

HERE I AM, SEND ME Part 4 – THE SOWER

KEY REALISATION: I can't SAVE the world, but I can SOW the next seed (Gal 6:9, 1 Cor 3:6, Isa 55:10-11).

→ What part of this statement brings you relief? What part challenges you?

* It's crucial to acknowledge whose job is whose: We may be a SOWER or a WATERER or even a HARVESTER, but only GOD makes SEED GROW.

→ How does understanding your role as a sower, rather than the Saviour, change your approach to sharing your faith?

STRAPLINE

Be FRIENDLY, sow SEED, follow the HOLY SPIRIT'S lead.

1. Be FRIENDLY (Col 4:5-6, 3:12)

- * Friendliness DISARMS suspicion, bursts PRECONCEPTIONS and EARNS the RIGHT to speak.
- * Jesus was a FRIEND of sinners BEFORE He was their Saviour.

PRACTICAL TIPS:

a) Be APPROACHABLE

b) ASK QUESTIONS

c) Ask their STORY

d) Learn how to move conversations onto SPIRITUAL MATTERS

→ Why is friendliness such a powerful part of evangelism? What barriers does it break down?

→ In your daily life, where do you have the most opportunities to build friendly, trusting relationships with non-believers?

→ What practical steps can you take this week to be intentionally approachable, gracious or curious in conversation?

2. SOW Kingdom SEED

- * What is the seed? → The WORD of God (Rom 1:16).
- * Use the Word as a SEED, not a CLUB.
- * God's Word contains ALL the POWER you NEED.
- * Isa 55:10-11 → Just as RAIN produces NATURAL results, so God's WORD produces SPIRITUAL results, every time.
- * That seed is in our HANDS & we must SOW it.
- * Friendliness OPENS the DOOR, but it takes TRUTH to CHANGE a HEART.

HOW TO SOW:

a) Drop Scripture NATURALLY into CONVERSATION

b) Be an acted-out DEMONSTRATION of God's LOVE

c) Exemplify gospel GRACE

d) Explain faith-based DECISIONS

e) INVITE people where seed is being SOWN

→ What do you think it means to 'sow the Word' in real-life conversations?

→ What are the benefits of 'sowing' gently, rather than using Scripture to win arguments or prove points?

→ Share a time when a small Scripture or spiritual insight you offered had an impact — or seemed to fall flat. What did you learn?

3. FOLLOW the HOLY SPIRIT'S LEAD

Golden KEY: DO what the Holy Spirit says: NO MORE & NO LESS.

* Do LESS & we'll MISS the opportunity.

* Do MORE & we run the risk of BLOWING it.

* Simple, step-by-step, accurate OBEDIENCE & you're COOPERATING with the Master Evangelist.

* The Danger = We IGNORE the Holy Spirit as we blindly follow pre-programmed, well-rehearsed evangelistic STRATEGY.

* SUPERNATURAL outcomes come when we sow SUPERNATURAL seed under the INSPIRATION of the Holy Spirit.

→ What does it look like for you to 'run an internal dialogue' with the Holy Spirit while you're in the middle of probing conversations with others?

→ When have you felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to say or do something? What happened?

EXAMPLE: Philip & the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40)

i) Philip started by asking a probing, relevant QUESTION with genuine INTEREST & HUMILITY.

ii) Acknowledging where the Ethiopian was (Isaiah 53), he recognised his spiritual HUNGER & shared the GOSPEL clearly & simply, pointing him to JESUS.

iii) He followed the Holy Spirit's LEAD completely, first in DIRECTION, then in TIMING & even in his EXIT.

→ Who in your life right now might be somewhere on the spiritual scale (from -10 to +10) and ready for a seed or a kind word?

→ As a group, pray and ask the Holy Spirit for one person He wants each of you to befriend, encourage or speak to this week.