

SOME METHODS FOR FINDING PEOPLE OF PEACE

Review the last lesson and ask participants how they have obeyed it. Remind them that we want to learn directly from the Lord and obey him.

Tools for Finding People of Peace

There are many ways to find People of Peace, but the following are some that have been shown to be among the most effective. Remember: we aren't trying to evangelize or convince people who want to argue about religion. Instead, we use the following tools to filter contacts until we find those the Lord has prepared to open the door to their *oikos*, so they can hear the Good News and believe.

Tool A – Use Shimah. By living an overtly spiritual life and mentioning spiritual things continuously, we open opportunities for People of Peace to find us.

Tool B – Use self-descriptions other than “Christian.” Other terms are more likely to arouse interest. Because the term “Christian” is often a stumbling block and was not the term most commonly used by the early church*, we also prefer to use other descriptions that are more easily received, like “Follower of Jesus (Arabic = *Isa*),” “Follower of the Way,” “Follower of the way of God (Arabic = *Allah*),” etc. In places where Islam is strong, we’ve found that “Follower of the way of Allah” is most effective (see Acts 18:26). [* “The Way” was most common and is used seven times in the NT whereas “Christian” is only used three times, apparently primarily as a negative term.]

Tool C – Use the sentence, “There’s just something I need to say!” The simplest and most direct method is to enter a home, coffee shop, area, or village and say “There’s something I need to tell you!” When you’re asked about it, say, “There’s a sacrifice for all our sins and uncleanness! Can I tell you about it?” If given permission, it works well to tell the story of Abraham and then connect it to the sacrifice of Jesus (Isa Al Masih). This tool also works for when you get “stuck” and just can’t think of how to transition into spiritual things.

Tool D – Ask the question, “Have you ever had a dream you believe came from God?” Perhaps the easiest method is to enter an area as an informal researcher, because you’ve heard that recently a lot of people have had a dream about a man in a white robe who is a good person. Ask if they’ve also had such a dream. If not, ask if they know someone who has. If you find someone who has had such a dream, explain that in the last days, Jesus (the prophet Isa Al Masih) is appearing to many Muslims to make known that he himself is the *siratol mustaqqim* or Straight Path (as in John 14:6 & Qur’an 43:61-64).

Tool E – Share your Personal Stories (testimonies)

There are a number of personal testimonies that we can share, that are always interesting and irrefutable (because they are your own experience):

1. Story of how you came to faith. Share in three parts:
 1. What your life was like before you began to follow Jesus
 2. Why and how you came to follow Jesus
 3. What your life is like now, since you have received God’s Spirit.

(Note: The story needs to be shared with language and style that fit the context. You should be able to share it in less than three minutes, continually watching for their response and questions.) Besides the story of your own salvation, there are other stories you can share, including a...

2. Story of a healing
3. Story of some other miracle
4. Story of resolved conflict (marriage, etc.)
5. Story of good fellowship (how you experience love from other believers)
6. Story of an experience of grace (God’s blessing in the midst of difficulty)
7. Story of worship (your feeling in worship or the Lord’s direction in worship)

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- Ask: “What explanation does the Qur’an itself give about this?”
- Read Surah 46:9.

**Note:* In using the Qur’an we are not affirming it as an inspired Word of God, only using it as a bridge because it does contain some truth, such as a newspaper or the prophets/poets cited by the Apostle Paul in Acts 17.

Tool I – Use stories of the prophets or parables of Jesus (Isa)

“Can I share a story?” Tell a story of a prophet or one of Jesus’ parables...

1. Adam and Eve – Supporting verse - Leviticus 17:11
2. Cain and Abel – Supporting verse - Hebrews 11:4a
3. Noah – Supporting verse - Genesis 8:20-21a
4. Abraham – Supporting verse - Romans 4:2-3
5. Moses (2 main points to stress: The Day of Atonement and the Giving of the Law) – Supporting verse – Hebrews 9:22
6. Isa Al Masih (Tell about Jesus’ life and sacrifice) – Supporting verse - I Pet 3:18
7. The Parable of the Two Men who Went to Pray (Luke 18:9-14). Tell the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, but describe them as a “religious teacher” and a “dishonest tax collector.” Sum up the story as Jesus did by asking: “Which of these do you think went away justified before God?”
8. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Tell this story, but change a few descriptive words to help them understand, including “Samaritan” to “foreigner” and “Levite” to “religious teacher”.
9. The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21). Tell this story especially to answer any questions about why you have come here and not somewhere else where you could make more money. Stress that the most important thing is to be rich before God. Then ask them how they think a person can be rich before God?

J) Forgiveness (focused on Muslims but can be adapted to other religions) – “Any3”

- 1) **Getting Connected** (Build Rapport through Small Talk, usually 15 minutes.)
- 2) **Getting to the Point** -- Pray for an open door.
 - If open door doesn’t immediately happen, say, “Which religion do you follow?” or if you already know, “You follow the _____ religion, right?”
- 3) **Getting Them Lost**
 - “Almost all religions are the same, aren’t they?” The point of religion is to try to do good and be good enough to please God, so that God will receive us. Almost all religions are concerned with doing good things to offset our sins, but we never get our sins paid off.
 - We are all frustrated, aren’t we? We try our best to please God, but fail (sin) continually, leaving us frustrated.
 - We are all sinners, aren’t we? Our sin debt gets larger instead of smaller, doesn’t it?, because we sin every day, don’t we?
 - What are you doing to get your sins forgiven? (let them talk about it, then ask the following questions)
 - i. Are your sins paid off yet?
 - ii. When will they be paid off?
 - iii. In eternity, will your sins be forgiven?
- 4) **Getting the Gospel to Them**
 - “What I believe is different from that.”

I know my sins are forgiven, and it’s not because I’m a better person than you. Who knows, you might be a better person than me? I know my sins are forgiven, because God has already arranged forgiveness of sins for us.

- **Jesus Was Sinless**
- **Jesus Performed Great Miracles**
- **Jesus Prophesied His Death** “While still young he said ‘I must die’ – Why?

Why did Jesus have to die? (Adam and Eve Story of the first sin)

Sin, Guilt, Shame, Fear = Leaves for Clothes – tried to hide from God – they were ashamed

Severe Punishment – just 1 sin yet they must die!

God made first sacrifice – to give them new clothes

It appears that God himself offered the first sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. The teaching of the Torah, Psalms, the prophets and the Gospel is that if there is no shedding of blood, sins aren't forgiven.

After God changed Adam and Eve's clothes, He also promised that a savior, whom He had anointed, would be born of a woman's seed, would defeat Satan, and would suffer to redeem people from their sins. Many prophets over a period of hundreds of years promised the coming savior, who would pay off our sin debt.

“That's Why Jesus Had To Die!”

That's How I Know My Sins Are Forgiven

The gospel (Injil) tells us that if we surrender to Jesus as Lord and believe that He paid for our sins through his sacrifice and was raised from the dead, our sins will be forgiven. *That's why I know my sins are forgiven.*

If they are interested, ask if they and their family/friends want to learn more about Jesus – you can then start a Discovery Bible Study with them.

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Fieldwork: Practice using each of these tools on separate occasions to find PoPs. Practice until you feel comfortable using each. It's best to practice only one per day.