



Contagious Love to Love Others

Four Voices of a believer and Church

- 1. Redemptive voice** - reconciliation & healing
- 2. Moral voice** (set values)
- 3. Prophetic voice** - what is God saying
- 4. Humanitarian Voice** - How do we meet the needs of people.



Three questions to disciples

How are you ministering your gifts and talents to build the kingdom?

Who are you mentoring? Invest in someone else's discipleship journey

Multiply - you are empowering others to reproduce

Matthew 28:19 [TPT]

GO in my authority and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Luke 14:23

Then the master said to the servant,

Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.



James 5:19-20 [MSG]

My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. **GO after them.** Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an *epidemic* of wandering away from God.



2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (AMP)

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away.

Behold, the fresh and new has come!

18 But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the **ministry of reconciliation** [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

1. **Reaching the lost originated with God not man.** (John 3:16)
2. **Reaching the lost is the task of every believer** (2 Cor 5:18)
3. **Reaching the lost requires Words & Works.** (Matt 5:16, Mat 28:20)
4. **Reaching the lost is a team activity.** (1 Cor 3:5-6)
5. **Reaching the lost is a spiritual activity** (2 Cor 4:4)



What determines value?

There are two things that determine value in life:

1. It depends on what somebody is willing to pay for something.
2. It depends on who has owned it in the past.



JESUS

Friend of sinners

Matthew 11:19 (NLT) The Son of Man, on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results."

Only Jesus answers the questions of

1. SIN NATURE
2. SUFFERING
3. SALVATION



Learn to BLESS people...

Begin with Prayer



PLAN

If you want to be intentional about setting aside time to pray, you need to plan for it. Perhaps you might decide to pray for five minutes before you get out of bed and five minutes at night before you go to sleep. Or you might set a reminder on your phone to pray during your lunch hour or some other time of the day. Plan to pray for your neighbors by name.

PREPARE

As you pray, ask God to prepare your heart for the adventure.



Learn to BLESS people...

Begin with Prayer

Listen



Asking questions and then listening was central to Jesus's life and teachings.

Consider the blind man in Luke 18. Jesus didn't assume the blind man wanted to see. First, He asked, "What do you want me to do?" Then He listened.

In the Gospels, Jesus asked many more questions than He answered. Of the 183 different questions He received, Jesus answered only a handful. Any relationship starts with listening to someone's words and life. True listening may be the kindest and most loving gift you can give someone.

The first P is Pain.

Ask yourself: What are the challenges and difficulties that exist in your community? Is it loneliness, anxiety, addiction? Strained and broken relationships?

The second P is Pennies—understanding the economy of a place. What kinds of jobs make up your community? Where is there opportunity for prosperity?

The third P is Power.

If we are going to reach our community, it's important to know who holds the power and influence to change culture.

The final P is Parties.

Every community has values it cherishes and loves to celebrate. “What do the people here honor and celebrate—even long for?” Maybe it's friendship? Or for their children to do well in school?

Learn to BLESS people...

Begin with Prayer

Listen

Eat

EXCUSES

1. I don't like to have people in my home
2. I wouldn't know what to say
3. I just don't have time



Learn to BLESS people...

Begin with Prayer

Listen

Eat

Serve



How's my neighbor doing RELATIONALLY?

How is their home life?

How is their marriage, dating, or family life going?

Do they have close friends?

How are their relationships at work?

How's my neighbor doing PHYSICALLY?

How is their overall health?

Does their energy level seem good?

Are they getting regular exercise?

Are their eating habits healthy?

Do they mention not being able to sleep?



How's my neighbor doing MENTALLY?

Are there any signs of anxiety?

Is there any indication of depression?

Have I noticed any mood swings?

Are they learning?

Are there any unhealthy thought patterns showing up?



How's my neighbor doing SPIRITUALLY?

Do they sense something is missing in their life?

Are they willing to have you pray for them?

Do they display a spiritual curiosity?

Do they initiate spiritual conversations?

Are they moving closer to God?



Learn to BLESS people...

Begin with Prayer

Listen

Eat

Serve

Story-telling



When people were ready to listen, Jesus would share His story. Like when doubting Thomas came to him asking, “How can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:5–6 NIV).

When you befriend and bless people, they feel relationally safe and want to know your story. Then, and only then, you can tell them how the love of God and Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection have changed you.



THE REAL PROBLEM



NOW IT CAME to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.




Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. Further they said, “The fishing industry exists by fishing as fire exists by burning.” They loved slogans such as “Fishing is the task of every fisherman,” “Every fisherman is a fisher,” and “A fisherman’s outpost for every fisherman’s club.” They sponsored special meetings called “Fishermen’s Campaigns” and “The Month for Fishermen to Fish.”

They sponsored costly nationwide and worldwide congresses to discuss fishing and to promote fishing and hear about all the ways of fishing such as the new fishing equipment, fish calls, and whether any new bait was discovered.



These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called “Fishing Headquarters.” The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn’t do, however; they didn’t fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what is needed is a board which could challenge fishermen to be faithful in fishing. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in faraway streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

An abstract graphic at the bottom of the page featuring vibrant, multi-colored light trails in shades of purple, blue, and pink. These trails appear to be moving through a dark, reflective space, possibly representing water or a digital environment, and are framed by dark, rounded rectangular shapes.

Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology. But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing

Some spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see faraway places where the founding fathers did great fishing in the centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before who handed down the idea of fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy day and night to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment, and programs to arrange and to encourage meetings to talk about fishing. A speakers' bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.



After one stirring meeting on “The Necessity for Fishing,” one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen’s General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who didn’t catch fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? Is one following if he isn’t fishing?