

Second Glance Small groups:SHARING THE GOSPEL OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY!!

1. Why does Christ leave us here on earth after we have received His forgiveness of our SINS? We are redeemed and saved by His grace? WHY ARE WE HERE?

ANSWER: To share the Gospel (The GOOD NEWS). If you think about it, in all the ways that God could have saved mankind, He chose that the best way to do this is through us sharing what God has done for us through His sacrifice on the cross..... His mercy, grace and love is BEST spread by our witness.

2. As Christians we believe that Heaven and Hell are REAL. We also believe that ALL lives are eternal. The soul continues after the body is gone. How should this motivate us to share the gospel?

ANSWER: If Hell and Heaven are real, the stakes are very HIGH in communicating clearly the PATH that leads to GOD or the PATH that leads to eternal damnation. It should also focus our attention on reaching people through God's leading and taking those small opportunities everyday to share and spread his word, through deed, words and giving.

3. What are some things that prevent us from sharing the GOSPEL?

ANSWERS WILL VARY, but most people are afraid they will do more harm than good. So they remain quiet, or still or fail to respond in what they feel they should. Also, they do not have the confidence in clearly sharing the GOSPEL or do not know how to do what they know God is telling them to do through the Holy Spirit. Another reason might be that they are afraid of a negative reaction. Or it is just easier to quench the Holy Spirit's prompting and make a conscious choice to not follow the spirit's leading.

These are the Realities of our life as Christians:

1. We have Christ guiding us and directing us through the Holy Spirit. He is there to help us.
2. It is a part of who we are as Christians to share with others the reality of Christ in our lives.
3. Witnessing and sharing CHRIST COMES IN MANY WAYS.
4. TRUE witnessing is directed through the Holy Spirit. It is NOT a sales pitch but a willingness to follow through on GOD'S leading. A sales pitch turns people off, sharing what God has done for you is empowering for you and them.
5. The HOLY SPIRIT is in us to guide us, comfort us and allow us to do God's work in a REAL WAY. It is a natural extension of who we are in Christ.

ONE LAST QUESTION: HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PROMPTING YOU TO ACT (SHARE, WITNESS, GIVE OF YOUR RESOURCES, PRAY OR MANY OTHER THINGS?)

Answer:

The Holy Spirit will bring something to mind.

Then there is then a prompting that you should act (say something, do something, ask a question, plan something, etc.).

Then you have the choice to follow that "call" or not.

Ask God to guide you through the opportunity.

3 Scenarios that really happened for you to discuss. All of these situations really happened. The person who experienced them knew God led them (like the steps above) to respond.

SCENARIO ONE: Pete (our person) was at the gas station filling up when he feels the prompting to engage the person in the stall next to them in conversation. He begins by commenting on how nice of a late model car the person is driving. The person smiles and says, “yea, I really take care of it. I am heading to the hospital to visit my Aunt. She really isn’t in too good of shape.”

HOW SHOULD PETE RESPOND?

SCENARIO TWO: Camilla (our person), hears a knock on the door. It is a Sunday afternoon and she can’t imagine who is knocking. She answers the door and one of her neighbors is very distraught. Helen (the neighbor) has come to Camilla because her life is falling apart. The first words out of her mouth are “I know there is something that I am missing, I have an emptiness that I can’t explain. I know that you go to church and I have always respected you, can we talk”?

HOW SHOULD CAMILLA RESPOND?

SCENARIO THREE: Jessica (our person) is in Martin’s getting some groceries and thinks of Julie, a friend she hasn’t seen in a year but used to be really active in church, has drifted away and left a path of brokenness behind her. As she rounds the corner she sees Julie in front of her and they see each other.....

HOW SHOULD JESSICA RESPOND?