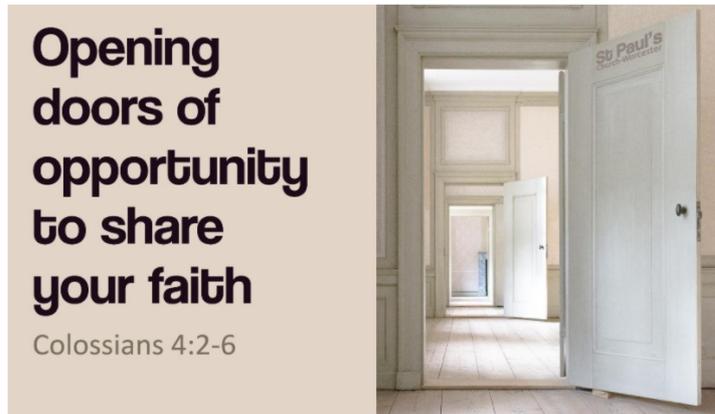


Session 2 – Encounter, Engage and Embrace



Introduction

Laurence Singlehurst, director from Cell UK, is passionate about mission and small groups in our current climate. He has put together a 6 part mini-series for us to prayerfully consider, be inspired and moved by the Holy Spirit into action.

Suggested framework is that we watch his video clip as a group, then consider and discuss various aspects of the clip. Below are some suggested questions but you or others in your group may have other related questions. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to lead and inspire our hearts as we seek the way forward.

Session 2

The journey of faith: Encounter, engage, embrace'

To watch the video clip, please type in this link: <https://youtu.be/9z-uQWQwOug>

Scripture: John 3:16, Colossians 4: 1-3

1. Laurence describes a pathway that people often journey to meet Jesus. Share a bit of your journey. Who did you 'encounter' that influenced your faith journey?
2. What were the qualities about these people that attracted you to faith?
3. Laurence stated that Jesus is no longer physically walking through our streets but we are. What is your understanding of that statement?
4. Share how you tend to serve or deal with people we encounter in our everyday life?

5. Whilst central church is good, how reliant are we on central activities to reach and share our faith with people?
6. Laurence said “the people of God, equipped by the leaders, doing the work of God is closer to the New Testament style of church. Is this something we should aspire to have in our church?
7. How do help people engage with the gospel? Is there any particular resource that you think is really helpful?
8. He stated that people who successfully encounter the gospel and understand it, eventually embrace it on their own. Has that been your experience?
9. How do help people engage with the gospel? Is there any particular resource that you think is really helpful?

Further Studies

Does evangelism make you nervous? If so, it will help to study carefully how Jesus interacted with people. Whom did He meet? How did He connect with them? Where did the encounters take place? Who initiated contact? What happened in the conversation?

We can learn much about this topic by asking questions of the four narratives of Jesus’ life—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They include more than 40 meetings between Jesus and various individuals. Here are a few to start off:

- a Samaritan woman (John 4:7-42)
- a crippled beggar (John 5:1-15)
- Jairus, a synagogue ruler (Mark 5:21-43)
- a haemorrhaging woman (Mark 5:24-34)

4 questions to ask ourselves when we read these encounters:

- 1) Who started the conversation?
- 2) Where did these conversations take place?
- 3) What was discussed?
- 4) What can we learn from Jesus’s example?

What do you think about the 2 following statements?

- Jesus connected with people’s thoughts and feelings. He understood that new ideas need to be connected with existing frames of reference if they are to last. He seldom pressed for “closure” or a decision. Instead, He understood that time is required for ideas to simmer and for people to own them before they act on them.
- Witnessing is a science, an art, and a mystery. It involves connecting your faith with people’s experience in a way that they can understand it, in their own time and manner. It means cooperating with whatever God’s Spirit may be doing with them and leaving the results to Him.