

Lesson 1 – The Heart and Habits of Jesus

1 John 2:6

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked

Sometimes we lack social skills and spiritual maturity to talk about God in a way that is grace giving and attractive to people who believe differently than we do.

Our biggest challenge is our understanding of Jesus and how he lovingly related to those who believe differently.

Jesus was relational with his followers. The disciples learned a lot by what they saw Jesus do in their relationship with him.

Telling Approach - Information is given to a passive listener.

Asking Approach – Listening and asking open ended questions.

God asked Adam and Eve four questions:

1. Where are you?
2. Who told you that you were naked?
3. Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat?
4. What is it you have done?

Jesus also used a much more “asking approach” than a “telling approach.”

The Great Commandment: To love the Lord God with all your heart, might, soul, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself.

The Great Commandment is the foundation for the Great Commission: to go make disciples. If you don't love people, you can't make disciples

Matthew 10:42

“Whosoever shall give to drink one of these little ones a cup of cold water in the name of this disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

It's only God that can transform a human heart. I can only be salt and light and offer a cup of cold water to the thirsty.

Jesus was always noticing people.

Loving people and participating in the disciple-making process inevitably means talking with people in ways that are going to nudge them toward Jesus.

Living in this technologically connected, but relationally disconnected culture, engaging in a simple conversation practice will communicate the unconditional love of Jesus all around us.

You **CAN** cultivate the art of spiritual conversations.

The artist Vincent Van Gogh said *“The more I think it over, the more I feel like there is nothing truly more artistic than loving people.”*

No special training, no unusual courage is required. It’s the little stuff that counts like cups of cold water.