

firstmbchurch

my **PATH**

A discipleship plan for developing
fully devoted followers of Christ.

Group Study Guide

3 VALUES | 1 MISSION | 6 PRIORITIES

LESSON 6

SHARE SOMEHOW

... because we know the world needs Jesus.



FILL IN THE BLANK!

We have three values, one mission, and six priorities.

Our mission: First MB Church exists to _____.

Our values: We aim to be _____.

Our priorities: To fulfill our mission and values, we believe we should:

1) _____, 2) _____, 3) _____,

4) _____, 5) _____, 6) _____.

Life is full of questions. From a very young age we start asking questions to try and figure things out. When we were young our questions were very basic. Questions such as: “What is that?” or “Who are you?” As we get older our questions become more complicated, but are still asked for the purpose of learning. It could deal with life, work, family, or just driving directions.

One way to get an answer is to ask the question. In the book of Romans the Apostle Paul asks a series of four questions in a row with all of them having the same answer.

Romans 10:14-15 reads:

“But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”

The answer to all these questions is simple: “they can’t.”

Before explaining Paul’s questions, there are other questions that need to be asked. “How can you explain something you don’t understand? Why are there so many excuses for *not* sharing the gospel? What is it that qualifies you to share God’s message of grace with someone?”

The goal of this lesson is to present a clear explanation of the Gospel message and give practical steps for how to share it with someone.

What is the Gospel?

If you feel inadequate or lacking when trying to share the Gospel with others, you’re not alone. It can be intimidating, and none of us have all of the answers to questions we don’t understand. However, next time you’re able to share the good news, consider starting by explaining what sin and brokenness are, and walk through the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis.

It would be difficult for a believer or non-believer to look at this world and not see its brokenness. There is not a single aspect of society which hasn’t in some way been impacted by sin.

Every day we get bombarded with news of death, disease, broken relationships, etc. The sin which causes all this brokenness can be traced back to the Garden of Eden. God placed Adam and Eve in the garden and gave them free reign to eat of any tree they wanted except for one.

There could have been thousands of fruit-bearing trees to choose from. The odds were definitely stacked in their favor and yet they chose to disobey God and eat from the tree of good and evil. Instantly they realized they were naked and felt ashamed. Genesis 3:7 reads: “so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.”

The world’s first religion was born. On their own, Adam and Eve tried to cover their shame from God the best they knew how. There was nothing they could do in and of themselves to repair the now broken relationship. Only God was going to be able to restore

the relationship with Him.

Have you ever tried to repair your relationship with God on your own? This can take on many forms. Some believe if they just live a good life they will go to heaven. Others think they can just do enough good works to earn God's approval. Self-justification before God can be exhausting. What does it mean to be good? How many good works is enough? Trying to earn your way back to God will just leave you wondering if you had done enough.

Ephesians 2:8-9 reads:

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”

The Gospel message is a gift. You cannot do enough or be good enough to earn salvation. Sin doesn't just make you sick in need of a doctor. Sin makes you dead in need of a Savior. Understanding the Gospel starts with understanding your position before God.

Brokenness.

Starting with brokenness lays the foundation for everything else. Why fix what isn't broken? Non-believers need to understand God has a better and perfect plan for them. Any pain or suffering they have gone through was not in God's original design. The Apostle Paul does a good job describing the



If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped around their knees, imploring them to stay.

If hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.



Charles Spurgeon

brokenness of sin. Romans 3:10-12 reads:

“There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

All have turned away; all alike have become useless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.”

These are tough words to read in a society where everyone is proclaimed a winner. One of the first steps to understanding the Gospel is to admit your brokenness before God.

An obstacle to admitting brokenness is categorizing your sin. Believers and non-believers like to put sin into different categories of badness. A list of possible bad sins might include murder, hate, sexual sin, stealing, etc. The middle category of sins include gossiping, lying, or pride. These are ones you know are wrong, but don't think they are bad enough to offend an almighty God. They certainly don't deserve hell.

The last category of sin are those that seem insignificant. These are things you think God just overlooks or gives you a pass on. This can be laziness or not keeping the Sabbath holy.

Everyone has their own list and way of categorizing sin in their life. This approach is wrong. There are no categories to sin. **All sin separates you from God.** Everyone approaches God from a position of brokenness. 1 John 1:8-10 reads:

“If we say, ‘We have no sin,’ we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say, ‘We don't have any sin,’ we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

Evangelism starts with explaining how sin has broken everyone's relationship with God. If the relationship is broken, what can be done? The answer to this is simple: nothing.

