

S E S S I O N

02

ALWAYS BE SOBER MINDED...

In this session, we will define evangelism and see that evangelism is actually defined by its message rather than its method or medium.

S E S S I O N

02



NOTES:

Discussion Starter: Complete this statement:

Evangelism is _____

Evangelism as defined by the Bible

1. Evangelism is defined as our attempt to describe what happens when someone _____ the *euangelion* or gospel. The word for *evangelism* is not in the Bible. However, the concept of evangelism is all over the Bible.
 - a. In Old Testament Hebrew *besorah* and *basar* describe bringing _____, specifically about God's salvation.

NOTES:

Psalm 40:9

*[9] I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD. (ESV)*

- b. In New Testament Greek we have _____ words that make up the concept of evangelism.
- o *euangelion* (*yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on*) - means "gospel," or the good news about Jesus Christ. It describes what is _____.

Mark 1:14-15

*[14] Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the **gospel** of God, [15] and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the **gospel**." (ESV)*

- o *euangelistes* (*yoo-ang-ghel-is-tace'*) - means "evangelist." It describes the _____ who is telling the *euangelion* or gospel.

Ephesians 4:11

*[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the **evangelists**, the shepherds and teachers, (ESV)*

NOTES:

- *euangelizo* (yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo) - means "to proclaim the gospel." It describes the _____ of telling the gospel.

Romans 10:15

[15] *And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who **preach [proclaim]** the good news!" (ESV)*

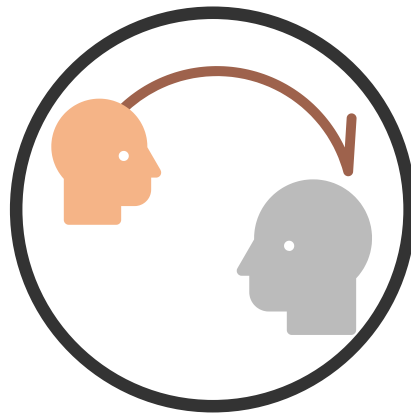


Figure 2.1

Evangelism is our attempt to describe what happens when the **evangelist** (euangelistes) **tells** (euangelizo) the gospel (euangelion).

2. Evangelism is defined by its _____, not by its method.

a. Evangelism is the act of proclaiming the _____ of the gospel (narrow).

b. There is not just one _____ of evangelism (broad).

The New Testament itself demonstrates a variety of methods:

parables - songs - creeds - letters - conversations
sermons - discussions - speeches - literature - miracles



The English word gospel comes from the Anglo-Saxon word God-spell—literally, "God's story." It is used in our English Bibles to translate the Greek word *euangelion*. When William Tyndale translated the Bible into English, he used gospel to mean "good news."

Chan, Sam. *Evangelism in a Skeptical World* (p. 15). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

NOTES:



Figure 2.2

This road has both a broad and narrow aspect. In the same way, there are many ways to tell the gospel (broad), yet there is only one message you must tell (narrow).

Evangelism as Defined by Chan

The essence of evangelism is the _____ that Jesus Christ is Lord. Evangelism is our human effort of proclaiming this _____—which necessarily involves using our human communication, language, idioms, metaphors, stories, experiences, personality, emotions, context, culture, locatedness—and trusting and praying that God, in his sovereign will, will supernaturally use our human and natural means to effect his divine purposes. In a general sense, evangelism refers to our human efforts of proclaiming this _____ to any audience of believers and nonbelievers. In a narrower sense, evangelism refers to our human efforts of proclaiming this message to nonbelievers. But in both senses, we proclaim the gospel with the hope that our audience responds by trusting, repenting, and following and obeying Jesus.

Chan, Sam. Evangelism in a Skeptical World (p. 24). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

NOTES:

Evangelism as Defined by Acts 11

1. Evangelism is the act of declaring to a person or persons a _____ by which they will be saved (v. 14).
2. Evangelism is done in _____ to the Holy Spirit (to command and power) (v. 12).
3. Evangelism is done in hope that God the Father would give them _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ (vv. 17-18).

Evangelism is the act of declaring to a person or persons a message by which they will be saved. Evangelism is done in submission to the _____ (to command and power) in hope that _____ would give them faith in the Lord _____.

Homework:
Read the article *What is Evangelism?* and answer the response and reflection questions.

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

...Evangelism is the term we use to refer to the preaching of the Gospel. It comes from the same Greek word for gospel (euangelion) and means, literally, "gospeling." When we evangelize we are "gospeling" — we are spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is one way in which we can fulfill Christ's call to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). In biblical categories, witnessing involves making visible what is otherwise invisible. The reality to which we bear witness is the invisible kingdom of God, and in witnessing we strive to make the Lord's reign visibly manifest. Among the many ways we can bear witness to Jesus is through loving our fellow believers. We reveal to the world that we belong to our Savior when we love other Christians (John 13:34–35). Celebrating the Lord's Supper proclaims visibly the Lord's death until He comes again (1 Cor. 11:26). In preaching the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in our evangelism, we are also helping to make visible the invisible reality of Christ.

