

GATHER TO SCATTER

EVANGELISM TRAINING

WEEK 5: THE AIM OF EVANGELISM AND DEPENDENT PRAYER

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Matthew 4:19 ~ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Christians have a zeal for the lost and a desire that all would come to salvation (Psalm 40:3).
 - Yet many people find it difficult to start talking about the gospel (Acts 4:20).
 - Others don’t know how they will respond to objections or hard questions (Luke 6:3; 1 Pet 3:15).
 - Others just lack confidence (Acts 4:29).
- This monthly mini class will teach the foundation for evangelism and give you greater confidence to put it into practice (Philippians 4:9).
- The nature of the class will provide a Biblical foundation that shapes how and why we evangelize, provide opportunities to discuss real situations, and encourage us to share our faith with others.
- Fall Schedule:
 - September 8: The message of Evangelism and the reasons we don’t share our faith
 - October 6: The motivation of evangelism and various methods
 - November 3: The nuts and bolts of actually sharing our faith with others
 - December 1: The aim of our evangelism and our dependent prayer
 - January 5: Dependent Prayer Other themes related to evangelism coming out of our discussions
 - February 2: Hospitality, Christian Love, and Evangelism

EVANGELISM ESSENTIALS

Definition: Essentially evangelism is explaining the gospel so that God would save sinners.

- God the Father has chosen the means: believers communicate His Word so that God the Spirit would convict the hearts of sinners to find their salvation in God the Son.
 - “Evangelism is **teaching** the **gospel** with the **aim** to **persuade**.”¹
 - Evangelism includes the biblical explanation of God, sin, Jesus, salvation, and faith and repentance. God’s salvation comes through God’s Spirit when God’s people preach God’s Word.
 - “The work of the Christian... is to confront every part of the thinking of the natural man with *biblical* authority, allowing the Holy Spirit to accomplish His results in the heart and mind.”²

So let’s break it down into basic parts. **Prayer**, Introduction, Gospel, Plea, and Response.

¹ J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism*, 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 26.

² Rolland McCune, *Promise Unfulfilled: The Failed Strategy of Modern Evangelicalism* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador, 2004), 228.

PRAAYER

Beautiful words and impassioned speeches may move a soul, but they cannot transform a hard heart. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can bring conviction and repentance ([2 Timothy 2:25](#)). The first Christians relied on massive amounts of prayer before they attempted to do anything for the Lord, and God blessed their efforts ([Acts 1:14](#); [4:31](#); [6:6](#); [13:3](#); [Colossians 4:4](#)). When our prayer lives are consistent and meaningful, we are ready to engage in personal evangelism.³

- This is why we need to pray diligently for the Lord to change hearts and convince stubborn minds, because only the Holy Spirit can bring genuine salvation about!

Pray generally for the spread of the gospel:

2 Thessalonians 3:1 ~ Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as *it did* also with you;

Pray for your own boldness in sharing the gospel:

Acts 4:29 ~ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence

Pray for others who share the gospel:

Colossians 4:2-4 ~ Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*; ³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20 ~ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹ and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

John 17:24 ~ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

- **Jesus prayed** that his disciples would be sanctified in the truth because God's word is truth...
- Then **he prayed** that future disciples would also be sanctified in the truth so that the world may believe!

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/personal-evangelism.html>

Pray that those saved would eagerly join in evangelizing the lost:

Philippians 1:3-5 ~ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Pray for the Lord to raise up more people who would share the gospel:

Matthew 9:36-38 ~ Seeing the people, **He felt compassion** for them, because they were **distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd**. ³⁷ Then He *said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ **Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.**”

- **Compassion for the distressed and dispirited.** Pray that God would bring you to see people the way God sees people.
- **No Shepherds.** Pray that God would raise up pastors and religious leaders in places where they are scarce to equip and train them to go and gather sheep.
- **Harvest.** Jesus saw the rich opportunity for God to do a great work among so many people who needed to believe. They needed salvation. They need what only God can provide. We know that God will save – we know that he uses us to communicate His salvation.
 - Paul was promised the hope that there would be many believers in Corinth before he ministered there: “for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” (Acts 18:10)
- **Workers.** Jesus taught his disciples that there are many workers needed to bring in a harvest. We must pray for workers to go and tell the good news of the gospel. He has put so many people in their workplaces and schools simply to be that worker who brings the good news to the harvest field of souls.
- Beseech the Lord. Pray earnestly. Your prayers to God are part of the means he uses to accomplish his divine plan to save people!
- **Workers who go into His harvest.** These are not only highly trained Christian Super Soldiers... these are all believers who serve the Lord. Think about Peter’s reminder in 1 Peter 2, that each member of the church is as living stones built up into a “spiritual house for **a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable** to God through Jesus Christ” (vs. 5), and as those who have been called out of darkness, it was for the express purpose “that you may **proclaim the excellencies of Him** who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (vs. 9). All believers get to proclaim into the darkness the wonders of God’s salvation in Jesus. Pray that MBC would be active in evangelism.

Pray and fight for joy when you are stressed or in conflict/contention:

Philippians 4:4-6 ~ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Pray that God would afflict the rebellious so they might be changed:

Psalm 119:67 ~ Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

- It often takes painful circumstances to drive us to Christ. When we pray for loved ones who don't know Jesus, it is tempting to ask God for protection and blessing. However, **it is sometimes necessary to pray the opposite if that is what it takes to break the control that idolatry has on their lives. Comfort, materialism, sensuality, and addiction are false gods that keep unbelievers in bondage.** Praying the will of God may require that we ask Him to remove His protection and comfort in order to drive them to the place where they must seek God. There is nothing more important for our unsaved loved ones than that they seek God and find Him.⁴
- We don't desire for calamity to ruin the **person**; we wish for God to ruin the glory-snatching **comforts** and **idols** that deceive people into thinking their rebellion is okay.

Desire the salvation of people, even groups of people, just as Paul did.

Romans 10:1, 8, 17 ~ Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation...

⁸“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching...¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

What else might we bring to God in prayer regarding the evangelism of lost souls?

“This *humanly* impossible task of **communicating with them as clearly as possible** on a two-dimensional plane without getting in the way of the Gospel should **drive us to unceasing prayer, prayer for ourselves** that the Lord might suppress our pride of performance, and then **prayer for the one who stands in desperate need of rescue from sin's bondage.** We need always to pray that the Spirit would use the words from His Word coming forth faithfully from of our mouths to accomplish His sovereign pleasure in that person's life.”⁵

⁴ <https://www.gotquestions.org/prayers-for-unbelievers.html>

⁵ George J. Zemek, *Doing God's Business God's Way: A Biblical Theology of Ministry* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2004), 120–121.