

TOTAL REVOLUTION in OUR WORLD

Session #4: The Parable of The Yeast (Luke 13:20-21)

Session Objective: The objective of this session is to impress upon students their role in infiltrating the world systems and values and changing them into the Kingdom of God. Every Christian is an undercover agent effecting revolution from within. Every job, classroom and neighborhood is a target to be penetrated. As Christians we are not called to build an earthly nation, but rather like yeast we are to infiltrate the existing world structures and change them with the Spirit of God. This session will try and get students to ask:

- Where is my mission?
- What is my role?
- What are the prime targets for change?
- What are my weapons?

Minimum Prep: Read through the entire session outline and the parable. Prepare an environment where discussion can occur.

Extended Prep: If you have some extended prep time, consider a dramatic reading or a straight skit with a narrator and several actors. If you videotape it you can edit and add sound effects!! Another idea would be to use a video clip for 'cultural tie in'.

- There is a video out called **"The World's Most Astounding Undercover Stings"**. It features real life stories of undercover Police operations that result in spectacular arrests. Rent the video (currently available at Rogers) and watch it. Select a short segment and show it to your students. Ask: What makes a good undercover agent? (The ability to infiltrate a group or community) Why didn't the Police just send out a flier inviting all the criminals to come to the Police Department at a set time to turn themselves in? What skills would a person need to be an undercover agent? (You'd have to learn the language, learn to 'insert yourself', learn to make relationships etc)
- Another possible video clip could be from the movie **"ConAir"**. In this movie a group of criminals hijack a prison airplane and try to use it to escape. Not all the prisoners in the plane are part of the plan. The agents on the ground discover that one of the passengers is a former soldier who was wrongfully convicted. They decide to turn him into "an agent in place". Nicolas Cage's character begins to coordinate with the officers on the ground to bring about the arrest of the hijackers. Preview this movie

and select a short clip that would help focus the discussion on the following few questions: What attributes made Nicolas Cage's character the ideal candidate for an "agent in place"? (He was innocent, highly trained and highly motivated to land the plane. He also looked and talked like a criminal). How did he demonstrate to the audience that he was always a 'good guy' even though he was undercover? (He saved one of the female cops from being raped and he never abandoned his friend when he was sick). How was his struggle like the challenge given to us by the Bible to be 'in the world but not of the world'?

- A third option would be the recently released movie **"The Recruit"**. This movie is about a group of potential CIA agents being trained at 'The Farm' outside of Langley. Pick a clip from the training sequence and show it to your group to initiate a discussion about the training necessary to be 'an agent in place'.

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

Over the past three weeks we have been catching glimpses of God's heart for this world. He wants it to be filled with people who use their gifts to serve one another, He wants it to be a place where all people of all races can live in peace, where the broken can find shelter and the weary can find shade. He wants in to be a world full of people hungry for the words and will of God, where small things can be tried in faith and meet with the powerful blessings of God. He wants there to be justice, sharing and richness towards himself and others. Having said all of that, have you noticed that there has been very little information about how the Kingdom of God will actually look? I mean who will be in charge? What sort of government should we have? What should the rules be and what sort of economics should we allow? Jesus never said. I think that this week we will figure out why. Let's read together this very short but very important parable found in Luke 13:20-21.

Small Group Questions:

1. **Have you ever made bread? What happens if you forget to add the yeast?**

You get crackers.

2. **Jesus is obviously making the point that in the same way a little bit of yeast can change a whole batch of dough, so a few undercover**

agents who successfully infiltrate the entire world structure can change this planet into the Kingdom of God. We don't need a new economic system, we just need a few 'agents in place' who will make it more generous, more forgiving, more equal and more fair. We don't need a new government, we just need a few 'agents' in place to make it more concerned with justice and equality and compassion. If we are called to infiltrate and change; where could you be assigned?

What we are trying to do is develop a theology of work. Get the students to see their school space or work space as their mission field. You don't have to go to Africa to be a missionary, you just have to be on call in your location.

- 3. Jesus said: "The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look here it is!' or 'There it is!' For in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." You have the Kingdom of God inside you! Your job is to take it and make it stick somewhere out there in the big bad world. What is it about you that is "Kingdom Sticky"?**

Try to get the students to go around the circle and name a Kingdom Characteristic about themselves that would be attractive to the world. To prime the pump, go to Galatians 5:22-26. These are all 'Kingdom Characteristics'. A sample response might be: I'm pretty compassionate. I guess that would be my Kingdom Sticky.

- 4. One of the most important skills for the undercover agent is the "transfer". You've seen this a million times in movies: One agent slips something into the hand of another agent in such a way that nobody sees. 'Transfer' skills are an operational necessity! How can you 'transfer' your 'Kingdom Sticky' into the hearts of the people you come in contact with?**

*There is a movie clip you could use here from the movie "**The Russia House**". There are several 'transfers' in this movie. Find one and show it. Get students to discuss how their 'Kingdom Sticky' could be transferred. Sample answer: "In my church there is an older lady whose husband died. I went over to her house to make cookies and was surprised to discover that I had a great time! I guess I could invite some of my friends so that they could get into it as well." his sample answer comes from my own Youth Ministry. It really works! A whole bunch of girls now do this regularly.*

Transition:

Leader Note: The following paragraph represents a sample of how you might transition the group from the pulse of the parable to the dream of the Kingdom. You can reword it as you choose.

Sometimes as Christians we spend all our time deciding what to separate ourselves from instead of asking what we should join ourselves to! Your job is to take the Kingdom light into the dark corners of the world not to hide with it under your bed! Let's spend the next few minutes deciding what corners of our world most need an 'agent in place'.

Dreams of The Kingdom:

Leader Note: Parts of the following discussion would work best in a circle fashion. Offer students the opportunity to answer each of these questions. They may 'pass' if they feel uncomfortable.

5. What would you say is the darkest corner of our world spiritually speaking?

To prime the pump you might say: Is it the media? Is it the movie industry? Is it the school system? Is it the inner city?

5. Let's take all the answers we just generated and develop an agent profile. What sort of agent would we need to penetrate the media? How about the inner city? How about your school? What skills would be needed? What resources would be required?

*This would be the right time to show the clip from "**The Recruit**" as instructed in the extended prep section. It would lead out of the previous question (#2) and into the following question.*

6. It takes a lot of training to become an undercover agent. What are some of the skills you will need to become an 'agent in place' wherever you may find yourself to be?

Comments and Feedback

Leader Note: This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely devoid of any writing, drawings, or other markings.

Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.