

Sharing the Great News Contextually

REDEEMER EQUIPPING CLASS

FACILITATORS GUIDE



Facilitators Instructions

Thank you for being willing to be a facilitator for a group that is learning how to share the great news.

Your role is three-fold:

1. Schedule 6–8 discussion group meeting times with those in your group.
2. Facilitate those discussion groups by asking the questions, encouraging dialogue, practicing, etc. You are there to help the group process and discuss what they've learned as well as practice it.
3. Keep your group accountable and ensure that they are working through the weekly steps.
4. Organize 1–2 times when the group goes out together 2x2 to share the gospel in the city.

The Course

1. The course has 6 lessons.
2. Each week, learners will work through one lesson individually in their booklet. (Each lesson is between 30 minutes to an hour.)
3. Each meeting time, all of the learners will gather in a discussion group to answer questions, check in, and challenge one another.

Discussion Groups

Each discussion group session includes:

- 1. Check-In:** A time for group members to quickly rate and explain how their current confidence level in sharing the gospel.
- 2. Summary:** Brief paragraph of what the lesson was about—you can read it, explain it, or ask others in the group to explain what the lesson was about.
- 3. Q&A:** Various questions for each learner to answer related to the lesson's content. Note: if you're doing 2 lessons in one meeting, you may want to choose certain questions from each lesson given time restraints.
- 4. Accountability—Challenge One Another:** During this time you will discuss what the learners want to do and how they are implementing what they are learning in their daily lives and conversations.
- 5. Looking Ahead:** Give a brief sentence about what learners will cover in the next lesson.
- 6. Prayer:** End each meeting praying for one another. Feel free to use the prompts that are related to the lesson content.

(As good discussions happen, you will find that it is not possible to cover all the questions each week. Before meeting, decide which questions are most important to cover. For some questions like the weekly check-in, you may find it more beneficial for everyone to share their answer quickly in the WhatsApp group versus going around one by one.)

Pre-Meeting

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There are a couple of ways that your small group can walk through this material.

Option 1: Send material to each participant before Group Session 1. Ask each person to read the material for Lesson 1 and complete the exercises before the meeting.

Option 2: Provide the materials to each participant during the first gathering. The first gathering becomes an introduction to the material and one another. If you choose this option, you may want to combine week 1 and 2 or meet 7 times.

Both options work well. This facilitators guide will include a Group Session 0 guide for those that choose option 2. If you go with option 1, you may want to pull a few questions from Group Session 0 for your first week.

Group Session 0 — Introduction

Check-In

1. Personal Introductions (1 minute each):
 - a) Name and info about family
 - b) Where from?
 - c) How long in Dubai?
 - d) In two words how are you feeling today?
2. On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence in sharing the gospel (1=you extremely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you start gospel conversations often). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Q&A

1. Why do we share the gospel?
2. What hinders you from sharing the gospel?

Accountability

At this point if you haven't already done so, hand out the *Sharing the Great News Contextually* booklets. Then take a minute or so to share with them the layout of the material and the expectations for the class. It is a good idea to get some type of verbal or physical response from each person that they are committing to be accountable to the group. The following questions are helpful questions to ask in this first gathering. Each person can respond by raising their hand or saying “yes.”

1. Are you committing to read all the material over the next six weeks and complete all the questions and exercises?
2. Are you committing to come prepared to participate in each discussion and share what God is teaching you?
3. Are you committing to make these weekly discussions a safe place for each person?
4. Are you committing to go out and start conversations and seek to share the gospel throughout this class?

Looking Ahead

Please read through Week 1 (and maybe Week 2) material this week and answer the questions, to prepare for next week. Please also intentionally look for opportunities to start conversations this week.

Pray

1. Pray for God to be at work inside each of us throughout our time together transforming our view of evangelism and leading us to be bold and courageous gospel proclaimers.
2. Pray for us to be a light in our workplaces and neighborhoods that draws people to Jesus

Reminder

The purpose of this course is not to just fill us with more knowledge but to impact how we live out the truths of the gospel daily and how we intentionally love people by sharing the gospel.

Group Discussion 1

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Introductions

If this is the first gathering for this group, take time to introduce yourself and why you signed up for the course.

Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

God has loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so that everyone who believes in Him may have life. His love for us compels us to love Him and love others. One way we display our love for God is through telling of His marvelous works to all who are around us. One way we love the people in our lives is through telling them the greatest news we know. However, we often do not share. We allow fears to stop us. We feel like we do not know enough. We think we need to focus on being a friend first so that one day we can share. Third, we don't want to offend anyone or lose our job. And last, sometimes we think our actions are enough. We live for Jesus and people can see that so we don't have to speak the truth. Scripture teaches that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. We are called to speak the truth. Let's not let our fears keep us from loving people well!

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

—**Romans 10:17**

Q&A

1. What compels you to share the gospel?
2. Do you believe the best way we love others is through sharing the gospel?
3. What hinders you from sharing the gospel?
4. Who is someone in your life that you have not told about Jesus? Why?

Looking Ahead

In next week's lesson, we will look at what is the gospel? Week 2 includes about two hours of content to read and questions to answer. Please take time to study this lesson well. We want to share the whole gospel and share it clearly!

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to show you specific people you know that you can share with during the next eight weeks.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you already know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fears to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Group Discussion 2

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Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and has sent His Son, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin through His substitutionary death on the cross and to show His power over sin and death in the resurrection from the grave so that all who turn from their sin and themselves and trust in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.

The gospel is first and foremost about God, His holiness and His gracious love. It is God-centered not man-centered. It is the answer to man’s sin, man’s guilt before God.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

—**Titus 3:4-7**

Q&A

1. How do you describe God to non-believers in your life?
2. How do you describe man’s problem to non-believers in your life?
3. How do you describe Jesus and the solution He provides to non-believers in your life?
4. How do you describe what our response should be to Jesus to non-believers in your life?

Looking Ahead

In next week’s lesson, we will begin looking at how to share the gospel. We will review a simplified thesaurus and great news story to help us think about how we change our language so that non-believers understand what we are saying. We will study John 4 and see an example of how Jesus pointed the woman at the well and her village to Him. Last, we will look at how to get connected with people and

start conversations. Please allow close to an hour to complete the online reading and activities. There is also an assignment to go out and begin meeting people and starting conversations.

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to give you courage to start five social conversations this week with people you do not know.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you already know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fears to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Group Discussion 3

Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

Step one of sharing the great news is to get connected with someone. We need to start a conversation. We read in John 4 how Jesus connected with the woman at the well. They connected over a physical need for water. There are many ways we can connect with people from asking where they are from to their name to a question like, “Why do you work in Dubai?”

We also took time to briefly discuss the importance of simplifying our language. As followers of Christ we often use words that many people do not know like righteous, propitiation, and repentance. By using more common phrases we can be better understood when we talk about Jesus.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

—1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Q&A

1. What stands out to you about how Jesus connected with the woman at the well?
2. What do you think about the simplified thesaurus and great news stories? Are they helpful? How?
3. What hinders you from starting conversations?

Accountability

1. How are you doing working through the course content?
2. How many conversations have you started?
3. How can we pray for you?

Looking Ahead

In *Sharing the Great News — Part 2*, we will look at how to bridge from a social to a spiritual conversation. We will also study in Acts 17 how Paul shared the great news in the Areopagus with the peoples of Athens. Each new lesson continues to build on one another as we learn to move from starting a conversation all the way to getting to a response.

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to give you courage to bridge five conversations to spiritual matters this week.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you already know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fear to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Group Discussion 4

Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

Step two of sharing the great news is bridging from a social to a spiritual conversation. We saw Jesus in John 4 bridge to a spiritual conversation quickly within a couple of sentences and Paul did the same in Acts 17. Many people across Dubai are comfortable discussing spiritual matters. There is no need to fear. Think of questions you can ask people that help you to easily bridge to a spiritual conversation. Review the questions provided in this lesson.

As you bridge to a spiritual conversation, listen well to the answers being given. We should never assume that we know what someone believes or why they believe it. Instead we need to listen as they share their own story and their beliefs. In a spiritual conversation, the desire is to help a person see they are lost and need a savior. Sometimes this is possible, and sometimes it is not. If they see a need for a savior, then they are much more likely to listen as you transition to sharing the great news.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

—2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Q&A

1. What stands out to you about how Paul connected with the Athenians?
2. How do you transition from a social to spiritual conversation?
3. What are some examples for how to try and move someone to admit lostness?

