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**DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled:
Tim Downs: For evangelism, think tomato gardening.**

Featuring Tim Downs, author of the book FINDING COMMON GROUND.

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. What is Paul writing about and what does his use of wording mean in reference to ministry?

Section 2

Watch the podcast titled: “Tim Downs: For evangelism, think tomato gardening” at <http://OverflowToday.com>

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

When you think of evangelism, does that word feel to you more similar to the farming concept of sowing seed or closer to reaping harvest?

Which part of the farming process do you think is the most important?

Tim Downs compared two forms of farming/gardening. What were they and how did he contrast these two approaches to working with plants?

What did Downs say is the first thing you do when you walk into the garden?

After you check the plants, if they aren't ready for harvesting, what do you do next?

As the author described tomato gardening, what were some of the different tasks involved and how did he compare those tomato gardening tasks to evangelism?

Downs said that as we, each day, approach to the "garden" or "field" that we work in, that we should ask the right question about the field or plants, instead of asking a question about ourselves. What were the right and wrong questions to ask daily?

The author said that we should think of evangelism as a much smaller thing on a daily basis. How did he describe the smaller scale daily approach to evangelism?

Does Tim Downs recommend against having a harvest-mentality in this show?

How does the author recommend that we be best equipped to plant seeds, water, or harvest in a way that will make the critical issue clear to our not-yet Christian friends?

He recommended three gospel presentation outlines that are good approaches to sharing the gospel with friends. Here are two good ones to consider:

<http://www.ccci.org/how-to-know-god/would-you-like-to-know-god-personally/index.htm>

<http://evangelismexplosion.org/resources/steps-to-life/step-1-do-you-know/>

Section 4

Discuss and plan a way that group members can apply these principles this week in others' lives.

One suggestion, if needed:

1)

Each group member: Choose 2 "gardens" or missions fields that are part of your week. That might be school and work. Or work and gym. Every day, before entering each venue, ask yourself the questions: "What do the people in this garden need from me today? Are any ready for harvest? Which need some other phase of the process like seed planting or weeding?" Then consciously apply your conclusions to each context daily.

2)

Group Leader – Purchase a pack of recommended gospel tracts from a local Christian bookstore or an online site and bring them to the meeting. Give each group member a tract. Group members commit to read the tract through before every meal for the next 7 days, to familiarize themselves with a particular gospel presentation. Look for opportunities to share this message with others during the week.

Meet back next week and discuss what happened.

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