



SHARING YOUR FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

SESSION ONE THE *MISSIO DEI* (GOD'S MISSION)

The first thing to understand is that as Christians we join God on HIS mission, it isn't OUR mission that we ask Him to bless. In an interview with Bill Hybels, Bono said, "Stop asking God to bless what you're doing. Find out what God is doing because it's already blessed."

God is already at work in your workplace. He passionately loves everyone you work with. His Holy Spirit is already there working in people's hearts and minds so that they will be receptive to the gospel.

From this understanding that the Mission is God's, and that He is already at work, what do we do?

- ▶ Be in tune with God, listen and look to see what He is already doing (Jn 5:19)
- ▶ Pray and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance as to what He wants you to do, and who He wants you to reach out to
- ▶ Model our methods on Jesus' ministry

What can we learn about sharing our faith from the way Jesus conducted his ministry? Firstly, Jesus' ministry was **incarnational**. Instead of bungy jumping down to earth and back up to heaven in between ministry opportunities, he lived amongst us. He wasn't remote from us, he was really here, he was really **present** with people, **he really gave them his attention and time**. It can be easy as Christians to be detached from what goes on around us. We need to follow Christ's example and be present with people, and really connect with them.

Leading on from this, our job is to **love people, not to argue with them**. The only people that Jesus argued with were the religious people, who were making it impossible for others to connect with God. Jesus was harsh with religious folk, but gentle with everyone else.

We need to be careful to **love people just for themselves**, with no strings attached. If you are just loving someone so that they will do what you want (even if it's something that is really good for them) they will sense it and feel that you are not genuine in your love for them. You are also more likely to feel discouraged from loving people if they don't fulfil your expectations. The central truth of the gospel is that God loves us with no strings attached, we are free to love Him or not as we choose. We need show people that same no-strings-attached-love and allow others the same freedom to choose.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples of times you have seen God at work in your workplace?
2. How would you describe the quality of the relationships you have with your colleagues?
3. Have you got into arguments with people about Christianity? How positive / negative have the outcomes from that been?
4. Can you remember an experience as a non-Christian where the no-strings-attached-love of God was shown to you in a way you could understand? How transformational was that for you?
5. What are some practical ways of showing no-strings-attached-love in your workplace?