

CHANGE? You Gotta Be Kidding!

Objective: For participants to learn about the value and behavior shifts which are necessary to reach their unchurched friends and to determine personal action steps related to the shifts.

15-20
minutes

Discovery Activity: Luther Video Clip

*Before moving into the activity, ask for volunteers to share about their "Friend Interview" that was given for homework in the previous session. After a few people have shared move on to the activity below.

Show a clip from the movie "Luther." (If your local video rental store does not carry this movie, you can order it online on www.Amazon.com or similar websites.) The scene starts at 1:46:29 and ends at 1:55:22 (the end of the movie).

Set the scene for the group: In this final scene from the movie "Luther," all that Martin Luther had been working toward comes to a head in Augsburg in 1530. The dynamics of revolution were everywhere, but the fledgling movement teetered on the brink of extinction. Pay attention to the change dynamics at play as you watch this scene.

Question #1: What stood out to you as you watched this scene? What grabbed your heart?

Question #2: What values guided the attitudes and behavior of the various characters (Luther, the Emperor, the Princes)?

Question #3: What fed the change process?

Question #4: What does this teach us about change?

10-15
minutes

Learning Activity

After debriefing the movie, have everyone open up to the article about Value Shifts. Ask them to read through the article slowly and to think about themselves as they read about the shifts.

Value Shifts

Values show up in our behavior. Competing values drove the actions of Martin Luther and his followers. We can look at our checkbooks, our calendars and our lifestyles to gain insight into our deeply held values. Author Thom Rainer suggests that there are a number of shifts which Christians must embrace in order to reach out to people who need Christ. As you read through what Rainer suggests, carefully consider which shift or shifts God is challenging you with. These shifts are found in his work, *The Unchurched Next Door* (Chapter 9).

Shift #1 Lethargy to Vitality

Christians don't share their faith with others because they are not growing spiritually. Lack of spiritual growth inevitably leads to a sense of disinterest in talking to others about God. It's hard to talk about something that has become stale or mundane for you personally.

Shift #2 Inclusive to Exclusive

In the minds of many believers today there is a commonly held belief that one does not have to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior to make it into Heaven. God is perceived as a merciful God who will cut people slack in the end regardless of what they think of Christ. We have become so open minded and tolerant of other viewpoints that we have moved away from a central teaching of the Bible.

Shift #3 Unreal Hell to Hell is Very Real

More and more believers deny the existence of hell. Rather, those who do not place their faith in Christ will simply cease to exist when they die. Evangelism becomes less of a priority when hell becomes unimportant.

Shift #4 Busy to Intentional

Most Christians lead such full and demanding lives that finding time for the unchurched becomes near impossible. Trimming calendars and becoming committed to building friendships with the unchurched takes effort.

Shift #5 Fearful to Confident

We are afraid to talk about spiritual things because we think that we will make others uncomfortable. Fear of being rejected or of not knowing what to say in a conversation grips the heart of many believers.

Shift #6 Disinterested to Inviting

One of the overwhelming findings of Rainer's research is that unchurched people will come to church with us if we would only invite them.

Once everyone has read through, take a few minutes to ask for people to respond to the article by answering the question: "What stood out to you about the six shifts?"

Next, transition the group to the Acts 11 passage to further reinforce what they've read and discussed.

**15-20
minutes**

Practice Activity

Ask everyone to spend time in Acts 11:1-18 with a partner. Give them a few minutes to work through the passage and the two reflection questions. Then take time as a whole group to discuss the reflection questions out loud together. After you've discussed the questions move on to the Practicing the Six Shifts exercise. Give everyone a moment to score themselves and the church. Then ask them to share their results with someone nearby and the reasons that they scored themselves the way that they did. Read Acts 11:1-18 (Value Shifts in the Early Church).

Question #1: What value and belief shifts did Peter and the other Jewish Christians go through in this passage?

Question #2: Why was this such a critical time in the growth and expansion of the young Christian church?

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Practicing the Six Shifts

Score yourself and your church on the six shifts. Use a scale of 1-10 with the following guidelines:

For you:

(1) Do not need to change/Already done.....(10) I REALLY must change

For the church:

(1)Do not need to change/Already done....(10) We REALLY must change

Shift Needed	My Personal Score	Our Church Score
Shift #1 Lethargy to Vitality		
Shift #2 Inclusive to Exclusive		
Shift #3 Unreal Hell to Hell is Very Real		
Shift #4 Busy to Intentional		
Shift #5 Fearful to Confident		
Shift #6 Disinterested to Inviting		

5-10
minutes

Application Activity

Close out the session with each person filling in the Me and the Shifts reflection exercise. Three to five minutes should be sufficient. If time allows, ask people to share what they've recorded and to pray for one another.

Me and the Shifts

Pick two of the shifts that were discussed today and write down a few specific action steps you can take to align your values with God's values.

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Video Clip: Luther

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Acts 11:1-18 - Value Shifts in the Early Church

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