

**SECTION 9**

# Participant Pages

*The Person of Peace*



**SouthBrook**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## SECTION 9: THE PERSON OF PEACE (NUMBERS 39-41 IN “52 WEEKS OF HUDDLES”)

If you read Participant Pages Section 1, *The Below Ground Movement*, you may recall a conversation I shared with a man from India named Prasad. In 2004, Prasad had planted seven churches of about 10-15 people each in India. By 2013, those seven churches had multiplied to become nearly 11,000 churches of well over 100,000 people. India is a place largely hostile to the gospel with a small percentage of Christ followers, so most of those 100,000+ were new converts, not church-hoppers.

How did he reach so many not-yet Christians with the gospel?

God “*wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*” He has entrusted that truth, the good news of Jesus Christ, to us. Jesus is the way to God, and we are His plan for reaching all nations with the gospel.

Yet, for many of us, the idea of broaching the subject of Jesus with non-believers is downright uncomfortable. The institutional church has been pushed to the margins of culture throughout much of America, and it now often feels more difficult to talk about Jesus than it did a generation ago.

We know God has given us a role in helping people meet Jesus, but we worry about coming off as pushy or awkward. We don't want to be like that guy on the street corner condemning everybody. We fear rejection, or being branded as weird, or offending somebody, or that we'll get the message wrong. Inviting them to church feels like a safe move to many of us and sometimes it works, but many people have been burned by the church and won't come. Acting boldly can feel overbearing—and holding back can feel like failure and missed opportunities.

In college, I often felt like a failure if I didn't work Jesus into an acceptable number of conversations each week, whether it made sense to do so or not. If I fell below my self-imposed Jesus-share quota for the week, I would work myself up to the necessary level of boldness, and look for some poor soul to drop the Jesus bomb on.

Once at a college social function, I dropped the bomb on Amanda. She and I had gone to the same high school, so that gave me an “in” to start a conversation with her. Little did she know that I was staring at her down the barrel of my Jesus rifle, and it was aimed right at her face. I unloaded on her about how God has a plan for her, but her sin has separated her from God, and how, if she turns and receives Jesus who died for her sin, she can know God and go to heaven.

The problem wasn't primarily with the words I said to her. It was everything else. I considered neither her receptiveness nor what I was communicating to her non-verbally. As I look back, everything about Amanda's body language screamed, “GET ME OUT OF HERE.” She looked like that female cat trying to escape the grip of Pepe le Pew. When I was done “sharing the gospel,” Amanda looked humiliated, like a kid who got yelled at by the principal in front of the entire lunchroom. She excused herself as quickly as she could and walked away.

It was with these failures in the rearview mirror, along with the struggles I know the rest of the church has with evangelism, that I asked Prasad how *he* does it. Here is a paraphrase of what he told me:

We go to a village. Often times we hold a sporting event, like a soccer game. People come, and we say to them, 'We are here, and we care about you. How can we serve you?' We make friendships with people, giving them an ear to listen to their stories. We, in turn, share OUR stories, and how Jesus has impacted our lives.

As we do this, we are looking for a **Person of Peace**. Who is open to us? Who comes up and says they want to talk? When we find that person, we go to their house. This person is often the head of their household, though not always. We listen to him, pray for him and communicate that God loves him. We'll share about what difficulties we're facing in our lives, and invite him to share, in turn, what's hard for him. We'll then share how God has met us in our problems, and how He has healed and served us. We give him hope that God is near him and wants to heal and restore him. We start praying slowly for his problem.

We'll send him kind texts over the next few days letting him know God cares about him, and that we're praying for his problem. After praying for him for a few days, we come back and ask, "Has anything changed in your life since we started praying?" We see many miracles happen as we pray for people.

Often, then, that Person of Peace will become a follower of Jesus. Through him, his family is then reached with the good news.

When we are in a town and do NOT find a Person of Peace, we "shake the dust from our feet" and move on to another town.

So, to sum up...

- A team of Christ-followers enters a town.
- They intentionally build relationships with people through service, sharing stories and prayer.
- They identify a "Person of Peace," and go to his or her home to spend time with him or her.
- They share what Jesus has done in their own lives and help them experience that God is near.
- If there are no Persons of Peace, they move on to the next town.

Rocket science? Doesn't seem so. Actually, what Prasad and his friends do sounds pretty simple.

