

Introduction

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS/SHARE JESUS

Introductory Talking Points

Notes

- Bro. Steve will be preaching on evangelism all four Sunday mornings in August.
- We will be studying Build Relationships/Share Jesus all four Sunday mornings in our Life Groups.
- The Awesome August guest preachers will be preaching on evangelism on Wednesday nights.
- The second and third Sunday evenings we will not be having Sunday Worship Services, but will be going out as a church and making Share Jesus visits (passing out gift bags, looking for opportunities to share the gospel) in the neighborhoods around BBC.
- The fourth Sunday evening we will have Bellevue Loves Memphis and will seek to Share Jesus with those we are serving.

Share Jesus is one fourth of the BBC Vision Frame! In other words, we as a church have embraced the mandate and privilege of sharing the gospel to compose one fourth of our focus, our energy, and our heart.

Over the next four weeks we will look at the measures of Share Jesus, the four ways we can tell if evangelism is a reality in our hearts or just a thought that we politely nod at. The test of anything is not what I say, but what I do! As Charles Stanley has well said, **“What you do every day is what you believe; everything else is just religious talk.”**

The four measures for Share Jesus (*as you will see on the walls of our classroom—this is a great opportunity to walk over and point these out*) are:

- I am prepared to share the gospel.
- I am proactively developing relationships with lost people.
- I am engaged in local witnessing opportunities.
- I am taking the gospel to the nations.

Week 1

TWO VERSES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Two Verses That Changed the World

Notes

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" (Romans 1:16-17 NASB).

Martin Luther was born in 1483 to poor parents. Luther was brought up to work and study hard. He excelled in school and was on his way to becoming a lawyer. However, in 1505, he was caught in a horrible storm where, fearing for his life, he cried out to St. Anne, the patron saint of miners, "Save me, St. Anne and I will become a monk." The storm subsided and Luther fulfilled his word and became a monk.

Luther spent several disillusioning years as a monk. Having no peace in his heart that he was right with God, he enrolled at the University of Wittenberg to search for answers. He so excelled in his studies that he received a doctorate and became a professor of theology. A man who feared God greatly, knowing the stain of sin on his soul, Luther continued to wrestle with the question of how to obtain peace with God.

In 1515, while preparing a lecture on Paul's epistle to the Romans, he read, "*The just shall live by faith*" (Romans 1:17 KJV). He dwelt on this statement and finally realized that salvation was found not through works, not through religious striving or sacrifices, but by faith alone! Luther writes, "When by the Spirit of God, I understood these words—'*The just shall live by faith*'—then I felt born again like a new man. I entered through the open doors into the very paradise of God."

Luther's new faith put him at odds with the Roman Catholic Church. He refused to be quiet; he would not be ashamed of the gospel. He defiantly penned his "95 Theses" which espoused that the Bible was the essential religious authority, not the Roman Catholic Church, and that men are saved by faith alone, not deeds. He was excommunicated from the Roman Church and he founded the Lutheran Church, which then led to the Protestant Reformation. This reformation paved the way for the growth of churches that were called Baptists.

The transforming power of Romans 1:16-17 changed Luther, who changed the church, which changed the world. Our title for today's lesson is not an overreach.

This morning we still study the measure "I am prepared to share the gospel."

Main Idea: To grasp the importance of sharing the gospel.

Today, we will explore three questions that will help us evaluate our preparedness to share the gospel:

- **What is your emotional attachment to the gospel?**
- **What is the gospel?**
- **Why should we share the gospel?**

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When you run into someone you haven't seen in a while (like at a high school reunion), what are some of the things you talk about? (*Write their responses on the board.*) These are things that are all easy for us to talk about. Why? Because we have an emotional attachment to them. (*Use items listed on the board to help make this point, i.e., you love your spouse, children, grandchildren. You are enjoying your job, retirement, hobbies, favorite ball team, etc.*)

Let's look at our first question.

