

Intro: Pick up where Pastor Orin left off last week in our conversation about “Connectors”

Def: “a person or thing that links, ties, bonds or joins two other persons or things”

Today I want to look at a couple of people in the scripture that are what I call “super-connectors”

Andrew and Philip were followers of Jesus that over and over again connected people to him

In fact, every time you see Andrew doing something in bible...he’s connecting people to Jesus

And Philip...right by his side every time!

3 Steps To Become A “Super-Connector”

1. Priority: Keep First Things First!

John 1:35-50

- Follow the biblical example of connection:
~Andrew: John Baptist > 2 Disciples (Andrew) > Peter
~Philip: Jesus > Philip > Nathanael
- Follow Andrew’s example of prioritizing those important to him:
~The FIRST thing he did: Def: Lit = *to be first in time, place order or importance*
Applic: Before he did ANYTHING else on his TO DO list...He went and found his brother
We often do that last...instead of first!
And you know, the last thing on our list seldom gets paid attention to!
~He FOUND Simon Peter: Lit = *the very first thing he did was locate his brother*
~He BROUGHT Simon Peter: Lit = *to lead, bring, carry induce or*
- Follow Philip’s example of keeping his priorities right
~He FOUND Nathanael: Lit = *to locate and influence*
~He INVITED him: Lit = *Come and see! “come and look at once for yourself*

Principle # 1: A connector loves the people in their life so much they prioritize bringing them to Jesus over everything else.

Most of us when we get up in the morning have a list of things to do. Sometimes it is a formal list...sometimes it is just a mental I think its important to note that when Andrew and Philip met Jesus...the VERY FIRST THING they did was find the people that were most important to them and encourage them to come to Jesus.

Let me ask you a question. Is introducing people to Jesus the very first thing on your priority list? To be honest, sometimes I find myself putting that last instead of first. All week long as I have been studying and praying through this sermon I found myself reprioritizing what I was doing so that I was having spiritual conversations over and over again!

Illus: Once I started looking: AAA, Wkrs, Store

2. People: Look For People With Open Hearts.

Jn 6:1-13

I believe that God is always at work around us. All we have to do is find those God is working on!

Joh 5:17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

- Find People With A Heart To Give and Serve:
There is a problem going on...how are they going to feed everyone?
Philip: *Aint no way!*
Andrew: *What about this little boy?* (Was it his lunch? Lotta Lunch!: Family? Sell!)
What Andrew did was bring the boy to Jesus...along with the lunch...Evidently boy was willing to give it (Sell it)
But...there was no way it would be sufficient!
Don’t get lost in the lunch! Here is what I want you to see: He was willing!
~New Paradigm:
Believe Belong Behave
Behave Belong Believe
Applic: When you are dealing with someone with an open heart...change your invitation!
Not: Come with me to church...Come sing music don’t know, listen sermon no nothing about, strangers
Instead: ~Come help me give food to the hungry at Food Pantry!
~Come help me feed the homeless over Thanksgiving!
~Come help me fill a couple of shoeboxes for underprivileged kids around world
~Come work with me at Tyler Heights...
Everyone things we should do those things! Invite them to JOIN YOU in that process
Help them BEHAVE...Do it often enough...They will BELONG...Have opportunity to help them BELIEVE!
- Look for People Going through significant life events: Good or bad! This was a BIG deal for the boy: 5-10k: ON SPOT!!!
Statistics tell us that people are open to hearing about Jesus, having spiritual conversations, coming to church
Bad: Trials, Struggles, Tribulation: Health, Finances, And Relationships: (Thursday, Workers, Tim: Pray)
Good: New Baby, New Job, New home!
- Be Sensitive to People with Spiritual Questions: John 12:20-22
There were Greeks who had come up to worship at Jewish Festivals: (Regularly mentioned in bible and History)
Curious: They had questions about what was going on: Trying to figure out what in the world is going on?
What is this all about? Why are the people coming out for Triumphant Entry, Why Religious leaders upset, Who is this?

When people have spiritual questions:

~They ask someone they feel they can trust!

~They go to someone close to Jesus:

~They go to someone they think can help:

Philip: Is a GREEK name! (They went to the greek disciple!)

Philip is a disciple! Obviously knew he was: His faith obvious

Been with Him for years...can you explain it, get us an audience?

Philip: What did he do? He said, I know the GUY who is the one you want to talk to about meeting Jesus
That is Andrews's thing...so I'm going to bring you to him!

Principle # 2: Look for people with open hearts and approach them using the new paradigm
I want to challenge you today, to look with fresh eyes at the people around you.

Who do you know and care about that needs Jesus?

What is the right way? Maybe you asked 100 times to come to church,

CHANGE YOUR APPROACH, Instead, Come help feed homeless, shoeboxes, WR, Food pantry

3. Partner: Find Someone That Shares Your Vision For Reaching Others and Partner With Them.

Ec 4:9 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work."

I want you to notice something when you look at all 3 of these passages. You find Andrew bringing people: Philip right there!

When I came to Christ it was because there were a group of people praying for me every Tuesday night BY NAME!

Long before I ever received an invitation from THEM...God was sending people to me in RESPONSE to their prayers!

When we find a partner: It could be our spouse, our friend, someone in our small group, SS Class Pray together!

A Partner Does a lot of things for us in the process:

- Help us pray more effectively
Mt 18:19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.
- Help us maintain accountability and priority
- Help us sustain our vision when we falter
- Help us share responsibility: It's not all on us

Philip and Andrew:

- Had shared experience: They were in this thing together
- Had shared heart: They were passionate about Jesus...and sharing him with others:
- Had shared character: When you see them...both immediately found someone, kept on doing it!

Principle #3: Connectors have a spiritual partner who shares their vision of connecting people to Jesus.

CONCL: Three challenges I want to put before you today, do this while you pray through our commitment time:

1. My Commitment:

With God's help I make a commitment today to prioritize connecting people I know with Jesus between now and Christmas.

X _____

2. My People: These are the people I am going to pray for, asking God to help me connect them to Jesus.

Turn over to the FRONT of the notes...and look at the diagram...use it to identify people you know need Jesus.

3. This is the person I am going to ask to be my prayer partner as I seek to connect others to Jesus.

X _____