

IDENTIFYING A PERSON OF PEACE

GOD'S AMBASSADOR DEVELOPMENT

HOW TO IDENTIFY A PERSON OF PEACE

When we think about discipleship, evangelism, sharing our faith, or planting a church, we believe the idea of sharing with one person and inviting the person to church or to meet with your pastor. We have been taught that one-on-one evangelism is the only way to go, but Jesus did things differently. Jesus' method is to bring a person with his or her people (oikos) to faith. Jesus reached many people by first identifying people of peace.

WHO IS A PERSON OF PEACE?

A person of peace is someone whom God has prepared to reach their community or oikos. They are:

- Thirsty for truth and open to spiritual things
- Hungry for the truth and love to learn more
- Eager to share what they are learning with others

A person of peace can be anyone – young, old, educated, uneducated, rich, poor, popular, or outcast. These people are prepared by God to bring the message to the people in their oikos (community).

The growth in the church came through these people of peace who started the Christian movement. When you meet people of peace, you will experience that they open their mind and networks and groups whom they know. In evangelism, you can pray to find these people of peace who will act as a doorway to their community (oikos).

IS THERE ANY EXAMPLE OF PEOPLE OF PEACE IN THE BIBLE?

We can see the example of Jesus of how He identified people of peace when He called His disciples. The spreading of the gospel usually starts with relational lines when Jesus called Peter and his family. Peter's house became the first 'house of peace' from which the gospel spread (John 1:35-50, Mark 1:14-20; Mark 1:29-34).

We can see the pattern or principle in the New Testament:

- Luke 7:1-10 (The Centurion)
- Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus)

- John 4:1-42 (The Samaritan Woman)
- Mark 5:1-20 (The demoniac of Decapolis)
- Acts 8:26-40 (The Ethiopian Eunuch)
- Acts 10:9-11 (Cornelius)
- Acts 16:13-15 (Lydia)
- Acts 16:22-38 (The Philippian jailer)
- Acts 17:1-9 (Jason)
- Acts 18 (Aquila and Priscilla)

HOW DO WE FIND A PERSON OF PEACE?

- We must pray (and pray and pray) so we can recognize these people whom God has prepared.
- We must go out into the harvest and have spiritual conversations with lots of different people, looking for people whom God is already preparing in the community.
- When we meet and be friend with people for a while, you will know the needs of the people, and then you can begin to share spiritual things (on how God is working in your life or Biblical stories that link to their situation/needs). If they are hungry to know more, you will know that they are people of peace. However, sometimes this might happen over a long period of time, or it could happen quickly.
- If the people are open and hungry, look to see if they are sharing what you have talked about with others they might just be the people of peace.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU FIND A PERSON OF PEACE?

- Keep engaging and connecting with them
- Invite them to take part in Discovery Bible Study and if they know others they can invite them to be part of it too. In that way, the whole group will have their spiritual journey together.
- Encourage them to share what they are learning with others.
- Coach or mentor them to begin their EMM Network or Holistic Small group with their network.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, 'Follow Me.'" (MH 73.4)

