**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**How do I fulfill God’s mission?**

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” ([Matthew 28:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19))

*Christianity is so much more than only another religion. It’s not just another collection of rules and regulations. It’s a real relationship with Jesus Christ. When we give our heart to Jesus, He becomes our Savior and our Lord. Life is not only full of responsibilities, bills, and work, but it can also be full of eternal purpose.*

*As we grow closer to God, He begins to reveal His true purpose and plans for our life. We begin to discover the personal mission and assignment He has designed for each of us. While we may have different gifts, talents, and abilities, each of us is called to the same mission of helping to transform the world with God’s love and power. God calls us to personally share our faith, to help lead others toward a deeper walk with Christ, and to help others fulfill their personal mission. As we lean into God and allow Him to make a difference in our life, He will in turn use us to make a difference in the life of others.*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

To access session content and videos from a computer, visit: [BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**When is the last time you had some good news? What was the news and how did you share it? |

Everyone likes good news. Good news is encouraging and gives us hope. It’s uplifting and fills us with joy. Good news can also positively affect our mood and attitude. It even has the power to improve our mental and physical health!

Good news can be contagious too. When you hear it, you want to spread it to everyone you know. You might call a relative, text a friend, or tell a coworker. You might post on social media or even share your good news with a stranger at the grocery store.

As believers, we have the best news of all to share! Through faith in Jesus, we can experience the full life that God wants for us. We can experience a new spiritual life on this earth and look forward to an eternity with Him. That good news needs to be spread to every person everywhere. And here is some more good news: God wants to use you to help spread the word as you share your faith.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to this question: Who shared the good news of faith in Jesus with you?



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| **QUESTION**Who shared the good news of faith in Jesus with you? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

Paul was one of the most influential people of the New Testament. Following a life-transforming encounter with Jesus ([Acts 9:1–19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac9.1-19)), Paul devoted himself to sharing the good news with anyone who would listen. His travels across the Mediterranean gave him the opportunity to share his faith in various cities, churches, and even prisons. He spoke to people in the marketplace, synagogues, prisons, and ships. He spoke to city leaders, military captains, Roman officers, and even government officials.

In the Bible passage we’ll read, Paul’s missionary journey had taken him to the city of Athens. Paul was troubled by what he saw there. Athens was a city whose citizens worshipped false idols. The city even had an altar devoted to an “unknown god.”

In an effort to make the one true God known, Paul began to preach and share his faith daily. He preached to Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue. He preached to philosophers, city leaders, and anyone else who would listen in the public square. He took every opportunity to introduce them to the God who made the world and everything in it. Because of this, some people put their faith in God.

**Be Willing to Share Your Faith with Others**

Read [Acts 17:16–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.16-21).

Paul went to Athens to escape the trouble that many Jews were causing him in the city of Berea ([Acts 17:13–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.13-15)). What Paul may have considered a detour, God used as an opportunity. Paul’s sensitivity to the people of Athens and their need for God motivated him to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. God used Paul’s willingness to speak up as a way to introduce the philosophers and high city council leaders to Jesus and the power of His death and resurrection.

Like Paul, God may place us in locations that are challenging, so we can be a light in the darkness ([Matthew 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.16)). We shouldn’t be surprised when God surrounds us with non-believers. After all, the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection is meant for non-believers. Telling others this good news is called sharing your faith.

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| **QUESTION**On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your willingness to share your faith with others? |

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| **QUESTION**When you think about sharing your faith, do you see it as an exciting opportunity, an inconvenience, or something to be feared? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**How have you seen God provide an opportunity for you to share your faith? What happened? |

**Be Prepared to Share Your Faith with Others**

Read [Acts 17:22–29](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.22-29).

Paul was now standing before a council of prominent Athenians. He was moved from being a sort of sidewalk preacher to making a formal address to city influencers. While others may have run away from this intimidating opportunity, Paul stepped up to the challenge.

Paul was fully prepared for this moment. He had prepared himself by deepening his relationship with God. He had studied and knew God’s Word. He was confident in sharing his faith because he had already shared it so many times. We are responsible to prepare for opportunities and know the reason we believe in God. Like Paul, our personal relationship with Jesus and our knowledge of God and His Word will prepare us to share our faith.

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| **QUESTION**On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your preparedness to share your faith with others? In what ways do you feel unprepared? In what ways do you feel prepared? |

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| **QUESTION**Think of a time when you felt unprepared to share your faith. What happened? |

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| **QUESTION**Think of a time when you were prepared to share your faith. What did you do or say? What were the results? |

**Trust God with the Results When You Share Your Faith**

Read [Acts 17:30–34](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.30-34).

Using ordinary people to tell the good news about Jesus is God’s primary, chosen method for bringing people to faith in Him. Paul was not afraid or ashamed to share his faith and tell others about Jesus. He wasn’t concerned with the reactions of those listening. Paul fulfilled his duty to share his faith. Paul knew it was up to God to transform the heart and mind of each one listening.

Sometimes sharing our faith will include dismissal or confrontation. Other times it might result in an immediate response. Some people will reject our message. Some will be interested and want to hear more at a later time. Some will be ready to respond to the good news and become believers.

