



Why Do I Struggle To Share My Faith? - Message 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message, we were equipped to overcome fear and empowered to share our faith!

DISCUSSION

- What is some good news you've received recently?

We don't have to be taught *how* to share good news...we do it eagerly and naturally. So, if we don't have a problem with sharing, why do we often find it challenging to share our faith? The greatest news of all! There's a gap between excitement and engagement when sharing our faith. But we have the ability to close that gap and grow in personal evangelism, where God uses each one of us to share the Good News with those around us.

John 20:19-21: *That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."* The disciples were afraid. Jesus had risen, yet the disciples retreated. Jesus was ready to reach the world, but the disciples were fearful and wanted to hide from it. Fear is what often constrains us from living out our purpose.

- Reflecting on the disciples' initial fear and subsequent joy, how can we transform our own fears into boldness in sharing our faith?
- What role does community play in encouraging and equipping each other to share the Good News, and how can we foster a supportive environment for personal evangelism?

Three Reasons We Don't Share Our Faith:

1. "I'm afraid of what people might think."

John 20:19, *"That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders."* How often do we let fear and people-pleasing cause us to back down and miss an opportunity to share our faith?

Luke 10:16: *... "Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me."* Instead of being consumed with people's thoughts, let's consider where they will spend eternity! What if we let our love for them become stronger than our fear of them, and take action? What if we embraced our assignment from God?

- How can we remind ourselves of the importance of sharing the Gospel despite our fears and concerns about people-pleasing?

2. “I’m afraid I won’t know all the answers.”

This fear highlights two misconceptions we often have about sharing our faith. First, we think evangelism is complicated. It’s not... just tell your story.

How to share your story:

A. Before Christ, my life was a mess. → B. I met Christ... → C. Since then, my life has been changed... → D. And He can do the same for you.

While we need to desire to grow in our biblical knowledge, we shouldn’t let that hold us back from sharing our story with others.

1 Peter 2:9: ...for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Secondly, we think evangelism is just something we do, which is true, but that’s only a partial truth. The complete truth is that this is more than just something we do; Jesus wants it to be a part of who we are.

You will BE my witnesses (Acts 1:8). I will MAKE you FISHERS OF MEN (Matt 4:19).

You ARE the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). You ARE the light of the world (Matt 5:14).

So, how does God make us witnesses? He shows us something, and we have the privilege and responsibility to show and tell others.

- Share the story of how Jesus changed your life.

3. “I’m afraid I will fail.”

If someone is in danger or drowning, would you think, “I better not get involved and help because what if I fail?” Of course not. They’re already drowning! You can’t make it worse, but God could use you to save them!

92% of Christians hear about Christ more than 5 times before deciding to put their faith and trust in Him. So if someone isn’t ready to commit, you’re not failing; you’re a part of the story! You’re not failing if they don’t convert; you’re planting seed.

1 Corinthians 3:7: It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow. We sow, then we leave the results up to God. Let’s sow. Let’s commit to praying for and with others. Let’s serve others and show the love of Jesus. Let’s spread the Good News of Christ.

- How can we shift our focus from fearing immediate results to faithfully sowing seeds and trusting God with the growth and outcome?
- Who is someone you need to share Christ with?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself to move beyond fear and embrace your role in God’s plan by sharing your personal story of transformation with others, regardless of the outcome. Remember, you are planting seeds and God is responsible for making them grow, so commit to sowing, praying, and showing the love of Jesus in all you do.