



Study Group: Leader Guide
Elements: Ambassadorship – March 18th-24th

CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

DISCUSSION

Main Topics: Evangelism, The Gospel, Heart Change

Read Acts 1:1-9

- How does it impact you when you consider that Jesus' last words to His disciples were to "be a witness"?
- Who first shared the Gospel with you and how?
- How many of us have pursued someone with the Gospel and led them to give their life to Christ in the last two years?
- Does Scripture teach sharing the Gospel as optional?
 - Why do we sometimes treat it this way?
- Pastor Matthew gave four precepts on how the Church is to be Christ's ambassadors on earth. What are these precepts? (see Leader Notes)
 - Which precept do you resonate with most and which do you struggle with?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- Christ makes it clear that His followers are to be witnesses among all the peoples of the earth. This includes those in our workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and anywhere else we may go. Do you ever struggle to share about Christ with others?
 - What do you think is at the core of your hesitation to share the Gospel?
 - How can this barrier be overcome? Is there any way we, as a group, can help?
- Pastor Matthew shared four problems with the Church's ambassadorship today. What were they? (see Leader Notes)
 - Which of these do you need to personally work on to fulfill your responsibility as Christ's ambassador?
- What would you say if someone asked you, "What is the Gospel?" Pair up with someone next to you and take a couple minutes and share the Gospel with this person as if they did not know Christ. (see Leader Notes)
- What did Pastor Matthew say are fundamentals of the Gospel? (see Leader Notes)
- Why is it worth it to share the Gospel even when we may not want to?
- Why is it concerning if we do not have a "real story" to share about how God has transformed us by the Gospel?
- Why do we, at times, lack an urgency to share the Gospel with those around us? (see Leader Notes)

Reflect

- What practical step will you take this week to prioritize the element of Ambassadorship in your walk with Christ? (Leaders, feel free to either have your group silently think and write about this question, or open it up for discussion.)

Leader Notes:

- Precepts of Ambassadorship
 - To go - Matthew 28:18-20
 - To give terms - 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1
 - To do good - 1 Peter 3:13-16
 - To glorify God - Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12
- Problems of Ambassadorship
 - No sense of personal responsibility
 - No Gospel literacy
 - No real story
 - No urgency
- Practicing Sharing the Gospel
 - Leaders, this may be a difficult exercise for some. That is alright. Encourage everyone that we are *all* growing in our ability to share the Gospel with others.
 - Feel free to use this as a launching point to go into further discussion or practice if this would be most beneficial for your group.
 - We purposefully are not providing any "pointers" or notes beforehand so that individuals need to share from what they have internalized and have ready at hand.
- Fundamentals of the Gospel
 - God has a plan - Romans 11:33-36
 - Man has a problem - Genesis 3, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23
 - Christ is the solution - Romans 10:9
 - We have to respond - Acts 2:37-28
- Lack of Urgency
 - There are many potential reasons for why we have a lack of urgency at times:
 - We idolize our comfortable lives instead of sharing the Gospel.
 - We fear the responses of others when they hear us talk about sin.
 - We do not consider the reality of hell.
 - We do not have deep love for those who do not know Christ.
 - We desire that some people never come to know Christ.
 - As we address our hesitations, let us consider this exhortation and prayer by Charles Spurgeon:
 - "God, save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking to hell."

Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Since Scripture's primary purpose is to show us who God is, we encourage you to regularly ask the question, "What does this passage teach us about God?"
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.