Only God.

Non-believers need to understand there is nothing they can do to earn or repair their relationship with God. This is not the end of the story. What they cannot do for themselves God has already done. Romans 6:23a reads: “For the wages of sin is death.”

Someone needed to die for all sin. God offered His one and only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for sin. Romans 6:23b reads: “but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Salvation is truly a gift. Everyone’s list of brokenness is different. The process for salvation is the same. Non-believers need to offer all their brokenness to God, ask forgiveness (repent), and believe that Jesus died in their place on the cross.

Once they put their faith in Jesus, they become justified. Justification is not a word that is used a lot today. It is a legal term of being declared not guilty. Understand the word “justify” like this: “just as if I” never sinned. God looks on all those who put their faith in Jesus as though they have never sinned. Romans 10:13 reads: “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Once someone believes, the next step is baptism. This is an outward expression of the inward decision they just made. It represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

The gospel message is not complicated but there are a lot of excuses for not sharing. Some of the excuses are “don’t feel qualified,” “don’t have time,” “someone else will share,” or “feels awkward talking about Jesus.” You might have your own list of excuses.

The issue with the excuses is that it looks at evangelism as an activity instead of a lifestyle. Evangelism is intentionally living out the gospel during your everyday routines.



Remember:

Evangelism is doing everyday life with gospel intentionality.



My Five.

Who are you relationally connected with? At First MB we refer to this as “My Five.” Take some time and make a list of at least five names. Pray about them. You need to talk to God about your list before you talk to your list about God. How can you bring the gospel message to them? At the intersection between your life and theirs you need to be intentional about the gospel.

Sharing the gospel doesn't need to be long. It doesn't take long to share about your brokenness and how Jesus died for their sins. You could share your own testimony. Give them a quick summary of how Jesus affected your life before and after. Think of a few ways you lived, decisions you made, or feelings you had before putting faith in Jesus. After you believed, think about how all of those have changed or are in the process of changing.

Your testimony can be summarized in as little as fifteen seconds. Take some time to write down your before and after points and practice sharing a quick testimony to someone.

Are you qualified? 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 reads:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. Everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, ‘Be reconciled to God.’”

As an ambassador, you are an official representative of Jesus. God will use you to share the gospel message. **Do you believe others need the hope you have? The only way to give this hope is to share it.** A little act of faith on your part can change someone's life for eternity.

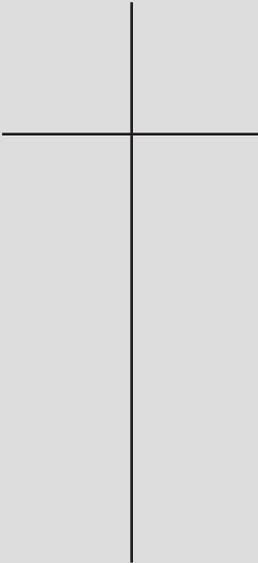
In Romans 10:14-15, Paul asked four questions that all had

the same answer: “they can’t.” Non-believers can and will hear the message if you live every day with gospel intentionality.

“The Bridge Illustration”

If you find yourself in a conversation where you want to explain the Gospel message, try using this illustration. You can search Google and YouTube for further explanation of this method.

Jesus



Humanity

All humans have sinned (Romans 3:23). Because of that, we all deserve death (Romans 6:23). There is a wide chasm that separates us from God, and we have no hope of heaven or a good relationship with God on earth on our own. We are all destined for hell unless we could somehow be rescued.

God

God is perfect and just. No sin can be allowed in heaven where He reigns forever. However, if we choose to follow Jesus and accept his gift of salvation, we are now righteous in God's eyes. Jesus “bridged the gap” when He took our penalty on the cross, and now we have access to eternal life.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “evangelism”? What do you *feel* when you hear “evangelism”?
2. Write down five names of family, friends, or co-workers who you can share the Gospel with. Make several copies and put the list in several locations as a reminder to pray for them.
3. What are some excuses you have used before in the past for not sharing the Gospel? How can you overcome those excuses?
4. Who led you to faith? Do you think of yourself as an ambassador for Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Read John 9:25-30. Jesus healed a blind man. The blind man had a short testimony. He was blind, but then he could see. In what ways can your testimony be used to share the gospel message? Take time to write down a short testimony.
6. In the space below, write out a clear explanation of the gospel. If you have any difficulty, work on it as a group.
7. Do you truly believe someone needs to hear about the hope you have inside? What practical steps do you plan on taking to share your hope with someone else?



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