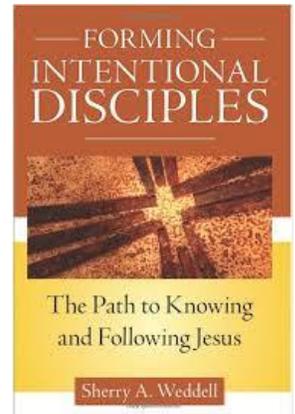


Forming Intentional Disciples

Book Study Night #4

Chapters 7-9



Chapter 7: The Third Threshold: Openness

Openness

“Moving from curiosity to openness is...making the choice to lower self defenses and cynicism and antagonism, and acknowledge to God and to oneself that you are open to change.” pg. 157

Major Life Events Often Trigger Openness
Care **MUST** be genuine

Fostering Openness:

- Practice nonjudgmental truthfulness (meaning stick to your story)
- Ask thought-provoking questions
- Help them connect the dots...use their words
- Encourage them to ask God for a sign
- Ask them if you can pray for them to be open to God
- Ask them if they would be willing to pray themselves and acknowledge their openness to God.

Power of Adoration

Personal Openness Questions

- Reflect on times in your own faith journey when you have experienced openness. What was the trigger? What was the most valuable experience that helped foster openness for you?
- What are some ways in which you have fostered openness? What was most challenging?

Chapter 8: Threshold of Conversion: Seeking and Discipleship

Seeking and Discipleship

“To enter into the threshold of seeking requires a certainty that a personal relationship with God is possible, because that is, after all, what one is exploring.”
Pg. 172

Seeking feels like a quest and a deliberate act of the will.

“You are only seriously thinking about dropping your nets and following Jesus into the unknown. Your nets are still very much in your own hands.” Pg. 173

Tasks – Support By:

- Invite them to serve
 - In the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.
- “Seekers need to see what life is like for an authentic disciple of Jesus whose struggles are real – and whose victories are therefore believable.”
Pg. 175
- Confront relativism, personal sin, and ...
- Judging, pg. 176
- Freedom and virtue, pg. 177
- Recognizing spiritual warfare is very intense in this threshold.
- Sustained intercessory prayer is critical at this stage.

Personal Seeking and Discipleship Questions

- Why do you think it is important to address personal sin with seekers? How would you address this topic?
- Reflect on your own faith journey. How do you understand personal sin?
- Often the journey toward intentional discipleship is not clearly presented. In fact, there are many pastoral leaders who are not yet disciples. Does this affect your faith journey? How would you treat a leader who is not yet a disciple?

Chapter 9: Break The Silence

Openness

Threshold Conversations (pgs. 193-198)

- Could you describe your relationship with Jesus at this point in your life?

Discussion Questions:

- What are the goals of a threshold conversation?
- Have you had threshold conversations with others about your own life?
- Have you had them with others about their lives?
- What aspects seem most challenging to you?
- What aspects seem most natural?