

EVANGELISM

Group Discussion Guide



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Series Overview

Evangelism is not what you do, it is who you are. God calls the church to be on fire for personal evangelism because the stakes are too high, eternity is too long, and God’s love is too great for us to do nothing.

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Evangelism**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group
- with your family
- with any group of people interested in knowing more about God.

1-Experience the Burden

Scripture: **Romans 9:1-5** and **Romans 10:1-4**

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. (Rom 9:1–5, NKJV)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (Rom 10:1–4, NKJV)

Icebreaker: Burdens

As a group, make a list of things in the world that burden your heart.

Discussion Questions

- How does Paul describe his compassion for his unsaved countrymen (**Rom 9:1-5**)? In your life, what people are the equivalent of your unsaved countrymen? Describe your concern for them. Compared to Paul's concern, how fully do you care about them? On the gauge, add a needle to show how fully you care. What can we do to move our needles toward FULL?
- Consider the three-part focus of Paul's heart.
 1. Focus on the **Truth (Rom 9:1)**. Paul said he was speaking the truth. It bothered him when people perverted ideas of God and Christ. Christ's love compelled him to make sure people knew



the truth (**2Cor 5:14**). How much does it bother you when others speak false ideas of who God and Christ are? Without being offensive and making people less receptive to Christ, what can we do when this happens?

2. Focus on **Those Without Christ** (**Rom 9:2-4**). The Holy Spirit urged Paul's conscience to take action in reaching the lost. Paul felt intense anguish knowing what would happen to them without Christ. He gave everything he had to reach them. What do you give of yourself to reach others for Christ?

3. Focus on the **Savior** (**Rom 9:5**). Paul knew with certainty that Jesus is the only **one** who could die for our sins because He was the only one God counted as worthy to do so. Paul knew Jesus is our only **hope**. Paul knew Jesus is the only **way** we can spend eternity with God. How confident are you in your faith? How can you explain your belief in Christ to others?

- What do you want most for those you love (**Rom 10:1**)? What sacrifices do you make for them (**1Cor 9:19-23**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: Motives

What do the following Scriptures indicate as motives for evangelism?

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Motive</i>
1Cor 9:16-17	
Acts 20:19-20	
2Cor 5:14-15	

Application Exercise: Heart's Desire

Think about your heart's desire. How does it line up with Christ's heart's desire? Pray to God about this asking Him to incline your heart toward Him so that your heart's desire is in alignment with His.

2-Share the Gospel

Scripture: **Romans 1:13-17**

Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to

you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."'" (Rom 1:13–17, NKJV)

Icebreaker: Best Speaker

Think about people that are powerful speakers. Make a list of the things that make a good speaker. Have each person in your group look at the list and say which characteristic is most like them and which is least like them.

Discussion Questions

- One of our fears is that we will offend our friends if we “evangelize” them. We are desperate for them to know Christ, but don’t want to chase away our friends from Him or us. Answer these questions as a way of lessening your fears.
 - ▶ According to **Romans 1:1**, what is the origin of the gospel? How does that reassure you?
 - ▶ According to **Romans 1:16**, what can the power of the gospel do? How does that increase your confidence?
 - ▶ According to **Romans 1:16**, to whom is the gospel available? In what way does this encourage you to consider “unlikely” candidates as possible people with whom to share the gospel?

- You may not be a powerful speaker; however, the skill of your presentation or power of your arguments is not the key to changing someone's soul. Read **1 Corinthians 1:18-25** aloud. Given what that passage states, what are some practical ways to become more effective at sharing the gospel?

Dig a Little Deeper: Righteousness

Study **Romans 10:4-13**. See the table below to compare and contrast righteousness under the law and righteousness by faith.

