

Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum *(This program will take about 4 hours.)*

(A few HELPFUL TIPS: This program is best done within a city that has some “street life,” or at least an area where people often hang out outside by storefronts, shelters, social service agencies, or parks. During the last hour, participants go out and speak on a spiritual level with people; experience has shown this works best among people who are hanging out outside as it is easy to approach them with kindness and conversation. Naturally, the program works best when outside temperatures are above 60 degrees. People on the streets are often fine with, even welcoming of warm, kind dialogue, including about spirituality, especially if we also have social service information, snacks, and water available, and we speak with helpful openers practiced in this training.

While being among people hanging out outside in a park, by a storefront, or near a shelter may be different from a participant’s normal setting, practicing talking on a spiritual level through this program will raise the comfort-level, and a sense of “I-can-do-this,” which often carries over to visits with a neighbor, acquaintance, fellow student, or family member who may be struggling in life.

Have participants bring a small draw-string backpack, Bible, pen, and paper, unless the leader provides them.)

Classroom (2 hours)

(Provide Bibles, pens, and papers for those who didn’t bring them. Provide some snacks and beverages.)

Welcome *(sign-in with at least emails & phone numbers for follow-up)*; Thank-you for coming; “Today’s experience may be unique, and maybe feel unnatural. However, it will have positive carry-over to your interactions with others, including with those you know who do not personally know Jesus”; Opening Prayer

God’s Heart

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Psalm 67:1-2
- Isaiah 49:6

- Matthew 9:36-38
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Luke 10:1-4
- Luke 15:1-7
- Galatians 3:7-8
- 2 Peter 3:9

...From what we read in each passage, what are the desires of God?

Writing answers on an ink board or black board is optional.

Exercise: Aiming for the Right Goal (*about 15 minutes*)

Supplies:

- 3 five gallon buckets or trash cans
- A bag of paper wads made from newspaper
- Masking tape
- Three large point cards for bottom of the trash cans (0, 5, 10)

Trainer's Preparation (this should be done before the session begins): For the game, you will need about 20 paper balls in a bag as well as three trash cans or buckets with numbers taped to the bottom of each --- 0, 5, and 10. Put the 0 trashcan in the middle of the other two. Make a "line" several feet away from the baskets by using a stick or tape on the floor or use a table.

Game: Tell them the group is going to play a game and you need three volunteers. Announce that "The goal of this game is to score as many points as possible in 15 seconds." Don't say anything else.

The trainer demonstrates first, by standing behind the "line" and tossing mostly at the one in the middle with "0" on the bottom.

Have the three volunteers come up. Gather all the balls in the bag. Say "go" and time the first on as he/she throws (15 seconds). After the volunteer finishes, the trainer gathers all the balls from the trash cans. Show the points on the bottom and give the score - this should be exaggerated so that the next two participants and everyone in the audience can see the scores taped in the

bottom of the cans and aim more intentionally. -- -- - Then let the next volunteer go. Add up his/her points.

Before the last volunteer goes, remind him/her that the only instructions given were to score as many points as possible. Most will realize they can take the whole bag and dump it in the trash can marked 10. If he/she doesn't realize it, tell him/her before the time is up.

Thank everyone and have them sit down.

Ask the participants:

- What can we learn from this lesson in regard to how we make disciples and how we do church?
- What can we learn from this game in relation to disciple making?
- In regard to sharing the gospel? And, in regard to reaching the nations around the world and right here among us?
- What we model creates habits in the people following us. We are all modeling something. Is it worth copying?
- The tried and trusted way of doing things isn't necessarily the best way.
- Busy-ness ≠ fruitfulness

Brief theology class (*about 15 minutes*):

- Every person is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), in part therefore, created to be in/having the capacity to be in a personal relationship with God. In essence, people are spiritual beings.
 - But depending on circumstances or timing, some will be people-of-peace, and others will not be (Luke 10:5-8). As one who seems "cold" is kindly called by name over time, often they will reach out for help at a time of need.
- 2 Corinthians 12:9---"my grace is sufficient for you---is theologically powerful. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10---Our Lord—"...my power is made perfect in weakness." Apostle Paul—"For when I am weak, then I am strong"---is biblically important. As we step out of our comfort zones, God can especially show his presence, power, and work.
- Holy Spirit leads the way. (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:6)

