

Sharing Christ

Getting Started

- 1) *Why did you decide to take this course at this time? What are you hoping to learn? How are you hoping to grow?*

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Getting Started

God is at work in the world, and he wants you to join him. This assignment is called your *mission*. God wants you to have both a ministry in the Body of Christ and a mission in the world. Your ministry is your service to *believers*, and your mission is your service to *unbelievers*.

The mission Jesus had while on earth is now our mission because we are the Body of Christ. What he did in his physical body we are to continue as his spiritual body, the church. What is that mission? Introducing people to God! The Bible says, "*Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.*" (Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*)

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Its Place In Our Vision

Our Vision . . .

To Unleash A Movement Of Passionate Christ-Followers . . .

. . . Pursuing God

. . . Loving People

. . . Serving Sacrificially

. . . Sharing Christ

Sharing Christ . . .

Groundwork – What Should Our View of Evangelism Be?

While we may believe that part of living out our faith is sharing our faith with others, there are tensions that arise at the thought of discussing spiritual matters:

- We don't want to offend anyone.
- We don't want to seem out of touch.
- We don't know what to say.
- We don't want to be embarrassed.
- We don't want to get in trouble.

By approaching evangelism relationally before informationally, we will not only alleviate some of these tensions, but probably be more helpful to those we hope to influence.

[TABLE TALK]

1. When you think of the word "evangelism" or "evangelist", what are some words or feelings that come to mind?

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Evangelism 101

- A. The _____ of evangelism sometimes gets in the way of the message.
- B. Evangelism is not just for "evangelists".
- C. Evangelism is not just about conveying information.
- D. Every Christian can help someone outside the faith take a step toward faith.
- E. Every interaction with someone is a _____ of what you believe about God.
- F. Evangelism includes praying for people, serving people, and building relationships.
- G. Evangelism is a _____ more than an obligation.

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The Big Picture

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:3-5)

In love, God _____ and initiated His relationship with us.

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)

God's _____ and plan was to use His people to bless others.

This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. (Exodus 9:13-16)

God has orchestrated the Exodus events so that He revealed His glory by establishing His name in a global way. Then, with the world watching, He drew the people to Himself to establish a way of worship that the other nations could enter. (Steven C. Hawthorne, "The Story of His Glory", *Perspectives*)

God revealed His glory and established a _____ with His people so that the world could enter it as well.

As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name—for men will hear of your great name and your name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (1 Kings 8:41-43)

May these words of mine, which I have prayed before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God and there is no other. (1 Kings 8:59-60)

God displayed His power and might so that all the peoples of the earth would know His

_____ .

And now the Lord says—
 he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
 to bring Jacob back to him
 and gather Israel to himself,
 for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord
 and my God has been my strength—
 he says:
 "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
 to restore the tribes of Jacob
 and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
 I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
 that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the Earth."

(Isaiah 49:5-6)

God's _____ includes His people shining His light to the Gentiles and bringing the message of salvation to the world.

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations

and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

(Isaiah 2:2-4)

Shout with joy to God, all the earth!
Sing the glory of his name;
make his praise glorious!
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power
that your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth bows down to you;
they sing praise to you,
they sing praise to your name. Selah.

(Psalm 66:1-4)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

(Habakkuk 2:14)

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(Matthew 8:11-12)

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.

(John 12:32)

In the _____, all the earth would recognize God's glory. Some will worship and bow down to the King and others will not.

We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 13:46-47)

The _____ of salvation was first for the Jew, then for the Gentiles.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.
(Matthew 28:18)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
(Acts 2:42-47)

The disciples were entrusted with the message of Christ, which was for _____ . As Christ followers, we have been entrusted with this same message.

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
(Luke 15:4-7)

The love of God is relentless and pursues the _____.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

God shows His _____ for the world by giving His son Jesus and offering him as the ultimate sacrifice for our atonement.

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." (Luke 5:31)

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Jesus _____ his love for sinners by engaging in relationship and offering the Kingdom life.

Sharing Christ is shining the light and love of Christ through _____.

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (Revelation 7:9-10)

We were made to fulfill the Great Commission. I believe evangelism is the primary reason God left us here on the planet. We can spend all of eternity worshipping God, learning from His Word, praying, and edifying one another. But it's only here and now that we can reach lost people for Christ. We must seize the opportunity. (Mark Mittelberg, *Becoming A Contagious Church*)

Your Assignment

- Read article "Being Public With Our Faith" redeemer.com/redeemer-report/article/being_public_with_our_faith
- Read the handout "The Story of His Glory" (Steven C. Hawthorne)