

Session #3 - Sharing My Faith

Why should I share my Faith?

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a **new creation**. The old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who **reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: **Be reconciled to God**. God made him who had no sin **to be sin for us**, so that in him we might become **the righteousness of God**.”

- If anyone is in Christ, they are a **NEW CREATION**
- We have been given the ministry of **RECONCILIATION**
- We are Christ’s **AMBASSADORS**
- Consider what Jesus **does** for everyone who embraces spiritual reconciliation: **“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** 2 Cor. 5:21

What keeps me from sharing my Faith?

#1 – **FEAR**

- Fear of **FAILURE**
- Fear of everything **CHANGING**

#2 – Lack of **KNOWLEDGE**

- Concern: ***What if I get asked a question I cannot answer?***
 - Answer: Tell them the truth and commit to find the answer.
- Concern: ***“I’m not really a Bible scholar”*** mindset. How can I do this?
 - Answer: Use a “cheat sheet” – ABCD or Roman Road

#3 – Do we really **BELIEVE**?

- Is it possible some of us are *closet Universalists*?

** Remember **2 Corinthians 6:2** – **NOW** is the time of salvation. Today is the day.

How can I share my Faith?

BLESS

- B** – begin with **PRAYER**
- L** – **LISTEN**
- E** – **EAT** (or grab coffee)
- S** – **SERVE**
- S** – **STORY**

ABCD to Jesus

Admit you are *sinner* and need to be saved.

Believe that Jesus is the Christ. Believe that Jesus can save.

Confess that Jesus is LORD.

Demonstrate your allegiance to Christ by *Repenting* of Sin and Being *Baptized*.

The Romans Road and *the Five Finger Exercise* from Walter Scott are options as well.

Practical Tips:

1. **PRAYER** – **Pray for ONE.**
2. **Invest Relationally** in those that need Jesus.
 - “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”
 - Look for opportunities to meet physical and spiritual needs.
3. Look for opportunities to **PLANT SEEDS** spiritually.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:6: “**I planted the seed; Apollos watered the seed, but God made it grow.**”
 - Consider “wearing” your faith
 - Social Media
4. Be **BOLD** – Tell **your STORY**
5. **Live the LIFE** each day and in every way. The key term is **INTEGRITY.**
6. **Never give up** and remember this reality: God is God and Greg is Greg. So, plant seeds or water seeds already planted and pray for the ***Lord of the Harvest*** to bring spiritual growth!

Session #3 – Sharing My Faith

#1 – This session began with a teaching from 2 Corinthians 5 and several realities for Christ followers to embrace related to WHY we should share our faith:

- If anyone is in Christ, they are a NEW CREATION. What does this teach us about people living in our world who are not Christ Followers?
- We have been given the ministry of RECONCILIATION. How can we make this ministry of Reconciliation a priority for all Christ followers?
- We are called Christ’s AMBASSADORS. What is the role of an ambassador? Does this illustration from Paul help you want to share about Jesus?
- Because of Jesus, those who accept him move from spiritual death to spiritual life and can become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. Jesus did all of the “heavy lifting” on the cross. How does the truth of verse 21 impact you as a Christ follower? How does it motivate you to want to share your faith with others?

#2 – This session included several obstacles that exist in the pursuit of evangelism:

- FEAR
 - What fear do you personally have when it comes to sharing your faith with others in your life?
 - Can you share an example of a time when you were anxious or fearful of what might happen when sharing your faith and you were pleasantly surprised and/or blessed by the outcome?
- Lack of KNOWLEDGE
 - Greg shared in the video teaching about using a “cheat sheet” and listed several options: ABCD to Jesus; the Romans Road; the Five Finger Exercise by Walter Scott (from session #1). Have you ever used something like this? How can Second Church better equip you?
- Lack of BELIEF – Is this a problem?
 - Have you ever found yourself believing a secret theology that could be Universalism? Do we really believe our eternal destiny is at stake?

#3 – HOW do I Share my Faith?

- Do you practice the BLESS model of relational impact? What do you like about it? What works well from your perspective with BLESS?
- How comfortable are you at sharing your faith story/journey? If you are comfortable, take a few minutes as a group and “practice” telling your stories.

#4 – Tips – Greg shared several practical tips during the video teaching.

- Which of the tips connect with you and are helpful?
- Are there any of the tips that you are not so sure about? If so, share why.
- How can you leverage Easter 2020, GLS 2020, CR or other Second Church events to plant seeds?