Reflection time ---<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQl4izxPeNU> (“King of Kings” by Hillsong) (*Play up to 4 minutes*)

- What about your relationship with God brings you most fulfillment?
- What is God stirring in your heart right now?
- Are the answers to those questions what motivate you to be at Everyday-Ambassadors Practicum, or is it something different?
 - Sense of duty
 - God fills you; you want others to be filled by God
 - Sense of Purpose—a combination of the above two points
 - being part of something that is too good to keep to yourself, so you act as God’s ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20)---empowering!

We have something that can change a life, all for good.

Let’s use the story of the woman at the well in John 4 to help us know how to have more gospel conversations with people who may be far from God.

Jesus was walking with his disciples when he got tired and stopped at a well to rest. The disciples were hungry so they went into town. While Jesus was sitting there alone, a Samaritan woman came to get water from the well. As Jesus asked her for a drink, they had a conversation. During this interaction, the woman came to discover that Jesus might be the Messiah. She left her jars, went back into her village and said to the people there, “Come see a man who knew everything about me. Could he be the Christ?” They went out of town to Jesus and many from that town believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony. After hearing his words, even many more became believers.

The woman had a Gospel conversation...

- Who: Her relational network
- What: Her story
- What: God’s story
- When: Immediately

Your relational network: write down up to 3 names of people with whom you prayerfully hope to talk at a spiritual level within the next few weeks.

A few essential tools to learn:

- Your story—“15-second testimony”
 - <https://youtu.be/hkprflNySS8>
 - Write your 15-second testimony. (*If it's up to 25 seconds, that's okay.*)
 - Think about wording it to be relatable for others.
 - Practice it at least 3 times with others in the class.
- God's story—3 circles
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSOKry3F3bc>
Practice it 3 times.
 - Also play the following video, “3 circles in 3 minutes,” two times, while participants practice, which shows 3 circles being done in a community-- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcj5G_4dwrI
 - Practice praying for those you have never met, *after the leader shares an example of a life's scenario*. Pray with warmth, pray the person's name, and pray over their life's situation so it is personal.

Let's practice out there. (45—60 minutes)

- Why? So we develop a sense of, “I can do this!” Speaking spiritually will become more natural and part of our identity as a child of God, as an ambassador of Christ.
- Possible openers:
 - “Hi. We are out here this afternoon just caring about people. How are you doing?”
“May I ask you a question?.....If God would do a miracle in your life today, what would you want him to do for you?”
 - “Wow, that's very interesting....

- *If they answered the above question and seem to be giving some time, maybe ask, “Has anyone ever shared with you the 3 circles Gospel before?....It only takes about 3 minutes. May I show you?”*
- *If they don't offer much time, ask: “May I have just 15 seconds (or however long your testimony is) of your time to share with you my story?”*
- *“Do you have anything that you would like me to pray for?”*
- Before heading out, gather by a table laid out with supplies.
 - Have a drawstring backpack or something similar.
 - Lay out on tables the items to include in the drawstring backpacks
 - Social service information guide if possible, or at least information about a helpful agency nearby.
 - Bottles of water and small snacks to give to people
 - Pens and papers so, if the opportunity arises, you can write out the 3 circles.
 - In case they want to reach out to someone to talk more as follow-up, if you are not from the area so you won't be available, consider giving a pamphlet of an evangelical social service agency nearby, or the name and phone number of an evangelical pastor who has given permission to do that. The leader should visit with the social service agency and/or pastor prior to dropping their name & info.

Come back together to debrief.

The leader(s) should email a few follow-up communications for about 2 months following the training, including of reminders of what was learned, as well as affirmation and encouragement, and welcoming testimonials of how it is going.