

Don't Be Embarrassed

Romans 1:16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" -Romans 1:16

As your group time begins use the following questions to get the conversation going:

Describe a time when you were embarrassed about something you said or did.

There are times when we've all been embarrassed, but one area we should have no sense of shame about is our faith and relationship with the Lord. The Apostle Paul shared with follower of Jesus some reasons why they shouldn't be embarrassed about being a Christian and how they could live boldly for Christ while not worrying about what others think.

Read Romans 1:16-17 together as a group.

The first reason to not be embarrassed by our faith is because IT HAS GOD'S POWER.

When you think of God's power, what do you normally think of? How is the gospel a display of God's power?

If the gospel is indeed "the power of God," how should that power be demonstrated among those who have embraced the gospel message? What should be the evident distinctions from those who have not?

Where do **1 Thessalonians 1:5** and **1 Corinthians 1:7** suggest the responsibility of conversion lay when sharing the gospel? How does that affect you?

Another reason to not be embarrassed is because our faith BRINGS SALVATION TO ALL WHO BELIEVE.

Where might we be today if Paul had been ashamed of the gospel? Why might we be ashamed of the gospel?

What fears might prevent you from telling the gospel to others? How can we overcome these fears?

As believers, we often view personal evangelism as a daunting and forced task, for which we are under-prepared and unqualified. In reality, how can this become a natural part of everyday life?

Finally, we should not be embarrassed by our faith because IT REVEALS A RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH.

Proverbs 18:10 says, “The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” How do we first receive the righteousness of God, and furthermore, how do we maintain it?

Since the gospel is good news, can you think of all the goodness, righteousness, and joy it has brought in your life? Can you, from that joy, share the good news with others without being self-righteous towards them?

Pray:

Pray that the Lord will give us the faith to feel the joy that comes with the good news of the gospel. Ask the Father to help us love the good news about His Son Jesus each day, and that as a result of this love and joy, we will have the boldness to share with others. Pray that the goodness and urgency of this message will compel us to faithfully, joyfully, and selflessly proclaim it by stewarding our resources, time, talent, and lives to make the gospel known to others.

Connect:

Martin Luther came to better understand God’s grace as he studied this verse in the original Greek rather than in the Latin translation. It forever changed his view of God. God’s righteousness can be understood in several ways. First, God always does what is right and can be said to have righteousness as one of His attributes (Dt 32:4; Ps 119:142). Second, since God always does what is right, His actions or activities are sometimes identified as His righteousness (Isa 45:8; 46:13; 51:5-6,8; 56:1). Third, God’s righteousness is as a gift from Him to us, justifying us in His sight. “Justification” is a courtroom term signifying that a judge declares a person to be “right” or “just.” Augustine wrote “the righteousness of God is that righteousness which He imparts in order to make men righteous” (Spirit and the Letter, chap. 16). In the gospel, God reveals His righteousness (His nature, His activity, and His gift of right status) by faith. In the course of this letter, Paul will explain how God is able to declare sinners to be righteous because of Jesus’ work on the cross. From faith to faith emphasizes that the entire process of being declared righteous comes to us from start to finish by faith.