

Go Tell It: Evangelism Planning Follow-up

Participant Guide

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Series: P.U.R.S.U.**E**. Excellence | Unit: Evangelism

Evangelism. *We are called to **share the Gospel**. This is an individual calling, not a corporate designation. Though we gather to hear, be reminded about, and celebrate the Gospel, we depart empowered and equipped to evangelize.*

Last week, we discussed the importance of planning for evangelism, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, we stressed the adoption of two techniques to engage in conversations that we could steer towards the Gospel. Below, fill in the blanks to reveal what these two techniques entail:

F _____ **O** _____ **R** _____ **M** _____

and

G _____ **A** _____ **M** _____ **E** _____

We also defined what success means in reference to evangelism. **Evangelism success is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.** That is what Jesus called His disciples to do and that is all that is in our power to do. Prayerfully, this decreases our anxieties about evangelism.

With this final week of our unit on evangelism we will review a few important evangelism concepts and follow-up on our progress. Our aim is three-fold: 1) to recognize that we are not alone; 2) to develop or refine our evangelism approach; and 3) to (re)commit to evangelism.

We begin this week with this question: **How did it go for you last week?**

You Are Not Alone

We proceed in the work of evangelism with the model of Christ, who sent His disciples out in pairs (Lk 10:1-12). Jesus does not say why they are authorized to go out in pairs, and for our purposes, that is not important. Instead, let's focus on the idea that when we evangelize in an organized way, working together yields results. (This is not a statement about what can be done by one person. That is another lesson altogether.) Among the results is confidence for the evangelists to accomplish what they set out to do. In a very real way, you are not alone.



As you do the work of an evangelist, you can do it with the knowledge that other disciples are doing the work as well. This is one of the blessings of membership and fellowship. There are other people engaging in the same work. Be encouraged with the knowledge that God is never without a witness (1 Kings 18:14, 18).

Reflect on this: What more will you do in life knowing that you are not doing it alone?

Evangelism Approach

The following three factors will help us to develop our evangelism approach.

- _____ . Christians are not meant to experience life without the fellowship and company of other believers. Similarly, there are some things that Christians may want to explore doing together.
 - Get a **Gospel partner**. Most of us know what a prayer partner is, and some of us have at least one. Just like a prayer partner has certain benefits, so too can a Gospel partner have its benefits. Unlike most prayer partnerships, Gospel partners are designed with outward, external purposes in mind.
 - **Reflect** on your experiences. Whether in writing or verbally, whenever you share your experiences with people, you draw them into your space. This approach gives life to your experience in a way that your personal memory cannot. Reflection enables you to share how the experience so that others can benefit from you.
- _____ . No matter what the “it” is, if “it” doesn’t get scheduled, then you did not adequately plan for it to happen. Be intentional about evangelism by planning for it.
 - **Pray** for God’s guidance and direction concerning who you can engage in conversation. Pray for the person to whom the Spirit leads you. Pray that the Spirit gives you the words and the timing. Pray for evangelism success. Pray for God’s grace to condition the hearts of persons with whom you engage to help them believe.
 - **Schedule** time to talk. We are more likely to do the things that are on our schedule. We manage better the unplanned moments that make us comfortable when we take control of our schedule. But, even if you are inexperienced, you increase your chance of success if you set a time and prepare for the moment.
- **Be available**. Many times, the reasons we do not accomplish what we know we should do because we are not available to it. Availability includes things such as our attitudes, our desires, our prejudices, our likes and dislikes, our ability, our time, and others. Notice, however, that when “our” availability is so much about us, we limit or even block out what God wants for us.

Reflect on this: What more will you do in life after you schedule time for it?



(Re)commit to Evangelism

Jesus said we ought to do it. Church leaders have taught us how to do it. Other people have modeled for us how to do it. And, people are waiting for us to do it. The reality, however, is that not enough of us are committed to the work of evangelism. Let's do our best to **change the narrative**.

Every aspect of the P.U.R.S.U.E. Excellence study series included a specific focus on how we, as Christians and members of WORD For Life Church Ministries, should seek connection with people for the glory of God. The ultimate points of connection are the moments we share the Gospel and help people to receive the gift of eternal salvation. This is God's gift to the world; what more then can we say or do?

It is up to us now. Thank God that we have the resources and the reach. Thank God that we can repurpose this season for great effect. Thank God we can extend the grace of God. Thank God that we can help people to know the undying love of Christ that will cast out fear. It is up to us now.

Commit to serve God by introducing people to God's Son and our Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

Reflect on this: What more will you do in life after you commit to it?