

Talking about Jesus with others - #3/5 WHEN to speak?

For growth groups 19/8/24

Warm up: Are significant moments with friends planned or situational?

Think of a time that caused you to get closer to a friend: eg when bad news came, when disaster struck for them, when we went on holidays together, the countless phone calls to each other, that 'terrible but wonderful' Christmas lunch.

Does closeness with friends come from planning or just from situations that happen?

What about with God: do people grow closer to God because of a plan to, or because it happens?

As a church we want to be talking with people about Jesus. In this series, we're looking at things that help and hinder this. Today WHEN to speak about Jesus? To what degree do we wait?

We'll come to the main passage shortly.

First let's consider what caused Bible people to draw closer to God?

1) Moses at the burning bush. Someone read **Exodus 3:1-6**.

What caused Moses to get closer to God? His planning? God's work? the situation?

Now in pairs etc consider the same questions of other people:

2) Hannah at the Lord's house. Read **1 Samuel 1:9-20**

What caused Hannah to get closer to God? Her planning? God's work? the situation?

3) The Samaritan people met by the woman. Read **John 4:39-42**.

What caused the Samaritans to get closer to God? Their planning? God's work? the situation?

4) The Greeks in Antioch. Read **Acts 11:19-21**.

What caused these Greeks to get closer to God? Their planning? God's work? the situation?

5) Timothy in his family. Read **2 Timothy 1:3-5**

What caused Timothy to get closer to God? His planning? God's work? the situation?

In summary, is getting closer to God something that a person or family plan to do?

Is it something that happens to them?

Is it the result of an unexpected situation occurring?

What does this tell us, about WHEN we should look for an opportunity to speak?

Is there an ideal moment to wait for?

Do you have to know a person well to speak? What is needed? [love!]

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5, where the Apostle Paul appeals to Timothy & the church in Ephesus.

When is the time to speak? Why?

What is the challenge faced by God's people in these different seasons?

Are you waiting for 'an ideal moment' to talk to someone about God?

Does 2 Tim 4 help us work out when to make/take an opportunity?

- Pray for our witness and perseverance as a church, including for the invitational events.