

Missionary Mentality

Discussion Summary Notes

Thursday, July 6, 7 pm



Here are the questions that we spent the most time on during our conversations.

- 1. How have you listened to the needs of your local community? Have you met with local community leaders to find out the issues that most concern them?**
- 2. Have you looked at demographic information that reveals real issues (education problems, divorce rates, etc.) and sought to address one or more of these from a biblical and missiological vantage point?**

We've worked with the nearby school in the past and can look into continuing that relationship. Take a community-wide neighborhood/block survey of needs that people think the church could deal with.

Take an internal church survey about the needs people see in the community.

Have a specific conversation with the 20-somethings about these issues.

Update our demographic information and community needs info. This has been done previously – just needs to be updated.

There was some conversation about connecting with the mayor, chief of police, etc. but not a lot of certainty that this would be helpful.

- 3. How do you spend time in your community? In what ways do you eat in, play in, and enjoy your community.**

There was a lot of conversation about where we eat – like Woody's or L George's.

We spend a lot of time in Gleaners, at work, where we exercise, there was mention of Halloween and homes that has been done in the past, and listed the stores like WalMart, Kroger, Meijer.

- 4. How do we help people love the city/community in which God has placed you?**

We need to pay attention to how we talk about our community – do so positively and constructively.

Spend time connecting with parents at various sports events.

Ongoing ministry to the same families through Gleaners.

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Nurture an attitude that's welcoming and non-judgmental.

Express interest in people, like "How are you doing?" and actually stick around to hear the answer.

5. Are you a missionary? You will never lead a congregation of missionaries until you live as one.

Tell people about Jesus.

Listen to people's story.

Show general interest.

Approach the gospel with the cultural values in mind.

Take your dog for a walk in the neighborhood leads to one conversation after another.

Provide an answer for a need in the community that no one else is addressing.

6. Consider how you have communicated change. Going forward, it may be helpful to communicate change as being the missiological responsible action to take.

Address the issue of why change is important. If we don't answer the "why" question, the "what" never happens.

Address change from Jesus example. Jesus conversations. We mentioned that Jesus' approach for interacting with people included various size groups; Jesus preached to the masses, trained 70, appointed 12, graduated 11 and poured His life into 3 (Peter, James and John).

Need to look at change that would lead to new believers.

To address the reasons that change is important.

Recent survey of younger people revealed that the primary reason that they come to church is to hear the Bible preached and taught in a way that connects with their daily life.

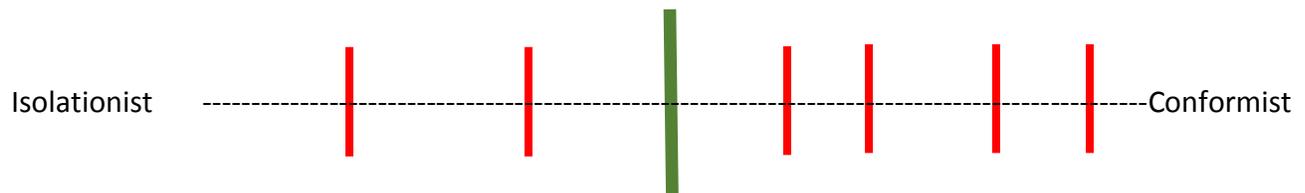
Change seems to happen when people are given a role that allows them to be helpful to others and creates a sense of belonging.

13. Evaluate the posture of your church. Are you isolationist? Conformist?

We discussed the continuum of isolationist to conformist. Isolationist defined as the world is the enemy and we need to create ministries that protect us from the world. And the other extreme is

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conformist is where the church doesn't look or act any different than the world does. Here are the ways we answered the question:



So there is a wide opinion about the church's attitude regarding those outside the church and our relationship to them. Ideally, the goal is to be somewhere in the middle.

15. Members feel the language your church uses is somewhat irrelevant to the lives of the people they live and work alongside. What can be done to address this?

How we talk about each other puts people off.

Community reputation is that we are having problems and that leads to people hesitating to get involved or visit us.

Concern was expressed about upgrading our gadgets and being more current with social media.

The issue of irrelevancy can be connected to people being at different places in the healing process.

Be excited and positive about what good **IS** going on.

Actively invite people to events.

Resources that were mentioned in the discussion:

Carlmedearis.com in reference to how to talk to people about Jesus in a non-confrontational manner. Speaking of Jesus by Carl Medearis.

Dwelling114.org – Greg Finke – Joining Jesus on His Mission; How to be an Everyday Missionary – in reference to how to have spiritual conversations