

Series: Lasting Impact
Title: Impacting Others Who Don't Yet Know
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14; 5:19-20
Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



2 Corinthians 2:14a ESV

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,

2 Corinthians 2:14 ESV

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere

When people meet a _____ on a _____, they can smell the beauty and victory of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 ESV

19 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

We rely on the simple message of Jesus, that Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead to reconcile us to God.

How do we do this?

No _____ or _____

Represent Christ through my _____ and _____

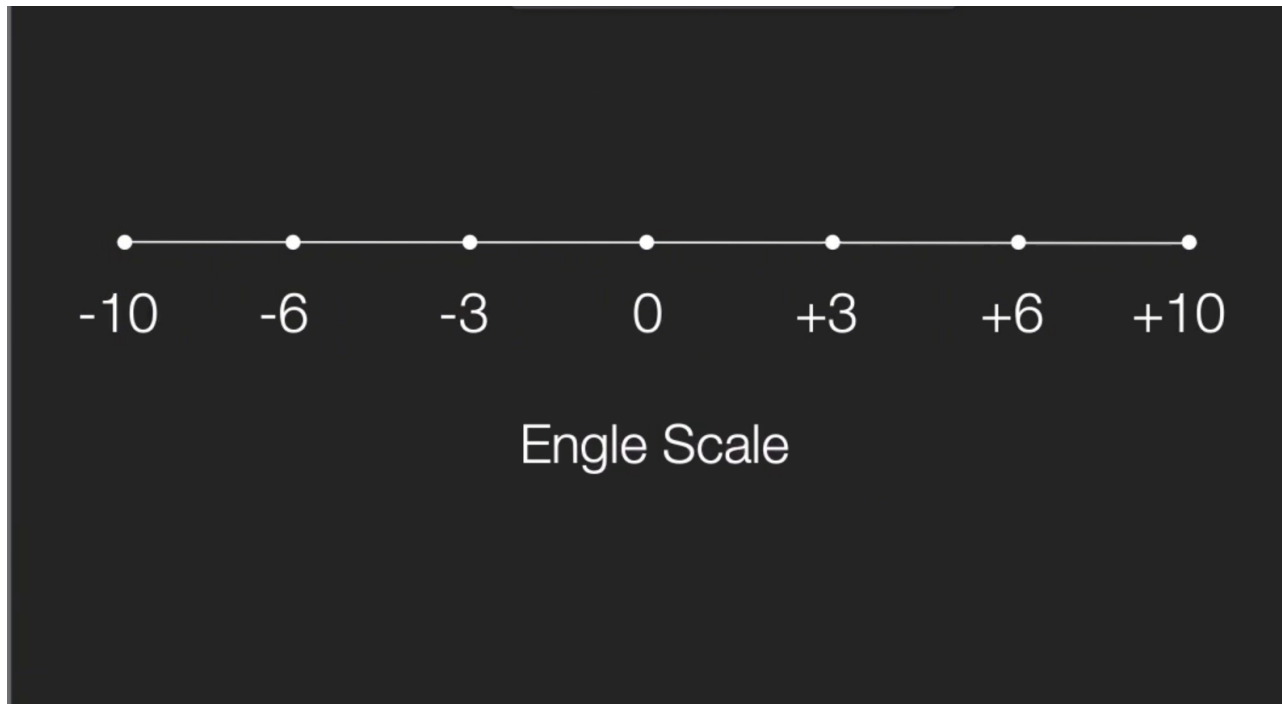
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1 Corinthians 3:6 ESV

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

The average Westerner needs 10 gospel conversations before they will trust Jesus.



Where to start? Tell the “_____” around you

John 1:43-45 ESV

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

John 1:46 ESV

46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Who are the people closest to me that don’t know Jesus, and tell them what you have seen and heard in your life

_____ and spend _____ with God

Colossians 4:2-4 ESV

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Live _____ **with your** _____ **open**

Be wise

Skeptic - needs **care**

Spectator - needs **love**

Seeker - needs you to **share**

Represent Jesus to others in your _____ **and** _____

Forgiveness

Who can I impact with the gospel this week?

11/23/25

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Getting to know you Questions:

1. What's one Thanksgiving food that has an aroma so strong it brings back great memories? What are those memories?
2. What family "Thanksgiving rule" or tradition should probably be outlawed?

Into the Bible Questions:

2 Corinthians 2:14

1. Why do you think Paul used the image of aroma or fragrance to describe the Christian life?
2. What are some "aromas" (attitudes, words, actions) that point others toward Christ?
3. In what ways can gratitude make us more aware of God's victory in our daily life?

2 Corinthians 5:19–20

1. How does knowing that you are an ambassador for Christ change the way you see your daily interactions?
2. What might it look like to "accurately relay" the message of Jesus in our words and lives?
3. Why do you think God chose to use ordinary people to share His message rather than just speaking directly to everyone Himself?

1 Corinthians 3:6

1. Have you ever seen a time where you "planted" or "watered," and someone else later reaped the harvest? What was it like?

John 1:43–46

1. How can we be more like Philip—naturally inviting people to "come and see"?

Colossians 4:2–4

1. How does prayer prepare our hearts to be used by God in conversations and relationships?

Application Questions:

1. When you think about Thanksgiving, what can you specifically thank God for about your salvation in Christ?
2. If someone “smelled” your life this week—through your actions and words—what aroma would they sense?
3. What’s one area of your life where you want to better reflect the “fragrance” of Jesus?
4. How could praying like Paul in Colossians 4:2–4 change your mindset each morning?
5. While we don’t want to “label” people, it is helpful to know where they are at with God. Who is one “skeptic,” “spectator,” or “seeker” in your life right now?
6. Which group do you find hardest to engage—and why?
7. What would it look like for you to take one intentional step toward loving or engaging that person this week?
8. How can you be more alert to the opportunities God is giving you to share or show His love?
9. What holds you back from praying for those opportunities regularly?
10. How can this Thanksgiving be a time to intentionally plant a seed or show Christ’s love to someone at your table?