

Lesson 2 – The Art of Noticing

Before you can get to know someone, you’ve got to first **notice** them.

Noticing somebody is a prerequisite to caring about them and serving them in a way that smuggles the gospel into their heart.

You can develop the skill of noticing. Jesus was a noticer.

In our busy self-absorbed culture, noticing people is equivalent to a cup of cold water. What if we change the way we look at people and start paying attention with a new set of eyes? What if we start seeing and noticing through the eyes of Jesus?

When you start noticing people it transforms you.

Noticing opens our eyes to God’s work and it provides us with an opportunity to participate with God as he draws people to Him!

4 potential barriers that keep us from practicing the art of noticing:

1. The busyness of our lives
2. Focusing on ourselves
3. Living in a “Christian Bubble”
4. Having an unloving attitude

One way to overcome the barrier of busyness is to break up your schedule with 30 second noticing sessions.

One way to overcome the barrier of self-focus is to intentionally direct your full attention to whoever is in your peripheral view. Sometimes things that happen are just God’s way of trying to get us to stop focusing on ourselves and start noticing others.

To overcome the “Christian Bubble” barrier, you can make a point of recognizing others who are already a part of your everyday life.

To overcome the unloving attitude barrier, remember you’ve never looked eyes with anyone that Jesus didn’t love and that he didn’t go to the cross for.

Three simple ways to “practice” noticing in our everyday life:

1. Paying attention
2. Secret prayer
3. Genuine listening

The first step “paying attention” means concentrating long enough on someone to make you wonder about them. Be open to where God is at work.

The second way to practice noticing is “secret prayer”. “Praying behind people’s backs”.

The 3rd simple noticing practice is “genuine listening”.

When you’ve already noticed somebody by paying attention to them and secretly praying or them, listening is the next natural step.