

## Before next time...

The world Christ has placed us in was once perfect, is now marred, but is being transformed by Christ. Its good to look at everything (including our work) and ask 'what is good that needs to stay?', 'what is bad that ought to be resisted?' and 'what could Christ redeem and make good?' Look below at the questions and think about the place where you work (or your home or street).

Questions	In your workplace/home/street
What is the main purpose of the work?	
How is that purpose achieved?	
What people influence the decisions?	
What does it mean to be successful?	
Whom do people admire?	
What is most offensive about Christians? What is most valued?	
What worldview (way of looking at the world) is the one that dominates?	
How does the worldview affect work?	
What of the worldview is good/bad?	
What could Christ redeem?	
What should you challenge?	
How can you be distinct?	
How can you i) serve people, ii) help society & iii) witness to Christ there?	

## Session 5 Witness An Alternate City

### Recap and Bible Study

*Last time we saw that the church is 'a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God' (1 Peter 2:9). We are a new community of people under the lordship of Jesus, and we need to witness to what Christ has done and is doing among us to a world that is broken...*

- Read together Acts 2:42-47

1. How did the early church learn together? What do we discover about their fellowship and service? Is there anything we can learn from this?
2. The early church were so involved with one another that they had fellowship every day. Do you have fellowship every day with another Christian? Is that possible? Why or why not?
3. What do we discover about how the early church worshipped together and witnessed to others? What can we learn from this?
4. Theologian Leslie Newbiggin once wrote, 'The gospel does not become public truth for a society by being propagated as a theory or as a worldview and certainly not as a religion. It can become public truth only insofar as it is embodied in a society (the church) which is both 'abiding in' Christ and engaged in the life of the world'. Do you agree with this? If so, can you think of examples?

## Watch the DVD

Use this space to jot anything down you find helpful from Tim Keller

Was there anything from the DVD which was new to you, or which you thought was particularly striking? Anything you were not sure about?

1. Tim said, *“An alternate city is gospel-speaking.”* What intimidates us about telling other people about Jesus? Are some people more intimidating than others? Why? What motivates us to tell people about Jesus?
2. Tim said, *“There is a credibility that comes if you are consistent in your behaviour, there is a credibility that comes if people see the gospel transforming you.”* Do people notice your lifestyle and that of our church? Do they appreciate it, even if they don't understand it? Share examples.
3. Bishop Frank Retief (from Cape Town) puts it like this, *‘people without Christ go to hell - if you really believe that you've got to take risks, take a chance and prepared to fail.’* Do you agree/disagree?

4. C. Peter Wagner, one of the leading missiologists, writes,

*“Planting new churches is the most effective way of reaching people for Christ known under heaven.”*

Think of some reasons why starting new churches (new communities) is a good way to reach people.

5. Tim said,

*“When Christ returns to earth, the present age will end completely and the age to come will come fully. Meanwhile, we live between the two ages - in what's been called the overlap of the ages.”*

What mistaken thoughts, distorted emotions, or wrong practices result when we don't focus enough on the age to come? What about when we don't focus enough on the present age?

## Spend time in prayer

- *pray for your life together witnessing to others*
- *pray for one another and the particular people you are trying to reach*
- *remember to pray for each other during the week*