



# MISSIONAL VALUES—5

GOD'S MISSION IS WIDER THAN EVANGELISM. ONE SIMPLE WAY OF DESCRIBING IT IS RESTORATION. ACTS 3:21.

## 5. BE YOURSELF; MOST PEOPLE WILL PREFER IT. BUT DON'T INDULGE YOURSELF

### Note

1. The first part of Brainstorm would make a great start to a time of worship if you link it to Ps 103: 1-5

2. Here we are considering our words as part of the triad of words, works and wonders. Some of us are involved in a massive shift away from evangelism that was solely about delivering a set of bullet points, fired from the highest calibre gun we could manage. For others evangelism goes no further than acts of kindness. Our acts of kindness place our words in a context. Without words are works are like a signpost without a sign. They just draw attention to us. We are just 'stuck up'—pointing nowhere. Do-gooders, in fact.

### Brainstorm

1. As a group, make a list of ways in which people are better off if they become followers of Jesus? It's probably best to list them on a large sheet if you want to use them as a trigger for worship.

2. As individuals, for three people you know think of benefits which would affect them particularly as well as the benefits they share with everybody else.

*Point out that unless we believe people will benefit from following Jesus we will never share our faith with them anyway.*

### Explore

1. In pairs, tell the story of one time when you have been a witness to Jesus. What led up to it? What happened? What was the result? The pay-off may not seem great but remember: Count what counts.

2. All witness is based on relationship. But there are very different ways of reaching out to people. Get people to listen to each of these examples. After each one ask people how far their personal preference in witnessing corresponds to that example. Get them to give a score from 0-5 (where 0= not at all and 5= almost always).

Peter:	Challenging.	Ac 2: 22-24
Paul:	Discussing.	Ac 17:22-33
Matthew:	Entertaining	Mt 9:9-13
Blind Man:	Story telling	Jn 9:8-12
Samaritan:	Inviting	Jn 4:28-30
Dorcas:	Serving	Ac 9:36

3. Follow up in two ways:

- Ask people which were the two top examples for them and which was the lowest. If you think they would be comfortable doing so ask the group which responses were expected and which, if any, were surprising.

- Ask how they might adapt to situations where the lost people with whom they are building relationship need an approach which is different from the ones that they would find natural.

## Act

Bill Hybels says

'God knew what He was doing when He made you. He did! He custom-designed you with your unique combination of personality, temperament, talents, and background, and He wants to harness and use these in His mission to reach this messed-up world. That means He wants to use you in a fashion that fits the person He made you to be. God doesn't call us all to spread His truth in the same way. Instead, He built diversity into the fabric of His body of believers. And until we realize that, we'll find ourselves needlessly imitating each other's outreach efforts, wastefully duplicating some approaches while harmfully squelching others'.

- Ask each person to spend a few minutes thinking about how they could more truly be themselves as witnesses.
- Get people in pairs to talk about how this might work and then pray for one another.

(We could give some coaching tips here but the session is already heavy)