

## Theological Equipping Class – Personal Evangelism

### What is Evangelism?

#### Definition(s) of Evangelism:

- “Evangelism is teaching (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the gospel (the message from God that leads us to salvation) with the aim (hope, desire, goal) to persuade (convince, convert).” – Mack Stiles
- “Evangelism is telling others the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to save sinners.” – Jonathan Leeman
- “To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord he now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gift of the Spirit to all who repent and believe.” - Lausanne Congress, 1974

#### Evangelism and a Sovereign God:

- *“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.” – Acts 13:48*
- *“And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” – Acts 18:9-10*
- *“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” - Acts 2:41*
- *“And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead...But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.” – Acts 4:1-4*
- *“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup> And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did...when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” - Acts 8:4-12*
- *“For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> 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!” ...So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” - Romans 10:13-17*

### Who should Evangelize?

#### All Disciples are Evangelists

- *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” - Mark 1:17*
- *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20*
- *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8*

- *“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”* – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- *“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* – Matthew 28:18-20
  - *“This commission...is binding upon every member of the whole Church...Every Christian is called to be a witness to Christ in the particular environment in which God has placed him. Further, although the public ministry of the Word is a high office, private witness or personal evangelism has a value which in some respects surpasses even that of preaching, since the message can then be adapted more personally.”* – John Stott
- *“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”* – 1 Peter 3:15
- Everyone Evangelizing in Acts:
  - *“But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. <sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”* - Acts 8:3-4
  - *“Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. <sup>20</sup> But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.”* - Acts 11:19-21

### What is the “Good News” we share?

- *“We must get the message right. After all, ambassadors don’t have the freedom to change the message; their job is to deliver it accurately.”* - Mack Stiles
- *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”* – Romans 10:15
- *“For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* – Romans 10:13
- *“The gospel is the good news that the God of Israel is putting the sin-scarred world back to rights by re-establishing his rule and reign (i.e. his Kingdom) over the world through the life, death, burial, resurrection, and coronation of his eternal Son, Jesus the Messiah, and by the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit – with the purpose of stomping out all that is evil and redeeming sinful humanity by grace, unto the glory of the triune God.”* - Parkway
- Helpful Summary: God, Man, Christ, Response

### How should we Evangelize? (Practical)

#### 1. Prepare to Proclaim the Gospel:

- Pray for Boldness and Opportunity
  - *“When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, <sup>30</sup> while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”* – Acts 4:23-31
- Know the Gospel

- Devotional Life:
  - “*For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*” - Matthew 12:34
  - “Think of the sports fan, covered in his team’s merchandise, walking up to the stadium. He is grinning from ear to ear and sharing with anyone who will hear the unsearchable riches of his team. How does he do it? In his heart he has honored his team as holy. Think of the office colleague, holding forth on their unpopular opinion. Star Wars is terrible, they say. Comic Sans is highly underrated. Nickelback is actually a terrific band. They have set apart a conviction in their heart, and it overflows into words. In these everyday examples, people have managed to overcome the fear of unpopularity. They have instead been centered on a greater passion, and the passion flows forth. This is the answer for Christians fearful in evangelism.” - Glen Scrivener
  - “I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed. It is frustrating to have discovered a new author and not to be able to tell anyone how good he is; to come suddenly, at the turn of the road, upon some mountain valley of unexpected grandeur and then to have to keep silent because the people with you care for it no more than for a tin can in the ditch; to hear a good joke and find no one to share it with.” — C.S. Lewis

## 2. Contextualize the Gospel:

- “*To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.* <sup>21</sup> *To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.* <sup>22</sup> *To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.* <sup>23</sup> *I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”* – 1 Corinthians 9:20-23
- Today’s Primary Method: Relationships

## 3. Build Relationships:

- Be intentional to build relationships with every area of your life: Work, neighbors, kids baseball games, gym, hairdresser, waiters in your favorite restaurants, parks, playdates, etc.

## 4. Look for “open doors” for Gospel Conversations

## 5. Proclaim the Gospel:

- “Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use word.” – Not Saint Francis of Assisi
- “*Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*” - Romans 10:17

## 6. Live the Gospel:

- “A holy believer is a walking sermon.” - JC Ryle (19<sup>th</sup> century English pastor)
- “*for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*” - Ephesians 5:8
- “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*” - 1 Peter 2:9
- “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*” – Matthew 5:16
- John Bunyan’s Conversion: “I thought, they spoke as if joy made them speak. They spoke with such pleasantness of Scripture language, and with such appearance of grace in all they said, that they were to me, as if I had found a new world...At this, I felt my own heart began to shake...for I saw that in all my thoughts about religion and salvation, the new birth never entered my mind.”

## 7. Have Expectation for God to save

- “Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.” – William Carey

## 8. Local Church: Culture of Evangelism

- Just being the Church is a Witness: *“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* - John 17:20-21
- Culture of Evangelism:
  - “It’s really not the best thing for “the church” to set up programs for Vietnamese outreach, but rather for you to think how you can reach out. I would recommend you learn something about the Vietnamese culture, maybe by learning some greetings in Vietnamese, tried their food, and learning about the struggles they faced living in the majority culture. Reach out and invite the friends you make to come with you to your homes, a small group Bible study, or church. Then, perhaps, some of you should even think of moving into the Vietnamese community with the purpose of commending the gospel among the community.” – Mack Stiles

## 9. Beware the Danger of Manipulation:

## 10. Trust God

- Jesus will save His people: *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.”* - John 6:38-39
- You are empowered by the Spirit of God: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* - Acts 1:8
- God bring the change: *“I planted, Apollos watered, God gave the growth”* – 1 Corinthians 3:6
- Our weakness shows His strength: *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”* – 2 Corinthians 4:7
- “Lord, I thank Thee that Thou hast show me this marvelous working, though I was but an adoring spectator rather than an instrument.” – Robert Murray M'Cheyne
- When you “fail” don’t give up
- Keep Praying - “Lord, save the elect and elect some more!” – Charles Spurgeon

## Why should we Evangelize?

- *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* – Matthew 22:37-40
- God’s Glory and Man’s Ultimate Joy