

“We train disciplemakers...”



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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

*Making Disciples
Naturally* Podcast
&
Richard Spann's
blogs are found at
KansasNavs.org

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**Check out the videos of
our recent men's retreat**
[Click Here](#)
(Then enter 2026 in the
search box)

Summer is a great time to practice spiritual conversations!

As believers in Jesus, we appreciate the importance of sharing our faith with others. We know Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8 and Matthew 4:19 all tell us to live outward and share the good news of Jesus with others. But if you are like most of us, we don't know how to jump in to sharing the [Bridge Illustration](#) or [One-Verse Evangelism](#) with someone. That seems awkward and forced unless there is a relationship already developed.



But consider a *spiritual conversation* as a way to see where someone is in their spiritual journey. That is something that is doable, natural and loving.

What is a *spiritual conversation*? One definition is “a dialogue that helps direct people's attention towards the spiritual world. These conversations are often entry points into further discussions about one's faith background as well as the Gospel message.”

Start by praying for someone for the Lord to bring across your path. Secondly, be willing to ask their thoughts on something deeper than news, weather and sports. The goal is to honor them to see where they are coming from spiritually and to develop a loving relationship with them.

Here's a [great resource](#) you can freely download and use! Also, listen to our podcast *Making Disciples Naturally*, episode 330 for more practical examples.

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“Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are perishing. Instead we speak the wisdom of God, hidden in a mystery, that God determined before the ages for our glory.”

— 1 Corinthians 2:6-7 (NET Bible)

Rethinking Discipleship

On the resurrection side of the cross

A trilogy by Ron Bennett

Ron Bennett is a name well-known to the Kansas Communities Ministry. He has completed a trilogy of books, each with 31 essays that help us discover who God is, the journey of apprenticeship and a game plan for discipling in our world today.

Book 1 is *The Discovery* which helps us see God in the landscapes of our lives. We then are encouraged to turn that discovery into our life song.

Book 2 is *The Quest*. This looks at the journey of discipleship as a journey of apprenticeship to Rabbi Jesus.

Book 3 is *The Design* which serves as a blueprint for making disciples.

Each of these three books is full of helpful insights and encouragements as Ron shares from his lifelong experiences in growing as a disciple as well as making disciples.

For example in *The Discovery*, the chapter titles include Show Me Your Glory, Where God Shows Up, How God Shows Up, Spiritual Rules of Grammar, Vicarious Discipleship, Spiritual CSI and Landscapes of Life. In the chapter on Spiritual Rules of Grammar, Ron cautions us not to confuse a question mark (“Did God really say ...?”) with a period (“Do not

eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”)

These are wonderful nuggets of wisdom from the pages of God’s Word that we can ingest a little at a time as we read one chapter daily. The books are only \$10 each on Amazon and we highly recommend them!



Goads and Nails

(excerpt)

By Richard Spann

Mission — Method — Motive
— Jim Morris

(Excerpt from Vol. 4, pages 13-16)

Most organizations have developed what is called a “Mission Statement.” This statement provides clarity of purpose that should govern all their activities. It is less often that we see these entities declare “How” they are going to accomplish their mission... Even more rare is the explanation of “Why” they are doing what they are doing. Their motive is rarely seen on their logo and is often poorly understood.

When Jim organized the Kansas Navigators Ministry he wanted our *mission, method* and *motive* to be clearly understood. Not only were we to understand “what” to do, we were to know “how” to do it, and “why” we were doing it. To solidify our understanding, three verses were chosen to delineate each of these words. The *mission* is found in Matthew 28:18-20. “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” The *method* is in II Timothy 2:1-2. “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” The *motive* is located in II Corinthians 5:14. (Wuest Translation) “For the love which Christ has for me presses on me from all sides, holding me to one end and prohibiting me from considering any other, wrapping itself around me in tenderness, giving me an impelling motive.”

In our life we will encounter many mission statements, and a variety of methods and motives. It is my prayer that the *mission, method* and *motive* given to us by the Lord will so captivate your heart and mind that they will become *your mission, your method* and *your motive* as well.
In Christ, Richard Spann

Your Home A Lighthouse by David Dennis



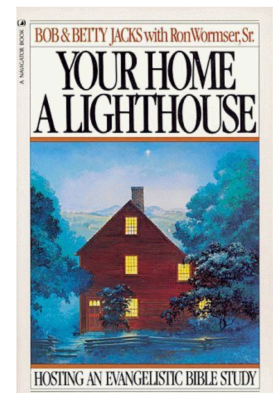
Have you ever considered your home to be a lighthouse of sorts? People in your neighborhood or maybe even your closest friends may be struggling to find meaning, purpose and friendship in their own unique situations. The world can be a scary place. Isaiah 25:4 says, *But You are a tower of refuge to the poor, O LORD, a tower of refuge to the needy in distress. You are a refuge from the storm and a shelter from the heat. For the oppressive acts of ruthless people are like a storm beating against a wall.*

Several years ago, my wife and I were involved in an evangelistic outreach based on the book by Bob and Betty Jacks, *Your Home a Lighthouse*. We would like to do this again and are praying for opportunities to make this come about.

