

Equipping for Evangelism | Tips on Sharing Your Faith

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Session 1 | Earning the Right

Pre-video (pick at least one)

- How do you know when you can trust someone?
- What makes you feel comfortable talking with someone about heavy or personal things?

Post-video (pick at least three)

- What stood out to you in this video segment?
- Who in your life would you like to start talking with about Jesus?
- If you have yet to establish credibility and relational context with that person, what's the next step you need to take on that path?
- What bridges or positive connections are already in place?
- What kinds of *barriers* might exist right now, and what needs to happen in order for them to be broken down?

Prayer Ideas

- Take some time to pray specifically for the people in your life with whom you'd like to begin earning the right to share the Gospel.
- Pray that the Lord would lead you through the process of doing the internal/personal work that this endeavor calls for.
- Ask the Spirit to give us the vision we need to see where bridges need to be built and barriers need to be broken down.

Session 2 | Asking Good Questions

Pre-video (definitely hit both of these)

- What evangelism successes or challenges have you encountered since last week's session? I.e., how or with whom have you begun to earn the right, and how is that going?
- What is the best question you've ever been asked? What made that question so profound?

Post-Video (pick at least 3)

- Who's a person that has shown interest in you and asked you great questions? What did you appreciate or respect most about that person?
- In regular, everyday conversations, what percentage of the time do you tend to inquire/listen, and what percentage of the time are you talking/informing?
- What did you think of the idea that evangelism isn't always monological? Does the idea of conversational evangelism kind of scare you, or do you find it more comforting? Why?
- Does anyone feel like this approach might not work for every personality or culture? How could you adapt these ideas for the person or cultural pattern on your mind?
- What are a couple steps you can take to become a better "question-asker?"
- Which question that Greg and Dan shared stood out to you as something that might work well with one of your coworkers, neighbors, or family members?

Prayer Ideas

- Ask the Lord to lead you into a conversation this week where you can ask one of the questions you heard in today's session.
- Pray that the Lord would help you to be more open and inquisitive, asking more and better questions in your relationships with people who don't know Jesus.
- Invite the Spirit to bring great questions to mind that will be useful and fruitful in your conversations this week with those who are far from the Lord.

Session 3 | Sharing Your Story

Pre-Video (both questions)

- Did you have any opportunities to ask someone a faith-oriented question over the past week? How did that go?
- How prepared do you feel to share your faith story? Scale of 1-10? Super ready or never even thought about it?

Post-Video (at least the first three)

- Why might our own personal stories about our journey with Jesus be a productive part of evangelism?
- Take ten minutes or so to partner up and try to talk through each of those three phases of your story: before Jesus, believing in Jesus, because of Jesus. It's OK if it's a little rough-drafty, and it's OK if it's just a couple sentences for each point. Ready, set, go!
- Which part of your story needs a little more work?
 - *Consider asking your partner to help you with this! Which parts made sense? Which parts could be clearer? Was Jesus the center and best part of my story or am I kind of missing the Gospel? What could I do to really make this a testimony of what Jesus has saved me from and what new life with Him is like?*
- Who can you share your story with in the upcoming week or two?
- After you share your story with someone, what would be the next step in that conversation? How could you put the ball in their court?

Prayer Ideas

- Ask the Lord to help you have the confidence in Him in order to share your salvation story, and invite Him to help you overcome any insecurities or feelings of shame holding you back from sharing how you came to Christ!
- If you're feeling unsure about how to formulate your story, ask the Lord to give you clarity and direction.
- If you're feeling like there's a gap or something missing from your testimony, ask the Lord to shed light on it. Or, if you've not yet trusted in Jesus as the crucified and risen Savior and King, thank Him for dying for your sin and rising to give you new life and reconcile you with the Father, take this opportunity to confess your belief in Him, and commit to following Him with every part of your being!

Session 4 | Reasons to Believe the Resurrection

Pre-Video (both questions)

- Where are you at with sharing your story? Still putting it together? Or did you share it with someone last week? How can the group help you make some progress in this area?
- You don't have to answer this out loud, but think privately about the reasons you're confident in the resurrection of Jesus, and maybe jot down a few bullet points. After everyone has a minute or so to think and write, go ahead and take a look at today's video!

