

Hope Church February 15th 2026

Rooted Connections Habit #9: Got to tell someone.

Romans 10:9-16

If you just look around for five minutes. At **work**. In your **neighborhood**. Scrolling your **phone**. Look around this **space**. It's obvious: *people are not okay*.

According to RECENT STUDIES, people today are struggling in 5 main areas of their lives.

1. **LONELINESS:** Marriages are under strain and friendships slowly drift. Many feel lonely even in a full house or with hundreds of social media connections.
2. **STRESSED AND OVERWORKED:** Debt and bills and the grind of long hours and full calendars are wearing people down. Lots of us feel like we're always one step behind.
3. **OVERWHELMED:** Chronic pain and exhaustion and anxiety and depression are everywhere. People may look "fine" on the outside but are quietly falling apart on the inside.
4. **LOSS:** Moments like death and divorce and serious illness and job loss and kids leaving home or moving cities are exposing how fragile our foundations really are.
5. **MEANINGLESSNESS:** Many live without a clear sense of purpose or calling and end up settling for a comfortable but empty life.

Here's the tension: we see people struggling. **We believe Jesus really is the Good News they need.** But most of us still feel nervous or unqualified or just unsure how to even START TALKING ABOUT HIM.

I have a master's in theology. Three years of Greek and two years of Hebrew. But when someone told me the other day that her dad's whole picture of Jesus is basically my teaching on Sundays. My first reaction was: "Oh no, I'm so sorry that's all he's got!"
I still feel unqualified most of the times.

Here's the heart of today: If Jesus really is the best news for a hurting world, **then silence is not an option.**

This is the last Sunday in our **Rooted Connections** series, and HABIT #9 is simple: **Got to tell someone.** Not to preach a perfect sermon. But to share the Good News of Jesus.

We believe that all through history, God has been showing the world that He is a God who goes after people and doesn't give up on us. Jesus gave His life to SET PEOPLE FREE. Anyone who follows Him **is called to share** that same message of hope. That's why we want to live READY. READY to tell others how God's love breaks into a broken world and

changes lives. **READY** to talk honestly about the hard questions people have about faith. We long for everyone to discover what it really means to have a **real living relationship with God.**

Today we're back in **ROMANS 10.**

- Paul is writing to a mixed group of Jewish and Gentile believers in **Rome**. He is *explaining how God's saving plan has unfolded* and why Jesus really is good news for everyone. **Not just a select group.**
- In **ROMANS 10:1–8**, Paul lays out two ways people try to fix their relationship with God:
 - ⇒ One way is **trying to make ourselves right** with God by keeping all the rules.
 - ⇒ The other way is being **made right with God** by trusting what He has already done for us in Jesus.
 - ⇒ One path is guaranteed to fail. The other is **guaranteed to save**.

Verses 9-13:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile

— the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Paul is saying you don't have to go on some epic spiritual quest to find this saving message. Jesus brought it right to us.
- Being made right with God is tied to what's happening in your heart – **trust the Jesus story.**
- Salvation is tied to what comes out of your mouth – words that say you are sold out to the **Jesus story.**
- It's DEEP TRUST ON THE INSIDE and *clear confession on the outside.*
- Paul is clear. The story of Jesus demands a response.
- Saying “Jesus is Lord” isn't about a *vague private feeling*. **It's openly agreeing with what God says through Jesus.** It's choosing to lean your whole life on Him.
- Paul is uncompromising. The promise is wide open: **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.** No small print. No special category. No insiders with a head start because of BACKGROUND or ETHNICITY or RELIGIOUS TRACK RECORD.

And then Paul asks the famous questions:

Verses 14-16:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?”

- Paul lays out a simple chain:
 - ⇒ someone is sent.
 - ⇒ someone **shares**.
 - ⇒ someone hears.
 - ⇒ someone comes to **believe**.
- God has chosen to work through **ordinary human voices**. Preachers and friends and parents and coworkers.
- To *share the story* of Jesus that AWAKENS FAITH. That changes everything!

The good news is that the God who made you and really knows you sent Jesus into our world because **He loves you**. He chose to die in our place and then walked out of the grave. **Breaking the power of our brokenness and sin and death**. When we *turn to Him* and *trust Him*, HE WIPES THE SLATE CLEAN. He starts us on a new way of life with Him.

God wants this message about Jesus to spill into our homes and workplaces and locker rooms and neighborhoods. If you grew up around church, **ROMANS 10** is an INVITATION is to move from *just being a good church person* to be a **real Jesus follower**. Someone that will share Jesus so others can find that same life.

