

# EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations

## EQUIPPED FOR MISSION Seminar Series

3/18 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Embracing a Journey

3/25 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Relationships

4/15 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations

4/22 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations - Transitioning the Trajectory

4/29 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Cultivating Conversations - Conversing about the Gospel

5/6 - EQUIPPED FOR MISSION: Working through internal and external obstacles

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

**Matthew 9:35-38 - 35** *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36* *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37* *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38* *therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

## BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK

### The Spread of Christianity

#### Why do cultivating conversations matter? We are made in the image of God

**Genesis 1:26-27 - 26** *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27* *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

**Q:** Why might conversations rather than lectures be wise in our current cultural climate?

#### Thinking intentionally about cultivating conversations - Colossians 4:2-6

**Colossians 4:2-6 - 2** *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3* *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4* *Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5* *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6* *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

→ *DEPENDENT MINDFULNESS* – verses 2-3

→ *SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES* – verse 5

→ *GRACIOUS & WINSOME* – verse 6

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## NEXT STEPS ON THE JOURNEY

"Missional work starts and ends with relationship. Conversations create the backbone of healthy relationships. However, we've found, many people struggle to have meaningful conversations and take the posture of a curious listener with the other person (and not ourselves) at the center." - **Saturate Ministries**

### **Take a sincere interest in the other person** – Philippians 2:3-4

1. *Show interest by asking questions*

Conversation killers VS Conversation producers

2. *Show interest by encouraging conversation through...*

- Reflecting
- Clarifying
- Deepening

### **Slow to speak, Quick to Listen** – James 1:19 , Proverbs 18:13

#### **Common Pitfalls to listening**

- *THE INTERRUPTER*
- *THE FIXER*
- *THE TANGENT CREATOR*
- *THE FAKER*

#### **What are we listening for?** Touchpoints with the Storyline of the World

- *CREATION – Where do they place their identity in?*
- *FALL – What do they think is wrong with the world?*
- *REDEMPTION - How they deal with problems? What do they trust for security?*
- *RESTORATION - What are they hoping for in life?*

## EXERCISE

**Q:** Which principle of intentional conversations from Colossians 4 is most helpful for you in your relationships currently?

**Q:** Which of the two relational skills in the Next Steps on the Journey is most challenging for you? How can you develop this relational skill more?

**Q:** In your group develop 3 questions that could further cultivate a relationship and conversations with those who do not think and believe like you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**JOURNEY GOAL** → Cultivate a deeper conversation with someone this week - ask a deeper question!