for you? We practiced this back in week four, but more practice will help. Peter tells us to “always be prepared to give

an answer.” People will ask why you’re different. When they ask, give them your story. Speak for yourself. Let them process your answer and compare it to their life and their experience in their own time. Let the Holy Spirit do his work. Your answer is the seed. Every seed takes time before it grows.

If your story doesn’t use “I” and “me” statements, then it may be a lecture. Speak for yourself by using “I” and “me” statements. Remember to report what the Lord has done for you and how He had mercy on you.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What has the Lord done for you?

2. Do you naturally answer that question using “I” and “me” statements?
3. Write your answers to “Why are you doing this?” and “Why do you follow Jesus?”
4. What can you do to make those answers more conversational?
5. Take turns discussing these answers among your small group. Write anything that comes to mind.

DAILY ACTION STEPS

DAY 1

Read Luke 8:26-39

This is another version of the story of the man who wanted to go with Jesus. Jesus told him to stay. What do you notice that's different? The command is slightly different. Today, practice your answer to this question. Has anyone asked yet? Don't give up. Keep praying, doing what God tells you to do, and be ready to answer in the first person.

DAY 2

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Today, as you pray, ask God to show you where you need discipline. Then do what He says. Can you improve the quality of your work or refrain from gossip? Do you need to pray for people you don't particularly like? Ask God to show you. And make sure you follow

through praying for others and doing things for them, too.

DAY 3

Read Genesis 32:27-30 and
Philippians 2:9-11

Do you remember names? Names are important to God and to us. You like to hear your name. Today, practice saying names more. If you need help remembering names, use them more, and you'll remember them better. Ask someone to tell you about their spouse or kids. Make notes too. Plan to ask about that person by name again tomorrow.

DAY 4

Read Philippians 3:7-16

Give a gift or purchase snacks for the office again. In addition to praying for the people you will see, do something out of the ordinary for someone. Did you learn a new name or two yesterday? Make a point of saying their name in conversation. “Hey, Mike! How are you doing?” Then also mention what you talked about yesterday with him. If you forgot their name admit it and ask them to help you remember. Make plans to use names. The more intentional you are about remembering names, the easier it will get.

DAY 5

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

This passage sums up the mission trip. According to God’s riches, we are

strengthened with his power through his Spirit (v.16). This is so Jesus would be present, or dwell with us in our hearts through faith. Our foundation is love—his love for us and our love for the brothers. Because of his love (v. 17) received by us and shown by us, we can understand our position (v. 18), know his love, and be filled. Our fullness in Christ is what others notice. That's our joy. When they see it, they will ask. Everyone wants that fullness that only Jesus offers. Meditate on this today as you pray for your friends and coworkers.

© 2022. *Mike Henry Sr.*

Adapted with permission from Marketplace Mission Trip: A Six-Week Mission Trip to Your Workplace