

SESSION 2

SEEK, NAME, CELEBRATE

In this session, we explore the importance of Seek, Name, and Celebrate for the practice of evangelism.

Highlights to Remember

As Episcopalians, we promise in our Baptismal Covenant “to seek and serve Christ in all persons.” That is a bold statement of faith! We say that we will actively listen for God’s presence in others – and we dare to believe God is moving in every person.

One of the keywords we need to remember as we explore evangelism is *Incarnation*. This term, from the Latin *carnis* (“flesh”) literally means “enfleshment.” It is based on John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and lived among us.” So, Incarnation is the doctrine that Jesus was fully human and fully divine, the Son of God “in the flesh.”

If we look at the world through the lens of Incarnation, we can see how God is still showing up “in the flesh” everywhere. The world is shot through with holiness and the lively presence of God. We get to see the Holy Spirit moving and going before us into all places, already at work. We can see where the light of God is already present, especially in the people around us, since we are all made in God’s image.

It is in conversation that we listen for and speak of God’s good news. In conversation, we show who WE are and receive who OTHERS are. We hear and speak truth with one another and get a glimpse of how God is stirring in our lives.

Seeking is a humble practice that requires deep listening and watching – a holy curiosity. We ask, “How is God present and at work in this person’s life, this person’s story?”

Naming is when we put into words what we see of God moving in others’ lives and in our own lives. Words do matter! Offered in humility, they can be a gift when we name how we see God in what brings joy, gives hope, and delivers freedom – in others’ lives and in our own.

Celebrating Jesus’ loving presence is deep, authentic, and soulful. To *celebrate* means to honor, to mark, and to hold up something worth noticing – to bless and give praise. When we seek and find Christ, we find ourselves encouraged, grateful, and delighted, like the widow who finds her lost coin and goes out saying, “Rejoice with me!” (Luke 15:8-10).

Exploratory Exercise: Welcome to the Feast

Settle in a comfortable seat and recall a truly memorable meal. When instructed to by the facilitator, pair with another participant and share the story of this meal using One-to-One StorySharing.

Brief Discussion

- How did it feel for you to recall and share your story?
- How did it feel to receive someone else’s story?
- How did this exercise engage you in *seeking*?
- How did it engage you in *naming*?
- How did it engage you in *celebrating*?

Discussion & Reflection Questions

You may not have time to discuss each question in depth, so consider taking time to reflect on these questions yourself.

Where do you see God at work in your life?

Where would you like to develop better “seeking” skills (in your neighborhood, in your relationships, at work, etc.)?

What keeps you from talking about and naming your faith and relationship with God?

When have you celebrated a “God moment” with others? How did that celebration grow your own faith?

Can you recall a moment when you really saw God alive around you? Write about it.

Try It Out

Before the next session...

Actively try to notice God’s loving and lively presence around you.

Keep a list of those “sightings” on your cell phone, or journal about them.

Write about any of the times you saw God really alive in your life, past or present.

Notes