

Opening Doors

TEACHING NOTES

KEY VERSES

Revelation 22:16b-17

KEY THEMES

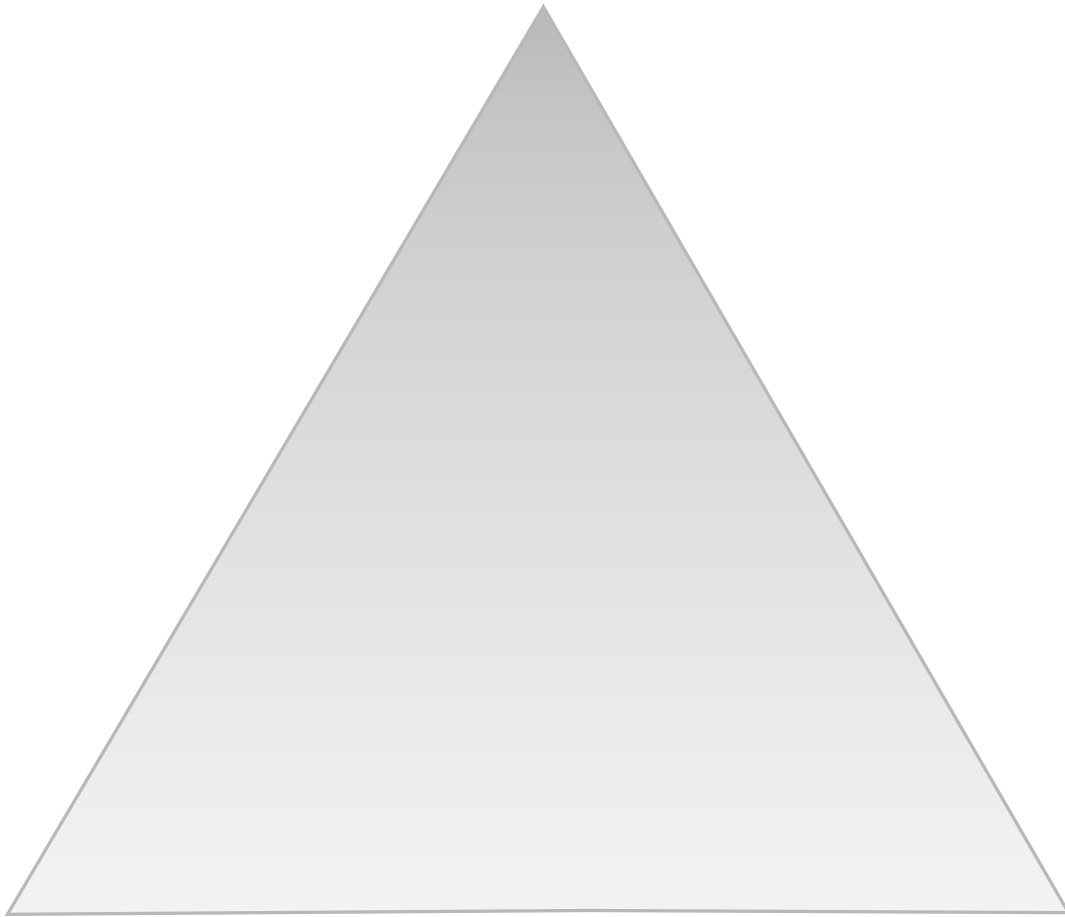
Relational evangelism

Revelation 22:16b-17

3 doors

“Jesus has invited all of us to be a part of His plan. He has designed all of His people to know His joy as we share His love, spread His Word, and multiply His life among all the peoples of the earth. This is the grand purpose for which we were created: to enjoy the grace of Christ as we spread the gospel of Christ from wherever we live to the ends of the earth.” – David Platt

H.E.L.P.



Lesson Objective:

To understand the connection between evangelism and meaningful relationships.

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.

**Read John 4:1-42**

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well should challenge us. We see Jesus, tired from His long walk, beginning a conversation with a stranger by asking a simple question. The discussion quickly goes beyond the superficial. Jesus, the wellspring of life, ultimately calls the Samaritan woman to hope in Him, rather than continuing her futile search for satisfaction in this world.

This week, we learned about engaging the people we come across in our everyday lives. We too are called to take opportunities to move beyond the superficial with people. We learned about the H.E.L.P. acronym as a useful tool in evangelism. Relational evangelism is about inviting people into relationship with the hope of the universe, Jesus Christ.

Hobbies – How do you like to spend your free time?

Education – Where did you go to school?

Loved Ones – Who are your friends/family?

Passion – What do you have a burden for, a drive towards? Or what motivates you?

Spend some time reflecting on your life in light of this H.E.L.P. acronym. Try to explore each area. Write out some reflections about your life below.

