

HARVEST Lesson 4: Sharing Your Faith



Q: What is the most expensive “treasure” that you’ve ever found? How did it affect you at the time you found it? It may be a five dollar bill, winning the lottery, or a spouse! When we first realize that we hold in our possession something unbelievable, it strikes us with awe, wonder, and amazement. That’s how we should view the gift that God offers to us in Jesus Christ!

Q: What is the treasure and what does the pearl represent in Jesus’ parable found in Matthew 13:44-45? These represent finding the key into the kingdom of heaven, which is Jesus Himself. Jesus’ death and resurrection is more than just a nice Bible story; it brings us salvation from the wrath of God - the just and eternal punishment for our sins. It is worth more than anything else that this world has to offer!

Q: The workbook states, “There is no greater purpose... than to share the message of the gospel with those around you.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Look at **Matthew 25:44-46**. We may feel like this is the “correct” answer or to answer anything different would be considered blasphemy, but do our lives reflect this as our worldview? Do we agree on the surface, or do we believe it to our core? There is an urgency and a weightiness to the gospel message because of its implications. Satan’s desire is to distract us from the work that God wants us to do and he does that by numbing us to the importance of reaching into the lives of others to save them from their sin and ignorance.

Q: Generally speaking, why aren’t Christians more excited or diligent about sharing the Good News of the gospel? Perhaps we feel that we are invading people’s personal space. Maybe some struggle with doubt. Others probably are just hindered by fear. Some may be too busy to even consider the people around them. The list of excuses about why we don’t share our faith is endless, but why aren’t we excited about it? Busyness. No one else seems excited about it. We become numb over time. If we take the time to think about it - regularly - God has really done an AMAZING thing for us. We are saved from our despair and hopelessness. Read **Philippians 4:4**.

Q: If you didn’t use words to share your faith with others, would your lifestyle demonstrate the values of Christ in a way that makes them curious about what you believe? Do you know people like this? We touched on this a bit last week. As Christians, we should be generally characterized by joy, gratitude, thankfulness, love, grace, patience, peace, kindness... Perhaps we should just jump to **Galatians 5:22** for a list of the fruit of the Spirit in us! In reality, we are still fallen people who sin and mess up. Hopefully, however, instead of using that as an excuse, you are growing in your faith and replacing sinful habits with good habits that are pleasing to God. We should never settle to allow sinful behavior to remain in our lives. Sanctification is the process of joining God in the work He is doing in our lives to make us more like the image of His Son - fully mature (see **Ephesians 4:11-15**).

Q: Is sharing our faith something that God calls us all to do? Aren’t some people more gifted at this than others? Is there a specific calling for some people to share their faith? Yes, some people have a natural, spirit-led giftedness to share their faith with those around them. It is easier for them and even something they look forward to. But this ability can be learned as well. The Great Commission in **Matthew 28:18-20** is given to all disciples of Jesus and we work together to carry it

out. Our memory verse in **Luke 10:2** says that the *“harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.”* God is looking for all who are willing to make themselves available for His purpose and plan to redeem the lost people in this world. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to join God in the work that He is doing through His Holy Spirit!

Q: What should we do when people aren't interested in talking about spiritual things? Should we push them a bit or can this do more harm than good? Do we leave them alone? This is a tricky question which may require some discernment. We are called to make the most of every opportunity, but we want to be a part of the solution and not the problem! If they are openly opposed to talking about God, then prayer might be the best thing that you can do. If they seem hesitant to share, perhaps they just need you to show them that you can be trusted and that you don't intend to judge them. Until they make it clear that they don't want to talk, that may be a sign that they want you to help them to break through some calloused layers that have hardened their heart and caused them pain. We may be their last opportunity to hear the Good News before God chooses to call them to their eternal reward. Consider Paul's resolve to share the message in **Acts 20:22-24**. God is working out His plan and wants to use us to accomplish it.

Q: Our goal in sharing our faith should look less like a car salesman and more like a compassionate friend. How do we avoid coming across like the former? If love is our motive, we will be compelled not to just tell people the message, but to help them to see God's love in action. Step into their lives, help with their burdens, get uncomfortable, and look beyond their flaws. In a perfect world, as we overflow with love we will naturally want to help people to experience the blessings that we have enjoyed. The opportunities to share our faith will not be forced or planned but will be spontaneous. We won't dread forcing a conversation but will be grateful that God has opened a door for us to show His love. We don't need to try harder, we just need to be like Jesus! Read **1 Thessalonians 3:12**.

Q: What would you tell the introvert or the person who just cannot bring themselves to tell others about God? Consider **Mark 16:15-6**. Not only do we do this for the glory of God and to store up treasure in heaven, but we do it out of obedience for the benefit of those who are lost. It is an act of love to step into someone's life to save them from death. In this case, from spiritual death. It is an act of cowardice and a lack of love when we allow fear and apathy to dictate our silence (Probably use different words!). People need to know the truth! If you encounter someone who is unable to bring themselves to share their faith, remind them that God loves us regardless of our performance, but He has given us the opportunity for a reward and what a better way to thank Him for His love and forgiveness than to bring glory to Him by sharing our testimony with others!

Q: Take some time to talk about the people God is using you to minister to. Pray together for a few people by name that you want to ask God to bring a spiritual transformation!

Class Assignment: Share your testimony with at least three people.

Memory Verse:

Luke 10:2 - *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

PRAYER REQUESTS: