

Along-Sider: How Do We Come Along-side People As Co-Laborers

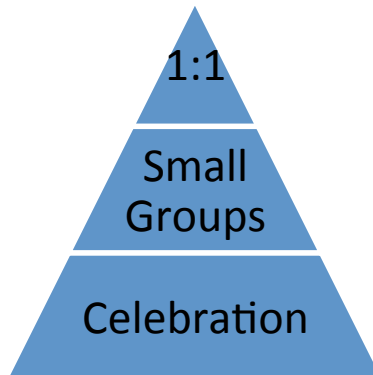
Lonely leaders, activity driven leaders, capsized leaders, unsatisfied hearts. Biblically healthy leaders are needed now more than ever. How do we come alongside others to encourage, develop and equip generationally? Jesus fostered disciples and leaders and his balance between the one-on-one and the many inspires us to understand more of his pedagogics and strategy rooted in the dignity and value of every individual. In this session, we will share and learn together.

Ole-Magnus Olafsrud serves with the Navigators in Norway, the Baltics and through various European networks. He became a Christian when he studied veterinary medicine. Since then, he has been involved in developing the Navigators in Norway and beyond. He served in student ministries and for 20 years as director of the Navigators in Norway. He spends half of his time as an along-sider (mentor), seeking to encourage and equip younger leaders in generational disciple-making. He serves on the Europe Lausanne leadership team as point person into nine countries to stimulate application of the Cape Town 2010 Commitment. He has written four books; two on family relationships, one on relational evangelism and one on along-sidering in disciple-making. His closest friend in life and partner in ministry is his wife Kari and they enjoy their three married sons and ten grandchildren.

Introduction

- I. Jesus - an alongsider in Luke 24:13-31
 - A. Jesus came alongside confused disciples, asked, listened, made himself available
 - B. Opened the Scriptures with themTruly; a relationship that contributed to maturity
- II. Our own experiences
 - A. Think of 1-2 persons who have influenced your life significantly
 - B. What was it about them ...?
- III. Along-sidering for the purpose of discipleship and disciple making
 - A. Marks of a disciple – John 15:1-17
 - B. Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith, rooted and established in love – Col 2:6-7; Eph 3:17
 - C. On our way to maturity – Col 1:27-28
 - D. Transformation – 2 Cor 3:18; Rom 12:2
 - E. Equipped for service – Eph 4:12

IV. It's about relationships and real community.



Individuals and communities grow and mature best when it's a good balance between celebration, small groups and one-on-one

V. Two types of alongsider relationships

A. Peer relationships

1. Relationships create a safe place for goodness and knowledge – Rom 15:14
2. Agree to go deeper with one another in life and service. It may be a new established relationship or more depth in an established relationship.

B. Older – younger relationship

1. Spiritual parenting – 1 Thess 2:7-11
2. A more mature person makes herself available for a younger person in Christ to encourage and equip.

In both types of relationships we are servants for others

- a. *“Not that we Lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy...”*
- 2 Cor 1:24
- b. *“... for your progress and joy in the faith ...”* – Phil 1:25

VI. Why is alongsidering so vital?

A. Jesus lived it

1. Dignity and value of every individual – Mark 5:24-34
2. A strategy of multiplication – Mark 3:13-19; John 17

B. Paul lived it

1. Father and teacher relationships – 1 Cor 4:15-17
2. Practiced the generational “pass-on-able-ness” of the good news – 2 Tim 2:2

C. To practice the “one-another’s”

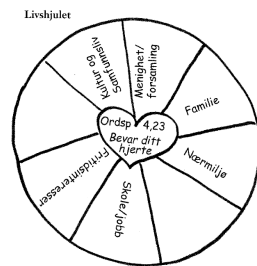
D. To model – 1 Cor 11:1; 2 Tim 3:10; 1 Tim 4:12

E. Strengths and limitations of one-on-one in relation to small groups and triads

VII. We respect the totality of life

A. Spirit, soul and body; the different dimensions of our lives – 1 Thess 5:23-24

B. *“Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life”* – Prov 4:23



The Wheel of life ... the heart, the arenas and the totality

C. The sinful, unbelieving heart – encourage one another daily – Heb 3,12-13

D. Develop goals for growth in the heart and different arenas of life;

1. in knowledge
2. character
3. skills

VIII. The content of our time together

A. Update our lives

Life in all its totality is important. What matters to God, matters to us

B. Time in Word and Prayer

1. Burning hearts and opened minds – Luke 24: 32, 45

2. *“All scriptures ... useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”* – 2 Tim 3:16-17;
3. The Bible as a mirror – see who we are. Hear and do the Word – James 1:22-25
4. *“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace...”* – Acts 20:32
5. Different ways of being in the word together

C. Pass it on

1. Equip in witnessing – Matt 5:13-16, 1 Pet 3:15
 2. Equip in helping believers – Eph 4:12
- Balance the use of our time

IX. The process of starting alongsider relationships

- A. Start with Prayer
- B. Respect personalities
- C. Ask the person; we available when asked.
- D. Clarify expectations
- E. Confidentiality is absolute
- F. Evaluate periodically
- G. Clear ending

X. The process of personalized disciple making in a church / community

- A. Do we want it?
- B. Initiate a seminar
- C. Create a learning community
- D. Start with the leaders
- E. Modell it your self
- F. Release testimonies and stories
- G. Create a culture