



Course Name: SALT Discipleship Lesson 9 - Discussing Faith with Others
By Mike Vaughn

Course description:

This course will prepare students for developing a journal and prayer list in preparation for discipling others.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Considered the generational shift in making disciples from the 1st century to the present day.
- B. Developed an approach to praying for and being purposeful about creating opportunities for discipleship.

Outline of the class: Divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each groups to spend about 5-10 minutes to list their answers to each of the discussion questions in the order they are presented in the class. After each question, ask each group to share their responses.

- A. **Ephesians 5:15-16** “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”
- B. **As you interact with people, recognize there have been 3 big generational shifts:¹**
 - 1. Three generational shifts
 - b. Rise of skepticism
 - c. Denial of objective reality
 - d. Mistrust of authority
 - 2. It is no longer the historical one-step conversion process where you invite someone to church to learn about Jesus and they follow.
 - 3. Today, it is a two-step process: Similar to the first century when Christians caught people’s attention by being different and living a way that people wanted to investigate.
 - 4. People need to see something good in any religion to make them investigate it. Then, hopefully, they will be willing to learn about Jesus and follow.

¹ Stan Granberg *Empty Church*

Discussion Question 1: Do you agree with the premise of a new reality on how people come to faith in Jesus?

- C. **Practical Application - Consider your “Purpose Statement” and who you can influence for the cause of Christ. Start a daily journal and plan who you can disciple.**

I can disciple the following people and I will pray for them, that I will be effective in helping them know Jesus:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

I will interact with the following people this week and I will pray that a door will be opened for me to talk with them about Jesus:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Discussion Question 2: Discuss your lists and pray in your groups for success in making disciples of those on your list. Also, think about people who no longer worship with you and pray that they come back.

- D. As you connect with others, be careful not to be distracted, falling into the world’s paradigm of conservative or liberal positions, forgetting that Jesus’ body transcends it.

As Christians we believe in absolute truth and humility, bridging the gap between these two polarities, and understanding that true heart change comes through the Gospel.

We must look inexplicable to the world so they notice us. Believing in absolute truth would have the world call us conservative. Being so humble because we know we are weak and broken makes us generous and caring and so giving to others that we are considered to be liberal by the world. Don’t let people label you and don’t label others.²

Discussion Question 3: Role play with others in your group how to discuss their needs and your faith.

Possible approach:

Ask a polite question- like how are you doing today?

² Tim Keller Sermon Archives

Ask an interest question – how long have you worked here? What brought you to this town?

Ask a caring question – has it been tough to adapt to your new location? Is it hard working and having to find care for your kids? Are you feeling better since your surgery?

Ask if you can pray about this with them or for them?

Ask if they want to talk more over coffee sometime? During that discussion, ask where they are concerning Jesus – Are they: Not interested / curious / seeking / following / growing

Conclusion:

- A. We can make disciples today if we will be prayerful and purposeful.
- B. We must believe in the absolute truth of the Bible and be so generous and caring that the world can't explain us.

Book Recommendations:

Stan Granberg: *Empty Church*