

Transformation

3. Transforming Our City

To explore:

'In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.' Micah 4.1-4

Aim: To inspire people that God is at work in our city bringing in his Kingdom, and that we are invited to partner in that. To encourage people to take the Kingdom with them, to be outward looking for the opportunities God is giving them to bless the people they come into contact with and to think about how to do that in a holistic way - using words, works and wonders.

A. Imagine When

- Get people to close their eyes and visualise the above passage as you read it through once or twice.
- Now ask them to explain how they respond to what they hear and see in their imagination, and how they feel about inviting people to this kingdom?

(You could even get people to try and draw what they saw in their mind and then discuss how we might communicate to people around us that they have the chance to be in this kingdom now in part and one day in full.)

B. Imitating Jesus

Read Luke 4.14-21

1. This passage is full of the trinity: The Lord's favour, (The Father) The Spirit of the Lord (The Holy Spirit) and the Messiah of the Lord (Jesus!) Between them, what is their intention towards humanity according to the prophet Isaiah quoted here? (Look at verses 18a, 18b, 18c, 18d and 19)
2. Go through each of these promises and consider:
 - What did those things actually look like in Jesus' ministry according to the gospels?
 - What might they look like in our ministry as 'the body of Christ' in Durham today?

(You might want to fill them in on the sheet provided)
3. What methods did Jesus use to communicate this good news?
4. What methods do we/might we use in our own situations?

see him do?

(You might like to encourage people to make suggestions/share their own experiences that might be helpful in thinking about faith at work.)

C. A Holistic Kingdom

Read the following statements to the group and discuss their opinion on

‘Christians are just do-gooders, it’s great that they do stuff for me - but I’m not interested in all the religious rubbish!’

‘All that ‘blessing people’ is just an excuse to crow bar their religion into a conversation. There’s no such thing as a free lunch!’

‘It’s offensive to try and impose your faith on another person; Christians should keep their views to themselves.’

‘I communicate my faith in actions - I don’t need to use words.’

‘You’ve got to explain about the cross to people - if they don’t hear how will they understand and be saved?’

these views:

As a church we try to communicate the gospel in a holistic way using ‘words, works and wonders.’ Which do you think we do best at? How might we improve on the areas we are weakest in?

D. Little Tiny Shiners

We are called to ‘shine like stars in the midst of a depraved and crooked generation’.

1. What are the most challenging situations for you to be a Christian witness in? Why is that?
2. How do you view the job you do in the light of your faith?
 - a. Where can you see God’s kingdom in your workplace? (his values, his perspective on what the business/company/service actually does.) What things there **do not** have kingdom values and so are hard for you?
 - b. Why do you think he has placed you there in particular? How are/might you have influence for God’s Kingdom?
 - c. What have you seen him do there and what would you **like** to

E. Not Just in June

Much of the church gets involved in city-wide mission at the June Project. The Interns and Paul Burgess go out onto the streets of Durham every week. What ideas do you have for how you might engage in mission in our city as a cell?