

Session 13

**Why  
and  
how  
should I  
tell**

**others**



“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18–20)

**Why tell others?**

- Jesus told us to
- For the needs of others – spiritual hunger in the world
- It’s good news: “Gospel” = Good News
- Two opposite dangers
  - Insensitivity
  - Fear

How do we tell others?

**1. PRESENCE** (Matthew 5:13–16)

- We are called to be salt and light. (vv.13–14)
- When people know we are Christians, they watch our lives. (v.16)

“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13–16)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## 2. PERSUASION (Matthew 5:13–16)

“Since ... we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:11)

- Work out the answers to common questions.
  - For example: “What about other religions?” and “How can a God of love allow suffering?”
- Do it with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

## 3. PROCLAMATION (John 1:39–46)

- We are not all called to be “evangelists” but we are all called to be “witnesses.” (v.41)
- We can all say, “Come and see.”

## 4. POWER (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

- The love of God poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- Healing

## 5. PRAYER (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

- For others
- For ourselves—to have boldness (Acts 4:29–31)

Don’t give up—whenever you pass on the good news of Jesus, it has an effect. The gospel is the power of God. (Mark 4:15–20)

## RECOMMENDED READING

*The Case Against Christ*  
John Young

*Searching Issues*  
Nicky Gumbel

## APPENDIX

### Suggestions for preparing your story

- **Make it short:**
  - Aim for three minutes—people switch off after that.
- **Make it personal:**
  - Don't preach—use “I” or “we,” not “you.”
- **Keep Christ central:**
  - They need to follow Him, not you.
- **The format:**
  - A little of your former life
  - How you came into your relationship with Christ
  - Something of what it has meant since then
- **Write it out in full:**
  - It's easier to edit your story when it's down on paper!

Session 15

**What  
about  
the  
church**



What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
  - Church = services
  - Church = buildings

## 1. FRIENDS (John 15:15)

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

## 2. FAMILY (1 John 5:1)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed “... that they may be one.” (John 17:11)

### **Becoming a Christian involves:**

- Something God does—He gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do—you repent and believe
- Something the church does—baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

### **Baptism signifies:**

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

### 3. HOME (Ephesians 2:19–22)

- Old Testament—physical temple was God’s home
- New Testament—a building made up of people (Ephesians 2:21–22)
  - Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
  - Indwelt by God’s Spirit (v.21) “a holy temple”
  - A place where people are loved, accepted, and welcomed home

### 4. JESUS (1 Corinthians 12:1–27)

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus. (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
  - Unity (John 17:20–21)
  - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
  - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

### 5. LOVE (Ephesians 5:25–27, 32)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you. (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love.

**“You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things.”**

**(MOTHER TERESA)**

