

WEEK 4: BEING A WITNESS

KEY TEXT

Romans 1:16; Acts 1:8

SET-UP

Many who attend church regularly have become so familiar with the word “gospel” that they fail to give credence to its meaning, “good news.” What is this good news? It is that anyone who has sinned and is separated from God—which is everyone—can now be forgiven of that sin and be reunited with God their Father, the only person able to meet all of their spiritual needs for today and forever. Yet though we have this amazing news, many are ashamed to tell others about it. They are ashamed because the world in which we live doesn’t believe the good news you have is true. I have more good news. It’s not your job to convince them but to tell them. The Holy Spirit will do the convincing. So who needs this good news?

1. Anyone who doesn’t know this “good news” in your sphere of influence. These are often the most uncomfortable people to share your faith with because they see your life. Our shame comes because we know, as they know, that we aren’t perfect—which is actually a perfect place to start! They can see your life, all that you have been forgiven of, and how gradually you’re becoming more like Jesus (see Acts 1:8).
2. Anyone whom you may be sent to in order to share the good news (see Romans 10:14–15).
3. Those whom you’ve never met but feel compelled to pray for so they may have eyes to see and ears to hear the good news (see Matthew 13:15, 28:19).

VIDEO

Evangelism

PRAYER PROMPTS

Read through the following prayer directives and fill in names of people you know. As a group, pray the directives aloud. Then pray them daily for the following week.

Threshold 1: Trust

1. **God, help me build a caring relationship with _____.**

Help me become whatever kind of Christ-like servant _____ can identify with so that by all possible means they will be saved (1 Corinthians 9:22).

2. **God, send people into _____’s life to witness to them.**

Send more believers into _____’s life who will exemplify Christ and cause them to want to know Him for themselves (Matthew 9:38).

Threshold 2: Curiosity

3. God, bring me opportunities to witness to _____.

Open doors for proclaiming the mystery of Christ to _____, even in our present difficult circumstances (Colossians 4:3).

4. God, give me boldness to witness to _____.

Enable me to speak your word to _____ with great boldness (Acts 4:29).

Threshold 3: Open to Change

5. God, open _____'s spiritual eyes.

Break the blindness off _____'s mind caused by the god of this age. Help them see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4).

6. God, help _____ realize their spiritual hunger and desire for change in their life.

Break complacency in _____'s mind and help them to want to see change in their life (John 4:15).

Threshold 4: Seeking

7. God, make _____'s heart receptive to your Word.

Like the seed that falls on good soil, give _____ a noble and good heart and help them hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop (Luke 8:11–15).

8. God, give _____ ears to hear.

Help _____ see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and turn so that You will heal them (Matthew 13:15).

9. God, set _____ free from spiritual captivity.

Help me gently instruct _____ when they are in opposition to You, in the hope that You will grant them repentance, leading them to the knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil (2 Timothy 2:25–26).

Threshold 5: Following

10. God, give _____ faith to believe.

Help _____ make a radical life-change before God and an equally radical trust in their Master, Jesus (Acts 20:21).

11. God, give _____ the will to respond to you.

Bring _____ to the point that they declare with their mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and they will be saved (Romans 10:9).

12. God, provide an opportunity to invite _____ to a relationship with you.

You want your house full, so give me opportunity and boldness to invite _____ to come home to You (Luke 14:23).