Post-Video (try to cover all questions)

- Why is the resurrection of Jesus such an important part of the Christian faith?
- What's one new piece of evidence or support for the resurrection did you hear in this video? Is there anything you'd like to study or explore more because of this video?
- What's an angle or argument for Jesus' resurrection that you'd want to *add*?
- In your experience, has Jesus' resurrection been difficult for a lot of non-believers to accept? If not, what are the obstacles holding people back from believing that Jesus is the crucified and risen Son of God?
- This isn't in the video, but take a few moments to share how the resurrection of Jesus is operative in the life of the believer. It's not just a historical fact we affirm, but an event that paved the way for bringing us back to life as well! So, what does that new life look like? How are we uniquely empowered or equipped by the resurrection of Christ? And how do we tap into that power and put it on display?

Prayer Ideas

- Ask the Lord to increase your *confidence* in the resurrection of Jesus and your competence to present why we believe it.
- *Praise* the Lord for what He accomplished on the cross and at the empty tomb!
- Invite the Lord to give you the sensitivity for *when* to share these reasons for the resurrection, and the ability to remember and recall them as we help people to discover the Risen King!

Session 5 | Sharing the Gospel

Pre-Video

- On a scale of 1-10, how confident do you feel about articulating the Gospel clearly and completely? Why do you feel that way? (No shame in a lower number! That's why we're here!)

Post-Video (at least *'d questions)

- *What are the essential components of the Gospel?
 - *Greg and Dan presented two main points. What were those?*
- *What do those two essential pieces *mean*? How would you explain those ideas to someone who's never been exposed to Christianity?
- If you only had one minute to share the Gospel, what would you say?
- If you had a long lunch meeting to share the Gospel, how would you present it?
 - *Don't spend a full hour answering this - just share your gameplan or describe the points, passages, ideas, and reasons you'd cover.*
- What's one passage of Scripture that communicates the Gospel succinctly would you refer to as you share the Good News of Jesus with someone?
- *Can you think of some practical impacts of the Gospel in the life of a believer? What changes should people see in us because of our belief in the Gospel? How can we depict or give evidence to the Gospel in our actions?
- *What kinds of things/discussion topics do you and your friends, neighbors, family members often talk about? How can you smoothly (no "joking") get from those topics to the Gospel? How can you share the Gospel in the context of normal conversation? What connection points or bridges are you looking for?

Prayer Ideas

- Ask the Lord to help you grow in your understanding and appreciation of the Gospel more and more every day
- Take some time to reflect on what the Father has accomplished through Jesus, our Savior and King, and then thank and praise Him for it!
- Ask the Lord to impress upon your heart someone who needs to hear the Gospel in the next week or so

Session 6 | Being a Missional Neighbor

Pre-Video (at least one)

- How are your relationships with your neighbors?
- On a scale of 1-10, how engaged are you in your neighborhood?
 - 1 = I'm trying to avoid being seen!
 - 10 = I know all my neighbors, we talk all the time, share stuff, great friends, etc.!

Post-Video (at least the last two)

- What values and priorities ought to guide our decision about the area or neighborhood in which we live?
 - *If the group can handle a little bit of discomfort and transparency, maybe talk about the values and priorities that currently/normally guide our choice of neighborhood.*
- Can you think of a time in your life when you were living somewhere that didn't quite meet your standards or ideals or hopes? How did God use you to minister to the people around you? Or how *could* God have used you there, if you'd been more willing? What similar Bible stories or themes come to mind, and what does God want to teach us through those passages?
- Which of the three facets of being a missional neighbor - *preparation, presence, proclamation* - would you say God wants you to focus on most in this particular season? Why might you be sensing that?
- Keeping the "P" category you picked in mind, what's one specific goal you can set to make progress in that area over the next week? Who would you like to keep you accountable for that goal?

Prayer Ideas

- Lord, who do you want me to connect with in my neighborhood this week?
- Lord, how would you like me to live more missionally where you've placed me in this season?
- Father, thank you for sending Jesus, who was and is the perfect neighbor to me, who cares, who listens, who knows and loves me, who is hospitable and generous, who is so patient and gracious toward me in my failures and all the annoying things I do, and who sacrificed so much to bring me into relationship with You and your community and family, the Church! Please help me to demonstrate these parts of the character of Christ to the people who live around me!