

Tell Someone Bible Study – by Greg Laurie

Page 5 – Introduction

This is what every follower of Jesus should be engaged in on a regular basis:

SHARING our faith,
LEADING others to Christ,
DISCIPLING them,
and **HELPING** them to get grounded in the church-
and then **GOING** our and **DOING** it all again.

*We have talked about this for a while now; when we give our hearts to Christ, that is when the work truly begins. Reading, studying, faithfully attending church and Bible study to learn God’s word and equip ourselves to embrace the Great Commission and ‘tell’ others about Christ and what he has done for us.

*I remember something David Johnson has said a few different times; in ways, assembling in church is really just like a huddle in football. As Christians, we gather together a few times a week and along the way, there are instructions and many words of encouragement, but part of the purpose of our time together, our huddle, is to make sure everyone knows the next play (Great Commission).

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to **go**. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore **go** and **make** disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

*We build up and strengthen one another while learning and understand our roles better, which are all a part of the game, but breaking the huddle and going out into the world is truly being in the game, being on the front lines of the world and teaching others. The point is that we shouldn’t just be church-goers who fail to live out discipleship in the world!

Week 1 – WHY SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Pg. 13 – START

- **What’s the most adventurous thing you’ve ever done? Why did you do it?**
- **When you hear the word evangelism, do you think of adventure? If not, what word comes to mind and why?**

For the next several weeks, we will be studying and discussing personal evangelism. This is something most of us know to be a part of the Christian life, but we often feel intimidated by the idea and unsure of what to say.

Pg. 15 – RESPOND

- **As Christians, we share the gospel because we're commanded to and because we care. How does this change the way you see evangelism?**

*The gospel is the 'good news' of Jesus Christ; who He is, what He has done and how that changes everything! Carl F. H. Henry said, **"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."** We've discussed it before, but if the message of salvation is so wonderful and eternally life changing, would we want to keep it to ourselves if we truly care about others? Why do we wait when there is no guarantee of tomorrow?

- **Read Luke 15**

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ **I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.**

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ **In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."**

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² **But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**”

What do the conclusions and the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son teach us about God? About “lost people?”

Why is leading someone to Christ a joyful celebration?

- **Read PSALM 126:6**

⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

What does going out weeping have to do with spreading gospel see and returning with joy?

What did Greg mean by getting mad about people not knowing Jesus?

How does understanding the difference between a sin of commission and omission help you think about Christian life? About evangelism?

*Sins of commission are those sinful actions that are proactively done. Lying or stealing are examples of sins of commission. A sin of omission is a sin that takes place because of not doing something that is right. Examples could include not praying, not standing up for what is right, or not sharing Christ with others.

James 4:17

¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Thoughts?

On a scale of 1-10 (1 = dry and stagnate and 10 = full of life) how would you rate your spiritual life? Why? How are giving and receiving both related to spiritual health?

Does anyone have a story to share about a time when you felt spiritually refreshed by sharing your faith, teaching or discipling someone?

Pg. 16 – Personal Study 1 – SHARING STARTS WITH CARING

- The point of this study isn't to hear what others have to say about evangelism, it's to encourage and equip YOU to tell someone.

For Personal Study 1, you'll consider the people in your life. We all have more relationships than we realize. Some relationships are closer than others, but we have regular interactions or connections with all kinds of people. They may be friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, people at the gym, parents of your children's friends, that old classmate you still interact with on social media, etc.

For each category of relationship listed below, write down the names of as many people as you can (whether or not you like the person). Begin with the people of whose salvation you are unsure.

Friends:

Family and Relatives:

Coworkers and Associates:

Neighbors:

People you know through activities:

People who attend church by may not yet be save:

People with whom you regularly interact on social media:

Other:

Now go back and circle the names of people with whom you interact most often. Next, star the names of people with whom you have the closest relationship. You have key connections with people who need a personal relationship with God and probably care about some of these people more than others, which is natural. Sometimes it's easier to talk to people we are the closest to; other times it can be easier to talk to people we don't know as well or even at all.

Do you care that people in your life don't know the Lord? Consider your thoughts, feelings and actions and answer the following questions as honestly as possible.

On a scale of 0-10, how often do you think about the spiritual condition of the people you know (0 = never, 10 = constantly)?

What would help increase this number, keeping people's spiritual condition in the front of your mind?

On a scale of 0-10, how urgent is it for people to hear and respond to the gospel? (0 = not urgent at all, 10 = extremely urgent)?

