

“ROAD TRIP”

On Location, Part 4

January 24th, 2010

Faith is not something we compartmentalize

Your relationship with God and your walk with Christ are not about Sunday and your home, but it's about your whole life

Matthew 5:14 (NAS) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

The only way the world is going to understand who God is - you

You can't necessarily control who you work with

For some the only arena where they will rub shoulders with Christians day in and day out because it's unavoidable is at their workplace

Jesus didn't say we are the light of the world at certain places or times, but everywhere you go

Our goal isn't to convert people or force people to believe something they don't want to believe

John 6:44 (NLT) "For people can't come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them to Me..."

Our goal is to introduce people to their heavenly Father in a way that's personal and real because we work with people & live around people who are disconnected

Insights Into Connecting The Dots Between Our Lives & God

1. Listen to people's stories

As you learn a person's story, eventually there will be a connecting point between your story and their story which can be an onramp to a faith conversation

Most people have gaps in their world view that they would love to have filled

This may be as simple as saying, when that happened to me, this is what I did

2. Ask a specific question

Ask an open-ended question that you hope would lead into a faith conversation

If the question you ask, doesn't lead to a faith conversation, don't force the issue

3. Pray for the people you work with

When you begin to pray for somebody by name, you begin to develop a burden for that person

Matthew 5:44 (NIV) "[Jesus said] Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,..."

When you begin to pray for someone by name, you will be more sensitive to open doors and those opportunities to talk to them about their life and their faith

Most people you know can't name one person who is praying for them

4. Address people's emotions

People have emotional brokenness at different levels

When people show strong emotion, our natural tendency is to back off

For many where there is an area of extreme emotion that is actually an open door for God's grace and mercy

Most people come to faith through brokenness

Matthew 9:12 (NLT) "When He heard this, Jesus replied, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do.'"
Mark 10:45 (NIV) "[Jesus said] 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,..."

Those who are broken are most open and most aware of their need for a connection with their heavenly Father

Please note – nothing about this is confrontational; it's all very conversational

It's being sensitive to opportunities to turn a conversation toward something that has to do with their Father in heaven

Colossians 4:3 (TM) "Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ,..."

Acts 17:6 (NAS) "[the Jewish leaders said] 'These men who have upset the world have come here also...'"

There is hope for the world only if decide to be salt and light

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will fill out my bookmark and begin being "light" in my location
- I want to be a prayer partner for the upcoming Upward Basketball & Cheer League
- I will attend the seminar "How to Lead Your Child To Christ" next Sat at 10 AM
- I will memorize Matthew 5:14