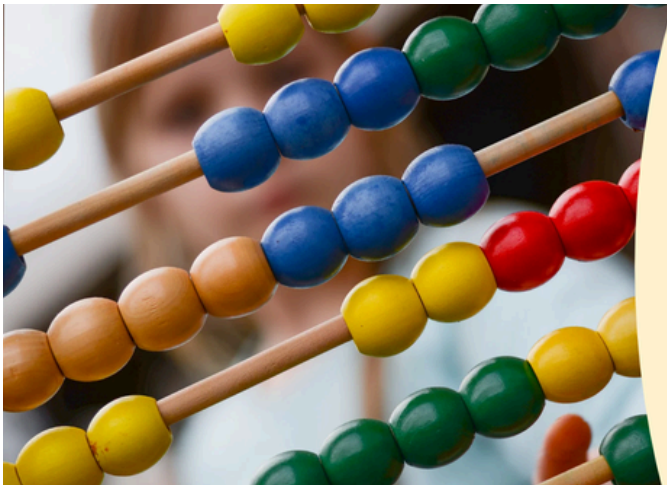


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Zack Talbert will be preaching on Luke 8:22-39



5 Things We Lose When We Subtract Evangelism from the Christian Life

SHARONDA COOPER

What's Going On

Fri. 10/16 - Sun. 10/18

Man Camp

Sun. 10/18

Sunday Worship @ 10am

Tue. 10/20

Food Distribution @ 12:30 pm

Wed. 10/21

Youth Discipleship @ 7pm

Sat. 10/24

Harvest Party

Sun. 10/04

Sunday Worship @ 10am

(Exodus 11:1-10);

Communion; Post-Service

Prayer

Sat. 01/09/27

Connect Conference

Relational Risks of Evangelism

What's the real reason Christians often avoid evangelism? Some would say they're afraid of being asked hard questions. Others might mention the inappropriateness of pushing religion on people. We might blame it on the busyness of life or on our social inadequacies. But I have observed that in my own life and in the lives of others, the problem is much simpler than that.

The real reason many of us avoid evangelism is the relational risk it brings. We don't want people to avoid us. We fear losing friends. We dread the awkward Thanksgiving with a relative who mocked our gospel presentation, or the cold shoulder of a coworker who ridicules our belief in the resurrection. We tell ourselves that our commitment to maintaining relationships—at all costs—is to protect opportunities for future gospel conversations, while our highest priority is actually our own comfort—at all costs. If we're ever to overcome our fear of evangelism, not only must we love others more than ourselves, but we must also believe that evangelism's benefits outweigh any risks involved. But what are the benefits

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associated with sharing the gospel? Rather, what might we lose if we subtract evangelism from our lives? Here are five things to consider.

1. Joy of Obedience

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he left his followers the important task of spreading the gospel to all people. The disciples got right to work making Christ known throughout Judea and the surrounding areas (Acts 1:8). Later, Paul took the gospel to places like Philippi, Athens, and Ephesus. He could confidently say at the end of his life that he had obediently finished the race set before him (2 Tim. 4:7). He experienced the joy of knowing he had served God through his missionary endeavors. We can experience similar joy through faithfully sharing the gospel.

Evangelism is one of the most important ways we can please and honor God because it spreads the news of Christ's redeeming love for us. We glorify God when we share the gospel and help people understand it. If we subtract evangelism from our lives, we fail to obey God's command, and we miss out on helping to make his name known everywhere.

2. Deeper Gratitude for Our Own Salvation

Every conversion is a miracle. Sinful man is hopeless without God's intervening grace (Eph. 2:8-9). But as time passes in the Christian life, we can easily lose sight of just how lost we were before God saved us. Scripture's truths can become so familiar that we begin taking our salvation for granted. A friend once confessed, "Sadly, I realize that I am underwhelmed by the gospel." Interestingly, she also admitted that she had never shared the gospel with anyone.

When we speak to others about Christ and their need for regeneration, we are reminded of our own conversion. We remember that we, too, had to hear the bad news of God's coming wrath before we could truly comprehend our need for repentance. When we subtract evangelism from our lives, we miss out on a unique opportunity to deepen our gratitude for the mercy we've been shown.

