

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Are Visionary

2. MAKE GOD KNOWN

YWAM is called to make God known throughout the whole world, and into every arena of society through evangelism, training and mercy ministries. We believe that salvation of souls should result in transformation of societies thus obeying Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations.

[1Ch 16:24-27](#); [Psa 68:11](#); [Psa 71:15-16](#); [Psa 145:4-7](#); [Mat 28:18-20](#);
[Mar 16:15](#); [Act 1:8](#); [Act 13:1-4a](#); [Rom 10:8-15](#); [Rom 15:18-21](#)

Value #2 – Make God Known: Proclaim God's Many Excellencies

Biblical Foundation:

*Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;
let them proclaim your power.
I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor
and your wonderful miracles.
Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;
I will proclaim your greatness.
Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;
they will sing with joy about your righteousness (Psa 145:4-7).*

Discovery Starter:

The evangelistic outreach had been meticulously prepared. The program included great music, compelling dramas, inspiring testimonies and a powerful message. The location seemed ideal. Myriads of young people were present in this beach resort at the peak of the summer tourist season. Certainly many would give their lives to the Lord that evening. We had high hopes. But to our dismay, no one responded to the proclamation of the gospel. Not a single person. What had gone wrong? We went to prayer. As we prostrated ourselves before the Lord, he spoke to us. We repented of relying on our presentation rather than on Holy Spirit's presence to woo the hearts of the lost. We felt him graciously calling us to himself.

The next evening we humbly gathered in a deserted park with the intent to spend an evening far from the crowds in worship, refocusing our hearts on God. We set our sights on heaven and adored our glorious God. To our surprise, people emerged from

nowhere and gathered around as we worshiped on and on. As we closed the worship time, I simply said to the crowd that had gathered, "If you want to know more about this God we are worshiping, feel free to talk to us." There were no dramas; no testimonies, no message. Nevertheless, eager people entered into conversations, hungry to know this God. That night a couple dozen people became citizens of God's glorious kingdom.

Reflecting later on the contrast between these two evenings, I was reminded that we are called to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1Pe 2:9 *ESV*). There is actually very little difference between true worship and true evangelism. Both "proclaim the excellencies of him" – one upward, the other outward. David captures this so clearly in our foundational passage. He speaks admiringly of God's "acts ... power ... splendor ... miracles ... deeds ... greatness ... goodness ... righteousness." He declares that God's redemptive acts are "mighty ... majestic ... glorious... awe-inspiring ... wonderful." As I listen to the psalmist's words, I understand that without an awe-filled, worshipful attitude we cannot rightly tell the wondrous story of our God and his extraordinary redemption.

Keep Going:

In our foundational psalm, David says, "I *will meditate* on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles" (Psa 145:5). It is only after this time of meditation that he declares, "I *will proclaim* your greatness" (Psa 145:6). According to this psalm, meditation precedes proclamation. A fresh, living, dynamic, growing encounter with God is the foundation for a compelling evangelistic proclamation. If our hearts are not overflowing with an ever-expanding, awe-filled love for God and a deep-seated gratitude for his work in our lives, our words about the gospel will never land with a transformative impact. But if our passion for him is alive and growing, our words about him will reproduce a compelling desire in others to follow after this amazing God.

For that reason, I encourage you to take time today to meditate on "the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1Pe 2:9 *ESV*). Let your love for him overflow, so that (among other things) you may be re-energized to invite others to join you in this journey out of darkness into light. As you enter God's presence and meditate on his wondrous character, remember that we are all wired differently. You may do this best by reflecting on Scripture, or by listening to worshipful music, or by writing in your journal about God's redemptive acts in your life, or by any other means.

No matter what approach best fits you ...
Run into his presence.
Meditate on his glorious splendor and then ...
Go, and wherever you go ...
Proclaim God's many excellencies.

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