

Imagine this!

In pagan New York, Timothy Keller opened a church. People said it wouldn't work, but it did. Eventually the congregation numbered 5000. How come?

In his top-selling book, *The Reason for God*, Keller says, "For many years after each of the morning and evening Sunday services I remained in the church for another hour to field questions. Hundreds of people stayed for the give-and-take discussions."

This same dialogue approach was the hallmark of Jesus' ministry.

First, unlike the Pharisees, Jesus used *two-way* communication consistently. So he allowed the Pharisees to pursue him relentlessly, confront him publicly, and openly challenge his claims. (But the Pharisees disallowed any challenge to their own theology! John 9.22).

Second, Jesus' use of dialogue wasn't new. Remember those great encounters of Moses with Pharaoh, Daniel with king Nebuchadnezzar, and Job with his counsellors (and with God!).

Third, imagine fielding hostile questions in the most sacred places of worship! Yet this is exactly what Jesus did. Matthew 12.9-14, etc.

Fourth, here at Enfield our *Lifewell* courses and our Sunday *Lost and Found* themes are all focusing on effective communication. When we help enquirers who want Christian answers to many tough questions, this can be two-way communication at its best.

In this communication age, sharing our Good News has never been easier.

Ken Packer