

Your Part in the Process

KEY VERSES

Romans 10:12-17, Matthew 28:16-20,
1 Corinthians 3:7-8, Ephesians 4:11-16

TEACHING NOTES

KEY THEMES

Evangelism is a process
Different people, different roles, one goal

The importance of evangelism (Romans 10:12-17)

A few questions to get us thinking

The processes of evangelism and discipleship as observed in Scripture

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

Different people, different roles, one goal (Ephesians 4:11-16)

Discipleship has one goal: spiritual maturity for the individual and bodily love for the group

Discipleship is a process (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

We are called to share the Gospel and disciple people, and both of these processes will often involve different people over a period of time.

My part in God's process

Lesson Objective:

To understand that God uses different people in different roles to share the Good News about Jesus

PERSONAL STUDY

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help you focus and learn what He has for you from this time with Him and His Word.

 **Evangelism is a process**

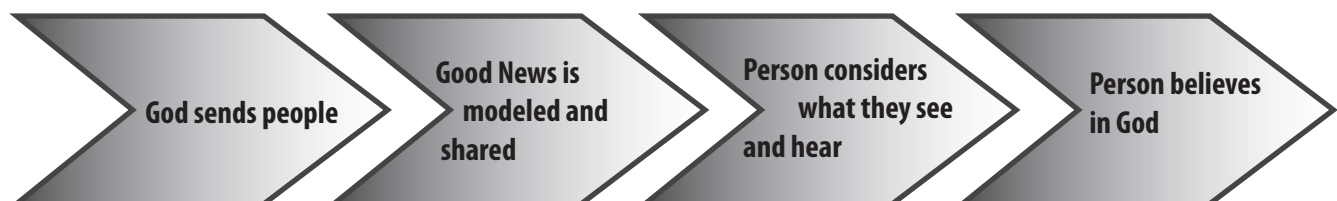
 **Read Romans 10:12-17**

God has chosen to use us in spreading the Good News of salvation through faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ. What are two things, from this passage, we need to do in order to give people an opportunity to respond to God's offer of grace?

Reaching out to share the Good News with someone can take many forms. For some this might mean moving to another country to connect with the people living there who have never heard the Good News before. And for others, it simply means being a part of the lives of people we already interact with. Jesus modeled this by building authentic relationships through loving people. He didn't just try to convert them.

We need to be intentional in building relationships with people in our normal flow of life for the purpose of seeing how God might use us. Who are the people in your life that God has placed on your heart that you would like to be more purposeful in how you relate to them so you may eventually be able to share your faith?

Consider the progression, modeled in the Romans passage and mapped out below, that God uses to reach people. What were the circumstances that led you to place your faith in God?



Under each heading below list the role each person involved has in this progression.

God

Christ Follower

Person hearing

God desires to involve each of us in helping people place their faith and trust in Him. We need to be ready and looking for opportunities God gives us to model His love and share truth about who He is and what He has done for us.

One of the primary ways Satan can cause us to become ineffective is by keeping us distracted with things that don't really matter in light of eternity. Take some time to reflect on your current focus in life. What is distracting you from sharing about the hope you have in Christ?

Key verse

Put to memory Romans 10:14-15a. Place your scripture memory card in a place you will see it often.

Prayer time

Tell God how grateful you are for the people He used in your life. People, who by modeling His love and sharing His truth, helped you come to the point where you placed your faith in Him. Ask God to show you how you can be more aware of everyday opportunities to show His love and, when the situation presents itself, share appropriate truth about Him. Ask God if there is someone this week He wants you to reach out to and connect with.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin by asking God to help you focus during this time with Him and His Word.



Different people, different roles, one goal

We are all created and gifted by God for certain roles. While our roles may differ from one another, we share the overarching goal of growing in Christ as we serve by building up the body (the church).

**Read Ephesians 4:11-16**

Here are some general definitions of the roles described in the passage. Use these to help gain a deeper understanding of each role's contribution to the church.

Apostle: Literally “sent one”, delegate, or messenger. Apostles are visionary and pioneering, always pushing into new territory.

Prophet: One who proclaims God's Truth.

Evangelist: A proclaimer of the Gospel (or the Good News). One who brings the Good News and shares the message readily. Evangelists love spending time with non-Christians and often remind other Christians that there are non-Christians still out there in the world. Evangelists know the Word and can make it relevant to non-Christians.

Pastor: A guardian, leader, or shepherd of people. One who cares for others with a tender heart. One who sees needs, provides comfort, and encourages others.

Teacher: One who serves God by making clear the truth of God's Word with accuracy and simplicity.

Use the following questions to guide you in a time of reflection on the Ephesians passage.

What is the specific responsibility of these leaders?

What is the responsibility of God's people (you and me)?

What is the end goal of all of these responsibilities? (See verse 13.)

Based on your gifts and calling, how might you share Christ with others? How could you also help to build up the church?

Take a moment to think about what you have learned

A lot of information has been covered through this week's teaching and personal studies. Take some time now to reflect on what you've learned and how it applies to your life. Use the space below to make any notes about things you want to remember.

Key verse

Continue memorizing Romans 10:14-15a. Try to write it out from memory below.

Prayer time

Spend some time talking with God. Leave some time to be quiet before Him. It is too easy to get into a habit of talking at God, forgetting to listen.

PARENT GUIDE

Evangelism is a big word that can be really confusing for both kids and adults. During this course of *Equipping the Church* we want to provide you with teaching tools that may help you explain evangelism to your children. To start with, here are a few Table Talk questions you can use to introduce the idea.

Table Talk

What do you think it means to share your faith?

(If you have older children you can share with them that sharing their faith is also known as evangelism.)

What are some ways to make sharing our faith more simple?

Read John 13:34. What is the really important thing Jesus is saying in this verse?

(Jesus is telling us to love others. Love is a simple, yet essential, and powerful way to share our faith.)

What are some ways we can show love to others?

(If you have older children you could also read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and talk about how we can all grow in our love of others.)

ADDITIONAL STUDY

Thank you for pressing on in this week's lesson. As you seek the Lord and study the Bible, know that the Spirit of God will lead you into all truth (John 16:13).

The Bible says that no one can come to Jesus unless God draws them (John 6:44). God commands us to share the gospel and make disciples, but only God, through the Holy Spirit, draws someone to Himself.

God can use different members of the body of Christ to sow the seeds of the Gospel into the life of one individual that He is calling.

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-17**

How does Paul view division and strife among believers? What does it say about the maturity of the body when divisions exist?

How did Paul and Apollos work together to accomplish God's plan for the Corinthian church?

What foundation are we to lay into the lives of the people around us?

Please take a few minutes to be quiet before the Lord giving the Holy Spirit time to speak to you. Are you willing to be used by the Father to share the Good News with the people in your life? Who around you is the Holy Spirit leading you to share this Good News with?