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| **QUESTION**What fears do you have about sharing your faith? |

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| **QUESTION**Before you became a Christian, did you respond negatively to someone who shared their faith with you? If so, what advice do you have about how to effectively share our faith with non-Christians? |

**Did You Know?**

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| *This story from Paul’s ministry (*[*Acts 17*](https://biblia.com/bible/acts/17)*) centers on the Areopagus, the place today’s Bible passage calls the “high council of the city.” The Areopagus, called Mars Hill in some translations, was one of the most important courts in the ancient world. While scholars still debate whether it was a place, a group of men, or both, it’s importance is clear. During the Golden Age of Greece, the Areopagus was the highest judicial court, overseeing the most important trials in the land. By the Roman period, the court had morphed from a judicial court into a philosophical court where matters of religion were frequently heard. Although it had lost its official judicial power, it was still the most respected court of opinion in the eastern Mediterranean world.* |

**Reflect**

**I Share My Faith**

You don’t have to be a missionary like Paul to be used by God. You don’t need to have a lot of Bible verses memorized. You just need to be available. As you willingly make yourself available to God and follow through on the opportunities He places in your life, you will make a difference. As you obediently share your personal testimony and what God is doing in your life with those who need to hear it most, you will make a difference. As you commit to spend time with God and read His Word, you will be ready for the opportunities He brings your way. As you become more confident in sharing about your personal faith journey, you will become a powerful and effective witness for God.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we have read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**When was the last time you had a conversation with a nonbeliever about faith? How might you draw someone into a conversation about faith? |

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| **QUESTION**What motivates you to share your faith with others? Are you motivated by responsibility, obligation, love, or something else? |

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| **QUESTION**Who is an individual in your life you could share your faith with this week? |

**Activate**

Fulfilling God’s mission for your life includes sharing your faith and talking about Jesus with the world around you ([Matthew 28:19–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19-20); [Mark 16:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk16.15)). Being prepared to share your faith will ensure that you are ready for every opportunity God places in front of you.

**Challenge**

Take some time to prepare and practice your personal testimony. Write your answers down as bullet points that can be read, memorized, and shared easily:

1. What was your life like before you came to faith in Jesus? What problems were you facing? What inner needs were you facing? (loneliness, depression, addiction, etc.)

2. How did you come to faith in Jesus? Where were you and what steps did you take to make this decision? Which people influenced your decision?

3. How is your life different since deciding to follow Christ? How has His forgiveness changed your life? How have your thoughts, attitudes, and emotions changed? How is God meeting your needs?

As an extra step, practice sharing your story out loud in under three minutes. You might consider sharing your story with a friend and asking for their feedback. As you gain confidence in sharing your story, pray that God would give you the opportunity to share your faith with an unbeliever.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to spend time in God’s Word with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **Official Doctrine**Because God’s purpose concerning humankind is to seek and to save people who are lost in sin ([Luke 19:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk19.10)), our church is designed to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world ([Acts 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8); [Matthew 28:19–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt28.19-20); [Mark 16:15–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk16.15-16)). |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: I Share My Faith**

Read [Acts 17:16–34](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac17.16-34).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about sharing your faith with others? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: Don’t Be Afraid or Ashamed to Share Your Faith**

Read [Romans 1:16–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro1.16-17).

Fear wants you to believe that if you share your faith something could go wrong. Shame wants you to believe that if you share your faith, you might be judged, ridiculed, or misunderstood. God doesn’t want you to be manipulated by fear or shame when the Holy Spirit urges you to share your faith. God has given you power over fear and freedom from shame ([2 Timothy 1:7–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti1.7-8)). God has given you the Holy Spirit to help you when you don’t know what to say. When you are obediently sharing your faith and telling others about Jesus, you don’t have to be afraid or be ashamed of what might happen. God is with you every step of the way.

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| **QUESTION**How have you allowed fear to shape how you share your faith |

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| **QUESTION**How have you allowed shame to shape how you share your faith? |

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| **QUESTION**Challenge yourself to memorize at least one Scripture this week. Consider memorizing [Romans 1:16–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro1.16-17); [2 Timothy 1:7–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti1.7-8); or [Luke 12:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk12.12). |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Be Prepared to Share Your Faith**

Read [1 Peter 3:15–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe3.15-17).

Just like with anything in life, preparation is the key to success in telling others about Jesus. If you want to be a successful witness, preparing can help you be effective when taking opportunities God places in front of you. You can prepare by spending time in God’s Word. You can prepare by asking God to empower you. You can prepare by memorizing the details of your faith journey and practicing the delivery. You can prepare by praying for those who will hear your story and asking God to give you influence. When your preparation teams with God’s opportunity, people will hear a life-changing message.

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| **QUESTION**According to this passage, list all the things believers should do. Be as detailed as possible, not ignoring any of it as an important part of sharing your faith. |

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| **QUESTION**Take a moment to pray for the people you will encounter throughout the day. Ask God to use your story to help to bring others to faith. |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: We Are Responsible to Share Our Faith**

Read [2 Corinthians 5:11–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co5.11-21).

As believers, God has given each of us the incredible responsibility of representing Him to our world. When we tell others about Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection, we are speaking on His behalf. While it may seem like an intimidating task, we don’t have to be afraid. We can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be an effective witness to those around us ([Acts 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8)).

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| **QUESTION**How does it make you feel to know that you are God’s representative to your world? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you become a better representative of God to those around you? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: Look for Opportunities to Share Your Faith**

Read [Romans 10:13–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro10.13-15).

Now that you know God wants to use your story to influence others, you should be on the lookout for the next opportunity. You shouldn’t be surprised when God leads you to people who have yet to put their faith in Him. Because you are on a mission for God, you should expect Him to direct your life, relationships, and conversations toward people who don’t have a relationship with Him yet. When God places people in your life who are facing darkness, you have the opportunity to shine light into their situation ([Matthew 5:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5.14-16)). As you boldly and obediently share your faith with others, you are giving them the opportunity to know God and have a life-changing experience.

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| **QUESTION**Believing is the final step in the process of someone coming to salvation through Jesus. What did Paul lay out as the steps that happen before someone is saved? |

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| **QUESTION**We have spent most of the group time and devotions talking about our responsibility to tell others. What is our responsibility in sending others to tell? |

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| **QUESTION**Is God asking you to go to another location to tell people about Jesus? |