



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Be1: Make1”

Dr. Rice Broocks - Mar. 8, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What were the religious beliefs of your parent(s) when you grew up?
- Did you attend any religious services when you were growing up? If so, what was it like?
- Have you ever had a profound or meaningful religious experience? How did it affect you?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

The number of committed religious skeptics in America has more than doubled in the last five years to now comprise 14% of the population. Their rate of growth is greater than that of those who are committed Christians. Because of this there is a great need for the church to inspire, equip, and mobilize more Christians to actively communicate the Gospel to others and to make disciples. Otherwise our children's children will suffer the consequences of a society that moves further and further away from God.

To make disciples we must dedicate ourselves to a basic process with some fundamental actions. The process Every Nation and Bethel has identified can be summarized with what we call the Four E's.

- Engage + Establish + Equip + Empower

Today we will focus on the first three.

1. Engage God: Pray.

We must pray, which is to say we must engage God. God has purposed that we should seek him and petition him for his aid in all that we do, especially in matters that involve the spiritual lives of people. Without prayer we will generally fail to receive God's active empowerment and involvement. We must pray for ourselves and for those God wants us to reach.

God says to us, "Ask of me, and I will give you the nations." This was the promise given to Jesus, which also belongs to us because of his covenant with us. God wants to give us the nations by leading us to people who will respond to the Gospel and become earnest followers of Jesus.

2. Engage People (with the Gospel).

People come into a relationship with God through the influence of other people who already know God. Those who know God must engage people, genuinely, earnestly, and in love with truth.

S.A.L.T. is a helpful guide to engaging people with the Gospel. It stands for the following:

- 1) Start a conversation.
- 2) Ask questions.
- 3) Listen well.

- 4) Tell the story (the Gospel).

A great tool to use along these lines is the *God Test*, which is available through Bethel.

We should not be intimidated by others, and consequently shrink back from talking to people about their beliefs, our faith, and the Gospel. Everyone has limitations and weaknesses and needs. No one excels at everything. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to speak with people so that we address their minds and hearts in meaningful ways as a witness to God's love, truth, and holiness.

3. Establish: Lay Foundations.

When someone initially decides to believe in the Gospel or to come back to Christ and follow him, we need to establish them in the faith. This only happens through deliberate, informed action.

A great tool to use to lay biblical foundations in people's lives is the *Purple Book*, which also is available through Bethel. The book focuses on twelve foundational biblical subjects that are important to strengthening a Christian. It is an outstanding tool that is being used in multiple languages around the world.

4. Equip: Join a Life Group.

It is not enough to establish people in their walk with Jesus, even though this is so important. People need to also be equipped to serve God effectively by fulfilling his purpose for their lives.

A critical means by which we become equipped is through getting connected in genuine, meaningful relationships with other people who also want to follow Jesus. This involves not only joining a church in its worship services, but also joining a small group of people who gather regularly to encourage and spur one another on in their pursuit of Christ.

Training Opportunities

Jump Start seminar - Sat, Mar. 21

- This seminar is designed to practically equip people to become active in engaging people with the Gospel and in helping others follow Jesus. If you have not been active in these ways or need to be re-activated, then this seminar will train you in practical ways to do so. Please visit www.bethelworld.org for the details of time and room location, or call our office at 615-371-1000.

Discipleship Course - Sun, Mar. 22, 10:30-11:45am

- This seven week course is part of our Bethel School of Discipleship. Anyone can join this class without joining the full program. The class will provide practical training in making disciples, and will equip people with several effective tools. The class meets at Brentwood Academy, which is a three minute ride from Bethel on our shuttle buses which run regularly back and forth on Sundays. For more information, visit our website and click on "Equip" located on the Ministries webpage.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- How active are you in talking to others about their religious beliefs?
- How active are you in helping others follow Jesus?
- How much practical training have you received to be effective in engaging people with the Gospel and in laying biblical foundations in people's lives?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would open doors to communicate the Gospel with others.
- That God would open the hearts of others to respond to the Gospel we communicate.
- That God would stir our hearts to continue to grow in our effectiveness in communicating the Gospel and in making disciples.