



Moving the Goal Posts (Losing the Game)

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to consider the changing nature of our culture, and the need for us as individuals and churches to adapt our approaches to presenting the gospel accordingly.

Opener

“The older you get, the harder it is to change!” Do you agree? Why? Why not?

Bible study

Read 1 Corinthians 9:12-27.

Question 1

What is the main point that Paul is making in verses 12-15?

Paul has rights, specifically to financial support from the Corinthians for his gospel ministry. But he would rather forgo these rights for the sake of the gospel. The gospel is everything.

Question 2

Consider some of the ways in which Paul made adjustments for those he wanted to win for Christ (19-22). What might Paul’s approach look like in your own culture?

Question 3

What does Paul say about his purpose and attitude in verses 23-27?

His purpose (23, 25, 27) is to share in the blessings of the gospel, to ensure he is not disqualified himself, and to get a crown that will last. His attitude is one of single-minded, goal-oriented discipline.

Application

Watch the video for this session. The video is available from https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540994/Where_do_we.aspx.

Question 4

In the video Ken makes the point that the game has changed: people won’t walk into our churches like they used to. To what extent do you agree with this statement? In what other ways has the culture changed in recent years such that new approaches of sharing the good news are required?



Question 5

Ken outlines the background to the butterfly swimming stroke, which was an innovation in its day to secure a competitive advantage in breaststroke swimming.

In addition to what we are already doing, how can we do things differently as churches and individuals to win the lost?

Question 6

Author John Maxwell says, “When it comes to change, there are three seasons of timing: people change when they hurt enough that they have to, when they learn enough that they want to, and when they receive enough that they are able to.”

What season are you in as a church, and as individuals?

Taking it forward

Watch the feedback video for this session. The video is available from https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/540994/Where_do_we.aspx.

In what ways could your small group take forward the idea of being innovative?

Pray about the season you find yourselves in. Pray for discernment to understand it, and for wisdom to know how to respond.