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Back 2 the Basics

Lesson 8—
witnessing:
John the Baptist

I. Whether good at witnessing or not, ALL are COMMANDED to share the Gospel

*Matthew 28:19-20

*Mark 16:15

Fact: Only 2% of Christians invite and bring at least 1 person to church a year. Even less witness.

Question: Why do you think people don't witness?

II. 3 tips for sharing your faith (John 1:35-42)

-give overview of John the Baptist

A. Realize that God is already AT WORK

1. God had placed these 2 future disciples at the right place at the right time
2. John just had to OBEY God...He had already prepared their hearts (I Cor. 3:6-7)

B. Don't be worried about how you might LOOK (verses 35-36)

-we worry too much about looking stupid or wondering what the people will think

1. John put Jesus first, others second, and himself last (J.O.Y.)
2. He was PUMPED up for Jesus
 - a. when he saw Jesus, he stopped what he was doing and shouted for joy
 - b. he let the world know where he stood
 - c. people were DRAWN to it

C. Point them to Jesus (verse 37)

1. Inviting to church is great, but take the next step...invite them to CHRIST

*John didn't invite them to church or to keep listening to his own messages, he pointed them directly to the Savior

2. Like Jesus did, Be BOLD...ask QUESTIONS (verse 38)

*people are probably wondering, but need someone to ask

Some basic questions to get begin spiritual conversations:

- a. Do you regularly go to church anywhere?
- b. Have you ever thought about what happens after you die?
- c. Do you think there is a Heaven and Hell?
- d. If there was a way for you to experience joy, would you want to know?

Small group discussion

Question: Why do you think that God is the last thing we talk about to our friends?

Question: If John the Baptist were alive today and went to your school, what types of things would he be doing?

- would be living a godly life**
- wouldn't look like everyone else**
- would be respected for being blameless, consistent, and real**
- wouldn't be ashamed to share with others about his faith**

***Do you know any "John the Baptists" in your school?**

Discuss: We have to expect that John had gained the respect of those around them. The best way to get people to listen to you, is to show them BY ACTION what Christ is doing in your life.

Ask Yourself: If you shared Christ with your friends/family today, would they think you were a hypocrite? Would they respect what you have to say because they see what God is doing in your life?

Discuss: John also lived a life that caused people to ask questions. They were drawn to him, wondering what was different about him. Do you live a life that causes people to ask questions?

Ask Yourself: If someone were to come up to you and ask you about why you don't do what "everyone else is doing" and why you seem to have "joy", what would you say? Would you invite them to church? Would you be even bolder and share Christ with them?

Ask Yourself: What changes do I need to make in my life to honor God in sharing my faith?

Take it Home

Share your faith with at least 1 person by Wednesday