Not only is it simple, it's also decidedly scriptural. In fact, if you've ever read the gospel of Luke, you may feel like you're experiencing déjà vu. Take a look at the instructions Jesus has for the disciples he is sending forth to introduce others to the good news of the kingdom in Luke 10:

<sup>1</sup>After this the Lord appointed seventy-two[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup> “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup> If **someone who promotes peace** is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town...

...<sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” —Luke 10:1-16

Clearly, Prasad has patterned his evangelism strategy after Jesus. And if the strategy Jesus set forth for his disciples works for Prasad in India, 2000 years later and 2500+ miles away from Israel, then we too can apply these principles in our own cultural context.

This strategy<sup>1</sup> is represented in one of our tools for the “S” of Service, *the Stick Person*.

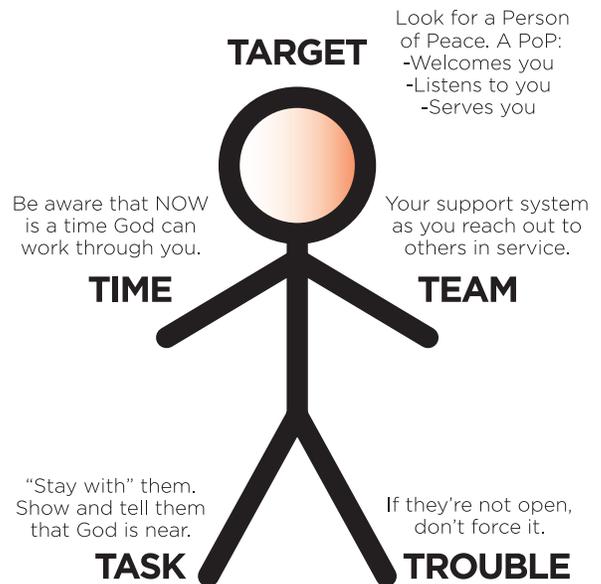
Let’s take a look at how this tool represents the passage in Luke 10, and how it can help us remember Jesus’ strategy for being “good news” people.

## TEAM DON’T GO IT ALONE.

*The Lord appointed seventy-two[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.*

Jesus never sent people out alone.

Now, this doesn’t mean that Jesus or His disciples never did anything on their own, but when they did it was the exception rather than the rule, and it was always in the context of a greater team community.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> These “5 T’s” are taken from Mike Breen’s book *Building a Discipling Culture*.

<sup>2</sup> In Acts 8, we see the disciple, Philip, apparently sharing the gospel on his own for a period of time, like with the Ethiopian eunuch, whom he baptized. But this was done in the context of a greater community. He was for example, a leader in the local church community, helping with the distribution of food to widows. Philip lived in community with other Christ followers.

Being a part of a grace-and-truth-filled team creates an environment for mutual encouragement and accountability. When we are isolated from our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are vulnerable.

Aron Ralston, the subject of the film *127 Hours*, is best known for being the accomplished climber who had to saw through his arm with a pocket knife to free himself after a boulder fell and pinned it against a rock wall in a remote slot canyon near Moab, Utah. The film expounds upon, the false sense of invincibility Aron acted on as he not only went out alone that day, but also did not even tell anyone where he was going. No one knew where to look for him. Aron's need for community was never so apparent to him as when he was trapped, isolated in that canyon with no one to help.

In Service, we need Support.

*<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
<sup>10</sup> If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up. —Ecclesiastes 4*

Being a part of a team of two or more also empowers the words of those sharing. In Hebrew tradition, a claim could be established only on the testimony of “two or three witnesses.” One witness was considered insufficient to bring a charge against someone in court. To add weight to the words of the witnesses, the minimum-sized group Jesus would send to do just about anything was two.

Connection to a larger team also means you have a place to invite someone where they can experience being a part of God's family. Say a person to whom you've been reaching out decides to follow Jesus and get baptized. Now what? Do you have an authentic community into which you can invite them?

A friend of my wife and I used to talk about how she would “love ‘em and leave ‘em.” She would lead people to Jesus, and once they decided to follow Him, her work was over! She has since learned to embrace more of the gospel that includes this truth: Once we surrender to Christ, we are a part of God's forever family—and family life starts now.

## TIME

### RECOGNIZE THAT NOW IS A TIME WHEN GOD CAN WORK THROUGH YOU TO BLESS OTHERS.

Jesus said, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you...”*

Jesus urges his disciples to become aware of the “harvest” around them. It's harvest time! Today! The harvest is not corn or soybeans. It's *people*; people whom God loves; people who are living apart from Him; people who are missing out on experiencing the kingdom of heaven today.

