

How Couples Can Minister Together

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I. Introduction - How can a couple can be used in the Navigator ministry?

II. Lay Leadership

A. Be honest.

B. Don't be discouraged by age.

C. Matthew 4:19.

1. What's necessary to reach people for Jesus? Follow Him.

2. What you do should fit under your basic goals and objectives.

3. People turned the world upside down for Jesus Christ. (Acts 15:6)

a. We're still as anxious as past generations about having the necessities of life. (Joke: When in doubt, run and circles, scream and shout!)

b. The people who turned the world upside down for Jesus Christ were the same as us. They had the same concerns.

4. Realize that new believers must be taught.

a. What we're taught determines what we become (i.e. a boy in Havana has as much an opportunity to become a communist as one born in Mobile, Alabama).

b. You can teach people most anything if you go at it with real zeal.

c. When a person becomes a Christian he must be taught. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

1) Anecdote from boyhood, his mother taught him.

d. A person is saved because the Word has been planted in their hearts.

1) Anecdote about a man to whom Crawford shared the gospel: You must give out the message, and the Holy Spirit can quicken the person's heart.

2) The Word causes us to grow.

III. How can couples be Involved?

A. Questions:

1. What's the first step?

a. Get involved in Bible study.

1) Be honest and be involved in the Word and bold with making application to our lives.

b. Memorize key scripture verses.

1) It helps us to be honest with ourselves.

2) It's good to be in a place where you working toward being detached, so things from this world aren't bogging us down.

2. How do you deal with tough times?

a. You just have to carry other people.

b. Go through the problem and not around it.

c. Take a hard job nobody wants.

3. Do both spouses have to give 100%?

a. Don't quit because your helpmate might not have the same burden you have.

b. Sometimes you have to work with them as individuals. So many problems in a couple's life have to do with their partner. It's difficult to get along (Ephesians 5, Colossians 3).

4. What do you do when you get into a fight before you lead the Bible study?

a. Confess it to her. (1 John 1:9)

b. Pray.

c. Communicate to the other couple that you and the wife had to get some things straight before the Bible study, without going into the details.

5. How can you start a Bible Study if you don't know enough?

a. God will use you, there are so few laborers available.

b. Concentrated effort goes a long way. That's what draws people.

The personal touch, the warmth. What draws people is us – the Word of God has to be such a part of our lives that others will want to know how we get our (spiritual) food. It's a Jonathan and David situation. When two people are so in love with Jesus Christ and it shows in their love for each other, people want to be around them.

c. Make other people a part of your life.

1) Even when Crawford and his wife takes a vacation, they almost always go with other people, in order to share their life.

2) Bible study is one area of outreach, allowing others to see your life.

3) He saw Dawson's relationship with his wife, which challenged his faith as he knew some of their problems, but he had to expose himself. He had to be around people, and let people be around him.

6. What about your Children?

a. It's good for them to be around those you've disciple.

b. You have to spend time with them – you get them to do what you want by taking the time to do it with them (i.e. learning to play piano) .

c. You teach best by modeling as you work through different lessons with them, and the same holds true for your older disciples.

IV. Conclusion

A. Repetition of the Memory Verse – Matthew 4:19.

B. Follow Jesus according to the word.

1. Be really honest

a. It really helps to write some things down from your heart.

b. If you be honest with yourself, God, and your helpmate, then the Word will take on fresh meaning. The Word will become fresh, and people will want to be around you. (Joel 2:25)

c. Basis of a foundation of a couples ministry.