

Day 4: Have an answer...and a story

Read it: Luke 23:33 & 46; Luke 24:2-3; John 14:6 Also: 1 Peter 3:15 & John 9: 13-25



Think about it:

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Luke 23:33 & 46 Jesus _____ on the _____
Luke 24:2-3 Jesus _____ from the _____
John 14:6 Jesus is the _____, the _____ and the _____. _____ comes to God
except through Him.

To sum it up, here is what Jesus did: He lived a perfect life, He died on the cross and rose from the dead. With that, He said He is in the only way to heaven. That is the hope that we have a chance to tell others about—

Fill in the blanks for 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV translation):

_____ be prepared to give an answer to _____
who asks you to give the reason for the _____ that you have.

We talked about this “hope” in day 1 and spent days 2 and 3 focusing on sharing this hope with friends and family. Now God is challenging us to always be ready—to share this message of salvation at any time.

God gives you one more thing you can use to share Christ—your personal story about what He has done in your life. No one can argue against the truth of what you have seen God do in your life. See how this happened to the blind man in John 9:13-25 (especially verse 25). This is one of the best ways to share the message about God...by telling people what God has done in your life!

Act on it: Think about your story—How you accepted Christ and what God has done in your life since becoming a Christian. Be ready to tell your story—and the plan of salvation—at any time. God will use you to lead other people to Christ!



HAMMERTIME

Week 5
March 8, 2009

Purpose: To nail down this week’s Awaken topic (Reaching others for Christ).

How to use it: Individuals can do it on their own 4 times a week to cultivate this habit of spending time with God regularly. Families: adults are encouraged to do HammerTime on their own & then meet with their whole family to go through it together.

Example of time: Read verses (3 min), Discuss/think about (5 min), Pray (2 min)

For more tools: check out Bethlehembc.com or AwakenToolbox.com.

Day 1: Nic at night—the message of good news

Read it:

John 3:1-18, especially verses 16 & 17 Bonus: Numbers 21:8-9

Think about it:

To share Christ with others, we must first know the message of Christ for ourselves. Look at the message that Nicodemus (a priest) hears when he comes to Jesus (under the cover of night). Remember, the priests were the group of people that hated Jesus and would eventually kill him. This was a big faith step for Nic to meet with Jesus; think about your own faith step that is challenged in verses 16 & 17.

Do you believe:

1. That Jesus is the Son of God?
2. That God sent Him to earth to save you?
3. That faith in Him is your only way to heaven?

Act on it: Think about those 3 questions and if you have never accepted Christ, you can pray and talk with Him about those questions. If you already know Jesus, start praying about a chance to share Christ with someone this week. The other HammerTime days build from this foundation in John 3.

Day 2: Tell the story and He will stir the heart

Read it: John 1:35-42 (Andrew & Peter) and 43-46 (Philip & Nate)
1 Corinthians 3:5-7

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Think about it:

Notice the process that we see Andrew go through:

- He meets/joins Jesus (v35, 39) and he spends time getting to know Him (v39)
- He goes to tell his brother about him (v41) & then he brings his brother to Jesus (v42).

We also see a shorter version of that process with Philip in verses 43-46. Think about the comparison to your life today and how Jesus would like to see that same process in your life as you bring people to Him.

Is it sometimes hard for you to tell other people about Jesus? Read the section in Corinthians and you will see that there are 3 “roles” in the process. God wants you to do your part (planting the seed and watering it) and He will do His part (making it grow). This takes some of the pressure off you—do your part in telling the story (like Andrew and Philip) and God will do His part to reveal Himself to people that do not know Him.

Act on it:

List one or two people you can think of that you could tell about Jesus. #1: _____
#2: _____

Look for some opportunities to invite them to church, especially with Easter coming soon (about 5 weeks). What are some other ways that you can show them the love of Christ? Make them some brownies? Help them clean up their yard? Invite them over to your house? Be proactive in doing your part (plant & water the seed) and eagerly watch for God to do His part (making it grow).



Day 3: Do whatever it takes—through the roof!

Read it:

Luke 5: 17-26

Think about it:

The paralyzed man in the story is symbolic of anyone you know that does not have a relationship with Jesus. The friends in the story are symbolic of you and your chance to bring an unsaved friend to Christ. Consider these questions so you can best understand what happened:

1. What was the need that the man had? How did the friends think this need could be met?
2. What lengths were the friends willing to go to so their friend could meet Jesus?
3. What do you think were the toughest obstacles that they had to overcome? (ex. distance, carrying him, crowds of people, roof, worry about people’s reaction, etc.).
4. Was Jesus able to meet the physical need of the man? How about the spiritual need?
5. After he went through all of that, how do you think the man felt about his friends?

When you think about someone you know that does not have a relationship with Christ, how would you answer those 5 questions?

Act on it: Think about the people that you listed on your HammerTime card yesterday. What do you think their answer to #5 would be? Focus on that answer as you start to look for ways to do “whatever it takes” to lead them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Like we learned in day 2, God will help you as you take these steps of faith!