

Talk It Over

Practice!
(Week 5)
Engage Missionally

SMALL TALK

1. Have you ever been disengaged from your place of employment? What was the result?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Matthew 5:13-16.** If we are salt, what makes sense and what makes no sense at all? If we are light, what makes sense, and what makes no sense at all?
3. In this passage, what is the foolishness of concealed light? What is the faithfulness of courageous light? What is the forcefulness of collective light?
4. How is our being salt and light based on what Jesus taught in the "beatitudes" 5:3-10? How is this related to his Kingdom mission?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. We live in a world of decay and darkness; based on the first 4 practices, is the state of practice 5 in your life like a 300-watt bulb? 100-watt? A night-light? Why? How can Jesus enable you to shine brighter?
6. Jim talked about $1+2+3+4 = 5$ being "good math", what does this mean? Which part of this equation do you need to give attention to most?

MAKING PROGRESS

7. Practice these 5 life practices that fuel a thriving and contagious faith in Jesus:
 1. Devote Daily
 2. Pursue Relationally
 3. Guide Biblically
 4. Live Authentically
 5. Engage Missionally.

Circle the one that needs your intentional practice this week, and brainstorm what you will do to make it your practice.

November 29, 2020

PRACTICE!

Life Practice 5: Engage Missionally

Engage Missionally: What does that mean.

Engage: Picture two working parts. If these are disengaged, these work independently. However, if they were designed to work together, they must come together and engage each other for the power they have designed to drive forward. You are a little part of a very powerful and grand design. You have been designed to engage with God.

Engage Missionally: That is when the purpose of your life engages with God's purpose for your life, then your small part has the power of God to change the world in ways you have never imagined.

ARE YOU ENGAGED OR DISENGAGED?

Before we talk in more personal terms, let's talk about this concept in the area of businesses. In the business world for years, leaders have been talking about the problem of disengaged employees, diagnosing the problem, and implementing solutions that help businesses turn around.

Now with COVID, and more employees working remotely, disengagement is rampant.

Unfortunately, what is true about how disengaged employees affect the success and health of businesses is also true about how disengaged people in churches affect the success and health of a church.

Here are the statistical averages about engaged versus disengaged employees at typical businesses.

- 7 out of 10 employees are *passively* disengaged, or *actively* disengaged. Let me explain.
- Imagine if you are on a crew team with 10 people.
- 3 of them are rowing their hearts out! They are **fully engaged**.

- 5 of them are *passively* going along for the ride and just looking at the scenery.
- The other 2 of them are *actively* trying to sink the boat. They are back-biting and talking bad about their crew.

I'm not saying this statistical average is true about our church, but I must ask the question to get you thinking. As it relates to the topic, engage missionally, which crew member are you?

- Which crew member are you?
 - Are you the 30% who volunteer to go above and beyond because you are fully engaged and you want to promote Christ's Mission to make disciples? You want to do your part to help us as a church help people take steps from wherever they are to where God wants them to be?
 - Are you the 50% who are passively disengaged. You aren't rowing, you are enjoying the scenery, and you are enjoying the music and the messages, and so that's why you come?
 - Are you the 20% who are actively disengaged, and you evaluate what is going on negatively, frequently talking about how things should be done differently?

I. **SATISFIED attenders come to church to GET**

- Get my family in church
- Get help for my marriage
- Get closer to God
- Get "fed"
- Get prayer

II. **ENGAGED followers look for ways to GIVE**

It isn't about doing my thing, it is about doing Jesus' thing.

Matthew 6:10 (NIV) *your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

It isn't about doing my thing, it is about doing Jesus' thing. It isn't about me being successful, it is about Jesus' mission being successful. Jesus gave himself for me, and I am committed to follow him. Jesus is fully committed to me, and I'm all in for Jesus. That's engagement.

I was discussing with Doug Freeman some of these thoughts and how these life practices go together, and the next day he handed me a piece of paper with a few words. The note simply read:

GOOD MATH: $1+2+3+4=5$

Although this doesn't seem like good math, it is, once you understand the puzzle. When is $1+2+3+4=5$ good math? When these numbers represent the practices we have been talking about. If you have life practice 1 through 4 in place, naturally practice 5 will follow. You won't be effective at practice 5 if you don't have practices 1 through 4. So, this is actually good math!

REVIEW:

Practice these 5 life practices that fuel a thriving and contagious faith in Jesus:

1. Devote Daily
2. Pursue Relationally
3. Guide Biblically
4. Live Authentically
5. Engage Missionally.

We don't pick and choose between these practices. It isn't like each of these are optional for the follower of Jesus. Each of these are commanded.

(1. Devote Daily)

John 15:7–8 (NIV) *...remain in me and my words remain in you, ...that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

(2. Pursue Relationally)

John 20:21 (NIV) *...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.*”

And there are all the “one another” commands...

- Love one another, serve one another, bear with one another, forgive one another, accept one another, admonish one another, encourage one another, be devoted to one another, build up one another, Care for one another, submit to one another, consider others better than yourselves, look to the interests of one another, comfort one another, pray for one another...and the list goes on.

(3. Guide Biblically)

Colossians 3:16 (ESV) *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, ...*

(4. Live Authentically)

James 5:16 (NIV) *...confess your sins to each other ...*

(5. Engage Missionally.)

When it comes to engaging missionally it is commanded in the great commission which we spent a whole series on called King Jesus, but I want to focus on something deeper than the commands.

III. Our IDENTITY demands it

Matthew 5:14–16 (NIV) *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Here is an attention getting commercial.

COMMERCIAL: Don't just talk, Do Something Video:

Shine! You are the light of the world. Jesus claimed to be the light of the world, and he was giving himself to us, and united with him, we now are the light of the world.

Who me!? Yes You! You are the light of the world.

- Let your life for Jesus be consistent,
- Let your life for Jesus be continuous
- Let your life for Jesus be conspicuous.
- Good news is not a secret to be kept.
- Don't hide under a bowl of fears; go public.
- Open up to others so they can open up to Jesus.

Here's an action step: Keep a top 10 prayer list and recruit a group of fellow believers to support you in praying for these people. Report progress with one another on your top 10 prayer list.

Practice these 5 life practices that fuel a thriving and contagious faith in Jesus:

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This isn't only for others.

YOU grow spiritually when you shine.

These LIFE PRACTICES really do fuel a thriving and contagious faith! You will enjoy life more, and so will others!