God, the “Lord of the harvest” is already on the move in the lives of the people around us, working to draw them to Him. The shortage is in the labor, so Jesus asks His disciples to pray for workers to be sent into the harvest.

Then, he says, “Go! I’m sending **you**.”

As followers of Jesus, we are already *sent*. We are already in the field. Certainly, that field includes the people who have no clean water to drink on the other side of the world and the inner city nearest you. It also includes your neighborhood; your place of work; your favorite place to eat; the gym where you work out. The harvest field includes all the people-filled spaces you visit.

“Being sent” is less about going somewhere, and more about becoming aware that we have *already been sent into the field* and that *we are His workers*. The time of the harvest is now. Today. **This day** is a day when the Lord can work through us as His kingdom representatives to serve and bless others in Jesus’ name.

There’s a greeting used by the Zulu tribe in South Africa. It’s, “Sawubona.” It means, “I see you.” If a Zulu were to greet you in this way, it wouldn’t just mean you are in her visual line of sight. It would mean she *beholds* your humanity, your personality, your dignity, and respect. She *acknowledges* you as a person with value, as one whose existence has significance.

Jesus *saw* people. He *saw* them as beloved creatures, worthy of redemption, even the ones who others had written off.<sup>3</sup>

Do you see people?

Do you see your barista? The lady in the cubicle next to you? The other parents on the sideline? The person at the cash register? The neighbor’s kids?

What if we began to see people, not according to their station in life, but according to their value to God?

Last Wednesday, I was in line at Chipotle ordering my steak salad with honey vinaigrette and limes. The worker at the salsa and sour cream station was a twenty-something girl with big, round, black-rimmed glasses. I hadn’t seen her there in a while; she isn’t usually working when I’m there. I looked her in the eye, smiled, and asked, “How are you?”

“I’m doing well. I’ve seen you here before, haven’t I? And you asked each of us how we were doing last time you were here too, right? Thank you for asking! *Not many people do.*”

We are carriers and stewards of the grace that changes lives forever. What if we intentionally blessed people with it, through service, prayer, kindness, and friendship? God can move through even the simplest acts done in His name: A surprise cup of coffee given, a smile, an encouraging word, a listening ear.

The key to Jesus’ strategy is being able to recognize those who are “People of Peace” to us. We’ll get to what a Person of Peace is in a minute. But we need to understand that we are first to be People of Peace to others. *When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’*

Recognize that you are in the harvest field. Treat others like Jesus would treat them. Make the most of every opportunity. The time is now.

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<sup>3</sup> The woman at the well in John 4, the naked graveyard man in the region of the Gadarenes, the woman caught in adultery in John 8, and Zacchaeus the tax collector are a few examples of this.

# TARGET

## LOOK FOR THE PERSON OF PEACE.

*If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.*

As we head out, aware of the harvest and making the most of every opportunity to bless others, we are to be on the lookout for **People of Peace**. That's our target.

How can I know if someone is a Person of Peace to me? Digging a little into this Luke 10 passage, we find three characteristics that help us identify this Person of Peace.

A Person of Peace is a someone who:

- 1. WELCOMES YOU.** *"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on them."* They like you. When you greet them, they greet you back warmly. They are open to you, even knowing you are a follower of Christ.
- 2. LISTENS TO YOU.** *"Tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"* They are open to what you have to say.
- 3. SERVES YOU OR YOUR MISSION.** *"Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you."* As you serve them, you may see them serve you back. They will help you, encourage you, give time or resources to support what you're doing, or jump in with you as you serve others.

God has already been at work in people's lives, even before we get there. When we as God's representatives find a person who likes us, is open to us, and even serves us, we are seeing a person who God has been preparing to receive more of Him. If they are open to us, then at some level, they are also open to Jesus. *"Whoever listens to you listens to me..."*

When I'm wondering if someone may be a Person of Peace to me, a helpful question has been, "Is this person a red light, a yellow light, or a green light?"

A **RED LIGHT** person is not receptive to the gospel at this time. They are resistant or cold to the gospel or to you. Amanda was a red light. I plowed ahead anyway and probably drove her further away.

A **YELLOW LIGHT** is when we're not sure. Is she a Person of Peace? A little more intentional time may be required to find out.

