

small things BIG DIFFERENCE

Week 11

Life Group Notes

Process (what has been taught) - 5 minutes

Evangelism is, simply, telling people the good news of the salvation in Jesus Christ. As the Holy Spirit sanctifies us, we should see the gospel bearing fruit in both word and deed. By making a choice to initiate conversations aimed towards the gospel, we remind ourselves of how precious and powerful the gospel is, and we fulfil God's desire that we be Christ's ambassadors.

At home the assignment was to triangulate Matthew 28:16-20 and to process that into an A.C.T.S. prayer. Ask if anyone wants to share what they learned from God's Word.

Prepare (for godliness) - 10 minutes

Below is our text from Colossians 4 from the New American Standard Bible.

Colossians 4:2–6

² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*;
³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;
⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

⁵ Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

From the text above, as a group:

- Identify the two imperatives (the two commands). Highlight or underline them. Hint: they are the first words in v2 and v5 respectively!
- How does Paul say we should pray? Does it surprise you his prayer is mission-oriented while imprisoned?
- How should we engage with outsiders?

Practice (of godliness) - 30 minutes

Guiding Conversations

On Sunday we discussed a couple of simple example questions you can use to probe people's beliefs. Often people make sweeping statements, and these can be used to challenge people to qualify them. Most of the time, they cannot!

1. "What do you mean by that?"
2. "How did you reach that conclusion?"

Both of these are model questions that will benefit from contextualisation. Imagine you are in casual conversation with a non-believing friend or colleague, and you hear these statements. How could you apply one of the model questions to respond?

- "I just believe all religions are true. We should be allowed to believe what we like."
- "Everything's relative. We shouldn't really think in terms of true and false."
- "The Bible's not trustworthy."

The key thing is that, when someone makes a statement of belief like this, they shoulder the burden of proof. It's not up to you and me to refute them: they should give reasons for why it's a good viewpoint. Our challenge is to draw this out of people in a respectful and gracious way.

Getting to the Gospel

As a group, read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Paul, writing within about 20 years of Christ's ascension, is reminding us of the gospel.

Discuss as a group:

- What does Paul say about the gospel in v1-2?
- What are the key terms in v3-8 concerning Jesus Christ? What does Paul tell us about Him?

Using this text, and (if you wish) Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 3:22-25, write out in your journals the gospel message in your own words. Try to do it in a way that might answer the question: "so what is it that you believe?" If you prefer, you may do the exercise in pairs.

After you've done this, some may wish to share their presentations with the group.

Discuss:

- What terms or aspects were most difficult for you to articulate? Can anyone help you make it clearer?
- Are there any terms that risk being misunderstood? Can you rephrase it? If not, how would you explain it?

Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

As a group share two names of people you would like to pray for this week. Share your two names with the person on your left. You should each now have **four** names to pray for this week. Jot all four down in your journal and commit to pray for them.

Spend time together now in prayer to close.