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Pray:

- Steve Campbell: Praise for successful foot surgery on 08/04; pray for recovery.
- Linda Hubley: For comfort from the Lord, his Word, and his people. For continuance of the perfect peace she currently experiences. That she would make the most of every day, especially during the "better" periods between treatments. That she would identify and make the most of opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.
- Cliff Durham, Risa Zillion, & family - following the passing of Cliff's step-dad, Jim.
- Alana Gass & family - following the passing of Alana's son, Joey.
- Dan Hughes: Praise for new job.
- Kathy Hughes: Praise that treatment appears to have eradicated cancer. Follow-up tests in 6 months.
- Jenn Welch: Pray that the 5 nodules identified by CT scan are benign and harmless
- Carolyn Gorkom: Brother, David, killed and sister-in-law, Beth, seriously injured in road accident
- Robin Williams: Mission trip to Costa Rica (10/10-10/18 - strength and stamina; safety, Jesus's work among wheelchair recipients and their families

3. Opportunity to Grow in Knowledge

Unbelievers often ask great questions. They ask about the Bible's reliability. They ask for proof of the resurrection. They ask why children die of cancer, where God was on 9/11, and what happens to people who never hear about Jesus. They sometimes challenge us to think more deeply about our beliefs than we would in a group of fellow Christians. So, in fear we might shy away from gospel conversations with unbelievers. But hard questions about Christianity are not dangerous or threatening—they're beneficial.

Rarely are we asked to explain our faith in conversations with other believers. Unfortunately, this can dupe us into thinking we understand Christian truths better than we do. But lost people sometimes lodge questions we can't answer, and in those times, we can learn and grow by going out and finding the answers we need for our next gospel conversation. We should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that we have (1 Pet. 3:15), but apart from regular evangelism, we may never be asked questions that require us to do that.

4. Joy of Witnessing Conversion

I recently heard a young college student say that her own life was changed when a friend was radically converted. This friend had plunged into drug and alcohol abuse that led to a DUI but later heard the gospel and trusted in Christ. Watching a sinner be transformed from a lover of evil to a child of God is a privilege many never experience. But it is glorious, and encouraging, and exhilarating, and amazing.

Unfortunately, we often have unrealistic expectations when sharing the gospel. We might expect repentance and faith to happen on the spot, but it often takes time for someone to understand what it means to follow Jesus (Luke 14:25–28). We may plant a seed and another faithful Christian may witness the harvest, but if we aren't sharing the gospel at all, we'll never experience the joy of another person's conversion. When we subtract evangelism from the Christian life, we eliminate the possibility of being present when God turns a hardened heart into one that beats for him.

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Pray Continued:

- Harvest Party: for preparations, opportunities, and boldness to invite others, many guests to come, safety, lots of fun good conversations
- Man Camp: Application of teaching, continued development of relationships.





Points for Prayer:

- For the young servants (pastors, youth leaders, etc.), that they will remain faithful, and that the Lord will use them in mighty ways for His glory.
- For John as he starts teaching seminary classes this month.
- For new believers, especially among the youth and their families, that they will remain firmly rooted in Christ, bring forth fruit, and be a light and a testimony to others as well.

5. Reminder That Many Are Still Lost

The reality of hell is unfathomable. Though passages like Matthew 25, Mark 9, and Revelation 20 describe it as a place where unregenerate sinners rightly experience God's wrath, none of us likes to think about any of our unsaved loved ones going there. And the more we spend time with other Christians, the easier it might be to forget the inevitable fate of the lost. Regular evangelism reminds us that there are still unbelievers among us. It brings us face to face with a soul that will surely perish unless God intervenes. It keeps us from lulling ourselves to sleep, thinking that people will be okay in the end. Hebrews 9:27 chillingly reminds us that it is "appointed for man to die once and then comes the judgment." So, the clock is ticking for every unsaved heart, and regular evangelism keeps that reality before us in a gut-wrenching way. When we speak to people about their spiritual beliefs (or lack thereof) and realize their lostness, we can't ignore the importance of sharing the gospel. Through Christ we enjoy living in the light (John 8:12), and subtracting evangelism from our lives makes it far too easy to forget those still living in darkness.

Evangelism often feels more like a duty than a privilege—and sometimes duty isn't enough motivation to do hard things. But when we consider the benefits of regularly sharing our faith, we realize that speaking to unbelievers about Christ is a gift. When we subtract evangelism from our lives, we lose the opportunity to receive all the benefits God offers to those who will join him in his mission to seek and save the lost.

Cooper, Sharonda. "5 Things We Lose When We Subtract Evangelism From the Christian Life." Crossway, 24 Apr. 2026, <https://www.crossway.org/articles/5-things-we-lose-when-we-subtract-evangelism-from-the-christian-life/>. Accessed 16 Oct. 2026.

