Discussion Guide

Going Irresistible Training for Teams

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Application Guide – Week 1

Living in a Post-Christian Culture

Summary:

Fewer and fewer Americans identify as Christians. More identify as "nones"—not atheist or agnostic, but those who claims no religious affiliation. We're living in a post-Christian society, which is defined as a society rooted in the history, culture, and practices of Christianity, but in which the religious beliefs of Christianity have been either rejected or, worse, forgotten. Once a post-Christian drifts away, it's almost impossible to get them back if the approach we take is to tell them things they already know. If we're going to reach post-Christian folks, we need to change our approach.

Questions:

1. Is the post-Christian concept new to you? How do post-Christians differ from non-Christians?

2. In a post-Christian society, most people have been exposed to Christianity but are opting out for a different worldview. As Andy says, "They know the stories. They just don't believe 'em anymore." Have you ever considered that there are people in our church who are drifting toward unbelief?

3. What is your reaction to Andy's statement that "the foundation of our faith isn't an inspired assortment of ancient stories, poems, sermons, prophecies, and letters written over the course of 3,000 years?" What point is he trying to make with this statement?

4. Jesus wasn't here to make a point and be right. He came to give life and make a difference. Are we often content to simply make the point? How can we change our approach to better communicate that we care?

Bottom Line:

If you care about someone, your goal is not to be right. Choose the right approach and make a difference.

Application Guide – Week 2

The Move from "Non" to "Post"

Summary:

To go broader than simply keeping the kids that grew up in our churches in our churches, we have to adjust our approach to evangelism, to teaching, and to preaching. We must step back onto the much firmer foundation of the first-century apologetic that centered not on a text but instead on the event of Christ's resurrection. Christianity does not rise and fall on the Bible–it didn't even exist in the form we know it for the first 230 years of Christianity. We are Christians because somebody rose from the dead and people saw it.

Questions:

1. Do we speak from the front of our church with language that assumes post-Christians are with us? Are we careful not to disrespect those who may have different views?

2. Andy tells us he quit using the language, "The Bible says." How do you react to that? What hurdles do we put in front of people when we focus on "The Bible says" rather than "Jesus says" or "John says"?

3. Post-Christians come back to church because somebody invites them. Do the people in our congregations think of the global Church as a partner in the evangelism process?

4. What do you think of making a shift from inviting people to believe in Jesus to inviting them to follow Jesus? Is this a meaningful change? How might this shift your mindset for conversations you have with people?

Bottom Line:

Christianity rises and falls on the resurrection because it has happened.

Application Guide – Week 3

Assume They're in the Room

Summary:

We need to assume that the mission field is right here. Post-Christians attend your church, and they are deciding if they are going to come back next week. Ask yourself three questions: *What do they see? What do they hear? What do they experience?* The church's reputation in the community can be a tool for evangelism. Be seen doing good. Show respect for the views and values of your guests. And be flexible to adjust your approach to win people for Christ by all means possible.

Questions:

1. What is our church's reputation? Who can we partner with in the community? Is there anything we're doing that we should stop doing because a local organization is already doing it better?

2. Are we seen doing good in the community? Are we appropriately public with the good that we do?

3. Andy reminds us that everything people think and do makes perfect sense to them. Do we show respect for the views and values of our guests?

4. Are we willing to become all things to all people to win as many as possible by all possible means? What are we willing to do to position our church to reach, to keep, to re-keep, and to re-reach this generation and the next?

Bottom Line:

Strive to become a “by all possible means” church that's willing to change your approach to win people for Jesus.