

Peoples Church: Small Group Questions

DATE: April 2, 2017

SPEAKER: Pastor Dale Oquist

SERIES: Sent | Faith on a Napkin

LOOKING BACK: 1 Peter 3:15

Pastor Dale used this scripture to show us that as believers, if we are asked about our faith we should be ready to explain not only what we believe, but also why we believe it. If we live by faith in Christ as Lord in our hearts, then we should have no trouble, not only believing His Word, but also obeying it to the best of our ability.

DIGGING DEEPER:

The Word encourages us not to keep private our faith and joy that the Lord gave us, but to share it by explaining WHY with those around us and to whom we may encounter in our daily lives.

Question: Do you really need to share your faith with others? Yes. Should you leave it up to others to share the Word? No. Why?

What if God placed that person to cross paths with you at that very moment for you to share with them a relatable testimony or Word on your heart? If we do not stand boldly and speak fearlessly to people when the opportunities arise, we will leave people with the wrong conception of who God is; which will change their eternal destination.

Scenario:

You are having a casual conversation with a friend or a stranger and the conversation begins to turn spiritual.

Question:

What do you do when that turns over?

Do you divert the conversation back to what is comfortable?

Do you simply invite them to church with you?

Do you get nervous and not know how to respond or share?

Or, do you risk it and take this open door as an opportunity to share your faith with that person?

Read below for Pastor Dale's given example of one easy way to share your faith and God's Word with someone by simply using a napkin and the scripture from Romans 6:23.

TAKING IT HOME:

Don't allow the enemy to use an excuse that will silent you in a hidden opportunity to impact someone's life with the Good News. Whether you are asked about your faith, or you felt led by the Holy Spirit to share with someone about the Lord, decide today to allow God to use you and get out of your comfort zone to share with others. Don't forget that God's timing is purposeful and He did not call the qualified, He qualified the called. If the Holy Spirit leads it, He will let the right words flow out of your mouth naturally and it will empower the Word of God you are sharing. God does not place people in your life at random; He orchestrates those that are willing to share the Word to cross paths with those that are in need to hear the Word in your heart in that very moment.

Pastor Dale's example of sharing your faith and God's Word:

Romans 6: 23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

- Write the verse at the top of the napkin.

- Circle the word "wages" and write the word below the verse on the left side of your napkin starting a column. Explain to them what wages mean.

- Circle the word "sin" and write the word below "wages". Explain to them what sin means.

- Circle the word "death", and write the word below "sin". Explain what death defines.

- Underline the word "but".

- Circle the word "gift", and write it across from the word "wages" on the right side of the napkin starting a new column, leaving space between the columns. Explain what a gift means, and why it is the complete opposite of wages.

- Circle the word "God", and write it across from the word "sin" and below the word "gift". Explain who God is and why He is the exact opposite of "sin".

- Circle the word "eternal life", and write it across from the word "death" and below "God". Explain what eternal life is and that it is the opposite of "death".

- Lastly, circle "Christ Jesus our Lord", and place Christ Jesus at the top center of the two columns. Underline Christ Jesus, and draw a line between Christ and Jesus traveling down past the end of the two columns. Once this is complete, you will see Christ Jesus sitting on a Cross; which that will be between the left and right column of words. Explain how they can be delivered from their wages of sin and death, by receiving God in their hearts and His gift of eternal life; which is through Christ Jesus!