In your own words, describe the difference in someone's eternal reality based on his or her response to the gospel?

In what ways does keeping this eternal reality in mind increase your sense of urgency to share the gospel?

How do you feel about unbelievers?

Effective sharing of your faith
starts with a **CONCERN** and a **BURDEN**.

Pg. 20 – Personal Study 2 – SHARING THE GOSPEL IS AN ADVENTURE

- Next to personally knowing Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, the greatest joy I know is leading others to Christ and watching them grow spiritually...it should be a joyful, happy thing to tell others about your relationship with God and explain how they can have one as well.

I have found that the **HAPPIEST** Christians
are the **EVANGELISTIC** ones.

I have also found that the unhappiest Christians are the nitpicky ones. They are so busy arguing about things inside the church and in the surround culture that they miss opportunities to share the gospel and literally change someone's life forever. As the old country preacher Vance Havner used to say, "If we are too busy using our sickles on each other, we will miss the harvest!"

1 John 1:4

⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

How would you summarize what John is saying in this verse?

Acts 20:35

³⁵ It is more blessed to give than to receive.

What does this verse mean?

When have you experienced great joy in giving something to someone?

Why did it bless you as much or more than it blessed the other person?

God doesn't just expect us to give. He has set the ultimate example.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God has given His Son. He's given us His Word, the Bible. He's given the Holy Spirit to be with us each day. He's given us an opportunity to not only have eternal life in heaven, but abundant life and joy in the world right now.

Understand, this study is not intended to make you feel bad or condemn you if you have not engaged others with the gospel message. This study was written to encourage, inspire and revitalize you.

Proverbs 11:25

²⁵ A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

If you've shared the gospel or been blessed to lead someone to Jesus, in what ways did it energize your own faith and enthusiasm?

How did it give that person(s) a new and noticeable change in his life or in her life?

God hasn't blessed you with all the messages you've heard in church or read in books over the years for you to keep it to yourself...remember this, **you are blessed to be a blessing**.

If you'll take the time to go through this study from beginning to end and apply biblical truths, I believe you will be able to not only share your faith but to bring others to Christ.

Psalm 126:6

⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

Jesus told us there is joy in heaven over every sinner who comes to repentance (Luke 15:7). If heaven gets excited, we should get excited, too!

Pg. 24 – Personal Study 3 – WE'RE COMMANDED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

- *In the introduction (Pg. 1) for this week/session, we looked at the Great Commission. Here we are reminded that 'we share the gospel because we care and because we are commanded to do so.'

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to **go**. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore **go** and **make** disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

According to Jesus' words in the verses above, what did Jesus command His followers to do?

To what group of people are followers of Jesus commanded to go?

What's the first word, thought, or feeling that pops into you mind when hearing the words "authority" and "command"?

Do you think of Jesus more in the past tense (He said and did things I the past) or in the present tense (His words still apply and He's at work in and through you today)? Explain your answer.

Does the fact that Jesus has "all authority" and "commanded" His followers to do these things fit with your picture of Jesus? Why or why not?

- The Great Commission is to preach and teach; it's to proclaim and disciple. In the Great Commission, we're commanded by Jesus to go and verbally communicate His good news of salvation to as many people as we can. If they respond to this message, we're to "make disciples" of them. That is, we're to help them become grounded in their faith and integrated into a local church. Then, we're to go and repeat this process.

Colossians 1:28

²⁵ We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ.

That's the objective: lead people to Jesus and bring them to maturity. God says He is looking for people He can "show Himself strong for" (2 Chron. 16:9).

* I like that the author now brings up what most of us (myself) are guilty of which is making excuses

"God could never use someone like me!" Actually, he can if you will let Him. It could even happen before the day is over. He won't force you to share your faith, but He will prompt you. And when you take that step of faith, He'll empower you. What's your excuse?

Remember, God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God isn't looking for **ABILITY** as much
as He's looking for **AVAILABILITY**.

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Week 2 – WHEN AND WHERE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Pg. 29 – START

In Week 1, we looked at the two main reasons we share the gospel.

1. We share because we're commanded to by Jesus.
 2. We share because we care about others.
- Work through the three statements/questions on pg. 29:
 - The first day of your personal study helped you identify different people in your life. Who was surprised by the number of people you identified? (Friends, Family & Relatives, Coworkers and Associates, Neighbors, People you know through activities, **People who attend church, but may not yet be saved**, People with whom you regularly interact with on social media, other)
 - Was it more or less people than you would've guessed?
 - Of these people, to whom do you feel a particular burden for their need for Jesus? - *Are there any that we specifically need to remember in prayer?
 - When you hear the word evangelism, do you think of adventure? If not, what word comes to mind and why?