Serve with the
**Food
Distribution**

1st/3rd Tuesday
12:30pm - 2:30pm



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026



Join us for the Harvest Party, our annual fall outreach event *next Saturday!*

We will be having a BBQ, carnival games, volleyball, concessions, a chili cook-off, and more! Costumes or fall attire are encouraged.

Community Outreach

This event is meant to bring in church-goers, as well as unchurched friends and family of all generations to enjoy a fun, easy-going event. While coming to church on Sundays can be daunting for some, this event can bring our local community to our campus to experience a loving church community. Let's show our community the love and hospitality that Christ did when he walked this earth!

Invite a Friend

Take some invitations and ask your friends, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors to come along.

Volunteering

There are many ways to help serve in this event, including running a carnival game, serving food, decorations, and even judging chili. If you would like to help support this event through volunteering, please **scan the QR Code above** and fill out the form attached. If you would like to help out by bringing food, there will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer starting next week.

Chili Cook-Off!

If you are interested in participating in the chili cook-off, please **use the QR code to sign up!** You do not have to sign up for volunteering to join the cook-off, but you will need to use the code and we could use the help if you are willing and able.

PRAY

for the
Swansons

Points for Prayer:

- Removal of any fungus on the valve, pacemaker, and in the blood as well as medication side-effects.
- Protection from infectious emboli and vegetations.
- Restoration of natural ventricular heart beat
- Clarity in decision-making and the fungal source.
- Thwarting of spiritual schemes/attacks in light of Revelation 12:10-11.
- Christ's renewing strength, peace, and joy.
- God will be glorified in this affliction and, as John 9:3, says "...that the works of God might be displayed in (me)."



Connect Conference 2027

Saturday, January 9th 2027

9am - 4pm (Hosted at Hessel Sebastopol)

Redemption Hill is a partner church for Connect Conference on Saturday, January 9, 2027, and we want as many of us there as possible. It's a one-day Bible conference built around the beauty, authority, and sufficiency of Jesus, with teaching from H.B. Charles, Jr., Erik Thoennes, Adam Griffin, Seth Troutt, and others, and worship led by Davy Flowers Leffall, Robbie Seay, and The Worship Initiative Band. Our own worship team will be on stage as part of the Conference Choir.

Because we're a partner church, you can register with our code REDEMPTION and save more than \$20, but only through November 15. Register at norcalconnectconference.com or via the QR code and grab a friend to come with you.



NEW TO REDEMPTION?

Hi there!

Whatever your background or situation, we're glad you've decided to join us this morning. You might find it helpful to know that:

- There are bathrooms available in the lobby and in the courtyard.
- Nursery services are available for infants. We also dismiss children for age-appropriate learning (toddlers through 5th Grade) during the main teaching time (except on the 5th Sunday of the month).
- A nursing room and changing facilities are available in the Sanctuary building.

Refreshments are available after the service - please stick around and say hi!

We look forward to getting to know you!

FIND COMMUNITY

Hungry for deeper, authentic relationships? We've got Men's, Women's, and Youth Discipleship Groups to help us grow together in grace. We meet weekly to discuss Scripture and pray. *Contact the Church Office for location and availability.*

Men's Groups

Mon. Evenings - Santa Rosa
Tues. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Weds. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Women's Groups

Weds. Mornings - Santa Rosa
Weds. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Thurs. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Youth (6th-12th Grade):

Youth Discipleship meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays.
Contact Kellen for more info: kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org



Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
office@RedemptionHillSR.org
Tel. 707-576-0130
Office hours: Tues 9 am - 5 pm

Ministry Team

Elders:

Tim Swanson - Pastor/Elder
Kelly Hubley - Elder

Staff:

Wendy Cunningham - Worship Ministry
Director
Kellen Eddy - Youth Ministry Director
Sarah Mee - Church Administrative
Assistant / Tech Team Administrator
Alisa Swanson - Hospitality & Facilities
Administrator

First Aid

An AED and a Life-Vac anti-choking device are located in the Foyer. A box of other first aid supplies is in the Fireside Room, above the refrigerator.

LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to get to know you better and welcome you into our family. If you're ready to get connected, please fill out a few details and leave this in the offering box on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Or, better still, scan this code and fill it out online. Someone will be in touch soon.

