



LifeHouse Community Church

G2 "Give the Gospel"

Week 6 - The Story

Love God - Love People - Make Disciples

The G2 Mission

The Importance of Prayer

My prayer for unbelievers is that God will do for them what he did for Lydia: He opened her heart so that she gave heed to what Paul said (Acts 16:14). I will pray that God, who once said, "Let there be light!", will by that same creative power "shine in their hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). I will pray that he will "take out their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). I will pray that they be born not of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God (John 1:13). And with all my praying I will try to "be kind and to teach and correct with gentleness and patience, if perhaps God may grant them repentance and freedom from Satan's snare" (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

In short, I do not ask God to sit back and wait for my neighbour to decide to change. I do not suggest to God that he keep his distance lest his beauty become irresistible and violate my neighbour's power of self-determination. No! I pray that he ravish my unbelieving neighbour with his beauty, that he unshackle the enslaved will, that he make the dead alive and that he suffer no resistance to stop him lest my neighbour perish.

Prayer is like preaching in that it is a human act also. It is a human act that God has ordained and which he delights in because it reflects the dependence of his creatures upon him. He has promised to respond to prayer, and his response is just as contingent upon our prayer as our prayer is in accordance with his will. "And this is the confidence which we have before him, that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us" (1 John 5:14). When we don't know how to pray according to God's will but desire it earnestly, "the Spirit of God intercedes for us *according to the will of God*" (Romans 8:27).

- John Piper

How do I "Give the Gospel" (G2 Mission)?

4 Questions:

- #1 What do I say?
- #2 Who do I say it to?
- #3 What will enable me to be faithful to do this?
- #4 What do I do if they say "yes"?

Question #1: *"What do I say?"*

The most important part is a commitment to regularly share your personal salvation story with people around you - especially with those whose hearts God is preparing to hear and respond positively. Therefore the starting point of training involves. . . writing and practicing your story & asking God to give you the names of people who someday need to hear your story?

Write Your Story:

1. Take out a sheet of paper and write your story with three parts:
 - 1) Your life before Jesus
 - 2) How you met Jesus
 - 3) Your life since Jesus.
2. Try to remove or avoid religious vocabulary that your "non-Christian" friend might have trouble understanding.
3. Remember to keep your story short, aim for 5 minutes or less in length.
4. Now, practice three times, reading your story out loud. Then, close your eyes and recite your story from memory.
5. Ask 2 Christian friends to listen to your story. Invite them to give you feedback on how to improve. See if you can do it better each time.

Tips for Writing and Telling Your Story Question:

Question: *What do I say if I've been a believer for a long time?*

Answer: People who have been believers for a long time sometimes struggle to come up with a personal story of life change. "I was only seven years old! I don't even remember my life before Jesus," is a typical response. Don't worry. The changes Jesus makes in our lives are not limited to our initial salvation experience.

Consider how Christ has helped you overcome loneliness, a bad temper, or lack of purpose. Give examples of those circumstances in your life where Jesus has helped you overcome. Talk about forgiveness, peace, joy, love, patience, and self-control. A simple story using those examples can help you begin your conversation about Jesus.

Question: *How do I persuade people to listen to the gospel?*

Answer: PRAY! After someone has listened to your story of how Jesus has changed your life, they have yet to hear and respond to the Gospel. So this is the time to share the whole gospel with them. **KNOW THE 5 G's**

If someone says, "No, I don't think I want Jesus in my life," You can ask them what issues or questions they might have. Ask about their worries or concerns. You want to get to their heart! Tell them that you are praying for them - and then follow up on those specific concerns and worries in future conversations.

Remember what Jesus taught us in the story of the lost sheep. The Good Shepherd left behind the 99 and went to find the one that was lost. When He found it, He did not say, "Hello little sheep, would you like to follow me back to the fold?" No! The Good Shepherd grabbed the little sheep and put it on His shoulder and carried it back to the sheepfold. We must be equally bold when we share our story and share the Gospel.

Question #2: "To whom do I tell my story?"

Although God does want us to tell everyone, there is a special group of people with whom God especially wants us to share our story.

Who do you think that is? What does the Bible say?

Here are some Biblical stories that help give direction:

Genesis 6:17-18 – God saved not just Noah but his whole family.

Genesis 19: 12-16 – God saved Lot and his family along with him.

Joshua 6:17-25 – Rahab in Jericho, along with her family.

Mark 5 – the Gerasene demoniac (especially verses 18-20)

John 4:7-42 – the Samaritan woman (especially verse 39)

Acts 2:38-39 – the promise is for them and their children.

Acts 10 – Cornelius along with his family and friends (see verse 24). See Peter's report of the event in Acts 11, especially verse 14.

Act 16:14-15 – Lydia and her household

Acts 16:27-34 – Philippian jailer and his whole family.

Acts 18: 8 – Crispus and his household.

Conclude: To whom does God want you to tell your story?

The answer: It is God's will for you to win your family and friends to Christ. The most effective evangelism comes from someone who knows you and loves you.

REMEMBER....one relationship at a time.