1. What is your emotional attachment to the gospel? Paul said, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel.*"

How do you feel in the depths of your soul about the gospel?

- We joyfully share events and experiences we are rejoicing in or happy about!
 - Have I shown you the 42 new pictures I have of my grandson?
 - Look at the picture of the fish I caught!
 - I've got to tell you about where we went on vacation; it was awesome. You have to go there!
- We don't share things we are ashamed of. That's a truth that doesn't need to be explained. If it causes shame, I don't want to talk about it. I hope you don't. I hope no one does.

Paul was emotionally attached to the gospel; he identified with it! He wasn't ashamed of it; he talked about it every chance he could—like some of you talk about your grandchildren, or your favorite football team.

Let me share a convicting truth: **If I am not joyfully and frequently sharing the gospel, then I am ashamed of the gospel.** (*You might write this on the board.*)

Can you imagine the indescribable hurt a wife would feel if a husband were to suddenly meet some friends that he had not seen for decades—and did not introduce his wife who was standing by his side? What would his answer be if she asked, “Honey, why didn't you introduce me to your friends?”

- I forgot.
- I didn't think you'd like to meet them.
- I didn't think they'd like to meet you.

Whatever the husband's answer, not speaking up, not identifying with his spouse—shame was what he communicated.

If you don't talk about Jesus, if you don't openly, joyfully, and publically share the Word of God, somehow, somewhere lurking in your heart, you are ashamed of Jesus.

You may say, “I think that's too strong a statement.” Listen to what Jesus said about being ashamed, and you'll think my statement may not be strong enough, “***For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels***” (Mark 8:38).

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Let's stop here and list some of the reasons we don't share the gospel. (*Write feedback from the class on the board. You might use the following reasons to “prime the pump”.*)

→ Maybe we are ashamed of the cross on which Jesus shed His blood.

- Maybe we've heard the devil's lie, "People don't want to talk about spiritual things," so many times, that we've bought into it and we feel embarrassed to talk about sin, heaven, and hell.
- Maybe we are ashamed because we aren't living the life God wants us to live and we know it—and for that reason, we are hesitant to bring up Jesus, thinking someone might say, "YOU want to talk to me about Jesus?"

Here is the bottom line of Mark 8:38. Jesus knows if you do or don't share the gospel. He knows and He has strong feelings about it. "*If you are ashamed of Me, there is coming a day when I will be ashamed of you*" (my paraphrase). Wow, that's heavy.

Paul said, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel.*" He had an emotional attachment to the gospel. Bro. Steve often says, "You talk about the people you love." If you are not talking about Jesus, there's a heart issue there.

Let's move on to our second question.

2. What is the gospel? When Paul says, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel,*" what is he talking about?

Gospel is the Greek word *euangelion*. It means, "good news." It was a familiar phrase in the language of that day. Kenneth Wuest tells us, "The word is found in an inscription of 9 B. C., with reference to the birthday of the Emperor Augustus, 'but the birthday of (the Emperor) was for the world the beginning of *tidings of joy* (good news) on his account.'"

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Who received some good news this week that you'd like to share?

Someone has said, "The gospel is so good, that all other news (good or bad) is irrelevant."

In his book, *Share Jesus Like It Matters*, Bro. Steve defines the gospel as, "The good news about Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and victorious resurrection that brings salvation to a lost sinner when he repents and believes in Jesus."

(At this point pass out the laminated card that says, Share Jesus Outline.)

Over the next four Sunday mornings, we are going to go over this Share Jesus Gospel presentation, review this outline, study this outline, memorize this outline, **AND SHARE** this gospel outline.

I know that some of you may have some other gospel presentation memorized, but for the sake of getting everyone on the same page, I'm going to ask you to learn and use this outline for the next month. We are going to repeat it and repeat it until it's second nature. That way, when you're sharing the gospel with someone, these words will just naturally come out. It is simple and familiar to us. Let's look at the card.