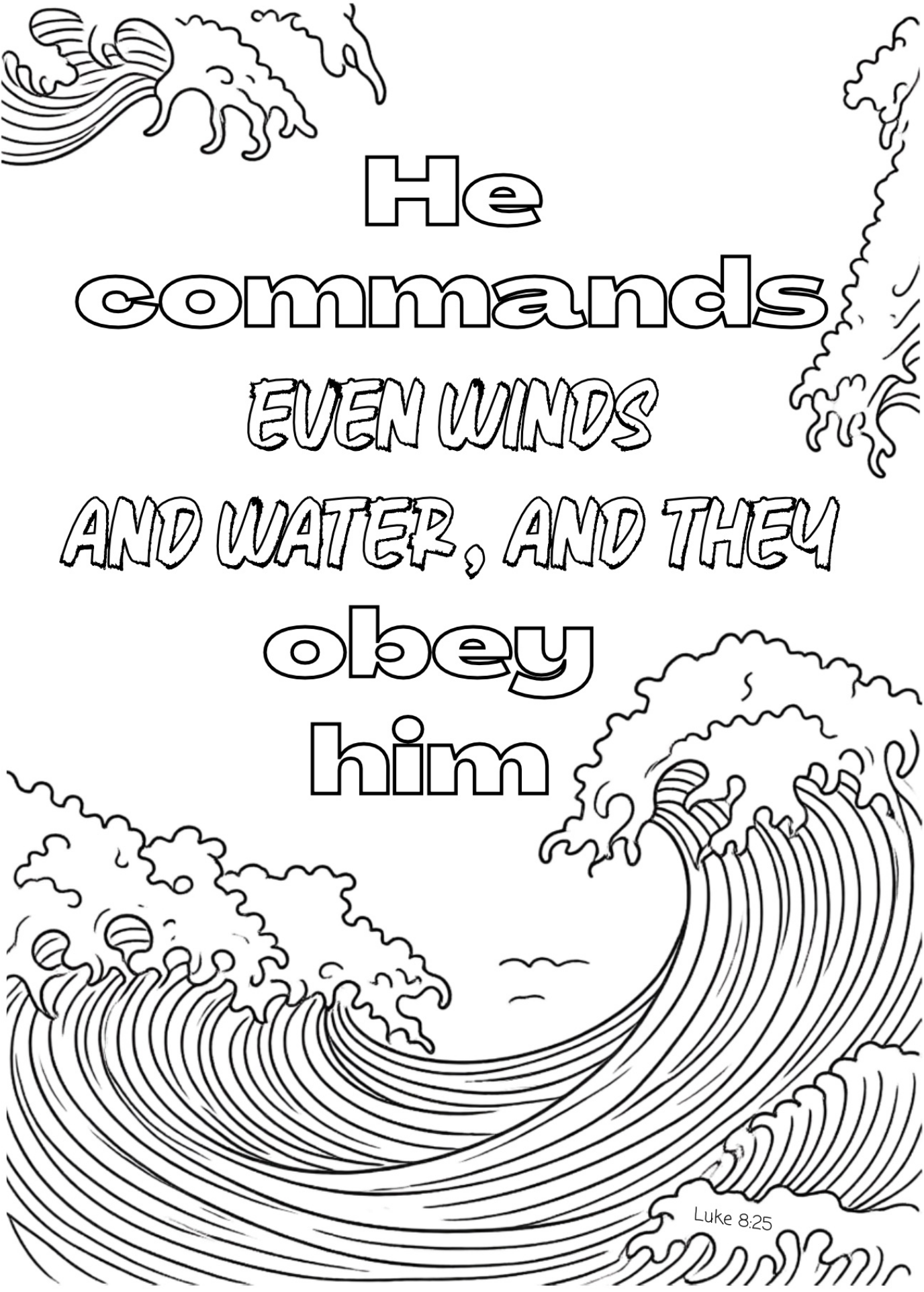
First name:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:





He
commands
EVEN WINDS
AND WATER, AND THEY
obey
him

Luke 8:25

The Scariest Story Ever
Sermon Notes: Sunday Morning, October 18, 2026
Redemption Hill Church, Santa Rosa, CA

PASSAGE: Luke 8:22-39

1. _____ makes us _____ what we know to be _____.
2. Do you ever feel like _____ is _____ in your _____?
3. It's _____ with Jesus in the _____ than without him on the _____.
4. You are _____ too lost for _____.
5. Jesus may get _____ in the _____ and _____ if you tell him to.
6. Don't be _____ about _____ your _____.