Pray and ask God to give you a list of those to whom God wants you to tell your story. Turn over a sheet of paper on which you wrote your story. Write down the names of everyone in your family or circle of relationships who needs to know Jesus....and pray earnestly for them.

There is a good reason why we can be bold when we go to give the gospel to people. We can go knowing that we are not alone, that God's Spirit is in us, giving us words that are not our own. We can also go knowing that the Holy Spirit is already at work all around us preparing people, convicting their hearts. God has *already* prepared these people and they will respond to the Gospel message that you will bring to them.

Because of the Spirit's work, we know that these people are already out there, scattered throughout our community. The only way to find them is to share with everyone. As we do this, those whom God has prepared *will* respond.

What about those who do not respond quickly? We persist in praying for them and seeking ways in which we can expose them to the Gospel. Our tendency is to find a small number of people with whom to develop relationships for "sowing" and to spend most of our time with them. In the meantime, those whom God has already prepared languish on the vine! Contrast that to the point that Jesus makes to His disciples in **John 4:35-36** (*read this passage*). The disciples were still in "sowing" mode, believing that people were not yet ready. He told them, "*Look! The harvest is already here! Start reaping!*"

Question #3: "*What will enable me to be faithful to do this?*"

The third question arises because of our weak human nature. Sadly, many Christians learn to be "hearers of the Word" but not "doers of the Word" (**James 1:22**). Jesus understood this challenge, and that's why He created for His disciples a community with peer accountability. In **Luke 10:1** and **Mark 6:7** we see that Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs. As you share your story with friends and relatives, you may sometimes want to have someone with you who can be a support. In **Luke 9:10** and **Mark 6:30** we also see that, after sending out His disciples, Jesus called them back to report on what they had done. Always be praying for one another and those *others* are trying to reach.

Question 1: "What do I say?" The answer: Tell them your story. Question 2: "To whom do I say it?" The answer: What does the Bible say? Win your family and friends. Question 3: "What will enable me to be faithful to do this?" The answer: Peer accountability.

Question #4: "What do I do if they say "yes"?"

What if you do tell your friend your story, and what if he says, "Yes, I would like to have Jesus in my life." What do you do if they say "yes" to Jesus? We need to be prepared for this. So we will learn to lead someone to a new life in Jesus Christ, and set them on a lifelong path of growing in their relationship to God. **Know The 5G's!**

God's Plan of Salvation - The Gospel

God created us because He wanted a special relationship with us. Every day He provides for us so many things that we take for granted, like the air we breathe, our daily food and drink, our loved ones, and much more. We take these things for granted because we don't really know God. God is calling you right now to stop living in ignorance of Him, to come close to Him and know Him. Jesus will change your life!

Now you also can have a new relationship with God and be forgiven and made right with Him and receive all of the blessings He has for you. (**Acts 17:28-29**)

Here is how we can understand and receive God's gift of Life through Jesus:

- A. What does sin do in our life? (**Isaiah 59:2**)
- B. People try many different ways to find God, yet they fail. Why? (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
- C. How does God bring us into relationship with Himself? (**1 Peter 3:18**)

The Way of salvation is:

- A. Jesus' saving work for us (The Cross & Resurrection) + trusting Him (Faith) + turning from our ways to Him (Repentance & Faith) = Salvation.
- B. Has God done His part (Jesus' death and resurrection)?
- C. Have you done what you need to do (repent & believe)?
- D. If you have "repented & believed," then you are saved (**Romans 10:9-10**)!
- E. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him? (**John 10:28**)
- F. Eternal life means more than just living forever with God. It also means that God's Spirit now lives within us, teaching us about Him and enabling us to live a life of holiness, love, peace and joy. (**Revelation 3:20; Galatians 5:22-23**).
- G. The Prayer of salvation – There's nothing magical in the words to this prayer, but if you believe it in your heart, God will hear your prayer and welcome you into His family. *"Dear God, I know that I have sinned, and that my sin has separated me from You. I am truly sorry. Now I want to turn away from my way of life and live life with You. Please forgive me, and save me. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was raised from the dead, is alive today, and hears my prayer. Jesus, I invite you to become the Lord of my life from this day forward. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."*

Conclusion:

If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____, the old _____, the new has come (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Here are some of the changes you can expect to experience in your new life.

____inner peace

____awareness of God's love

____desire to read the Bible

____evidence that my life is moving in the right direction

____awareness and conviction of sin

____ability to overcome sin

____concern for others

When you sin in the future, what should you do? (**1 John 1:9**)

Memorize Bible verse. "He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the Son, does not have life," **1 John 5:12**.

When you receive this great salvation, your life is full of joy and peace! The first thing that you should do is to share this good news with those you care most about. Ask God to show you five people with whom you can share all that you have learned.

Always keep in mind:

1. **Pray** - Begin by asking God to create an opportunity for you to share with your five friends and family members this week. Start praying for them individually, that God will save them.
2. **Believe** - Remember that Christ promises us that His Spirit is already at work even before we get there, so expect your friend or family member to be responsive to the story that you share (**John 16:7-11**).
3. **Ask** - Even if your friend or family member doesn't initially express an interest in having "Jesus in their life" ask them if they would like to "check out" church.