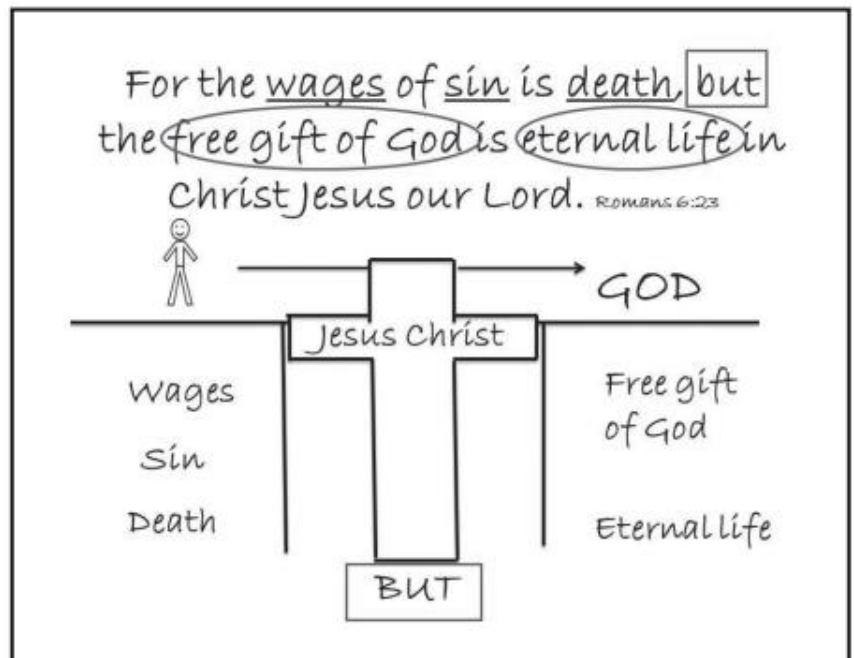
Video

What stood out in the video to you?

- Where and when to share the gospel? Wherever and whenever we have an opportunity!
- Greg made a great point; if someone found a cure for cancer by taking a single pill, would you tell someone, would you shout it from the rooftops and hope that everyone who had cancer would hear it or would you keep it to yourself? We have something to share that is better than a cure for cancer!

Pg. 31 – RESPOND

- On a scale of 1-10 (1 – low and 10 = high) how would you rate your **readiness to share the gospel**?
Your awareness of opportunities?
Why? *What stands out to me the most from this question is how 'ready' are we to share the gospel and to witness to someone!? Are you able, and willing, to share your story? Are you able to share or provide an explanation of the Gospel of Jesus and lead them to



Christ? We looked at the Bridge Illustration before which is one of the most used and effective evangelism tools and provides a brief, but complete explanation of the Gospel of Jesus. If you haven't, please spend some time learning how to use it to share the gospel with others. The following link/lesson is dedicated to 'sharing the gospel with your children'. That is probably how simple it needs to be. This is a great resource:

https://everymanawarrior.com/file_download/cf228b73-2796-46c5-8501-d38919fbb428

- When and where are you around people needing the gospel?

When?	Where?

- Apart from Christ, in what ways do you see other people trying to fill the hole in their lives? How have you tried to fill that hole in your life?
- Read Romans 10:9-15
⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
- Why is it not enough to be a good moral example to non-believers?
- Is there someone in your life that you don't want to share with or think that person would never repent and believe? Why?
- Greg asked if we'd considered that God may have us where we are for a reason. How does this change your perspective on life? On Evangelism?
- Read Timothy 2 4:2
² Preach the word; be prepared in season (friendly circumstances or safe times) and out of season (when proclaiming the truth is awkward, difficult or resisted); correct, rebuke and encourage (speak out against wrong, provide support, comfort and aid)—with great patience and careful instruction.
- If God doesn't usually speak audibly, how have you experienced Him providing opportunities to share the gospel?

- How can you be more intentional about interacting with people in your daily routines?
- What else has been challenging or encouraging from today's session?

Pg. 32 – Personal Study 1 – WHEN AND WHERE CAN YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL?

In Week 1 we focused on why we should share the gospel. This week we're answering when and where we should share the gospel. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to understand the original Greek language of Jesus' words in the Great Commission.

Mark 16:15 - "Go into all of the world and preach the gospel."