A **GREEN LIGHT** is someone we believe to be a Person of Peace. This is the person who welcomes us, listens to us and serves us or alongside us.

# TASK

*Stay there... Do not move around from house to house...Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'*

Once we find a Person of Peace what do we do? The first thing Jesus says to do is, "Stay with them." Park there for a while. Build that relationship. Hang out. Listen to their story. Create space for them in our life.

As we spend that time with them, consider Jesus' command to His disciples...*"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'the kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*

With our words, actions and prayers, we are to help them, and even those around them, understand that *God is near*. He's not distant; he's here. He cares about them and where they are in life right now. He's present and available to them through Jesus. That's the good news!

There are multiple ways to do this. One is through sharing our own stories of how God has met us in *our* lives. Our stories, or testimonies are powerful. They show how God is working today. They give us a way to proclaim the gospel without people feeling preached at. It's just our story. And it may just be that in sharing it, the person will yearn for the God who is near.

Another is through service. We can give them rides. Take care of their pets when they're gone. Invite them over for dinner. Listen to their story. Get them a gift card for their birthday. Help them rake their leaves. Service is how we help others experience the work of God's physical hands and feet on earth.

A third way is through prayer. If someone shares a need, a health issue, or a desire with me, I will often just ask if I can pray with him or her right then.

I may say something like this: "Jim, I'm not sure what you believe about this sort of thing, but I believe God cares about you and your situation right now. Would you mind if I ask Him to help you with this?"

This may sound scary, but believe it or not, I can only think of one person who has ever turned me down, and that person was a Christian! Most people, especially People of Peace, are very open, even if they're unsure what they believe.

Praying with someone brings them immediately present to God. They are then often better able to connect what happens next in their lives with the God who is near them.

I may pray something like this: "God, thank you so much that you are here right now, and that you care about Jim. I ask that you would [meet whatever need Jim has shared]. Please let him know you're here and that you love Him."

If praying with them doesn't feel right at that time, you can also simply let them know that you're going to give time to praying for their need later that day. Just like Prasad shared, it's a great idea to ask them how it's going a few days later, and see what's changed.

As we share, serve and pray for our People of Peace, we will often have the tremendous privilege of seeing them step toward Christ. We may even get to see them surrender their life to Jesus for their first time, and receive salvation.

However, it's important to remember that it is *God* who changes hearts, not us. We are responsible for loving, sharing the good news, and praying. We must leave the decision to follow Jesus in their and God's hands.

## TROUBLE

**IF A PERSON ISN'T OPEN, DON'T FORCE IT; MOVE ON.**

*But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,<sup>11</sup>  
'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you.*

Jesus promised we would encounter people who misunderstand us, reject us, and even persecute us. Notice Jesus said, "*When* you enter a town and are not welcomed..." Not *if*.

*We are not responsible for convincing those people that Jesus is real.*

Let that sink in.

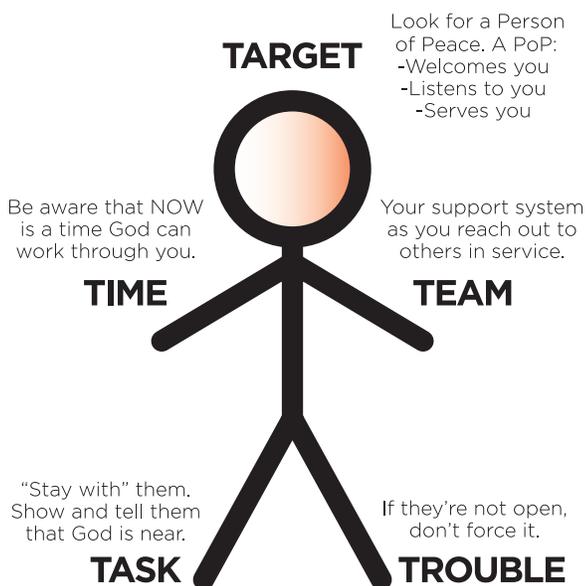
We all have people who we wish would just find Jesus. Often they are close friends or family members. Sometimes we even feel it's our responsibility to keep after such people until they relent, and that we're failing God if we don't. But it is God's job to change hearts, not ours. If they're not open right now, we need to leave them in God's hands and move on.

"Moving on" doesn't mean we think God is done with them, or that we're giving up on them. It's not that we won't pray for them, or hang out with them or love them. We're just acknowledging that "now" is not the time for this person. Maybe in a year or two or ten, it will be. But there are others, now, who *are* People of Peace. That's where Jesus says to focus.

