

## **Discovering the Person of Peace Scripture Hammer**

A Field 1 Strategy of Jesus (Entry Plan)

In groups of 3-5 people read through the following scriptures and answer the questions that accompany each with a simple phrase or comment.

### **Read Matthew 28:18-20 out loud.**

Jesus gives the disciples a commission to make disciples of ALL nations. His plan, it seems, is for his love to conquer the world. Do you think that Jesus would have given his disciples the training, methods and strategies necessary to accomplish this goal? **YES - NO**

### **Read Luke 9:1-6 two times out loud.**

Jesus identifies two types of people who respond in two different ways to the proclamation of the kingdom through word and deed. How would you describe these two types of people?

How does Jesus instruct his disciples to respond to each type of person?

**Answer the following questions for each of the scripture passages below. We want to discover if Jesus was modeling a strategy in Luke 9:1-6 that he intended to use as a method for reaching new areas where the gospel had not yet gone.**

1. Are the people in this story part of Jesus' relational network (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors), or are they strangers to Jesus when the encounter happens?
2. How did the lost people in the story respond to their encounter with Jesus?
3. How did Jesus respond to those who rejected the good news? And to those who accepted the good news?
4. What was the fruit of the encounter with Jesus?

Luke 9:51-56:

Luke 9:57-62

Luke 18:18-24

John 4:1-30; 39-42:

Mark 2:13:17:

Mark 5:1-20 (Mark 7:31 - 8:1):

Luke 19:1-10:

For further study: Read the book of Acts and identify all of the places where the apostles 1) entered a new area where the gospel had not yet been proclaimed; 2) proclaimed the gospel through word and deed; 3) discovered a person of peace (a God prepared person ready to accept the messenger, the message and the mission of Jesus).

## A Few Trainer Notes:

With this discovery study we want participants to observe for themselves that Jesus not only had ideas and opinions about how to enter new areas where the people have not yet heard about him, he practiced these ideas and strategies. As much as possible, let the scripture do the majority of the teaching. If this is how Jesus taught his disciples to take the good news of the kingdom to new areas, and if he too applied this strategy at every turn, then it seems like it would be a good idea to apply this strategy in our context.

As we read through all of the passages above, we can begin to piece together a bit of a picture of the characteristics of the person of peace. This is what we are looking for.

- They receive you
- They serve you
- They listen to you
- They are known in the community (famous or infamous)
- They embrace Jesus and his kingdom
- They begin to obey Jesus immediately
- They introduce you to their relational network
- They begin to tell others about Jesus
- They often experience radical life transformation (those around them are stunned)

In these passages, it is good to note that the persons of peace are not made, they are found. God has already been doing the work in their heart to prepare them to embrace Jesus and his mission. This is not to say this is the only way that God works to reach a community. It is to say that this is a prominent strategy of Jesus to see his kingdom expand. The principle of finding the person of peace is backed up by the parable of the soils (Mark 4:1-9). In all of these scriptures, Jesus found the fourth soil person, capable of reproducing 30, 60 or 100 times.

It is interesting to note that Jesus found some third soil people (Luke 9:57-61; Luke 18:18-24) and his response was to raise the bar expectation - not lower it - and invite them to leave their conditional faith behind. When they did not, he moved on.

This is Jesus' strategy for entering field one, new fields of lostness. This is different from our relational network. We don't brush the dust off of our feet and move on from our relational network (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors). We pray and fast and stick with the long obedience of loving them like crazy and looking for opportunities to share with them trusting that the Holy Spirit will do the hard work of preparing the way of the Lord. Occasionally, someone we meet in the harvest moves into our relational network. Example: If you strategically visit the same grocery store in search of persons of peace there, the clerks and owners could probably become part of your relational network because of your frequent visits.