We can personalize this command:

- Go into all of YOUR FAMILY and preach the gospel.
- Go into all of YOUR WORKPLACE and preach the gospel.
- Go into all of YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD and preach the gospel.
- Go into all of YOUR WORLD and preach the gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Pg. 33 focuses on The Great Commission and by definition, a commission is an instruction, command or duty given to a person or group of people. Greg made the point that we are to 'go out and train everyone we meet, far and near.'

Pgs. 34 and 35 asked us to detail where and when we go each day and to look closely at our schedule, the people we are around and how we spend our time. *Spend some time discussing this section.

Pg. 36 – Personal Study 2 – WHEN SHOULD YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Read page 36 and the story of Queen Esther and how sometimes safety and comfort can keep us from doing God's will and cause us to neglect our duty as Christians (The Great Commission).

- **Describe how it makes you feel to know that God has a plan for your life?**
- **How does it change the way you see the world around you knowing that God is at work?**
- **Greg makes a statement in the middle of page 37; does it apply to us?**
 "We can be just like Queen Esther, happily ensconced (comfortable) in the security of the church and surrounded by our Christian friends as we watch Christian movies, listen to Christian radio, read Christian books, and spend our money with Christian Businesses. (These are all good things, by the way!) **We can easily find ourselves living in a Christian bubble and having little to no contact with the world around us filled with lost people.** When that happens, we're missing amazing opportunities to be used by God."
- **Think back to the activity in the previous section. Where do you go that you look forward to each week or during the year?**

- Why do you look forward to this place?
- Where do you go that you dread? In other words, if you could remove it from your calendar, you'd do so in an instant. Why do you dislike this place? (Maybe this is a place or location that you used to go, but have no desire to now or know that it is not in your best interest.)
- Is there someplace that feels absolutely hopeless, like there's no way God is at work? Where is it, and why do you feel that way? (Perhaps not a place, but people?)
- Think back to the people you don't enjoy being around. (Don't write their names down!) Why does that person(s) pop into your mind?
- Read the two paragraphs at the bottom of page 38. We are supposed to be around people that we may not like and even pray for them???
- Read page 39 and focus on our role, on your role in spreading the gospel message!

Romans 10:14

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

The gospel is **ONLY GOOD NEWS** if it gets there **ON TIME.**

Pg. 40 – Personal Study 3 – WHERE SHOULD YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL?

From the story about Jonah on pages 40 and 41, we find a man that many of us can probably relate to.

Jonah had sins of **commission** – he literally ran in the opposite direction of the mission God had given him. He acted contrary to what God had said.

Jonah had sins of **omission** – he wasn't speaking up when, where, and to whom God had commanded him to preach. This prophet wasn't sharing God's message with other people. *We've talked about this before; do we still have sins of omission in our lives or have we at least gotten better about sharing the gospel with others?

- Where are you around people who need to hear the gospel?
- Something that stood out to me from this story was the fact that Jonah was told to 'proclaim God's judgement of sin to a foreign culture. If that wasn't enough, the foreign people group was a brutal enemy of the Jewish people to whom Jonah belonged'. On pg. 41 we see that instead of rejoicing at their repentance, he got angry and complained to the Lord about it.

In the 4th paragraph on page 41, Greg makes the following statement:

"It could be that the reason we don't want to share out faith is the deep-seated fear that the people we speak with will indeed respond and make a commitment to follow Christ. Why? Because we know it's our responsibility to then take them under our wing and help integrate them into our church – and in all honesty, that could be quite the inconvenience." *Thoughts?

- In what way might helping someone come to faith in Jesus feel like a personal responsibility or inconvenience?
- Is there a time and place where you think you can't go out of your way to help someone know Jesus? If so, when and where is it? Why would you not want to go out of your usual routine?
- What would help you keep an attitude of obedience and willingness to share the gospel no matter how intimidating or seeming inconvenient?
- On pg. 42, Greg makes a point that 'some Christians don't necessarily want a new Christian hanging around them because some of their choices in the lives might be potential stumbling blocks to the new believer, and, frankly, they don't want that kind of pressure. But that is exactly one of the reasons we should have a new believer around!'
- How might your life be a stumbling block? *Have you ever had this thought?
- In what ways can you be a stepping stone to help someone else move closer to Jesus?
- When and where are you around someone you could be a stepping stone for in his or her spiritual journey?

**Are you a BRIDGE or a BARRIER to
people coming to know Jesus Christ.**