We need to allow the truth that *God is the one who changes hearts* release us to see a red light for what it is: A stop light. It is largely because of well-meaning people

continuing to roll forward when the light says "stop" that Christians are seen as pushy and judgmental. When we see the red light, it's time to stop devoting our energies to helping that person experience the God who is near. We can leave them in His hands, trusting that He is still pursuing them, even if we aren't.

To sum up, Jesus' evangelism strategy goes like this: Go as a **TEAM**. Know that *now* is a **TIME** God can work through you to bless others. Locate the **TARGET**: a **PERSON OF PEACE**. When you find him, your **TASK** is to stick with him, proclaiming and demonstrating that God is near. When **TROUBLE** comes and you're rejected, move on.



## PAUL IN PHILIPPI

Did the disciples use this “Person of Peace” strategy? They sure did; even well after Jesus ascended into Heaven. Take Paul for instance.

We read in Acts 16 how, in response to a vision from God, Paul headed to Macedonia to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus to people who had never heard His name. At that point, he had several companions with him, including Luke the doctor. This is the same Luke who penned the “Person of Peace” passage of Scripture we’ve been examining here. It’s quite possible they discussed this strategy on the ship as they sailed.

Eventually, they arrived in Philippi, a Roman Colony in Macedonia. Paul expected he might find a place of prayer by the river outside the city where someone could be open to the gospel. Sure enough, he found a group of women down by the river, who had some notion of God. The guys felt welcomed enough by the women that they went over and sat down. Paul started sharing the good news. Is there a Person of Peace here?

One of the women there was a vendor of purple cloth named Lydia. Lydia had already *welcomed* Paul into the gathering. Scripture records, “*The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.*” Her heart was *open* as she *listened*. After hearing Paul speak, Lydia *served* Paul and his companions by inviting them to stay at her house. Lydia was the Person of Peace.

Sometimes, a Person of Peace acts as a sort of key. Once their own heart has been unlocked to receive the gospel, they are able to turn around and unlock their whole family or network. This was true of Lydia. She was the head of her household, and after she believed the gospel, she and her entire household were baptized.

### Volleyball Friends

This Person of Peace principle works today too, here in the western world. Although the context is different, God is still at work in the harvest around us to ready hearts to receive Him.

A few years ago, my wife, Jody, and I joined a 4v4 volleyball league for some fun and exercise. Jody played volleyball for her high school team. I didn’t. Nonetheless, I figured I would own the court with my late 30’s body, calcified knee joints and six solid inches of vertical jump potential. I was fairly hopeful—at least until our first match when I realized our recreational league was filled with twenty-something, Crossfit-trained, semi-professional, hyped-up volleyball super-athletes from a much higher league who were playing in our league for extra “practice.” If you’ve ever seen the volleyball scene from *Meet the Parents* (the one where Ben Stiller violently smash-spikes the ball with all his strength into the bride-to-be’s waiting face), you’ll have some sense of my on-court experience—and I was *not* Ben Stiller.

Even with the massive talent discrepancy, we ended up playing for close to three years and had a blast. We made some good friends. We got some exercise. We honed our volleyball skills. We even won some matches.

We also were aware of the harvest. We joined knowing we would rub shoulders with people whom God loved dearly but didn't yet know Jesus. So, we tried to treat the other athletes like we thought Jesus would. We tried to encourage people, even when we were mad from losing (I didn't always succeed). We asked people to tell us their stories. We asked people if we could pray for them sometimes.

Because it was a 4v4 league, Jody and I always had two other teammates, which would change every so often. One teammate we had through several seasons was Brian.<sup>4</sup> His girlfriend Claire would often accompany him and cheer him on from the bleachers while she got work done. We loved both of them. Brian is one of the friendliest guys I know, and Claire has the kind of great laugh that makes other people laugh.

Brian and Claire were both de-churched skeptics, but for some reason they seemed to really *like* us. They were very *open* to us, even though we were Christ-followers and they weren't. Brian even let me pray for him a couple times when he had something tough going on. They were also very complimentary of us, and encouragement is a form of *service*. Were they People of Peace? It sure seemed like it, so we decided to see if they'd like to hang out some more.

