

Lesson 7

Equipping For Sharing



Course Outline

Part 1 (Missional Preliminaries)

1. Our Calling: Salt, Light & Ambassadors
2. Our Context: Increasingly Hostile & Socially Distanced
3. Our Attitude: Godly Distress vs. Personal Offense
4. Our Posture: How to Disagree Agreeably

Part 2 (Pandemic)

5. Opportunities for Engagement
6. Meaningful Conversations
7. Equipping for Sharing

Part 3 (Social Tension)

8. Biblical Justice & Critical Theory
9. History & Context



1

Review

Where we've been so far

Our Calling Salt, Light, Sent

- God is committed to establishing his **kingdom** for his glory and our good
- God calls us into relationship with him to **preview** that purpose and **partner** in accomplishing it

Our Context Post-Everything

- We live in post-modern, post-Christendom, pluralistic society where the biblical worldview is **one option** among many or even opposed as **harmful**
- The Bible calls us to live as godly "**foreigners and exiles**" who are **ambassadors** of the kingdom of God

Our Attitude Godly Distress

- An overriding concern for the glory of God will motivate us to engage (rather than withdraw) by finding points of common ground for the sake of the gospel



Our Posture Disagree Agreeably

- We are called to share the gospel with people who do not yet accept it, which will inevitably lead to disagreement, but we are called to do so in a way that is **respectful**, full of **integrity**, and **charitable** as we represent Christ in our conversations.
 - Where do we agree? Disagree? Why?
 - Truly seek to respectfully understand, etc.

Opportunities for Engagement

- Opportunities in **word and deed** are all around us, but we need to "**see**" them and, perhaps, **create space** in our lives to engage them
- **Grassroots** where you live, work, and play
- **Mercy & cross-cultural** opps through GRC partners
- The place and priority of **kingdom prayer**

Meaningful Conversations

- "Wondering questions" encourage relationship, allow reflective listening, and open the possibility of authentic dialogue
- Examples of "Wondering Questions"
- Introduced two "tools" for sharing the gospel: grace stories and The Three Circles gospel summary

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sfQ01KCJvuQY1-hRwNF1L5eGieVtKK0Z_zb0TCLTCY8/edit?usp=sharing

Group discussion

What are your thoughts about this handwritten letter I received in the mail today?

- Is there anything you **liked** about it?
- Anything you **didn't like**?
- What **ideas** does it spur you to about how we can share the gospel?

[READ LETTER TO CLASS]



2

Two “Tools” for Sharing the Gospel

Your Testimony (Grace Stories) & The Three Circles

1 Peter 3

“¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Your testimony is a powerful witness to the transforming power of the gospel.

A testimony can come in many forms. It can be the story of how you initially became a Christian, or it can be a story of any way God has been at work to transform your life since your conversion. In both cases, it is a witness to the power of the gospel to give you hope and power for change.

A Simple Outline For Testimonies

1. "There was a time in my life when..."
 - Two adjectives that described your life before
2. What God did to change your life / how you met Christ
 - What you came to know/experience
 - A glimpse of some truth of the gospel
3. "What your life is like now"
 - Two adjectives...
 - "Do you have a story like that?"

13

15 second testimony that can expand to 15 minutes, based on the situation and conversation.

For me:

Perfectionist and **competitive**... Tensions with friends

Could never do enough, but Jesus did... And rather than holding that over my head, he laid down his life for me...

Freedom... **Less focused on myself and more concerned for others**...

Personal Reflection



Take 5 minutes to think of an area of gospel change in your life:

- What 1-2 adjectives described your life before that change?
("There was a time in my life when...")
- How did the gospel address it?
("But then...")
- What are 1-2 adjectives now?
("Now I... Do you have a story like that?/Does that make any sense to you?")



Practice

Take turns sharing your 15-30 second **testimony** with a partner.

What did they do well?

What feedback would you give them?



View the Three Circles video at <https://youtu.be/v9iLg8DJbLg>



Class discussion

What are the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of this model for sharing the gospel?

What **questions** or other **comments** do you have about it?

17

- Relatively simple
- Graphical/picture
- Reinforces the same thing at least three times
- Addresses idols and self-effort
- Embeds our missional calling right into the gospel message



Practice

Watch Steve model a part of
The Three Circles.

Take turns practicing that part with
a partner.

You can watch a video of Steve sharing The Three Circles at
<https://youtu.be/v9iLg8DJbLg>

Your Take-Away

What's a **next step** you can take in response to today's lesson?

- Think about **topic and wondering questions** relevant to your friends?
- Work on your **personal testimony** relate to that issue?
- Practice sharing **The Three Circles**?
- Something else?