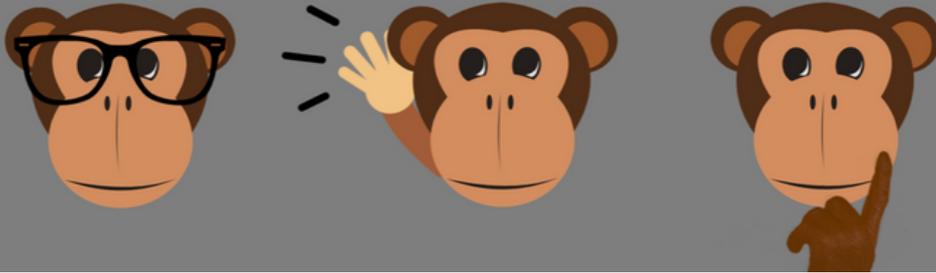


THE WORD



HEAR THE WORD.

We've all done it:

Stuck the math/biology/pick-your-poison text book under the pillow, desperately hoping osmosis would work even just this one time. It never worked.

The Bible is the the world's best-selling and most widely distributed book. In fact, according to a study done by Barna, 87% of households in America own a Bible. But do we see evidence of this in the world? We're a whole country wishing on osmosis.

And America aside, there are still *entire people groups* who have never heard the story and message of Jesus.

What good is the Bible if its gathering dust on bookshelves around the world - or not even available to gather dust in the first place?

There is hope - because *hearing* the Word can bring it to *life*. We, as followers of Jesus have been called to be hearers and sayers of this good news to the people around us. Hearing Scripture can encourage, , help us see things from a different angle, and allow people to hear the Word who would never think to crap open their Bible.

IN THE BIBLE.

Romans 10:13-17

"Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "LORD, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Acts 13:42-48

As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

QUESTIONS.

1. What stood out to you in those verses? Why?
2. Why is *hearing* the Word of God important?
3. Has someone ever talked through a section of Scripture with you and allowed you to see it in a different way? Tell the group about it.
4. On Sunday, Pastor Travis said, "Christians can't be islands." What does that mean? What can you do to be less of an island?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?