Practice

We will divide up one-on-one to practice starting social conversations and bridging to a spiritual conversation. We will also describe God to one another in less than two minutes each.

Accountability

1. How are you doing working through the course content?
2. How many conversations have you started?
3. How can we pray for you?

Looking Ahead

In *Sharing the Great News — Part 3*, we will look at how to bridge from a spiritual conversation to a gospel conversation. We will also study in Acts 26 how Paul shared the great news with King Agrippa and see the king's response to Paul's message. Each new lesson continues to build on one another as we learn to move from starting a conversation all the way to getting to a response.

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to give you courage to bridge five conversations to spiritual matters this week.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you already know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fear to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Group Discussion 5

Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

This week in Acts 26 we saw Paul boldly stand before King Agrippa and tell his story of how God saved him. He clearly proclaimed the great news as he shared his journey. The king was convinced Paul was trying to convert him. As Paul used his story, we can also use our story to direct people to Jesus. Especially with family and friends who knew us before we turned to Christ, it can be powerful helping them to understand and see the power of Christ that is at work inside of us. The key with telling our story is not to make it about us. The focus must be on telling God’s story but doing that through sharing our experiences and how God has transformed us. Telling your story can be a great bridge to the gospel.

And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” And Paul said, “whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

—Acts 26:28-29

Q&A

1. What stands out to you about how Paul shared his testimony with King Agrippa?
2. How do you transition from a spiritual to gospel conversation?

Practice

We will divide up one-on-one to practice sharing our testimony and also bridging to the great news.

Accountability

1. How are you doing working through the course content?
2. How many conversations have you started?
3. How can we pray for you?

Looking Ahead

In *Sharing the Great News — Part 4*, we will study Acts 8 and see how Philip shares the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch. We will also discuss how to get from the gospel to a response as well as look at how to use prophet stories to point to Christ.

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to give you courage to bridge five conversations to the gospel this week.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you already know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fear to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Group Discussion 6

Check-In

On a scale of 1–10, rate your current confidence level in sharing the gospel (1=you absolutely fear sharing the gospel; 10=you feel extremely confident to share the gospel). Over the course, we will seek to move our answer “up” the rating scale.

Summary

God took Philip to a desert road and led him to an Ethiopian eunuch who was reading Isaiah. Philip started in Isaiah where the man was and pointed him to Jesus. When the eunuch saw water, he was ready to be baptized. Philip followed the Spirit’s prompting and went where he was directed and then spoke up and started a conversation. He displayed great courage and boldness.

As we share the great news, we do not just need courage to bridge to the great news. We also need courage to then bridge to a response. Once someone hears the great news, what do they do with it? We need to tell them. We need to encourage them to turn to Jesus. This week we looked at ways we can bridge to a response. We also looked at brief summaries of prophet stories that can help us point people to Jesus.

And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

—Acts 8:34–35

Q&A

1. What stands out to you about how Philip shared with the Ethiopian eunuch?
2. How do you transition from a gospel conversation to a response?

Practice

We will divide up one-on-one to practice sharing the gospel and then getting to a response.

Accountability

1. How many conversations have you started?
2. How can we pray for you?

Looking Ahead

This is our last discussion time. As we finish up the class how will you be intentional to seek people out, start conversations and bridge to the gospel?

There are resources in the appendix to help you as you continue to learn. There are suggested books to read. Guide sheets to help you learn about different religions. Websites that share about different cultures and evangelistic methods. The most important things to do going forward are to pray and to go out and do it!

Pray

1. Pray for God to provide opportunities every week for you to share the gospel with people you cross paths with.
2. Pray asking God to give you courage to bridge two conversations to a response this week.

Reminder

As a Christ-follower who loves Jesus, you know enough to share the great news. Don't allow fear to hold you back. Go out this week, start conversations and point people to Jesus. God is with you.

Follow Up Meeting and Celebration

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The goal of this class is not to just impart knowledge to the participants. The goal is for each of us to develop a habit of regular, intentional gospel proclamation with the people in our lives. Six weeks is not enough time to establish a habit.

Consider scheduling a follow up meeting two weeks after your last discussion time to meet and share with one another how you are continuing to have gospel conversations. This can be a time of celebration as well but schedule some type of gathering that will encourage people to continue to be intentional.

Consider scheduling times to go out together to share in different neighborhoods.

Thank you for leading your group or class through this course.