

INFLUENCE

Amp up
your area



The Man Who Changed the World

Telemachus

Telemachus was a monk who lived outside the city of Rome.

He was a man of the country and lived a quiet life but

something, maybe the call of God, brought him to Rome. Thousands of people attended the games in the Coliseum to watch the gladiators fight to the death. One day Telemachus was carried along by the crowd to the Coliseum, where 80,000 people gathered for a dose of blood and death. Telemachus was horrified. "Are we not all men created in God's image? These who are fighting must stop." Telemachus jumped up from his seat, leapt into the arena and threw himself between two gladiators. His shouted out: "In the name of Christ stop this thing"! The gladiators pushed him away but he came back and shouted again and again at the top of his voice: "In the name of Christ stop this thing." Finally, the commander's order rang out. A sword flashed and Telemachus was dead. A hush spread throughout the arena. Slowly the people began to realise what had just happened and one by one they started to leave. A holy man had given his life to affirm the worth of every human being. The usual blood was not seen that day for something truly remarkable had happened to the city of Rome – there was never another gladiator contest in Rome because of that one man, Telemachus!

Elisha had just taken over as prophet from Elijah when people from the city of Jericho presented him with a problem that needed to be solved. The water tasted terrible and the land was not able to produce crops. They asked Elisha for a solution! Here is what Elisha did:

- 1. He asked for a new jar** – Elisha wanted an empty and fresh jar. As we start to influence we need to work out of a close relationship with God, empty ourselves of flesh and confess our sins so that God can use us.
- 2. He asked for salt** – salt is used in food as a preservative and flavourant and on icy roads for traction. God wants to use us as the salt of the world – to bring flavour to the world, to push back the darkness and to mobilise people to bring change.
- 3. He threw the salt in the spring** – Elisha threw the salt into the source of the water supply. The salt in us has to be thrown into the streams education, poverty, neighbourhoods, families, etc. We all have a story to tell of how Jesus changed us and our lives will tell the story.
- 4. He made a declaration** – Elisha went to the source of the water and made a declaration about the change that was coming. It is important to tell people about the good news of the Gospel as we bring change otherwise they will never know that God loves them and died for them.
- 5. He made the water pure** – Elijah, through a miracle of God, changed the water so that even to this day it is still pure. We must live our lives in such a way that every place we set our feet is changed because we were there.

This is how you influence your world for Jesus: Be an empty vessel, get salt on the inside, throw salt into the environment, make a proclamation and watch things change around you.

Influence Your World For Jesus - Ready...Aim...Fire...!!!



Can I Actually Make a Difference?

Do you remember the story of the little girl and the starfish?

A writer used to walk on the beach each morning before he began his writing. One morning he saw a figure dancing in the distance. He approached the figure and realised that it was a young girl and she was actually reaching down, picking up starfish from the still-wet sand, and throwing them into the ocean. He approached the girl and asked her what she was doing.

"I'm throwing starfish into the ocean," she replied.

"Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

The girl looks at the man with a sincere expression and said, "The tide is going out and the Sun is coming up. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

The man replied, "But surely you realise there are miles and miles of beach and thousands of starfish along each mile. You can't possibly make a difference."

Without pausing, the girl reached down, picked up a starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it hits the water, she said, "I made a difference for that one."



The Story of Elisha

¹⁹The people of the city of Jericho told Elisha, "This city's location is as good as you will ever find. But the water is bad, and the land cannot grow crops." ²⁰Elisha said, "Bring me a new jar, and put salt in it." They brought it to him. ²¹He went to the spring and threw the salt into it. Then he said, "This is what the LORD says: I have purified this water. No more deaths or crop failures will come from this water." ²²To this day the water is still pure, as Elisha had said. (2 Kings 2:19-22)



The Boy Who Changed the World Nkosi Johnson

Nkosi Johnson was born with HIV and died at the age of 12 in 2001. He was the longest-surviving South African child

born with HIV. His big moment came in July 2000, when he addressed delegates at the 13th International Aids Conference in Durban. A tiny figure in a shiny dark suit and sneakers, 11-year-old Nkosi Johnson held an audience of 10 000 delegates in tearful silence as he told his story. "Care for us and accept us - we are all human beings," he said at the end of his speech. "We are normal. We have hands. We have feet. We can walk, we can talk, we have needs just like everyone else. Don't be afraid of us - we are all the same!" He was given a hero's burial in Johannesburg in 2001 and his funeral was attended by thousands of mourners. "It's a great pity that this young man has departed," former President Nelson Mandela told reporters. "He was exemplary in showing how one should handle a disaster of this nature." Part of Nkosi's legacy is the Nkosi Johnson Aids Foundation and Nkosi's Havens, which have expanded to include projects in which people living with Aids are given care and employment in communal environments. By choosing to fight his battle with AIDS on a public stage, Nkosi helped reduce the shame of AIDS and in the process became a local hero. Because of his actions many others finally had the courage to admit they were sick.



The Dreamer Who Changed the World

Joseph

Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery and carried off to Egypt where he was bought by the Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's Egyptian officials. The LORD was with Joseph and became a successful man. Joseph's master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful. Potiphar liked Joseph so much that he made him his trusted servant. He put him in charge of his household and everything he owned. The LORD blessed the Egyptian's household because of Joseph and everything Potiphar owned in his house and in his fields was blessed (Genesis 39:1-6). A little while later Joseph landed up in prison on trumped up charges laid by Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:7-20). It did not take long before he was put in charge of the whole prison (Genesis 39:20-23). When he interpreted the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker it looked like he would be released but they forgot about him and it looked like he would die all alone in prison (Genesis 40:1-23). Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream and when Joseph interpreted the dream he was released from prison and became the second most powerful man in the world and his preparation for the worldwide drought saved millions of lives (Genesis 41:1-57).

What are the obstacles?

What does finished look like?

2. Build a Team

Who do you need to involve?

3. Create a Plan

What?	Who?	When?

Fire...!

1. Delegate Tasks – Approach the people on your Action Plan list and give them the tasks to do.
2. Encourage People – Look for opportunities to appreciate people and warn them about opposition.
3. Celebrate Success – Plan a celebration where you can party and thank God in prayer for His help!



The “Influence Your World” Worksheet

The Area of Influence

☐ Home ☐ School ☐ Community

The Specific Situation

Briefly describe the situation you believe God is calling you to influence:

Ready...

1. Ask God to Guide Your Thoughts – Pray that God will guide you to think wisely about your response.

2. Ask God to Direct Your Actions – Pray that God will direct you to take the right actions.

3. Ask God to Bless Your Efforts – Pray that God will help you to be successful.

Aim...

1. Take a Look

What are the facts?

1



Other People Who Changed the World

If we had time we would tell hundreds of stories of individuals who changed the world. There was Cincinnatus the Roman farmer who stepped up in a time of war to defeat the

Aequians who were about to defeat his nation and instead of holding on to power he went back to farming. Bill Gates the computer programmer created the platform on which millions of computers are able to function and helped to put personal computers in homes across the globe. Shaka Zulu who united the tribes of South Africa into the mighty Zulu nation and delivered a crushing defeat to the British forces in KwaZulu Natal. Nelson Mandela who emerged from prison after 27 years to become the first president of a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa. And so the list could go on and on!





Will YOU Change the World?

Will the world be different because you lived? What will you be remembered for? What change will you leave behind? What will your legacy be? You CAN make a difference!!!

The Faith Journey So Far

The igniteYOUTH faith journey goes like this: You Encounter Jesus; you Connect with other believers; you Grow in your Christian walk and you Reach your friends for Jesus. What's next? It's time to Influence your world for Jesus!

Influence Defined

Influence is changing your world - your home, school and community - through presence and actions as you usher in the kingdom of God.

- * It is about bringing real and lasting change
- * It is about change in the places that you already have contact with
- * It is about creating presence in society - being salt and light
- * It is about taking action while other people sit around complaining
- * It is about ushering the kingdom of God (the rule of God) into our world

A. Delegate Tasks – Each person on your team must contribute to the work or they will get bored and go and do something else. Take your action plan (the Who What When list) and assign specific tasks to people based on their unique talents, skills and gifting. Make sure that people know what you expect of them

B. Encourage People – As people start working (and hey, you are not a spectator, so be sure to give yourself some tasks too) they will get tired, they will face difficulties and maybe even some opposition from the evil one – so spend time encouraging them and reminding them of what you are accomplishing for God.

C. Celebrate Success – When the project is nearly finished you should get people to testify about the work that they have done and how God has given them strength and skills to make a difference. When it is all over it is time to pray and party together to celebrate victory!



Applying the Influence Strategy

Ready, Aim, Fire! How can you apply the Ready, Aim, Fire! strategy to each of the three areas that God is calling us to make a difference in?

1. Home
2. School
3. Community

On the following page is a worksheet that you can use to develop your plan and track your progress.

C. Create a Plan – You are now ready to create the action plan for the change you are going to bring. It would be wise to involve the team members in the plan so they own the initiative from the beginning. You need to be specific and decide: (1) What must be done? (2) Who will do it? (3) When must it be done by?



3. Fire!

The people were very excited about the building project that Nehemiah proposed and because Nehemiah had them build in front of their own homes, they were extra motivated to get

the work finished. The people expected attacks from the enemy so they worked with a building tool in one hand and a sword in the other hand. There were people who didn't like Nehemiah's plan. Some people just had lots of questions and Nehemiah had to answer them and encourage them to start working. There were however one person who was a more serious opposition to the makeover – his name was Sanballat. He was furious when he heard what was happening and he made fun of the people. He said to his friends, "What are these weak people doing? They think they can rebuild the wall." Someone added: "Yeah, even a fox could break down the wall they are rebuilding!" This didn't stop Nehemiah. He just prayed to God and God was with them. The people finished building the whole wall in just 52 Days! Even their enemies realized that God must have helped them because it was a great, big wall! When the wall was complete the people worshipped God – taking time to read the Bible and to obey God. (Nehemiah 3-6)

The third step in Influencing your world for Jesus is to FIRE! Once you have created an action plan you need to start the work. There are three aspects to firing:



How does Influence Happen?

When a sharp shooter steps up to hit the target they use a well known strategy: Ready...Aim...Fire! We are going to borrow that strategy to describe how to influence our world for Jesus. We will follow the biblical story of Nehemiah to see the strategy in action.





1. Ready...

Nehemiah was a Jewish man living in Persia – his job was to taste the king's drink to make sure that no one had poisoned it. He was a very trusted man and the king liked Nehemiah

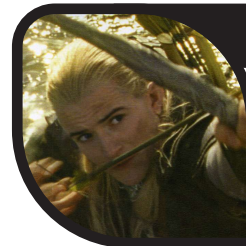
and cared for him. One day Nehemiah's brother told him some sad news. The walls of his hometown, Jerusalem, were broken and desperately needed to be repaired before the whole city was destroyed. The news touched Nehemiah so deeply that he cried, fasted and prayed for days. The next time Nehemiah served the king a drink, he noticed that Nehemiah was upset and asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah told the king of his sadness and boldly asked the king if he could go rebuild the city walls. The king agreed and even offered his help! (Nehemiah 1)

The first step in Influencing your world for Jesus is to get READY! Before you launch into a project you must do three things to prepare yourself for action:

A. Ask God to Guide Your Thoughts – Nehemiah knew that he needed God's help if he was going to make a difference in his home town and he went straight to God to get wisdom about the situation. If you are feeling burdened about a situation at home, at your school or in your community then take it to God in prayer and ask Him to help you think His thoughts about the situation! If you can't think of anything to focus on, then ask God to break your heart with the things that break his heart!

B. Ask God to Direct Your Actions – Nehemiah took the news of the situation in his home town straight to God in prayer. He wanted to make sure that he did not run ahead or lag behind what God wanted to do through him. Take the situation you are concerned about to the Lord and ask Him what He wants you to do about it.

C. Ask God to Bless Your Efforts – Nehemiah did not know how difficult the task would be or how many people would oppose him, so he asked God to make him successful. The situation you are facing may feel like a mountain standing in your way – ask God to make you successful and He will be with you!



2. Aim...

Nehemiah set out for his hometown. When he got to Jerusalem, he went to take a closer look at the broken down walls. He rode a horse around the city and inspected it. Then he told

his friends how God had answered his prayers, how the king let him come to help and what he believed needed to be done to restore the walls. Everyone got excited. They wanted to start rebuilding the wall right away. He did not try and build the wall on his own – it would have taken forever for him to do the job alone! He made sure that he got as many people as possible involved in the building program. (Nehemiah 2)

The second step in influencing your world for Jesus is to take AIM! Once you have identified the area you will influence you must do three things to sharpen your aim:

A. Take a Look – To understand the problem you need to take a closer look at the situation and gather as much information as possible. This will ensure that you are well informed when you proceed and are not operating in ignorance. This will help to limit the mistakes you will make along the way.

B. Build a Team – It is unlikely that God wants you to work alone to bring change. You must think about who you can get ask to help you tackle the work. You need to share the burden with them and ask them for their help.