

Share The Gospel
First Baptist Church Dandridge
April-May 2024

Session One: A Gospel Worth Sharing

Introduction

1. Obvious But Not Easy

Most Christians sense the need to tell other people about Jesus. The Bible is clear that all believers are called to “make disciples” (Matt. 28:18-20), meaning that it’s our role to introduce people to the gospel, call upon them to believe in Christ, and help them grow in their relationship with him. There are times when the Holy Spirit places a burden upon us to engage someone in a gospel conversation, especially someone we know to be an unbeliever. However, even though we are commanded and convicted, “for some reason, we don’t always want to share it” (9). Even the apostle Paul said that he preached the gospel “in weakness and in fear and much trembling” (1 Cor. 2:1-5). Having gospel conversations is even more difficult when it comes to family or friends. As the writer said, “We often feel inadequate for the task, and anxious about how we’ll be received” (9).

Group Discussion: What are the main obstacles or problems you experience in reaching out to others, and talking with them about Jesus?

- I lack confidence
- I’m worried I won’t be able to answer people’s questions
- I’m not sure what to say to people
- I find that I often lack motivation
- I don’t have many non-Christian friends
- I feel weird introducing the gospel into everyday conversations
- Other...

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to “equip everyday Christians with the vision, motivation, confidence, and practical skills to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with other people – in their own way, in their own words, in the midst of everyday life” (10).

2. The Love of Christ

The core motivations and reasons for reaching others with the gospel.

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” – 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2

- **Question:** When Paul states, “*For the love of Christ controls us...*” (5:14), what does he mean?
- **Question:** After describing believers as being “reconciled” to God, what does Paul mean when he says that Christ “gave us the ministry of reconciliation?” (5:18). How does this ministry relate to being an “ambassador for Christ?” (5:20).
- **Question:** As Paul concludes, what is the significance of stating, “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (6:2).

3. Before Next Time

- a. **Look around with new eyes.** Make a practice of identifying people around you who need to hear the gospel. Try not to see them “according to the flesh,” but according to who they could be through the grace of God in Christ.
- b. **Learn “Two Ways to Live.”** This guide provides a basic framework of the gospel that can be used to help people understand their need for Christ. A companion book is available called, “Learn the Gospel.”