

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

“The Necessity of Proclaiming the Gospel” Romans 1:14-17

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MAIN IDEA

Most of us can remember that person who took time to either introduce or encourage us in our new faith in Christ. Even if your first faith experience was in response to a stadium invitation, God used somebody to walk with you through the first steps in your new spiritual life. Paul in thinking about the privilege of being that courier of Jesus' message remembered Isaiah's words, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Perhaps due to the severity of his past sin, or because of the depth of his theological understanding, Paul took the commission to preach the Gospel seriously. There was no complacency in Paul's calling, he was passionate, "Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel!" As we remember and give thanks for the one who took time steering us in our new faith, may we gain a fresh burden to carry the message of Jesus into new relationships.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

Like pebbles creating ripples in a still pond, Paul saw the contagious affects of new believers in their own social settings. When someone's life was changed by God, their families and neighborhood friends witnessed the transformation. While they didn't have social media like Twitter or Instagram, the message still went viral from city to city. Paul's letter to the church in Rome reveals that he saw the importance of doing Gospel work there, "So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." The city was not only a population center, but the center of cultural influence in the western world.

READ & DISCUSS

There are many verses that exhort Christians to share the Gospel. Read out loud together [Romans 1:14-17](#) and any other passages that you can cross reference regarding evangelism.

KEY VERSES

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

- Some believers may have never thought through all the elements of a clear Gospel statement. *What is the Gospel and what is it not? What might one forget that's important, and what might be our tendency to include but shouldn't, and why? When you ask the average person what the Gospel means, what are some of the answers you get? How can you take some of those guesses and turn them into conversations? What are the four elements from [John 3:16](#) that can help us outline the Gospel?*
- Think about and discuss some of the reasons why the Gospel needs to be shared. *Why is it important for people to hear the Gospel? How does becoming a Christian change their life purpose? How does it change their their immediate and long-term future? Discuss why the personal ramifications of unbelief should compel us to engage with people. What do our efforts say about our current beliefs?*

- *How does the practice of proclaiming the Gospel affect the vitality of the local church? How does evangelism affect our own personal understanding of Scripture? How can sharing the Gospel increase our love for God and our love for people? What are some of the assumptions we make about people when we don't engage with them about Christ?*

PRAYER

There are three persons involved in evangelism, and God is the primary person in preparing the other two. Pray for both the believer and the unbeliever. Pray that God gives you boldness, compassion and patience. Pray for the heart, mind and soul of the other that they are ready. *Who are you praying for and why?*

APPLICATION & PRACTICE

Evangelism programs are a great way to give believers some structure and guidance for sharing their faith. If you've never been trained in that way, you might find it helpful and fun to get over the apprehension of personally sharing your faith. But remember, the best way to share your faith is always relational and natural. A script can never replace just being someone's friend. God ultimately makes all the pieces of someone's life go together, and for someone to see that in you preaches volumes.

RESOURCES

Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News about Jesus More Believable. By Sam Chan. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018.

Can We Trust the Gospels? By Peter J. Williams. Wheaton: Crossway, 2018.



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<https://cccm.com/teaching/topical/video/the-necessity-of-proclaiming-the-gospel/>