The first things we see on the cards are:

Exploratory Questions

- These two questions serve dual purposes. First, they are questions you can ask someone to turn the conversation to a spiritual one. Second, depending on how people answer those questions, they give you a strong indication as to whether or not the person knows Christ.

Turn to the person on your right and ask, "Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and that you will go to Heaven when you die, or would you say that is something you are still working on?" Now turn to the person on your left and ask, "If you stood before God and He asked you, 'Why should I let you into Heaven?' what would you say?" Now that wasn't too bad was it?

Let's look at The Gospel Presentation on our Share Jesus card:

The Gospel Presentation:

- **God loves you.** John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*
- **We have all sinned.** Romans 3:23 and 6:23 are some of the most familiar verses in the Bible.

- **God sent His Son, Jesus, to save you.** 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, most of us will have to learn that, but it's a short verse.
- **What must you do be saved?** We've all heard Bro. Steve say, "repent, believe, and receive." We all know those three words. We may not know all three verses in this section, but they also are very familiar and are easy to learn.
- **Commitment, call for a decision.** Of course, repent, believe, and **receive**, means that we are hoping, praying, and sharing with the intent purpose of seeing a person receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. We are not sharing merely for information, but for salvation. If what we are sharing with them makes sense (if the Spirit of God is bringing them to a place of repentance and faith), we want to lead them to receive Jesus. For that to happen, they just need to pray, calling on the name of the Lord to be saved. All you have to do is lead them in a prayer. Romans 10:13 is another familiar verse.

*(After you have discussed the outline, either demonstrate sharing it with someone yourself or have someone else who already knows it to do that. That person can come up to the front of the class, ask you the two exploratory questions, and then quickly go through the gospel, presenting it to you. It should take less than 4 minutes, demonstrating how simple a presentation this is. You will want to remind those in your Life Group that the first measure of Share Jesus is not, "**I know** the gospel, but I am prepared to **share** the gospel.")*

We have now answered two questions:

- What is your emotional attachment to the gospel?
- What is the gospel?

Let's look at our final question.

3. Why should we share the gospel? Because "*it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.*" The gospel meets the greatest needs of mankind—peace with God and a transformed heart.

Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest comments on the truth behind the word “power”,

Coming to the city where power is the keynote, the power of the Roman empire, its military might, the apostle says that the good news he brings is ‘the power of God unto salvation.’ Of the six words for ‘power’ in the Greek language, Paul chooses *dunamis* to describe the effectual working of the good news of salvation. *Dunamis* is power, natural ability, inherent power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or, power which a person or thing exerts or puts forth. The gospel is the inherent, omnipotent power of God operating in the salvation of a lost soul that accepts it.¹

Imagine that you have a houseguest who is from a country that has no electricity. That person would be confused to hear you talk about plugging a cord into a socket in a wall to get power. He might think, how can there be power in a few small “funny shaped holes” in a wall? He might not even believe you. However, if he took a paper clip and put the paper clip in one of those funny shaped holes in the wall—he would become a believer!

Everyone who has been born again recognizes and has experienced this resurrection power! While we may have times in our lives when we aren’t walking in or experiencing the life-transforming power of the gospel, in our hearts, we still know that through it, we are living out the truth Paul proclaimed to the Christians in Corinth, “*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*”(2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT). The power of the gospel changed the life of Martin Luther, it changed Europe, it changed the world. It changed me! (***Teacher shares his or her testimony.***)

The gospel changed me, but it has not changed. That same transforming power is still there.

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 24). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Conclusion

Notes

Next Sunday afternoon, August 12, and on August 19, we are going out to Share Jesus in the neighborhoods around Bellevue.

We will meet in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. We are going to pass out gift bags, invite people to church, pray with people, and seek to engage them in a gospel conversation. Some of you have already agreed to serve as leaders on these Share Jesus visits. Would you team leaders raise your hands up?