We talk to others about Jesus because He really does call us to. Saying **yes** to Him means saying **yes** to HIS MISSION. We share because *people are genuinely lost without Him*. I don't mean that as an insult. **People without Christ are like a lost child at the mall: VALUABLE and WANTED and IN DANGER** if no one goes looking.

I can still remember when a good friend helped to find me and introduce me to the real Jesus story. It changed everything.

That kind of lostness **gives our lives** a holy and compassionate urgency. Not GUILT TRIPS. Not MANIPULATION. 'The love of Christ compels us'. And we share with confidence, because God loves to work through ordinary people in everyday conversations.

How do we share our faith with others?

ONE NAME. ONE STORY. ONE STEP.

One name.

- **Not the whole world.** Just one person. We get overwhelmed because we think we're responsible for everyone. You're not. **GOD IS.**
- Ask Him – *Lord, who's my one?* One **coworker.** One **neighbor.** One **family member.**
One **friend.**
- Pray for them by name. Regularly. **INTENTIONALLY.**
- Not as a project. Not as a box to check. But as someone you genuinely love.
- This isn't something **we do to people.** It's something **we do for people.** Because they matter to God.

If you turn one to Christ, that one may turn a hundred; they may turn a thousand, and so the stream, small at first, goes on broadening and deepening as it rolls toward eternity.

Dwight L. Moody

One story.

- You don't need to win arguments. You don't need to answer every philosophical question. You don't need a seminary degree.
- You just **need to know** the story.

God.

- ⇒ God is not distant or angry by default.
- ⇒ He is a **perfectly good** and **deeply loving Father**.
- ⇒ He created us on purpose and for Himself.
- ⇒ We were made TO KNOW HIM. We were made **TO BE LOVED BY HIM**. We were made
TO LIVE UNDER HIS GOOD AUTHORITY.
- ⇒ Life works best when it's lived with Him at the center.

Us.

- ⇒ But something went wrong. The problem isn't out there. It's in here. **It's a me problem**.
- ⇒ We've CHOSEN to do life on our own terms. What we want and need and think.
- ⇒ The Bible calls that sin.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23 New Living Translation

- ⇒ And we see the results everywhere — broken **relationships** and **guilt** and **shame** and
selfishness and **injustice**.
- ⇒ Sin creates a REAL SEPARATION between us and God.

⇒ We can't fix it by trying harder or being more religious. Prophets didn't work. Kings didn't work. The temple didn't work..

Jesus.

⇒ That's why Jesus came. God stepped into our world.

⇒ Jesus lived the life we couldn't live. Perfectly aligned with the Father. And then **chose to die in our place.**

⇒ On the cross, *He carried our sin.* In the resurrection, *He broke the power of death.*

⇒ Our DEBT IS PAID.

⇒ The way back to God is open. Not for a select few. **Open to anyone.**

Response.

⇒ This doesn't automatically download into your life.

⇒ God invites us to REPENT — to turn from **running life on our own** — and to trust Jesus as Lord.

⇒ Not just admire Him. Not just agree with Him. **BUT TO TRUST HIM.**

⇒ When we do, **He forgives completely.** Not partially. Not conditionally.

COMPLETELY.

⇒ Wild and undeserved GRACE. *Explain with timeline...*

⇒ He gives us new life and brings us into His family.

We were created by God. Separated by sin. Rescued by Jesus. And
invited to respond.

One step – share honestly. Not perfectly.

- Sharing your faith doesn't usually start with a microphone. It starts with a conversation.
- You can even start with your own story. People can *argue theology*. It's harder to argue with a CHANGED LIFE.
- Keep it **simple**. Keep it **real**. Keep it **honest**. Keep it **centered on Jesus**.
- We can't let fear of awkwardness keep us silent.
- It's only good news if it reaches someone.

God's plan for enlarging his kingdom is so simple — one person telling another about the Savior. Yet we're busy and full of excuses. Just remember, someone's eternal destiny is at stake. The joy you'll have when you meet that person in heaven will far exceed any discomfort you felt in
sharing the gospel.

Charles Stanley

- You're not responsible for saving anyone. You're responsible for **being available**.

Jesus is the ANSWER this world is looking for.

If you've never called on the name of the Lord — you can. Right now. **He saves everyone who calls on Him.** 'Lord, here I am. Save me.'

And if you already have? You were RESCUED FOR A REASON.

- God could have *written the gospel across the sky*.
- He could have *sent angels to every neighborhood*.

Instead, He sends ordinary people. Into **ordinary conversations**. With *extraordinary news*. He sends you!

- Ask Him for one **NAME**.
- Be ready with His STORY.
- Take one *STEP*.

And trust Him to do what only He can do.

That's habit #9 – **Jesus** is just too good. This **world** is just too broken.

For us to stay silent.