

# Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands



love – KNOW – speak – do



**::ACTIVITY::**

Write down something about yourself that people might not know and pop it in the hat going round. (It might be an unlikely achievement, it might simply be your job, or whatever you like)

**::THINK TOGETHER::**

In groups of 5 or 6, discuss how well you think people in Charlotte Chapel know each other, and give reasons for your answer.



## Breaking Through the Casual



**::THINK TOGETHER::**

Take a minute on your own to think about one person you have a casual relationship with and one person you have a deeper relationship with. Jot down the differences in the table below then share these with others in your group.

Casual Relationship	Deeper Relationship

1) *The better you know someone,* \_\_\_\_\_

2) *The Bible teaches us that true friendship calls us out of the darkness of personal privacy into*

\_\_\_\_\_

3) *You cannot* \_\_\_\_\_ *to someone you do not know.*

# Following Christ's Example



## **::THINK TOGETHER::**

In your groups, read through Hebrews 4:14-16, taking 3 or 4 minutes to identify elements of Christ's ministry among us.

### ***The Example of the Wonderful Counsellor***

- a) Personal help involves \_\_\_\_\_
  
- b) Personal help involves \_\_\_\_\_
  
- c) Personal help involves \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Practical Principles for Knowing One Another

1) ***Don't make*** \_\_\_\_\_!

2) ***Carefully ask*** \_\_\_\_\_!

## Making Sense of what you Gather



## **::THINK TOGETHER::**

Read the following and use the four categories to organize what we know about Sharon and Ed's situation.

*Sharon approached me after the Sunday service. She said that her marriage was a disaster and that she needed to talk immediately. We set up a time to meet and I asked her to invite her husband, Ed. However, Sharon came alone, telling her story emotionally and in great detail. Ed had been unwilling to come, telling her to "get her act together" or he was "out of here."*

*Sharon told of an increasingly violent relationship. She and Ed were no longer sleeping in the same room or going anywhere together. They had separate bank accounts and had recently agreed that it was best to eat supper separately. Their two young children took turns eating with each parent*

*Even before their marriage, they had experienced communication problems. Ed felt that Sharon was always trying to control him. Sharon felt that Ed never paid attention to her viewpoint unless she "made it real clear." Yet Ed said that Sharon was the most beautiful woman in the world and Sharon said that Ed was the best thing that ever happened to her.*

*Ed was a "mover and shaker" with an expanding import business, and Sharon enjoyed being with people that "matter." She had lived in foster homes all her life and never knew her natural parents. Ed was raised in a working class urban neighbourhood. Ed had said for years that Sharon was slowly destroying his*

manhood. Sharon confessed to two affairs during the marriage. Ed was very angry, and she appeared to be the same.

Sharon made her agenda very clear when we talked. "I am not here to work on me," she said. "I think I am okay. I am here because my marriage is in trouble. Do you think you can get my husband to talk to you? He's the one who needs help!"



**::THINK TOGETHER::**

In groups again, choose one of the following scenarios and use Tripp's Grid to gather as much information as you can.

**Richard Y Ruler**

Mr Richard Y Ruler approaches you over tea and cake at Home Group and questions you about something you said about hypocrisy during the Bible study. Richard tells you openly (more openly than ever before) how he struggles to make sense of the Christian life and he keeps asking, 'what should I do to please God?' and says things like 'I feel like I need to do this and that in order to get the eternal life God promises.'

Richard says he's fed up failing. He feels like he's always reading something in the Bible and trying hard to apply it, but when he does something he thinks will work, he reads something else which pushes him further than he thinks he can go. He's left feeling deflated, so he asks you for help and you arrange to meet up for coffee. Before he goes off to get a refill, he stops and says, 'please pray for me... I'm this close to giving up.'

**Eve Gardener**

You meet up with your friend Eve Gardener for lunch one day and you both share how much you are enjoying the church services and the growing sense of 'belonging' you notice when talking with other believers afterwards. Eve says she feels like her walk with God is going really well.

But as you're talking with her it becomes apparent that her walk with God is not as 'good' or as satisfying as she first made out. With a gentle probe from you, Eve opens up and begins to admit to the pressure she's put under by her friends outside of church, especially her Boss, Dr. D'vil. Eve admits to having her faith rocked by his constant questioning, not to mention his teasing about how well life has treated him in his pursuit of happiness.

Eve admits she hasn't spoken to her husband Adam about any of this. He seems to be enjoying God's presence so much that she fears she'll wreck it for him, and for everyone else! She doesn't know what to do and would value your advice.

## The Joy of Knowing and Ministering to One Another

- 1) We will see God at work as he takes people on in the faith, far beyond their own strength and wisdom
- 2) We will witness his redeeming grace worked out in a person's life.
- 3) We will have the privilege of connecting people with the resources that are theirs in Christ in a way that transforms heart and life.
- 4) We will, as ambassadors of Christ, carry out the ministry of reconciliation that offers hope through the Gospel of our King.
- 5) We will be a part of the great work of God's Kingdom.

In the hands of our Redeemer, our questions can become keys that open people's prisons and open their hearts to the reality of life in Him.

What  
is/was  
going  
on?

What does  
the person  
do  
in response to  
what is going on?

What does the  
persons  
think  
about what is  
going on?

What does  
the person  
want  
out of what is  
going on?

SITUATION

RESPONSE

THOUGHTS

MOTIVES

EMOTION

