



Leaders Guide: **11/3/13- Glimpses of Shalom with Hugh Whelchel**

1. How long have you lived in the Missoula area? What cultural things have you noticed about Missoula, and how would you describe the town?

-Missoula is often described as outdoorsy, eclectic, liberal, independent...what else does your group see and where do they see the labels become reality in our city?

2. Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. How does this fit into the traditional Christian phrase, “being in the world but not of it?”

-Clearly we see that God desired for his people in Israel to be in the world, to labor in the world, to seek the welfare of the world, all while still being distinct in their faith and worship. Paul opens his letter to the Ephesians with the phrase: “The the saints who are in Ephesus...” Paul didn’t open it up to the “saints” or simply to those in “Ephesus.” It was to Christians in their city. It is important that we see the Biblical call to be distinct in faith and worship, yet present in our current cultural context. What do you think this looks like?

2b. How has your view of participating in the Kingdom of God been impacted by the sermon?

-Start with your own thoughts. Don’t be afraid of silence.

3. The prophet Daniel influenced much change on his culture while still being an employee of the state of Babylon. How should this influence our view of work in light of a Sovereign God (see Colossians 3:23, Ephesians 6:5-9)?

-God placed us in our work for a reason, and God’s reason is always missional and mindful. How is this reflected in how you work at work? Talk at work? Or even talk about work? How can we help ourselves see that our work is never disconnected from God’s work? The sovereignty of God means that nothing is meaningless or menial. What gifts and skills has God given you that can be used for his purpose at work?

4. What is your immediate sphere of influence (Outside of family, who are you most commonly in contact with)?

-Take time and let your whole group answer this is you have time. This step helps us understand where we have an influence, and how we can use that influence for the gospel.

5. In what ways can you specifically begin to influence your current context? (I.e: becoming a better employee)

-I saw a tweet the other day: “No one at your work wants to hear how Jesus changes lives if you’re a bad employee.” While this may sound awkward at first, there might be some warrant to it. One of the most immediate ways to obtain a peer group or audience is to be deserving of respect. Is your life authentic? Is church Dave different from work Dave? Non-Christians can easily smell out the dichotomy between the two. Do you need to start by showing up on time? Or can you start leading some co-workers in a Bible study, or invite them to community group?

6. What are current challenges facing your culture at work/school/home and how can you begin to transform it with the gospel? (i.e: praying, leading Bible Studies..etc)

-Here is a broad example: People at my work find their identity in their position at work. How can I influence that? By beginning to show a satisfaction at work that is unrivaled. When people notice that satisfaction I can begin to explain to them how my identity is rooted in Christ's work, not my own.