

THE ADVENTURE OF JOINING GOD IN HIS WORK

Lesson 9

The Adventure of Sharing Christ

Share Christ joyfully by...

- (1) Understanding the difference between expectation vs. anticipation
- (2) Giving yourself freedom to adapt your method to the moment

*"...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,
always being ready to make a defense
to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,
but with gentleness and respect;"*

1 Peter 3:15

"Expectations" Exercise

Think about a time when your expectations for a ministry opportunity were turned upside down.

What did you learn from the experience?

How do you bounce back from those type of disappointed expectations?

Foundational truths for sharing w/ anticipation not expectation:

- God is always working to redeem lost people and restore his fallen creation (John 5:17).
- As a believer in Christ, you are on first string in God's redemption and restoration team (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).
- Therefore, _____ that God is working---- even when it does not seem evident to you.
- Always be ready to share the hope you have in Christ (1 Peter 3:15) while at the same time _____ of the ideal witness situation and outcome.

GIVE YOURSELF THE FREEDOM TO ADAPT YOUR METHOD TO THE MOMENT

1. Share Christ by sharing your story.

Begin with a short basic hook and then fill in the story as appropriate in the context and relationship.

- **“There was a time in my life when...”**
Continue w/ two words describing the “before Christ” part of your life.
- **“Then I trusted in/put my faith in Christ’s death for my sins and his resurrection for a new life...”**
Continue with two words to describe your life “after” Christ.
- **“Do you have a story like that?”**

Example story

There was a time in my life when I was searching and selfish. Then I believed in Christ’s death for my sins and his resurrection for a new life. He has given me purpose and love for others. Do you have a story like that?

GROUP BREAKOUT

- **Create your own 3 sentence story.**
- **Share this with your group.**

2. Share Christ by doing an interactive close read of a Bible story.

Together read a short Bible passage and explore with thought provoking questions. (These are the types of questions that clarify, look for reasons or evidence, probe assumptions, discover implications, and consequences, etc.) The goal is to discover the truth of the gospel and arrive at personal application.

Example: Luke 18:9-14

Now He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the ^[a]temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and *began* praying this in regard to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'God, be ^[b]merciful to me, the sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- What do the two men have in common?
- How do they differ?
- What is the basis of each man's hope?
In other words, what do they each assume will set them right before God?
- What did Jesus say about each man? Why?
- What is mercy?
- What does it mean to be justified?
- According to Jesus, how can you be justified before God?
- What implications or consequences does this have for your life?
- Would you like to be justified before God right now?

Story Exploration Exercise: This is a transferrable strategy. What *other* Bible stories could you use to explore with thought provoking questions that could help someone discover the truth of the gospel and arrive at a personal application?

3. Share Christ using a redemptive analogy.

Example: The Indian Chief Story

Take notes on the story so that you can share it with others.

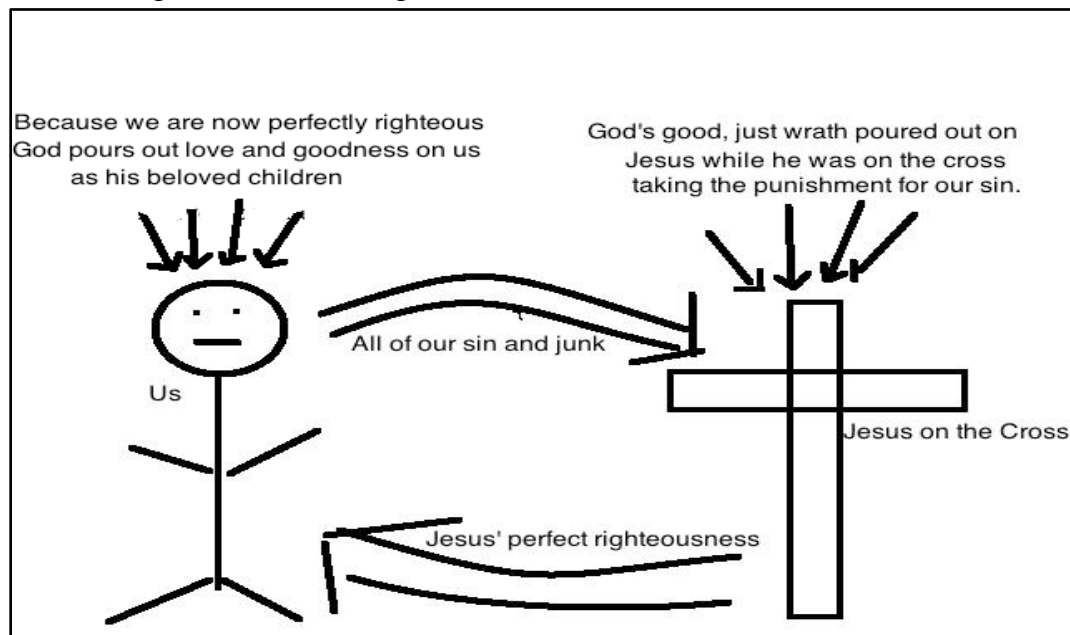
GROUP BREAKOUT

- Quickly retell the Indian Chief Story.
- Discuss *other* redemptive analogies you could use.

4. Share Christ using one verse.

Example: “The Great Exchange” from 2 Corinthians 5:21.

He (God) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



Credit: Diagram posted by JFOOR, 8/8/11, Life After Normal

GROUP BREAKOUT

- Discuss *other* 1 verse examples you could use to share the good news.
- Quickly rehearse the “Great Exchange” (II Corinthians 5:21)

5. Share Christ using a prepared resource.

Examples

THE ADVENTURE OF SHARING CHRIST

I Peter 3:15

- ⇒ ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,
- ⇒ always being ready to make a defense
- ⇒ to everyone who asks you
- ⇒ to give an account
- ⇒ for the hope that is in you
- ⇒ but with gentleness and respect.

Sharing Jesus, according to I Peter 3:15, pulls together all we have studied.

1) Sourced in your _____

2) Being _____

3) _____

4) Drawn from your genuine experience of _____ in Christ

5) Relationally _____

Adventure Workouts for Lesson 9

1. **Memorize** 1 Peter 3:15 *"...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect:"*
2. **Write down** the people in your FRAN (Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors) who may not have a relationship with Christ. Ninety percent of people come to faith in Christ through the influence of FRAN. **Join God** in his work by consistently praying for, loving, encouraging, and serving them. **Anticipate** God is working and will provide you opportunities to share Christ with them as you live for Christ and continue to love them.
3. **Dive deeper** with one of the strategies for sharing Christ with others:

STRATEGY	DIVE DEEPER
Share Christ with...	
Your story	Write out your testimony in under 500 words. It would take around 5 minutes to share this. Then write a condensed 50-word version, following the template from class.
Bible Story--Interactive Close Read	Create a list of questions for a Bible story you could share for exploring the truth of the Gospel. (Luke 15, etc.) Or practice using the class sample story with someone.
Redemptive Analogy	Jot down the main points of 2 redemptive analogy stories you could use to share the gospel. (Or practice sharing the class sample with someone if not done in class.)
One Verse	Create a diagram or a flow chart for sharing the gospel using one verse. John 3:16, Rom. 6:23, II Cor. 5:21...
Prepared Resource	Study carefully the resource of your choice. Read it w/ someone or give it to them and ask for their feedback.