Now, all we need are team members. I am going to pass around this sign-up sheet and give you a chance to sign up to go out and Share Jesus.

In 1521, Martin Luther was called to appear in Worms, Germany because of his commitment to the truth of the gospel. He defied the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V by refusing to recant his writings. He had been charged with heresy, and if found guilty could be killed.

I want to read the very last part of his famous reply to these people who held his life in their hands,

Since your most serene majesty and your high mightiness require of me a simple, clear and direct answer, I will give one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the council, because it is as clear as noonday that they have fallen into error and even into glaring inconsistency with themselves. If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. **Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen.**

I'm not asking you to take a stand that will put your life in danger. I am exhorting us all to take a stand—one that will change you, change the church, change families, and, change eternity for those who come to know Christ.

Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise. Will you stand with me?

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Resources

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ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the reasons we don't share Jesus?
2. What are some of the best ways to get over the fear of sharing Jesus?
 - Realizing that I am living in the fear of man instead of the fear of God.
 - Remembering that people are lost and are on the way to an eternal Hell.
3. Will you be able to confidently and boldly share the gospel just because you have received a Share Jesus card and have it to keep in your pocket or purse?
4. Describe the difference between knowing the gospel and sharing the gospel.

QUOTES

It is hard to sell a product you do not use and a religion you do not live. ~Unknown

Some things are too important not to share. ~Unknown

Life is too short. Eternity is too long. Souls are too precious. The gospel is too wonderful for us to sleep through it all. ~Adrian Rogers

When is the last time you won someone to Christ? When is the last time you tried? ~Steve Gaines

There is no one so bad that he cannot be saved and no one so good that he cannot be saved. ~Adrian Rogers

I'd like to ask what right any man has to call himself a follower of Jesus Christ if he is not a soul winner. ~A.R. Torrey

The key to determining how much something is worth is—how much will someone pay for it? That makes me want to shout because Jesus thought I was worth so much that He gave His life for me. ~Adrian Rogers

If someone were offering me \$25,000 for every person that I tried to win to Christ, would I endeavor to win any more to Him that I am trying to win now? ~Unknown

When walking down a certain street in Chicago, D.L. Moody stepped up to a man, a perfect stranger, and said, "Sir, are you a Christian?" "Mind your own business," the man replied. Moody replied back, "Sir, this is my business."

ILLUSTRATIONS

Don't Just Cherish, but Share

When Luigi Tarisio was found dead, his house was one with scarcely a comfort—but it contained 246 violins, many of them of great value. The greatest of his collection, a Stradivarius, was found in the bottom drawer of a rickety old bureau, where it had lain unplayed for many decades. He had collected violins all his life, cramming them into an attic and leaving them unplayed.

How many Christians are like Tarisio— storing and saving the truth for ourselves and failing to share these glad tidings with the world. The Good News needs to not only be cherished, but shared.

The Importance of Asking

When Henry Ford purchased a large insurance policy, the Detroit newspapers ran a story on it. The story was read by one of Ford's friends who after reading it went to confront him on it.

He asked Ford, "We've been friends for ages. Why did you not buy the policy from me?" Ford's reply was, "You never asked me." How many of our friends could say to us as to why they have never received Christ, "You never asked me."

Opportunities

In 2000, Reed Hastings, CEO of a small company he had founded, Netflix, approached Blockbuster CEO John Antioco and offered to sell Netflix for 50 million dollars.

Antioco, thinking that it was a "very small niche business," ended the negotiations and didn't buy Netflix, which at the time was a DVD mailing service.

Netflix is now worth 100 billion (with a B) dollars. Blockbuster filed for bankruptcy in 2010.

Today, you have the opportunity to share Jesus with people. That may not seem like a big thing. However, a day is coming —when you will stand before God and give an account of your life. Your obedience or disobedience in the area of soul winning will be the most important thing in the world.

Notes