

Church: Proclaiming the Message

"Church. For Good." series- Part 02

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: Can you recount the very the first time that you heard the good news about salvation through Christ? When, where, and how?

Let's get on the same page - Have the leader/host pick out 2-3 household objects that will fit individual in a bag or box so as others cannot see the objects. Then play a simple game of Charades with volunteers using each object. Using only the rules of Charades, have them describe the object until someone correctly identifies the object. No words allowed!

Imagine if you had to explain the way of salvation using only signs and motions...no words allowed. Yet many Christians find that sharing their faith is difficult even when they can use words...and the Scriptures. In a recent lesson at Grace Hills Church, Pastor Sean emphasized the importance of believing that sharing our faith with others is **EASY!**

What can I do to make this life-giving process (sharing my faith) EASY? Let's glean some help from Paul's instructions to the Colossians:

Book: Colossians 4:2-6

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

Col 4:3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.

Col 4:4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Col 4:5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Let's get into the Word:

How important is our prayer life in sharing the good news?

What should I pray for (according to verses 2-4)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Now discuss why each of these things that you have listed are important and necessary:

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter to the church at Colossi. Why has he been imprisoned (verse 3)?

How should suffering for Christ's sake affect our witnessing?

What do you find most difficult about witnessing? Why?

What does it mean to you to *"live wisely among unbelievers"*...verse 5a?

Where is the biblical balance between sensitivity and boldness?

To what extent should we go against our personality in witnessing? Should a shy person be bold?

How can we be more alert to opportunities for the gospel?

The Amplified Bible translation of Col. 4:6 is the following:

Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [*as it were*] with salt, [*so that you may never be at a loss*] to know how you ought to answer anyone [*who puts a question to you*].

Discuss how you can share the story of salvation:

1. With graciousness-
2. Well seasoned-
3. With sensitivity-

In my personal time with God:

What does the following statement say to you: *"Before you talk to a person about God, talk to God about that person."*

What do you need to do to be better prepared to share your story of salvation?