

Discuss in small groups: where do you want to make progress in re-shaping your thinking and your actions:

The "why" of gospel sharing?

The "who" of gospel sharing?

The "how" of gospels sharing?

4. Practical Tip: The power of Questions and Listening

Ask "BIG" questions and listen

Some ideas (from Sam Chan)

- *What are you looking for in life?*
- *Why is this important to you?*
- *What is the one thing you absolutely must have in this life?*
- *What happens if you don't find what you're looking for?*
- *What do you think it all means?*
- *Wat do you believe about God?*
- *What do you think God wants from you?*
- *Do you have a faith?*
- *What religion did your parents raise you with?*
- *Do you pray?*

What other questions would you add?

Recommended resources:

- How to talk about Jesus (without being *that guy*) – Sam Chan
- Following Jesus – Andrew Randall – chapter on Evangelism
- Revolutionary Work – William Taylor

Next week: **more** practical tips

GETTING ON BOARD WITH THE LORD'S PLAN OF KINGDOM GROWTH (a.k.a. Evangelism)

As we begin - in small groups: read John 4: 27-38 and answer:

1) What ****on earth**** is God doing? (if you need extra help – look up Luke 24: 46-47)

2) What did the disciples seem more interested in? What does Jesus tell them to focus on?

Introduction: cold sweats anyone?

1. The why: privilege, necessity and joy!

- The Lord is building His church – and He involves us in this task – what a privilege!
 - **1 Cor 3:9: For we are God's fellow workers.**
- It's people's greatest need (Ephesians 2:1) Evangelism springs from a deep conviction that apart from Christ, they will eternally die – what a necessity!
 - **1 Corinthians 9:16: woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!**
- It can involve huge cost but is one of the greatest blessings a Christian can experience! Why would we deprive ourselves of this!? What a joy!

- **1 Thessalonians 2:19-20: For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy!**
- *"If we're not passionately longing for unbelievers to come to Christ then we haven't understood the gospel at all "(Andrew Randall)*

2. The who? All Christians – to all unbelievers

- Are all Christians called to be evangelists? Yes – if by that we mean: sharing their faith (Acts 1:8)
- Some uniquely set up apart to train other Christians in evangelism
 - **Ephesians 4:11-12: he gave [...] the evangelists... to equip the saints for the work of ministry**
- With who? **All** – but starting with those around you and trusting God who puts people in our path – Acts 1:8 again & Philip in Acts 8
 - Thinking strategically, doors are usually opened where relationships of trust are present
 - 86% of who become Christians say it's in large part due to a Christian friendship
 - God can work overnight but research suggests the average period from first gospel contact to conversion is around 4 years – a lot of perseverance and prayer

3. The how?

In small groups: look up 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6 and discuss: how does evangelism "work"? (and how will evangelism feel? v. 1 and look ahead to 8-9)

- Showing with our lives
 - **1 Peter 2:12 – so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God**
- Speaking with our words
 - **Romans 10:14: how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?**
- What should the content of our message be? The Gospel! Who Jesus is (Lord), who we are (sinful, guilty) and how we are to respond: repentance and faith + glad following (Acts 2)
 - **1 Corinthians 2:2 – I resolved to know nothing among you but Christ crucified.**
- Drenched in prayer: talk to God about people. Talk to people about God. (Ephesians 1:18)