

## **Leveled to Reach**

Matthew 28:17-20 (NLT) Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

*Our responsibility is to Share The Good News "Evangelism"*

Mark 16:15-16 (NLT) And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. 16 Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

Good News - from the same as 2097; a good message, i.e. the gospel:--gospel. 2097. From 2095 and 32; to announce good news ("evangelize") especially the gospel:--declare, bring (declare, show) glad (good) tidings, preach (the gospel).

Luke 15:1 (The Message) By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently.

Luke 15:1 (NLT) Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. <sup>2</sup>This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such despicable people--even eating with them!

Truth is always relevant, but truth is not always perceived as relevant. The context of our ministries should be driven by truth, shaped by culture and tailored to your target audience. Relevant ministry depends on engaging, culturally relevant presentations.

### **Our Directive - God has a plan:**

Joshua 6:1-2 (NKJV) **"Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel;** none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

***Matthew 16:18b (NKJV) "... I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."***

**The Lord gives Joshua the specific plan for taking the city.**

Josh 6:3-5 (NKJV) "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. 5 "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

**Joshua instructs and begins to lead the people in accordance to the word of the Lord. Joshua 6:6-19 (NKJV)**

**When the people responded in obedience to God's direction through Joshua they were victorious.**

Joshua 6:20 (NKJV) "So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. ***Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.***

**The people continued in obedience. Josh 6:21-26 (NKJV)**

This "every man" concept has taken on a greater prominence than ever as we look forward to our future.

Although this is something God dropped in my spirit years ago as we look around this seems to be the approach He is using to build the largest churches in the world.

However, most of us have an aversion to reaching because we see it as involving us being different from whom we are. It isn't natural, and hence we get to feeling uncomfortable about it.

What holds us back?

How can we see the need?

What if we could shrink the earth's population of 6.6 billion, to a village of 100 what would it look like?

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT) Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

## Response Evangelism

Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT) Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. **3** Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. **4** Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. **5** Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

From these verses you will learn:

### 2 Principles:

- Dependence
- Discipline

### 6 Practices:

- Pray for Open Doors
- Share Christ Clearly
- Be Wise With Outsiders
- Make the Most of Opportunities
- Speak With Grace
- **Respond Individually**

## Would you give 7 Minutes a Day for 7 Days?

Can seven minutes a day for seven days help prepare us to be effective witnesses?

Yes—for two reasons:

- *The message of Christ is really simple.* If a believer knows who Jesus is and why He gave His life, they have a message to share with any nonbeliever.
- *God is already working in people's lives.* Understanding the truth about the Holy Spirit's work in hearts and minds will free people to be confident and effective witnesses.

John 3:16 (NLT) "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.