The distinction between witnessing and evangelism is important because it is



easy to think we are evangelizing when all we are doing is bearing witness to the Savior. Giving one's testimony is a good thing, but it is not evangelism. Testifying to the work of God in our lives bears witness to what Christ has done for us; it does not by itself give the content of the Gospel. Living a righteous life manifests the work of the Holy Spirit, but we have not evangelized our neighbor if we have never shared the Gospel with him. No one is converted by our kindness or honesty; they are brought into the kingdom of heaven only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:25–34).

God has created us with different personalities and gifts, and some of us are more adept at the verbal proclamation of the Gospel than others. Nevertheless, declaring the message of salvation through Christ is the responsibility of us all, and we must seek opportunities to preach the Gospel. Only if we confess Him before men will He confess us before the Father (Matt. 10:32–33).

GIVING ONE'S TESTIMONY IS A GOOD THING, BUT IT IS NOT EVANGELISM.

Coram Deo

Declaring the Gospel is a job given to every Christian, but we can hardly preach the good news of Jesus Christ if we do not know any unbelievers. How many non-Christians do you know? If you do not have any contact with non-Christians, look for an opportunity to make contact with a neighbor, co-worker, or someone else. This week let us all share the Gospel with at least one person who does not know the Savior.

For Further Study:

- Psalm 68:11
- 1 Corinthians 9:16
- 1 Peter 1:12
- Revelation 14:6-7

RESPONSE AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

According to the first paragraph and the teaching in this session, what is evangelism?

PART TWO: OUR MINDSET AS EVANGELISTS

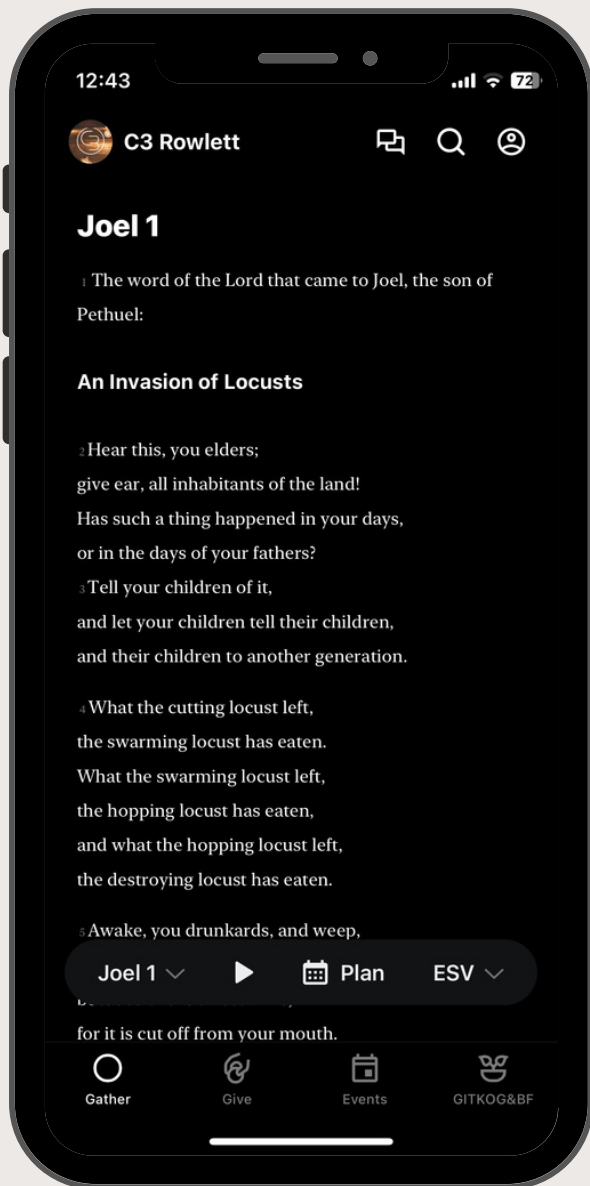
Read the following verses (Ps 68:11; 1 Cor 9:16; 1 Pet 1:12; Rev 14:6-7). What are some words found in these verses that lead us to believe that speaking is a necessary part of evangelism?

In our session we talked about how there are many (broad) ways to share the one (narrow) gospel. Yet in the end, no matter how you share the gospel, you'll have to eventually open your mouth and declare the gospel. How does that make you feel?

How are some ways that you can share the gospel of Jesus Christ?

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- Follow our church-wide reading plan
- Give
- Keep up with events
- Chat with your groups
- Get additional resources



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I was immediately impressed that I can see and sign up for events through the app! I also really like that our CG can all message each other and all be connected in one place. C3 App > better than a green group message thread.

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Andrew Johnson