

Ideas for “Catching People” Today

Jesus said, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” – Luke 5:10b

The way the “fishing for people” unfolds in Luke’s Gospel is not coercive or domineering. It is personal, relational work—deep water work...¹

Expressing gratitude

- Express gratitude as a way to identify something that feels like Christ’s action to you.
- Give people permission to think their own thoughts: “You might see this differently, but I wanted to thank you for what you did—it felt like God’s love and it was a blessing to me.”
- God uses everyone’s hands to accomplish kingdom work, whether they are people of faith or not. It’s our call to identify it when we see it and name that with others.

Prayers

- If someone is going through something and they’ve shared that with you, tell them: “We pray for people by name every Sunday in church. Can I add your name to our prayer list?”
- Pray for them on your own as well. Follow up to see how they’re doing as appropriate.

Relationships

- 82% of unchurched people would say yes to an invitation to church from a trusted friend.²
- Build the relationship authentically first. Extend the invitation later.
- We all have opportunities to share our faith with friends and acquaintances, but we don’t always recognize those opportunities or feel like we know what to say. See back page for some examples and ideas.

When you invite someone to attend church in-person

- Offer to pick them up and drive together so they have someone to walk into church with and so they don’t have to find a seat on their own.
- Or, if you meet at the church, make sure it’s on a Sunday that you’re going to be there and meet them in the parking lot beforehand.
- Offer to go out to brunch afterwards, maybe even your treat!

Online

- If you’re a facebook user, share the worship service live on your timeline (more people will see it that way than simply liking the service). Consider saying something like, “Hey, we’re worshiping with Good Soil, click if you want to join us!”
- Like Good Soil’s facebook page if you haven’t already:
<https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries>

¹ Kendra Mohn, Working Preacher, Feb 6, 2022 <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/fifth-sunday-after-epiphany-3/commentary-on-luke-51-11-6>

² The Invitational Christian by Dave Daubert, Day 8 Strategies Publishing, 2017

Incorporating our faith into daily conversations

God is constantly offering us opportunities to share our faith, but sometimes we miss them. Simply changing up our language can open the door to talking about our faith. Consider making some of these small, but powerful changes in everyday conversations:

If someone asks, “How was your weekend?”

- ➔ Instead of saying “Good” or “Same old, same old,” consider saying that you went to church on Sunday (or watched online) and share something meaningful about it (i.e., “The music was really powerful this week,” or “I was challenged by something in the sermon,” or “I really enjoy the community there,” or “I always feel filled back up and ready for the week ahead after going to church,” etc.).

If someone shares, “I’m really worried about my friend who was just diagnosed with cancer”

- ➔ Instead of simply offering to keep them in your own prayers (a great start) consider asking to put their name on the church prayer list (i.e. “We pray for people by name every Sunday in worship. Could we add your friend’s name to it?”)

If you do something nice for a neighbor like shoveling their driveway or bringing them food and they say, “It was so nice of you to do that, thank you!”

- ➔ Instead of replying “You’re welcome” and leaving it at that, consider saying, “You’re welcome, love your neighbor as yourself, right?” or “You’re welcome, the church I attend is big on sharing God’s love through acts of service” or “You’re welcome, it’s a part of my faith, reaching out to help those around you.”

If someone says, “How are you today?”

- ➔ Instead of replying “Fine,” consider saying, “Blessed” or “Grateful”

If someone says, “Goodbye, take care”

- ➔ Instead of replying “You too,” consider saying, “Be blessed” or “God bless”

Final Thought: Remember that Good Soil has **bundles of invitation cards** that you could use in any of these instances and other circumstances too. Stash these cards in your wallets and purses, keep some in your car, etc. Post them on bulletin boards in coffee shops and restaurants, share them with waiters/waitresses, with other parents at the playground or on the sidelines at kids’ sporting events, etc. And then grab some more!