

## Mission Shaped Generosity Session 3

# Giving the Good News Away



As a disciple of Jesus, one of the things we are invited to do is to share that good news with others. Here are 3 simple principles that we find in the New Testament:

(NOTE: you may want to skip to the later section of the notes and look at reasons why we struggle with sharing Jesus and what helps!)

### 1. Its the most precious gift we have ever been entrusted with...

*Read: Matt 13:44-46*

- what are your reflections on this parable?

### 2. The call to be ready to share that gift....

*Read: 1 Peter 3:15*

- what stands out to you in Peter's encouragement?

### 3. The impact on others - the impact on us

*Read: Rom 10:9-15*

In this passage Paul is using a series of questions to present the importance of sharing the good news. There is a passionate appeal - 'how can people believe in someone they have not even heard about?!' He then refers back to Isaiah 52:7 - saying that when we share Jesus, beauty rests upon our feet!

- *what encourages or challenges you in this passage?*

The reality is that sharing Jesus with others seems so hard!!!

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***In preparation for this session I found this useful list of why we struggle in this area:***

1. Fear – "I'm scared of what others might say; how people might react."
2. Lack of training – "No one ever showed me how to talk about spiritual matters. I wouldn't know what to say!"
3. Minimal contact with unbelievers – "I mostly spend time with my Christian friends."

4. Shaky theology – “God is in control; he knows who is going to become Christian, so I don’t need to say anything. Besides, who am I to foist my views on others? People have to find their own way.”
5. A lack of concern – “I’ve got a lot going on in my life; I really need to focus now on my schooling/career/etc.”
6. Losing sight of the power of the gospel – “As if my pitiful words and life could make a difference!”
7. Disobedience – “Bottom-line: I just don’t want to do that.”
8. Forgetting what successful evangelism is – “I have talked to twelve people about Jesus, and none have become Christians. So obviously I’m not called to evangelise.”

QUESTION: **which of these do you identify with?**

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**This is another article that looks at how we can encourage one another in our small groups to share Jesus with others:**

QUESTION: **how might these suggestions shape your group?**

#### **Four Steps to Sharing More** *(by Steven Lee)*

##### **1. Pray Together for the Lost**

As Christians are gathered together in small groups or missional communities, we ought to make it a priority to pray for the lost in addition to our normal prayer concerns. In Acts 4:23–31, after Peter and John are released from prison, the disciples gather to pray for God to give them boldness to speak his word. If the early church needed to pray for greater evangelistic zeal and boldness, how much more do we need to pray similarly in our gatherings?

One simple way to consistently do this in a Bible study or small group setting is to conclude your study with this question: What truths did we learn about God and who can we share this with in our spheres of influence? This can naturally transition to praying for those who need to know Christ in our lives. As we pray for God to work in the lives of our lost friends, apathy is transformed to an eagerness and readiness to engage others for the sake of Christ.

##### **2. Recall the Gospel Together**

In 2 Timothy 2:8–13, Paul reminds Timothy of the truth of the gospel to encourage him to press on and be faithful to the message that has been entrusted to him. If Timothy — a student of Paul, a faithful servant, a pastor, preacher and teacher — needed to be reminded of the truth of the gospel to keep going, how much more do you and I need to be reminded of the eternal truths of the gospel?

Much of this reminding happens in the context of gathering together with fellow believers. As God’s people recall his truths — week to week in homes and gathered together in worship — we combat gospel-amnesia by reminding one another that God’s mission is to save sinners through the work of his Son Jesus. As we re-preach the gospel to ourselves and to one another, we’ll be more prepared to speak it afresh to those without Christ.

##### **3. Apply the Gospel Together**

In Galatians 2:11–14, Paul opposes Peter because Peter’s conduct and behaviour were not in accord with the gospel. Similarly, we need fellow Christians who will tell us that it’s not okay to not care about the lost. Such attitudes are not in accord with the gospel. When fear and apathy are exposed, it is a fresh opportunity to apply the gospel to our own lives. If we are fearful of what others may think, we are reminded that our identity is in Christ and our lives belong to him. If we

lack compassion, we are rebuked as we consider God's deep compassion for sheep without a shepherd.

Evangelism is one measure of our spiritual maturity. For many, theological knowledge does not translate to fruits of the Spirit — into love for fellow believers, or serving others, or sacrificial giving, or evangelism. Together in community we help one another become more like Christ by being faithful disciple-making disciples.

#### **4. Prove the Power of the Gospel Together**

If we do not believe the sufficiency of the gospel, we will never share it boldly and simply. Yet, if we truly believe that God's word does the work of conversion through the power of his Holy Spirit, we will unabashedly share the simple and unadorned truth of the gospel. A truncated and inadequate gospel will quickly be abandoned and never shared. But a gospel that can save by grace through faith — apart from works — as a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9) is believed, treasured, and declared boldly.

With fellow believers, we must remind each other of the sufficiency of God's word to do his work for his purposes. If we are confident in the ability of the gospel to transform lives, we can boldly and indiscriminately proclaim this good news with sacrificial love to the lost in the hope that some will be saved.

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