

Make Room

for sharing the gospel



SHARING THE GOSPEL

"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."

Romans 1:16

If someone came up to you on the street and asked "what is the Gospel?", would you know how to respond? Now, while the chances that someone randomly walks up to you on the street and blatantly asks you that are slim, this question can manifest itself in a myriad of ways. If your neighbor asks "why do you do these nice things for others" or "why are you so joyful", would you be ready to respond with a Gospel-centered response?

Our prayer is that you would feel more equipped to share the Gospel with your neighbor, with your family, with your friend, or whomever you connect with, so that you will be willing to make room for sharing the Gospel.

WHY SHOULD I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!'"

Romans 10:14-15

Because the Gospel is true, we get to live in freedom from our sin, the Holy Spirit guides and directs us, and we get to spend eternity with Jesus. The only requirement being that we repent and believe that Jesus is who He says He is. I don't know about you, but that is a message that needs to be shared. The truth is, if we truly understand the gravity of the Gospel, that alone would spur us to share it to those around us. In scripture, we see Jesus meeting with the tax collectors, religious leaders, and people on the road to tell them the Good News. If Jesus is the model for sharing the Good News, then who are we to say that this is not our calling as well. The Bible clearly instructs believers to share the Gospel in many instances.

WHO DO I SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH?

“And (Jesus) said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation’”

Mark 16:15

Let’s say you knew a truth that had the power to save someone’s life — if someone knew this truth, and believed it to BE true, then that person would be saved. This person, if they knew the truth about Jesus, would receive the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and get to spend eternity in Heaven. With this in mind, is there a limit to who you would share the gospel with? Your neighbor, coworker, family member, friend, cashier at the grocery store, etc.? Jesus calls us to love our neighbor (Mark 12:30-31) and to love your neighbor is to share the Good News with them... Regardless of your political differences, regardless of the past, regardless of any social status.

HOW DO I SHARE THE GOSPEL?

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

We have all seen or at least know of the evangelists who stand on a street corner with a megaphone and preach “fire and brimstone” messages. Personally, the picture that paints of an evangelist is not one that I would be drawn to, and frankly, that depicts an inaccurate character of Jesus — one that “threatens” us to follow Him, rather than lovingly pursuing us with open arms.

There are many ways to share the gospel with those around you. One “cookie cutter” approach is not going to be applicable to everyone you encounter, but there are some tools that we can use to help us accurately and **wholistically** share the gospel, and you can find those tools at the end of this section. While there is not a one-size-fits-all approach, there are some key principles that will apply to any situation:

SHARE HOW YOU KNOW JESUS

Our God is not a distant and lofty God who sits on His throne and has a laissez-faire approach to His kingdom—He meets us in the dark places of our lives and lovingly shapes us into His disciples. To communicate that to an unbeliever: share how Jesus has met you in your sin, in your brokenness, in your filth, and still chooses to call you His son or daughter.

In the same way that you have to know how to tie a shoe before you can teach someone how to do it, you have to know the gospel before you are able to share the gospel. Sounds self-explanatory right? When I say that you have to “know” the gospel, this is not a second hand knowing; it is actually first hand deep knowledge. CS Lewis said in the section of God in the Dock entitled “Christian Apologetics”, “I have come to the conviction that if you cannot translate your thoughts into uneducated language, then your thoughts were confused. Power to translate is the test of having really understood one’s own meaning.” In other words, in order to share the gospel so that it is palatable, you must be able to express it in simple language.

PRACTICE

The first time that you share the gospel might sound pieced together and unnatural — and that’s alright. The only thing that really matters is that the person is told about who Jesus is. But to get comfortable with sharing the gospel, we need to practice. It might sound silly, but practice with your spouse, roommate, friend, sibling, whoever it may be, but present the gospel to a believer. Please understand that even if you practice a lot, the conversation may go a completely different route than you would have ever imagined. That is why we also need to allow for the Holy Spirit to move in the conversation and be obedient to Him when He guides us. And He WILL guide us.

FOLLOW THROUGH

Build relationship! We see Paul model this well in scripture. In fact, a large portion of the New Testament is made up of Paul writing letters to the churches that he preached at. It is altogether possible that you will not see the fruit of your Gospel-sharing through people coming to accept Christ. We are simply called to sow seeds, and allow the Spirit to cause the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

PRAY!

Invite the Holy Spirit to speak through you and simply use you as a vessel. Without the Holy Spirit, the words you speak are just that—words. Pray that the Lord will use you to bring his children to His feet, not for your own glory, but for the glory of the Lord.

TOOLS FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

3 Circles Gospel



Romans Road



One Verse Evangelism



Wordless Book



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SHARING THE GOSPEL

- “Share the Gospel, and when necessary, use words.”
 - While doing “good things” can set the groundwork or open doors for sharing the gospel, it is not evangelism. I am not, by any means saying, “don’t do good works”, but they should be accompanied by sharing Jesus.
- “They’ll figure it out” or “someone else will tell them about Jesus”
 - If this phrase was placed in the context of earthly life or death, we would not be saying the same thing. In fact, it is all the more important that you tell them about Jesus, as that is a matter of eternal life or death.
- “I don’t want to offend anyone or turn them away from Christianity”
 - It has been said “how much do you have to hate someone to not share the Gospel with that person”.
- “It’s none of my business”
 - If the salvation of a person’s soul is not our business, or concern, then whose business is it?
- “I don’t have the right words to say”
 - You’re absolutely correct! We will never have the perfect words to say, but this is not a reason to shy away from sharing the Gospel. If you are prayerfully walking into Gospel-centered conversations, the Lord will guide you and give you the words to say. We do not have to have it all together on our own, trust that the Lord will help you.

- “Leave it to the professionals”
 - Read Luke 10:30-37. How did the “professionals” do in that story? What does this mean for you?
- “I have to go overseas to do missions”
 - Sometimes missions does look like traveling across the world. But other times, the mission field is in your home or across the street. Acts 1:8 says “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In our present context this verse is meaning “you will be my witnesses in College Station, in Texas, in the United States, and to the ends of the earth”.

