

Good News for Our City

How to tell your story and share your faith

SESSION 4

SESSION 4:

Building Relationships and Clearing the Debris Field

LAST WEEK'S FOLLOW UP

Share your short summary of the Gospel story.

What strikes you most about the good news of what God has done for us?

Sharing your life

READ ALOUD:

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. –1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8

1. According to this passage, what motivated Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians?
2. What role does love play in evangelism? What would evangelism without love look like?
3. What does it look like to "share your life" with someone?
4. Based on the above passage, what is your response to the quote, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words"?

Listening to Others with Intentionality

One teacher on evangelism commented that when getting to know people, they will give us clear clues as to what they are comfortable talking about. If we ask open ended questions and listen well, their answers show us how much permission they are giving us. For example, if we ask what brings someone to Northwest Arkansas, and they answer “Work,” they have given us the area of conversation. But if they said, “We moved here after my father passed away,” that is another story. He or she didn’t have to mention the father’s death. This shows comfort to talk about more personal things.

1. When in conversations recently, has someone given you an invitation to a more personal part of his or her life?
2. Have you ever pushed past what someone was comfortable talking about? How did that go? What did you learn from that experience?
3. Is there anyone in your life who is an exceptionally good listener? What do they do that makes you feel so listened to?

Giving an Answer to Objections

READ ALOUD:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... – 1 Peter 3:15

1. What does revering Christ as Lord have to do with answering objections?
2. Why must we begin with a commitment to Christ? What would the dangers be of entering into conversation without that commitment?
3. With what commitments does the non-believer begin?

4. What kinds of questions or objections have you heard to Christian faith? How do you feel when you receive those questions or objections?

5. How prepared do you feel to answer those questions? How would you go about getting prepared?

6. Why is it important to show gentleness and respect in these conversations?

7. One way to show gentleness and respect when someone is a bit hostile to the faith is to actually give them more room to talk rather than swinging back quickly. Two powerful questions to ask when someone states a strong opinion are “Tell me more. What do you mean by that?” and “How did you come to believe that?” How do these questions show gentleness and respect?

Homework

This week practice what you’ve learned in two ways:

1. In one conversation with a friend or coworker, listen for an invitation to ask more personal questions. Seek listening intently while praying for the Spirit’s help.
2. Listen for strongly stated beliefs and try using one of the two “gentle and respectful” questions given above.

