

GO Sermon Series – Part 4

## “My Own Little World”

Pastor Dale Campfield - November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Intro:**

**Matt 28:19** “Go and make disciples of all nations...”

**ECC Process of Discipleship: Making an IMPACT...To Love...To Grow...To Serve**

We have 3 priorities – To love...which is expressed in our Sunday morning celebration and connection groups. To grow...which is expressed in our Path to Discipleship. To serve...which is expressed in our daily lives in the places we live, work and play; as well as through the local church. The vision of E.C.C. is to gather together weekly for corporate worship, loving God and each other; then to come together in small Connection Groups for discipleship and fellowship, and are regularly involved in reaching out to others with the love, acceptance, and forgiveness of Jesus Christ through community outreach. To Love...To Grow...To Serve!

**Intro:**

We’ve stepped up, realizing the plan of God for our lives: The Great Commission and the Great Commandment; to love God and others, making disciples of all. We’ve learned how to STAND, against the enemy, making the decision to not bow. Now, it’s time to GO. It’s time to practice what we preach.

**Key Verse: Mark 16:15** “He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

We have GOOD NEWS! It’s time to GO! It’s time to get out of JAIL, Pass Go and collect the Blessings of God! That’s what we talked about last week.

**Today: My Own Little World**

It’s so very easy to get caught up in our own little world, not seeing the lives and hearts of the people around us who are needing a touch from God. We see and feel our pain, not realizing that there are many around us who are experiencing their own pain. We live in our world of knowledge and often times look only at ourselves and not those around us; those who are directly in our own path of life. It’s time to get out of our own little world and see theirs! It’s time to get out of our comfort zones and Impact them!

**The vision of Eastgate Community Church is to Make an IMPACT, by loving, growing and serving!** It’s time to continue and for some, to start carrying this out!

- **VIDEO: “My Own Little World”**

I came to the realization this past week in an EFI conference that everyone is in the process of being called towards Christ. In the 70's it took 1 to 5 Divine Touches for someone to come to Christ. Now, in the 2010's, it takes 15 to 20 Divine Touches.

**John 10:10**

*"I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance."*

The word picture that the Greek paints for "abundance" actually means – an overflowing abundance. Not that your cup is full – but that it is flowing over the rim. The cup is so full that it is spilling out into the saucer. God wants our lives overflowing with His love, His joy and His peace. He wants our lives so affected by all the gifts He has to give to us – that it overflows into the lives of other people around us. That's called outflow.

**Illus:** Four Tiered Fountain

If you were to picture your influence for Christ as a fountain it would look sometime like a four tiered fountain. God fills us up – that is the first level - the top tier. He fills you so full that you spill over into the next level – the second tier - and you have an influence on those who are closest to you – that would be your family and friends.

We've got to get out of our own little world; to touch someone in a practical way, showing them the love of Christ. As we go; getting out of our own little world what do we do?

**On the Way Out of Your Own Little World**

**A. You can PRAY and PETITION.**

No matter what is going on in the lives of the people you want to reach, prayer is a great way to ask God to reach them. Pray of course – for their salvation. Ask God to touch them – in such a way that they would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Another way you may want to pray for your family members is to ask God to shake up their lives. Ask God to move your family and friends out of their comfort zones. Ask Him to turn their lives inside out and upside down. Ask God to do whatever it takes to get their attention. Do you know what I have found? I have found that whenever I have been placed in a situation outside my comfort zone – my seeking for God increases. I don't think I am alone in this situation. I think that whenever people find themselves outside their comfort zone they are more willing to seek help from God.

**Illus:** Skiing in Colorado

Let me illustrate this point. I remember a time I was standing at the top of a mountain peak in Colorado; Devils Run. I had to sign a waiver saying I wouldn't hold them accountable if I wasn't able to make it down the mountain due to DEATH or INJURY! I was a bit nervous. My bride Butch was at the bottom of the hill awaiting my fate. My knees were shaking – my heart was pounding – and do you know what I was doing. I was praying. Why? Because I was not in my comfort zone. I needed God's presence right then and there. I needed to know that God was with me. And, I slipped into that zone and made it smoothly; maybe not very pretty, but I made it down.

One of the most powerful prayers you can pray is, “God, help me.” When a person finds themselves outside their comfort zone – they are more willing to pray that prayer.

Here is something else you can do.

### **B. You can LISTEN and LOVE.**

Listening and loving go together like peaches and cream. If you love people you listen to them. You hear what they have to say. I read a story this past week that illustrates the point.

