

# EVANGELISM

## SOWING AND SLEEPING

One of the most important, and difficult, things we are called to do in evangelism is sleep. Yes, you read that right – *sleep*. Sleeping is a part of evangelism. Jesus even said so when he described the Kingdom of God in Mark 4:26-29.

No, Jesus is not advocating laziness or that getting your “8 hours a night” is an essential element of a church’s growth model. Sleep, as Jesus calls it, is an innate trust that God will grow his kingdom according to his will, in his timing, using his means and methods.

So, at the end of the day, the farmer who has scattered seed can soundly sleep because he trusts that God is the one who provides the rain and grows the blade, then the ear, and then the full grain.

Sleep, or trusting in God, is important. It’s also difficult. It might even be the most difficult part of evangelism. We tend to think the most difficult part of evangelism is gathering the courage to talk to people about the gospel. Certainly, that may be the most difficult for some. For others, the most difficult part of evangelism is what Jesus calls “sleep,” because it also implies *waiting*.

This GDG, let’s look at how a vision of God and evangelism calls each one of us to sow, sleep, and wait for God to grow his kingdom.

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**1. QUESTIONS?** Are there highlights, questions, or comments from the text or the message regarding evangelism and conversion?

**2. SOWING.** What does it mean to *evangelize* someone? Or to do *evangelism*, or to *share the gospel*? How does that differ from simply inviting someone to church?

**3. YOUR MEASURE.** Read Matt 6:19-20. How do we measure faithful evangelism? Is it by how many people are converted? How many people pray the “sinner’s prayer,” or how many people end up coming to church? What is the measure of faithful evangelism?

**4. SUPPORT YOUR SOWING.** What are some practical ways in which you can help yourself share the gospel more frequently? Share some of those ways. Who could help keep you accountable to faithfully share the gospel?

**5. WAITING AND TRUSTING.** What are some specific Bible verses you can trust in while you are waiting for the seed you have sown to produce fruit? How do the verses encourage you?

**6. PRAY.** How can we pray for each other to be faithful sowers of gospel seed, to be patient for that seed to bear fruit, and to trust God in the fruit that results?