One night, we asked them if they'd be up for going to Doubledays with us to grab some dinner, and they accepted. We talked while we ate. Our conversation focused almost entirely on gruesome bodily injuries we had either experienced or heard of for the duration of the meal. I'm serious. How did we choose that topic? I have no idea. But we laughed and cringed for over an hour.

On our way out the door, Claire smiled and said, "This is the most fun I have had in a really long time! We should do this again!" And she meant it.

What?

Here's this 21-year old girl and her cool boyfriend with ample social opportunities hanging out with two minivan-driving homeschool parents talking about compound fractures and flesh wounds—and this is the *most fun she's had in a while?* How could that be? Was it because we were just really cool? Or did it maybe have something to do with Jesus? I'll just tell you: It was Jesus. Jody and I (I especially) are just not that cool.

We asked them to grab dinner again a week or so later. This time, we met at Champps. On our way to being seated, I thought I sensed the Lord whispering to my heart, "Ask them about the story of their relationship; they'll ask you about yours." So, over dinner, I asked, "Would you tell us the story of how you guys met and started dating?"

They had met six months ago. Brian thought she was much older, which had made Claire giggle. They hit it off. Brian asked her out. They started dating. We enjoyed listening and watching them relive their early moments.

Brian then turned and said, "What about you guys? What's the story of your relationship?"

It would take too long to go into detail about how Jody and I came to be married, but

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<sup>4</sup> Brian and Claire are real people whose names have been changed for anonymity.

suffice it to say, God's hand was at work in some pretty obvious ways. It's part of our testimony as a couple. If there was going to be a moment that could activate Brian or Claire's Jesus-tinge meter, it was this one.

"Well," I said, "I would love to tell you our story, but it's impossible for me to do it without talking about Jesus. You guys okay with that?"

They nodded. "Sure, go ahead!"

We told our story. When we were done, Claire was captivated. "Wow! It's like God *meant* for you to be together!" No Jesus-tinge. In fact, Claire's interest was piqued.

Over the next several months, we hung out with Brian and Claire often. They came over for dinner. We watched cheesy CW Network shows on TV. We played Settlers of Catan and disc golf. They started asking about our church and, after we talked about it a few times, they started coming. Interspersed throughout those times were natural, spontaneous conversations about Jesus, often arising from questions Claire would ask. We didn't have all the answers, and the ones we did have they didn't always like, but that was okay. They weren't our problem to solve or our *project*. They were just our friends. We had a blast with them. We prayed for them often.

After about a year, Claire told us, "I believe in Jesus. I want to be baptized." Jody and I had the enormous privilege of seeing Claire get baptized one morning at SouthBrook. She had come home.

Brian, who is still a very good friend, still hasn't decided to follow Jesus, but he's less skeptical now than he was before. And that counts for something. If someone has a less negative impression of what it means to be a Christ-follower now because they know you, isn't that evangelism?

Besides, it's not our job to change hearts. Our role is to be aware of the harvest and love people; to look for People of Peace; to proclaim and demonstrate God's kingdom to them. Sometimes our role in their lives is small. Other times, like with Brian and Claire, it's bigger. But heart-change belongs to God. And that change of heart can take minutes, or it can take years.

Who are the People of Peace in your life? Even if you can't see them now, they are out there—people in whom God is at work today, preparing their hearts to receive His good news. "*The harvest is plentiful.*" It's time for us to intentionally join the Lord of the Harvest in His field.

## ADDENDUM

*Though Jesus' words in Luke 10 were His instructions for evangelism and mission, we believe it is also wise to apply this "Person of Peace principle" when looking for people to invite into a discipling relationship, like a huddle. People of Peace are those who welcome us, like being around us, are open to what we have to say, and may even serve us, or serve alongside us. The peace of God is present in those relationships. These are the kind of people who will do well in a huddle.*

*On the other hand, we may know people who we would like to help or build into, but whose hearts are not ready to receive from us right now. They may be resistant to God. They may be overly skeptical of you or the discipleship process. For them, it's likely not the right time to be in a huddle. I'm not at all talking those who have some doubts or ask a lot of questions; those are inevitable challenges and can be great things to work through. Rather, I'm talking about those who are overly skeptical of you, God or the process, and thus closed off from receiving.*

*An overly skeptical person can derail a huddle, as the leader can fall into the trap of trying to "prove that it works" to that person week in and week out. But a huddle full of People of Peace will wrestle with, and eventually embrace the challenges of accountability, growing in Christ-likeness and eventually multiplication.*