#### **Illus: TUNE IN TO THEM**

“A young lady by the name of Lisa was approached by her outreach pastor and asked if she would become part of a new evangelism team. After Lisa considered the request for a moment, her first words out of her mouth were, ‘I’m sorry, I’m no good at evangelism!’ Since that is the response that the outreach pastor received many times he asked her, ‘Wouldn’t it be exciting to help people come to know Jesus?’ ‘Oh,’ replied Lisa with a big smile, ‘I get to do that all the time.’ When the outreach pastor heard that he asked her what she meant. Lisa said, ‘Every few months God sends me a new friend to listen to. Pretty much all I do is tune in to what’s going on in that person’s life and let the person know that I care. Sooner or later, for some reason, most people ask me how to get to know Jesus. When they do, I tell them. And then we pray together to ask the Lord to come into their hearts. I can’t stand the idea of high pressure knocking on doors evangelism thing: it feels too manipulative to me. Listening to people and talking to them heart to heart is something I love to do.’ After a stunned moment the outreach pastor roared with laughter. Then he asked, ‘Just out of curiosity, how many people are we talking about?’ Lisa could not say at the moment, but when she went home that night she started reflecting back, looking up in her personal journals the past seven years. What she found was that she had helped more than 80 people begin a personal relationship with Jesus! All because she would start by listening to them.\*

(\*From the book “Outflow” by Steve Sjogren and Dave Ping.)

If we can do nothing else – we can listen to people and love them.

Another thing we can do is:

### **C. You can SHARE and SERVE.**

Sharing and serving go together like peanut butter and jelly. When we humbly and unselfishly perform small acts of kindness it makes our families and friends wonder what’s up with us. It’s putting the love of Jesus into action. It connects our witness with our works. James said,

“If (faith) doesn’t have works, it is dead by itself. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works.” James 2:17-18 (HCSB)

Little acts of kindness go a long way. Serving gives our words an “anointing of credibility.” How many of you can complete this phrase?

Action speaks louder than WORDS.

Open a door for someone. Carry a load. Give a hand. Pat someone on the back.

A small act of serving speaks volumes. There are things you can do. You can pray. You can listen and love and you can share and serve.

I like what our missionary in Amman, Jordan says, “We play the music till they ask for the words.” Playing the music of Christ’s love through acts of kindness; till they eventually ask who it is we are singing, playing for. Then, we can tell them verbally about Christ’s love. But until then, we show them Christ’s love by sharing and serving what we have with them.

That brings us to the final point:

You can touch vertically and horizontally

#### **D. You can TOUCH VERTICALLY and TOUCH HORIZONTALLY**

You must have the vertical before you can have the horizontal.

Touching Heaven, Changing Earth. If you’re going to GO, getting out of your own little world, you’ve to touch Christ first. Out of that touch, He will give you the strength you need, the power you need, the wisdom you need, the discernment you need, the knowledge and everything else that you will need to be able to touch others horizontally in your life.

You’ve got to touch vertically first, then horizontally.

#### **CLOSING:**

AND when you do all of these things.....

You watch... you wait... you’ll see!

- Tell the story of John, the grandson to the founder of Hamas.  
While in Amman, Jordan this past month, we met the grandson of the founder of Hamas... he now is a believer in Jesus Christ. He was beaten by his dad, his mother helped him escape out of the country, put into prison, has a bounty on his head, and is passing out Bibles to Muslims every chance he gets. He’s not afraid. He’s gotten out of his own little world and making a TRUE IMPACT for the Kingdom of Christ. And... he’s only 21 years old! Oh, that we might take on his attitude and desire to make an impact in the lives of others even if it means giving our own life in the process.

## NOTES:

**Hamas is an Iranian-backed terrorist organization founded in 1988 by Mahmoud Zahar with the stated aim of destroying Israel. Hamas has carried out attacks that have killed more than 500 innocent civilians, including two dozen Americans. In June 2007, the terrorist group violently seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority and targeted Israelis with thousands of rockets and mortars. Funded and supported by Tehran in order to disrupt Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Hamas will be a legitimate partner for negotiations only when it is ready to live in peace with Israel. As President-elect Barack Obama stated last June, “We must isolate Hamas unless and until they renounce terrorism, recognize Israel’s right to exist and abide by past agreements.”**

**Hamas is an Iranian-backed terrorist organization dedicated to the destruction of Israel.**

- The Hamas charter, published in 1988, details the guiding principles of the group, is laced with anti-Semitism and racism, rejects peaceful efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and calls for the destruction of the State of Israel through *jihad*, or holy war. Hamas considers all of Israel to be occupied territory.
- The opening statement of the charter says, “Israel will rise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it as it had eliminated its predecessors.” (Read more about Hamas’ charter of hate [here](#).)
- Despite Hamas’ involvement in Palestinian electoral politics—which some hoped would moderate its objectives—Hamas has retained its stated goal of destroying Israel. The Hamas political platform calls for continued attacks on Israel: “The Palestinian people [are] entitled to act to restore its rights and end the occupation through all means, including armed resistance.”
- Since 1989, Hamas, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union, has carried out more than 100 major terrorist attacks, killing more than 500. Hamas attacks have killed more than two dozen U.S. citizens, including five American students, when a suicide bomber blew up a Hebrew University cafeteria in 2002.
- Since 2001, Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza have launched more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israel. Hamas continues to hold Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit captive after kidnapping him from within Israel nearly three years ago.

**Hamas has carried out dozens of suicide bombings in Israel, targeting Israelis in cafes, malls and hotels.**

