



Sunday February 04, 2018
Lifestyle Evangelism (Part-1)
Necessity and Urgency

Today we begin a short 4-part series on "Lifestyle Evangelism".

We are all called to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

We may have different gifts, different vocations, different areas of service - but we all have one thing in common - we are all witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:36-49

36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.

41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.

43 And He took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And you are witnesses of these things.

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus showed Himself alive to His disciples.

He showed them how the Old Testament Scriptures spoke about Him, and why it was necessary for Him to suffer, die and rise again.

And then He commissioned them to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations. He told His disciples that they were witnesses. They would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to do this.

That same commission is passed on to us through Matthew 28:18-20.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.



**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

We are to do whatever the Early disciples were taught to do - the commission to be His witnesses is ours now!

The Message

Luke 24:46-48

**46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,
47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
48 And you are witnesses of these things.**

The message we are to preach is about Jesus Christ and what He has done through His death and resurrection - calling people to repentance and to receive forgiveness for their sins, through faith in Him.

This is the Gospel we preach (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

NECESSITY

So why should we witness about Jesus Christ - why tell people the message of Jesus Christ?

1, People Need A Savior And There Is Only One

We know what the Bible teaches us-that we are sinners (Romans 3:23), our sins have separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2), brought us into bondage to satan and all evil (Romans 5:12) and we are all headed to an eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23). We cannot save ourselves by good works (Isaiah 64:4, Romans 3:10) or any other means. We need a Savior...God loved us so much that He came to our Savior (John 3:16, 1 John 4:14). God showed His great love for us by sending Jesus to die for us on the Cross (Romans 5:8), making Him bear all our sins (Isaiah 53:6, 1 John 2:2). Through His death and resurrection Jesus now provides the free gift of salvation, by faith in Him (Romans 6:23). Salvation is a complete gift - setting us from sin, sickness, satan and all evil that came upon us because of sin.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5-6

**5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,**



If someone was dying from a deadly disease, and if you knew of a cure, only one cure, would you hold that back from them?

If someone was facing a complex problem, and there was only one solution, and you knew of that one solution, would you hold it back?

2, People Are Empty, Are Hurting, Are Searching, Are in Need

and there is Some One we know who can be all of this

When we look around us, we find people with all kinds of need:

The rich, affluent, wealthy, successful are searching for meaning, purpose, direction, fulfillment, happiness, for a life worth living,....

The spiritual are searching for an encounter with the truth, for discovering the way,..

The oppressed, the suffering, the depressed, the confused are searching for help...

..and often all of us go looking in the wrong places and end up in worse situations.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

We need to lovingly point people to Jesus, the One who said:

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Numerous people from all walks of life, from all cadres of society, from the educated to the uneducated, from the very rich to the poorest of the poor - can stand and testify to what Jesus Christ has done for the personally

3, People will not know the truth unless someone tells them

Good news is not 'good news' until it reaches the people who need to hear it.

Imagine a prisoner who has had a life-sentence, but has received presidential pardon...that news is not good news to him until he hears about it so that he can walk out into freedom!

Romans 10:8-15

8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES ON HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME."



12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

13 For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

People cannot believe and experience Jesus Christ unless someone tell them about Him.

Today the world is very skeptical of any kind of news...there is so much of fake news...so much of exaggerations...that we tend to throw out the good with the bad...it is hard to know what is genuine and what is fake...

For example: "The Shed in Dulwich"

The Shed at Dulwich is a spoof restaurant in a garden shed in Dulwich. It was created as a hoax by journalist Oobah Butler for Vice magazine and was successfully promoted on TripAdvisor so that it was the top-rated restaurant in London in 2017, before the listing was taken down.

'The Shed at Dulwich' was London's top-rated restaurant. Just one problem: It didn't exist.

It was a unique restaurant in London and certainly the hardest to get into. And it beat out thousands of upscale restaurants in the city to earn the top ranking on the popular review site TripAdvisor for a time, drawing a flood of interest.

References:

The Washington Post

1, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/food/wp/2017/12/08/it-was-londons-top-rated-restaurant-just-one-problem-it-didnt-exist/>

2, Wikipedia

People tend to be skeptical of the truth.

But that should not deter us from bringing Good News...the Gospel is the power of God...it will have its impact on the hearts and lives of people.

URGENCY

So what is the urgency in all this?

Why do we need to be witnesses with a sense of urgency...and not 'do it when convenient'?

#1, People are perishing and they don't know it

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.



When someone dies, they are crossing over into an eternity, with or without God?

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

There is no second chance...

#2, Time is running out

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

God's "clock" is ticking...drawing close to the end..

the old time Gospel preachers used to preach:

Heaven is very real

Hell is too hot

Life is too short

Eternity is too long

for us not to tell you the truth!

Will You Save A Person Who Is Drowning?

Imagine a person drowning in a lake and there is someone on the lakeside with a rope and a lifejacket..or some other means to save the person who is drowning...it would be ridiculous if that person standing on the lakeside did nothing to help!

James 5:19-20

**19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**

Don't be ashamed

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Take it on yourself to be a witness to the wonderful, glorious, powerful Savior.

The apostle Paul said:

1 Corinthians 9:16

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

Coming up in the next few weeks, we will talk about:

- ✓ Overcoming Inhibitions



- ✓ Simple Strategies
- ✓ Nurturing & Discipling

Ministry Time



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Luke 24:36-49; Romans 10:8-15; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; James 5:19-20*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Review and discuss the 3 reasons presented on the necessity to witness for Jesus Christ.

#2, Review and discuss the 2 reasons presented on the urgency to witness for Jesus Christ.



#3, How do we address people's innate skepticism towards any kind of 'good news' or the Gospel in particular?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.