

LESSON 4

How to Share Your Faith

1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:5–6

But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,

1 Peter 3:15.

Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person, Colossians 4:5–6.

Class Overview: Ministry is carried out in community. God has designed His people to serve and grow together, using their gifts in harmony with one another. In this section, we will explore the relational tools that enable believers to build strong spiritual connections: serving with our gifts, mentoring and being mentored, bearing one another's burdens, and practicing hospitality. These tools remind us that ministry is not an isolated effort but a shared calling in which we help one another grow in faith, maturity, and love.

Class Objectives:

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

1. Explain what it means to “be ready to give an answer” (1 Pet. 3:15) and identify practical ways to prepare a personal testimony of faith.
2. Describe how walking wisely toward outsiders (Col. 4:5) strengthens credibility and creates opportunities for gospel conversations.
3. Understand why our words must be gracious and seasoned with salt (Col. 4:6) and how tone and clarity impact gospel witness
4. Commit to simple, repeatable practices such as praying for specific people, sharing short faith stories, and weaving Scripture into everyday life.
5. Identify one person in their personal circle to pray for and seek opportunities to share their faith with during the coming week.

Introduction

YEARS AGO, I DROVE A SCHOOL BUS for a school district in South Dakota. I often drove students to extracurricular activities—many of them hundreds of miles from Rapid City. I remember a conversation I had years ago with a fellow driver during a lunch on a field trip in Wyoming. We weren't talking about religion at first, just about life, family, and the struggles we were both facing. At one point, he looked at me and said, "You always seem calm, even when things are hard. How do you do that?" In that moment, I realized God had opened a door. I didn't launch into a sermon. I said, "It's my faith in and relationship with Christ. He gives me peace when I couldn't find it on my own." That short response led to more questions, and eventually to a Bible study. It all started with a small, everyday conversation.

Many of us feel intimidated when we hear the word *evangelism*. We picture knocking on strangers' doors, debating theology, or delivering a flawless gospel presentation. But the truth is, most opportunities to share Jesus don't come in formal settings. They come in ordinary moments ... in a break room, at the ball field, on the phone with a friend, or over a cup of coffee. Evangelism isn't about having every answer; it's about pointing people to the hope you've found in Christ.

That's exactly what Peter writes in 1 Peter 3:15: *In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.* Sharing our faith begins with honoring Christ in our hearts and being ready to explain why we live with hope. It's not about winning arguments; it's about giving testimony.

Paul echoes this in Colossians 4:5–6, where he urges believers to act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity, and to let their speech always be gracious and seasoned with salt. In other words, our lives and our words are meant to work together to point others to Jesus.

So, here's the challenge we'll explore in this lesson: *How can ordinary Christians, people like you and me, learn to live wisely, speak graciously, and be ready to share the hope of Christ with the people God has already placed in our lives?*

Be Ready to Give an Answer

Peter writes, *in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.* Notice where he begins: in the heart. Sharing our faith doesn't start with arguments or techniques; it begins with a heart that has set apart Christ as Lord. When Christ rules in our hearts, hope naturally overflows. And when hope overflows, people notice.

The command is to “be ready.” That doesn't mean we must know everything, but it does mean we should be prepared to explain why Christ makes the difference in our lives. Readiness is about expectation: expecting that someone, at some point, will ask, “Why are you different?” and being willing to answer.

Peter says we are giving a “defense,” not in the sense of defending ourselves in a courtroom, but in the sense of offering a reasoned explanation. The gospel is not a vague feeling; it is rooted in truth. Paul summarizes it clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:3–4: *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.* Being ready means that we can articulate that core truth and explain why it gives us hope.

Imagine someone asks you about your favorite restaurant. You don't need a script. You don't need training. You share your experience, what you love about it, why you go there, and what it means to you. That's what it looks like to share your faith. You don't have to have a Ph.D. in theology to tell someone what Jesus has done in your life. You need honesty and readiness.

Practically, this means we should think ahead. How would you explain your faith in two or three sentences? Could you share, in simple terms, why you follow Jesus, what He has done for you, and the hope you have because of Him? Having that “faith story” prepared helps you feel confident when opportunities arise. It's not about being polished, it's about being personal.

Being ready also means being prayerful. We should pray daily for open doors and for the awareness to recognize them. Too often, opportunities pass by simply because we weren't looking for them. But when we live

with Christ set apart in our hearts, we begin to see conversations not as coincidences but as divine appointments.

So, the call of 1 Peter 3:15 is simple: Honor Christ in your heart. Be ready to share why you have hope. And when the door opens, step through it with humility and confidence, pointing people to Jesus.

Walk in Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Paul writes, *act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time*. Sharing our faith is not only about what we say, but also about how we live. Our daily conduct either builds credibility for the gospel or undermines it. Evangelism is not just an event; it is a lifestyle of wisdom lived out before those who don't yet know Christ.

To “act wisely” means to live thoughtfully and intentionally. It means recognizing that unbelievers are watching, and our behavior shapes their perception of Jesus. Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, *let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven*. Our kindness, honesty, patience, and integrity become a living testimony.

Paul adds, *making the most of the time*. The idea here is of buying up opportunities, like a wise merchant who seizes every deal. Time is short. Opportunities are fleeting. If we aren't alert, we can miss the chance to speak into someone's life. Wisdom looks for those moments, a conversation in the break room, a neighbor struggling with loss, a friend asking for advice, and recognizes them as open doors for the gospel.

Think of it like gardening. A farmer knows when the soil is ready and the season is right. He doesn't waste time; he plants. If he delays, the opportunity passes. In the same way, wise Christians learn to recognize when hearts are open and moments are ripe, and they act with urgency.

Practically, this means two things: First, *we must live consistently*. Hypocrisy closes doors faster than anything else. If our words about Christ are not backed up by lives that reflect Him, people will not listen. Second, *we must live attentively*. Each day brings small opportunities: conversations, questions, moments of kindness. Sharing our faith often

begins not with a sermon but with a simple act of love that opens the door for words.

Walking in wisdom means we live in such a way that people see Jesus in us before they ever hear about Jesus from us. Our lives become the first testimony, and our words become the explanation.

Speak with Grace and Clarity

Paul continues, *let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person*. If the previous section emphasized how we live, this section emphasizes how we speak. Both matter. Our conduct opens the door, but our words point people to Christ once the door is open.

Paul says our words should be *gracious*. That means marked by kindness, humility, and gentleness. Sharing our faith is never about winning arguments or proving someone wrong, it is about pointing someone to Jesus. 1 Peter 3:15 makes this clear when it adds that we must give our defense *with gentleness and respect*. People are rarely argued into the kingdom, but grace-filled conversations often draw them.

He also says our words should be *seasoned with salt*. Salt in the ancient world preserved food and enhanced flavor. In the same way, our words should preserve what is good and bring life and flavor into conversations. Gospel conversations should not be harsh, stale, or lifeless; they should be seasoned with wisdom, truth, and hope. Proverbs 25:11 says, *A word spoken at the right time is like gold apples in silver settings*. The right word, spoken with grace, can have eternal impact.

Paul adds, *so that you may know how you should answer each person*. Notice the emphasis on *each person*. Evangelism is not one-size-fits-all. Different people need different approaches. Some need comfort; others need challenge. Some are ready for deep Bible study; others are just beginning to ask questions. The wise Christian listens well, asks questions, and responds with sensitivity to the person in front of them.

Think of a doctor prescribing medicine. He doesn't give every patient the same prescription; he listens, diagnoses, and provides what is needed.

In the same way, when we talk with people about Jesus, we listen to their story and then respond with the truth of the gospel in a way that speaks to their need.

Practically, this means learning to speak naturally about Christ in everyday conversations. Instead of forcing the gospel awkwardly, we can let it flow out of who we are. It might mean sharing how prayer helps you through stress, how Scripture gives you direction, or how Christ gave you forgiveness. Short, grace-filled words open the door to deeper discussions. The call is clear: live wisely, but also speak graciously. Our lives draw attention, and our words explain. Together, they form a powerful witness to the hope of Christ.

Practical Application: How to Share Your Faith

Sharing your faith can feel intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Scripture reminds us that evangelism is not about polished speeches but about living with wisdom, speaking with grace, and being ready to point to the hope we have in Christ. Here are some practical ways to put this into action:

1. Identify Your Circle

Write down two or three people in your life who don't yet know Christ. They may be friends, co-workers, neighbors, or even family members. Begin praying daily for them by name, asking God to open doors and prepare their hearts.

2. Practice Your Testimony

Prepare a simple way to share your story of faith in two or three minutes. Focus on three points: (1) What your life was like without Christ, (2) What Christ has done for you, and (3) The hope you now have in Him. This makes you ready when opportunities arise.

3. Watch for Open Doors

Pay attention to everyday conversations. When someone shares a struggle, express compassion and let them know how Christ helps you in similar situations. Opportunities often come disguised as casual comments.

4. Speak Naturally, Not Formally

You don't need to launch into a sermon. Just weave your faith into

ordinary life. For example: “When I was going through something like that, prayer made such a difference for me.” These simple words open the door for deeper conversations.

5. Follow Up with Scripture

When opportunities arise, share a verse that has impacted you. Don’t overwhelm; just offer one passage and explain why it matters. God’s Word is powerful... often more persuasive than anything we can say.

Challenge

This week, pray for one open door and one moment of courage to walk through it. When God provides that opportunity, don’t over-complicate it ... simply share your hope in Christ with grace, humility, and confidence.

Conclusion

Sharing our faith is one of the greatest privileges and responsibilities God has given us. Peter reminds us to be ready to answer the hope within us, and Paul reminds us to live wisely and speak graciously so that our witness is credible and clear. Evangelism is not reserved for experts or preachers; it is the calling of every believer. It is not about winning debates or delivering perfect speeches but about pointing people to Jesus: the source of our hope.

The truth is, God has already placed people in your life who need to hear the gospel. Neighbors, co-workers, friends, or family members are watching how you live and listening to how you speak. Your consistent life, your gracious words, and your readiness to share your story may be the very things God uses to draw them closer to Christ.

The challenge is simple: live wisely, speak graciously, and be ready. This week, ask God to open one door for you to share your faith, and then step into that moment with humility and courage. Remember, you don’t need to have every answer; you just need to point to the One who is the answer.

For Discussion

1. Can you recall a time when someone shared their faith with you in a simple but meaningful way? What stood out to you about their approach?

2. Peter says we should “always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in you.” What does readiness look like in practical, everyday terms? How can you prepare yourself to share?

3. How does our daily conduct open or close doors for gospel conversations? Can you think of examples where someone’s life validated (or undermined) their words?

4. Why is the tone of our words just as important as the content when we share our faith? How can we season our words with “salt” in conversations about Christ?

5. Of the five applications we discussed (identifying your circle, practicing your testimony, watching for open doors, speaking naturally, sharing Scripture), which one feels most doable for you right now? Which one feels most challenging?

6. Who is one person God has placed in your life that you can begin praying for and seeking opportunities to share Christ with this week?