Let me tell you about our experience in the hopes that will inspire others to reach out and try this as well. If you have been involved in this or a similar study, we'd like to hear from you. Email us about your experiences at office@KansasNavs.org.

It all started when we read Bob and Betty Jacks little book. It is no longer being published, but used copies are still available on Amazon. (At that time there was also a video series that explained the principles and gave examples of people implementing this approach. The video is no longer available commercially.)

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“Every disciple needs three types of relationships in his life. He needs a 'Paul' who can mentor him and challenge him. He needs a 'Barnabas' who can come along side and encourage him. And he needs a 'Timothy,' someone that he can pour his life into.” ~ Howard G. Hendricks, author, speaker and former professor at Dallas Theological Seminary. Quote found at <https://www.azquotes.com/author/22943>

Howard G Hendricks#google_vignette

Lighthouse (Continued)

This paragraph from Amazon's page describes it well:

If you want to reach your non-Christian friends, but church overwhelms them, this book demonstrates how to lead an evangelistic Bible study in the comfort of your own home. "We had never seen ourselves as evangelists or missionaries and still don't," write Bob and Betty Jacks. "But the relationship we had in knowing Christ was too good not to share it with others." So they apprehensively opened their home for a weekly Bible study. Surprised by the results, Bob and Betty quickly shed their fears and proceeded to make a significant impact on their community.

We invited another believing couple to join us and we watched the videos together and read the book. We then prayed about whom to invite. It is important to limit the number of Christians and to focus on inviting people you know, but who are not believers. That was kind of scary as I recall. Would I risk my reputation by inviting other physicians, drug reps and others whom I knew professionally, into an overtly evangelistic Bible study? We each decided on a list of people to invite to a free dinner in the home of the other couple to explain our thoughts and invite them to take the next step if they were interested. The dinner turned out to be a wonderful experience as we got to know people better in a relaxed setting. Any awkwardness quickly dissipated as the evening went on.

At that introductory meeting we introduced ourselves (and asked everyone to introduce themselves) and explained that our desire was to provide a non-threatening opportunity to explore the book of John in the New Testament. We would not be discussing religion nor church, but rather we'd be learning about the relevance of God for our lives today. If they were interested, they would be invited to return in a month for our first gathering. We told them that we would just read through the book of John, taking maybe one chapter each time, ask a few starter questions and then invite them to ask anything they wished. There would be no condemnation, no judgement and no pressure. No homework was required. No money was requested. In fact we would provide the New Testaments for them to keep.

Out of that initial group of 14-16 people, perhaps 8 said they wanted to come.

The sessions were very interesting. As leaders, we would prepare by developing a series of open-ended questions based on the chapter for that week. We would start off by keeping it straightforward (John 1: Who was in the beginning? Who do you think was "the Word"? What was the relationship of the "Word" to God?). Then people could ask anything they wanted at any time.

We got some great questions as we could see people were really thinking about the chapter. We had a drug rep and his wife, a doctor and his wife, several business people and others. There were many different backgrounds represented. Did they ask questions to which we did not know the answer? Yes. But we would just be honest and say, "That's a great question. Let's see if we can research some ideas on that and talk about it next time!" It was also a great opportunity for us to grow in our understanding of Scripture and how to explain it clearly.

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"Don't believe everything you think. You cannot be trusted to tell yourself the truth. Stay in The Word." ~ Jerry Bridges, author, speaker, Navigator. Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/1899-Jerry_Bridges

Lighthouse (Conclusion)

It's very important that we make this a *ministry to people* — not just “an event.” The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts of sin and draws people to Himself, not we ourselves. *Relationships* are key in this setting. Here are some other ideas that we think are important:



- Pray diligently about whom to invite. As a team, send out written invitations specifically to these people, inviting them to a dinner where you will be talking about an opportunity to learn more about God and His relevance to us. There is no place for subterfuge! Be open and up front about what we are about!
- How often should we meet? Bob and Betty Jacks model was to meet monthly. That is a low-enough commitment that people won't be scared off. New people can be invited by the participants and join at any time.
- It's very important to have more non-Christians than Christians. The leader/facilitator of the meetings plus the host couple might be enough believers. The role of the host couple is to invite people, maintain some degree of contact with them and remind them to return next time. But what we don't want is to pack the room with believers and have only one or two pre-believers! We want pre-believers to be the majority in the room.
- The Jacks recommend having a leader who works on the “lesson” (questions to address) who is different from the host couple. The host couple should have a heart for hospitality and take care of all the details of the meeting space in their home, including snacks and drinks.
- To help people feel comfortable, never refer to chapter and verse, rather refer to page number. In addition, it's important for everyone in the room to have a copy of the same version of the New Testament with the same page numbers. We provided these free.

These are just a few of the practical guidelines that were helpful for us. Bob and Betty Jacks outline other ideas in their book which I highly recommend. If you have a desire to live outward and invite others to know Jesus, why not consider starting a “lighthouse” Bible study for non-Christians? You'll get to know and pray for people who otherwise may not enter a church. We had at least one person who came to know the Lord through this study and hopefully it was powerful in the spiritual journey of others we don't know about.