

The Ways of Jesus

Building Godly Relationships

The Right Tools for the Right Job

Relationship Tools:

Tool #1: Invitation

Matthew 11:28 – *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (invitation to a safe place)*

John 7:37-38 – *On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (invitation to be nourished)*

John 1:35-39 – *The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” (invitation to explore faith, to explore discipleship)*

- being a safe place for others (listening carefully, no gossip)
- Nourishing others (encouragement, prayer, blessing, sharing wisdom)
- Exploring faith together through conversations and shared experiences

Tool #2: Challenge

Mark 8:34 – *Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (a challenge to sacrifice and purpose)*

Matthew 19:21 – Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” *(a challenge to lay down our idols)*

- challenging others to grow in their faith (accountability, loving correction, spurring each other on in following Jesus)

- challenging others to lay down sin through support and encouragement rather than judgment or scorn

Tool #3: The Power of a Good Question:

Matthew 20:29-32 – As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

Luke 6:46 – Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

Matthew 6:27 – Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Matthew 16:26 – What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

John 5:6 – Do you want to get well?

- asking good questions invites others into a deeper relationship
- asking good questions can defuse tense situations
- asking good questions helps us to understand others better, helping us to love them better

Tool #4: Identity

Matthew 19:21-22 – Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

- question: why didn’t Jesus go after him?

- identity & the 3 different postures of relationships

Prayer Questions

- 1) Jesus, what relational tools are you asking me to lay down/abandon?
- 2) Jesus, what tools are you asking me to use in order to have healthier relationships?