

OBJECTIVE: To look at a natural approach to sharing Jesus in the 'everyday':

Introduction

"So what do I say to someone who is hurting? To someone who asks what I am reading? To someone who asks why I bother reading the Bible and going to church?"

Initial Exercise:

Get into pairs (ideally) and take it in turns – (2 mins each) – to tell the other person about one of your family members.

KF – ask one or two to share what the other person told them – what do you think about what they said? Did it make you think about *your* family situation?

Rewind - So Just WHAT Are We Sharing?

Paul's letter to the Romans gives us two big clues:

Romans 10:8-13

Romans 10:14-17

Read the content of some of the early sermons in Acts – see the 'story' form that many of the Apostles used.

What Has Jesus Done for You?

Read John chapter 9 (as a group):

What stuck out in the story?

What does verse 3 say the *purpose* behind God's work in his life was? ('so that the work of God might be *displayed in his life*') – there would be a *change*.

Vs6-7 – Jesus tells the man to wash – he is obedient – and is healed.

What groups of people noticed? (vs8-9, 13).

When the first group of people asked him what had happened – he didn't come out with any dramatic story – he said exactly what happened (vs10-11).

Vs15-16 – The man had got people talking.

Vs22 – the man's parents were concerned – huge consequences (put out of the synagogue).

Vs24 – the Pharisees came back with more questions – was bugging them.

Vs25 – The Simple truth – 'this is what happened to me' (key verse) – we may not know all of the answers.

Vs28-34 – the man enters dialogue – he appears to have been given wisdom to debate with the Pharisees (Matthew 10:19).

Vs35 – 41 – Jesus comforts the man with His Word and directly challenges the Pharisees.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS ENCOUNTER?

- Simply say what has happened to YOU
- It's ok not to have all of the answers
- Your 'story' will cause debate, gossip and potentially opposition
- Others will be challenged
- The Holy Spirit will empower you as you witness
- Jesus comforts us with His Word
- Lives will be changed – our lives are to 'display the work of God'.

Practice

With someone different – talk about how Jesus has worked in your life – either your initial testimony, or a recent working of the Lord.

KF – ask one or two to share what they heard.

Questions.

"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" – 1Peter3:15