Hobbies

Education

Loved Ones

Passion

Who that you know has had similar experiences to you? Does this person know Jesus, the only true source of life?

How often do you find yourself talking with people you do not know well in an average week? Where do you encounter these people most often?

Think about where or with whom God is calling you to invest your time and care. How can you begin to take the next steps with those people? How can you begin to go beyond the superficial?

Key verse

Put to memory Colossians 4:5-6. Place your scripture memory card in a place you will see it often.

Prayer time

Tell God how grateful you are for the hope you have in Christ. Ask God to give you a heart for the lost and the words to speak to them. Finally, ask God to show you how He may be calling you to invest more intentionally in the relationships you have for the purpose of sharing Christ with them.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help focus and guide you during this time with Him and His Word.



Read Acts 26

Paul knew the power of what Christ had done in his life. And he knew the power of his testimony. He shared it with passion and boldness. Paul is a great example of what it should look like to know and share your story.

Know your story

During last week's home study as you watched and discussed *Just Walk Across the Room Session 3: The Power of Story*, you learned that knowing your story is important. You were encouraged to share some of your testimony as you discussed the good and bad ways to share about the hope you have in Christ. Knowing your story is a key component to evangelism. During this Personal Study you will continue to develop your testimony.

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. (1 Peter 3:15b)

Write your story

The prompts below will provide a solid framework for building your story. As you work through the questions, try to think of specific examples and details that relate to each one. Take your time as you go through each section. Be sure to pray asking the Lord to guide you as you write your testimony. The space provided is not meant to limit you – grab extra paper if you run out of room, or type your story out on the computer if that feels more comfortable to you.

What was your life like before you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

What were your attitudes, needs, and problems?

What did your life revolve around? What was most important to you?

Where did you look for security, peace of mind, and happiness?

How did you come to accept Christ?

When did you first hear the Gospel?

When were you first exposed to a believer who lived out an authentic faith?

What were your initial reactions to Jesus Christ?

When and why did you begin to feel positively about Christianity?

What was the turning point in your attitude?

What feelings did you struggle with right before your decision?

What happened after you trusted Christ?

What changes did you see in your life? In your attitudes? In your actions?

How long did it take before you noticed any changes?

What does Jesus Christ mean to you now?

Key verse

Continue memorizing Colossians 4:5-6. Attempt to write it out from memory in the space below.

Prayer time

Spend time in prayer thanking God for the gift of salvation, the hope you have in Him, and all the wonderful ways He's worked in your life. Thank God for helping you write out your testimony today. Ask Him to give you an opportunity this week to share your testimony with someone who may or may not know Christ and the boldness to respond to that opportunity.

PARENT GUIDE

This week we were challenged to look at evangelism within the context of relationships. God wants us to model and share our belief in Him with those we are in relationship with. In today's Parent Guide you will look at God's plan to share His Good News through us. For those of us that have placed our faith in Jesus we have the forgiveness of sins that gives us hope that we will spend eternity in heaven with Him. Everyone should have the opportunity to hear about this incredible truth.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

Table Talk

Why is it important for us to share about our relationship with Jesus with other people?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 and talk about the instructions we are given in these verses.

(Worship God as the center of your life, if someone asks about the reason for the hope you have be ready to explain it, and explain it in a gentle and respectful way)

What do you think your friends need to know about Jesus?

Brainstorm with your child about what it might look like for them to talk with their friends about Jesus. Ask them if anyone comes to their mind that they would want to share more about Jesus with.

Why is it important for us to explain about Jesus in a “gentle and respectful way?”

Pray with your child about the friends they identified who need to hear about Jesus. Ask Him to give them the opportunity and courage to share.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

In John 15:13 Jesus says, *“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”* Let’s take a closer look at what this verse has to do with relational evangelism. We as Americans have an interesting culture. Most of us live in close proximity to our neighbors, but we don’t even really know them. We greet each other with a “good morning” and talk briefly about the weather or the game, but rarely take the time to truly love one another. How about the co-workers across the hall from your office? Have you taken the time to notice what’s going on in their lives? Evangelism comes out of an intentional love and concern for the people around us and that love comes with a price. Time is our greatest commodity and it is the price we must be willing to pay in order to reach the lost world around us. It is literally the laying down of our time that shows our sincerity for the lost.

**Read Luke 19:1-10**

Who was Zacchaeus?

Why did Jesus go to Zacchaeus’ house and what was the result of His time spent there?

Based on verse 10, what was the reason Jesus gave for coming to earth?

What a burden Jesus had for the lost! He consistently gave up His time to go after sinners with great intention. Jesus followed the will of the Father and accomplished His purpose of reaching a dying world. Matthew 10:39 says, *“If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”* Do you love the people around you enough to willingly lay down your life in the name of Christ and lose it for their gain?