<i>Righteousness under the Law</i>	<i>Righteousness by Faith</i>
for the Jew	for everyone
based on works	by faith alone
self-righteousness	God's righteousness
cannot save	brings salvation
obey the Lord	call on the Lord
leads to pride	glorifies God

Application Exercise: Your Life Speaks

Think about how your life can show the gospel without you saying a word. What things about your life can make Christ appealing to others? What changes could you make to be a better witness for Christ?

3-Be Faithful in Building Relationships

Scripture: [Colossians 4:1-6](#)

Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven. Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I

may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. (Col 4:1-6, NKJV)

Icebreaker: Can We Talk?

Discuss what others do that makes you comfortable enough to talk to them. What do you do to help people want to talk to you?

Discussion Questions

- It's about both sharing life with people and sharing the gospel with people [[Col 4:6](#)].
 - ▶ How can you build relationships with other people to create enough margin so that you eventually get an open door to speak to them about Christ?
 - ▶ How can you recognize an open door?
 - ▶ What can give you the courage to speak up when you get the opportunity?
- Live as Jesus did by becoming friends with sinners, praying for them, and looking for opportunities to speak God's Word into their lives [[Mat 5:16](#)]. What can you do to be sure people don't become a "project" instead of real people that Christ calls you to love?
- Consider the cultural context when sharing the gospel. For many people today, a logical argument for Christ will not help. They want to experience God rather than hear about God. If they see that God is real in your life, they are more likely to want the same thing for themselves. If you are walking with Christ, what will people see in your life that is different and compelling [[1Pet 3:15](#)]?

Dig a Little Deeper: To Whom, Where?

Study these passages to clarify what Scripture says about where and to whom we are to evangelize.

<i>Passage</i>	<i>To Whom and/or Where</i>
Mark 5:18-19	
John 1:40-42	
Acts 17:17	

Application Exercise: Short List

- Make a list of people with whom you could build a relationship.
- Which of them do you care for enough to invest a significant amount of time in getting to know them? They are on your short list.
- Pray for your short list.
 - ▶ That God help you see them as He sees them.
 - ▶ That God help you listen to their hearts.
 - ▶ That you reflect God's image to them.
 - ▶ That God help you recognize the open doors.
 - ▶ That God give you the words to say when you do get an open door.

4-Start with Your Story

Scripture: [Acts 22:1-21](#)

Icebreaker: Real Stories

Discuss what makes reality television programs appealing to many people.

Discussion Questions

- Notice the four parts to Paul's story.
 - ▶ **1-Life before he met Jesus:** What was Paul's life like before he met Jesus ([Acts 22:1-5](#))? What was your life like before you met Jesus?
 - ▶ **2-What Jesus did to reach him:** What did Jesus do to reach Paul ([Acts 22:6-10](#))? What did Jesus do to reach you?
 - ▶ **3-How Jesus changed Paul after Paul accepted Christ:** How did Jesus change Paul ([Acts 22:11-16](#))? How did Jesus change you?
 - ▶ **4-What God was doing in his life currently:** What was God currently doing in Paul's life ([Acts 22:17-21](#))? What is God currently doing in your life?

- When you sense the opportunity to have a spiritual conversation, where in the world do you start? The place to start is how God is working in your life ([Mark 5:18-19](#)).

Dig a Little Deeper: Your Faith Experience

- In what ways did God draw you to Him ([John 6:44](#))?
- When did you realize that you couldn't earn your way to heaven ([Eph 2:8-9](#))?
- What have you learned about getting your eyes off yourself and on to Jesus ([1Cor 2:1-5](#))?

Application Exercise: Your Faith Story

Write your Faith Story. If you have written your faith story, but it's been awhile, review it and see if you can refine it to make it easier to communicate with others.

Part 1: Before You Received Christ

Write a paragraph describing your life before you met Christ.

Part 2: How You Received Christ

Write a paragraph describing how you accepted Christ.

Part 3: How God Changed You

Write a paragraph describing how you changed after becoming a follower of Christ.

Part 4: What God is Doing Now

Write a paragraph describing what God is doing in your life now.



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