**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))

*As Christians, God wants to work* in *our life in special ways. He saves us, heals us, changes us, and helps us. But His work doesn’t stop there. God wants to work* through *us, too. He also equips us with exactly what we need to send us out and serve His kingdom here on earth. These sessions will look at how God wants to use us in His mission.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Smartphone, clock, or watch for a timer****Getting Ready*** *• First time leading* Learn *for Youth? Look here for 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**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create comfort levels that encourage student participation later.*

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| **QUESTION**What’s something you’ve purchased or received as a gift that you really believe in and think everyone should have? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for every person in the group. If applicable, pray for prayer requests that were brought up in previous weeks. Ask God to eliminate distractions and to speak to students.*

**Introduction**

Today, we’re focusing on sharing our faith. Most Christians know that they should tell others about Jesus and share their faith, but not many actually do it. We get too busy, we’re intimidated, or we think we just don’t know how to do it. But sharing our faith should be a normal part of our life! Let’s do an activity before we watch the video.

**Group Activity**

**Tough Evangelism**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Smartphone, clock, or watch for a timer**No prep is needed for this activity.* |

We’ve all probably dreamt of worst-case scenarios when it comes to sharing our faith. Let’s have some fun acting them out! In your groups, you’ll have five minutes to create a quick skit acting out a worst-case scenario of sharing your faith. You can depict a hard scenario for sharing your faith or a difficult way that someone might respond to shared faith. Make these situations realistic, and have fun with them!

• *Divide the large group of students into groups of two to five.*

• *Set a five-minute timer and allow students to plan in groups.*

• *After the timer ends, give each group a chance to share what they prepared.*

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| **QUESTION**Which of these scenarios seems the most realistic to you? Why? |

Hopefully, none of the scenarios that we just saw happen to you. But sharing our faith can still be intimidating! Regardless of how scary it can be, sharing our faith is one of the primary things God wants us to do. It’s core to His mission and seeing His power in our life. Let’s discuss that further after we watch this video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

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| **QUESTION**What are some reasons for getting nervous when sharing our faith? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think some people oppose the sharing of our faith? |

God wants us to tell others about our belief and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. He wants to use our faith story to point others to Jesus so they come to know Him also. Today’s Bible passage looks at someone who shared his faith with boldness and conviction and saw God do great things as a result.

**God Provides Opportunities**

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

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| **QUESTION**According to this passage, how often did Paul share about Jesus and His resurrection? |

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| **QUESTION**What types of people did Paul have the opportunity to share with in this story? |

The high council of the city was a place where people discussed matters of religion and morals. Here, God opened the door for Paul to share his faith with noted experts in the field who did not know Jesus. But even before Paul shared with this group and others, he was troubled by the spiritual state of the city.

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| **QUESTION**What kinds of spiritual darkness today may trouble us like the idols bothered Paul? |

It’s perfectly normal to be disturbed by evil in the world. Sometimes those feelings can even drive you to fight back by sharing Jesus. Paul’s feelings drove him, and it led him to share his faith with unbelievers right where he was. God wants to use you right where you are, too. You and I don’t have to go on a missions trip to share our faith! When God opens doors in front of us, we have the responsibility to walk through them.

**Did You Know?**

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| This story from Paul’s ministry (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.  |

**We Prepare and Share Boldly**

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

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| **QUESTION**Based on what Paul said, how can you tell that he was prepared to share his faith? |

Just like Paul, we have a responsibility to be ready. [First Peter 3:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe3.15) makes it clear: “If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” We never know when God may provide the opportunity.

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| **QUESTION**What are some ways that we can prepare to share our faith before the opportunity arises? |

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| **QUESTION**How can listening to someone who doesn’t know Jesus help us share our faith with them? |

Learning about others can open the door to sharing our faith. Paul learning about the Athenians’ worship of an unknown god was his opening to point them toward the true God.

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| **QUESTION**Do you think it’s more effective for us to share our faith with strangers or with people who we know personally? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**Who shared their faith with you—a stranger or someone you knew personally? |

**The Results Are Out of Our Hands**

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

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| **QUESTION**How did these people respond to Paul sharing the gospel? |

Even Paul faced the reality of some people not responding positively to the gospel. Still, he continued to share faithfully and boldly. The reality is, not everybody will respond the way we want when we talk about Jesus. But remember that it’s not our responsibility to save people; it’s our responsibility to tell them about Jesus. The results are up to God and the person we’re sharing with.

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| **QUESTION**How does it make you feel to know that the results of sharing our faith are not in our hands? |

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| **QUESTION**Can anyone tell us about a time you boldly shared your faith? What response did you get? (*Consider sharing your response to this question, too*.) |

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| **QUESTION**How does today’s passage challenge you or encourage you to share your faith? |

**Reflect**

**I Share My Faith**

Think about the reasons you haven’t talked with someone about Jesus. Did you feel unequipped to answer questions? Were you afraid that you might get rejected or laughed at? Did you struggle to find the right time or the perfect opportunity? Lots of people share those reasons; you’re not alone. The challenge is to figure out how to overcome them. God wants to use you to make a difference by sharing your faith. Will you do what it takes to be a part of that? Consider what you can do, with God’s help, to feel prepared, equipped, and empowered for the opportunities that He provides.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider what God might want to say to us about sharing our faith with others. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**What are your biggest reasons for not sharing your faith more consistently? |

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| **QUESTION**Who is one person that God may want you to share your faith with? |

**Activate**

Before we talk to our friends about God, it can be helpful to talk to God about our friends. A big step in learning to share our faith is praying for God to provide the right opportunities. Commit to pray every single day this week for one person that you could share your faith with. Let’s begin right now. Let’s have a few of you lead out in prayer for one of your friends who doesn’t yet know Jesus.

• *Initiate a time of prayer for those who don’t know Jesus, and encourage students to take a turn leading the prayer as well.*

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*We can’t share what we don’t have. Maybe before sharing your faith, you need to solidify it. That’s what Paul preached—Jesus Christ died on a cross and was resurrected three days later, making a way for all of us to know God. The only reason we can love Him is because He loved us first! We can respond to that radical love by submitting our life to Him.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Conclusion**

Hopefully, today reminded all of us that sharing our faith is incredibly important. Though it’s not always easy, the message about Jesus is way too big to keep to ourself. So, keep your eyes open. God will create opportunities for us, and when He does, let’s share boldly and leave the results in His hands.

**Prayer**

Loving God, thank You for loving us before we ever loved You. We want to have sincere faith, and we want to share it with others. Help us see the opportunities and make the most of them with boldness. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

One way to prepare to share your faith is to spend time in God’s Word. The personal devotions on the Bible Engagement Project app are a great way to do that. Make sure to check those out. I can’t wait for the next time we can get together!