

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 22, 2020

“GO TELL IT ON THE WEB”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share an observation or something funny about your community quarantine experience.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Before you begin the session, take your phone, tablet, or any other electronic device that you may have with you. Turn it off or put it in airplane mode. Use your phone only to access or read Bible passages if you did not bring a Bible with you.

1. In the sermon, we were given three reasons as to why we should use technology and social media as a platform to share the gospel: (1) Great commission, (2) Great technology, and (3) Great opportunity. Which of the three caught your attention? And why?
2. *Discuss.* How would you describe the difference between evangelism and discipleship? Are they at odds with each other? Or complementary? In what way?
3. Read Proverbs 15:7, 1 Peter 2:9, Acts 5:28 and Psalm 96:3. What does the Word of God say about the first application on “scattering truth”? Can you share of specific ways which you can do, you have seen others do, or you yourself have done, that uses social media and technology to “scatter truth”?
4. *Discuss.* Can you identify one or two communication methods that Jesus practiced in reaching out to others that you can apply in this day and age?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. Does “defending the faith” intimidate you? What are some reasons for your apprehension? Have you ever experienced a situation where your faith was questioned? What did you do? How did you feel? What did you do after?
6. What do you think of this quote: “If you can document all the most important parts of your life without mentioning Jesus, it’s time to wonder whether you’re really following Him at all.”

7. *Share.* Whether online or offline, what would it mean for you “minimize self and maximize God”? What principles do Proverbs 10:11 and Matthew 12:34 teach you?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

This week, pray for God to help you apply social media and technology in sharing the gospel..

- ☐ I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ I will seek to know more about who God is by regularly reading his Word.
- ☐ I will sign-up for the 24/7 Prayer Chain for COVID and commit to pray for 30 minutes a day for one month.
- ☐ I will use social media to share the gospel by _____.
- ☐ I will reach out to _____ (name of person) this week.
- ☐ I will pray for opportunities to share Jesus and be on the lookout for such.
- ☐ I will, from now on be careful with what I post on social media.
- ☐ Other ways I will apply this lesson: _____.

REFLECTION

What if I asked you to think twice before you talk about Jesus on Facebook?

Some of you are probably outraged at the thought. (“How dare you muzzle me? I’m not ashamed of the gospel!”) Some of you might be relieved. (“Thank goodness! I always feel awkward, and my atheist friends keep getting into fights with my fundamentalist friends in the comments section...”) Whichever camp you’re in, please hold your exclamations for a few minutes while I explain.

To be clear: I’m not advising you to erase Jesus from your social media accounts. Not at all! If you’re the sort of person who’s constantly Instagramming and Tweeting and Facebooking about your life and thoughts, I hope Jesus is an unavoidable part of those posts. I hope that you talk about Jesus (whether online or offline) the way you talk about your significant other or your children—unable to keep quiet because you’re so obsessed with Him. If you can document all the most important parts of your life without mentioning Jesus, it’s time to wonder whether you’re really following Him at all.

So why should you think twice before talking about Jesus on social media? Because when it comes to sharing our faith with others, the Bible calls us to communicate the gospel in a way that will help other people understand and receive it. This is the Apostle Paul’s attitude in 1 Corinthians 9:22 when he writes, “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some” (NIV). Paul was so eager to see as many people as possible know Jesus that he adjusted his approach to evangelism depending on who he was talking to.

What would it look like if we adopted Paul’s attitude towards evangelism in our social media-saturated digital age? ? [Gregory Coles, For the full article, check out <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/what-does-evangelism-look-like-in-a-digital-social-media-age.html>]

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel to others whether online or offline.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.