



## **Study Guide Evangelism**

Our goal is to inspire people to live and love like Jesus, by knowing God's word, being filled with the Holy Spirit, so that we can live out a Radical Faith in God's Radical story. There are things that we need to learn in scripture, and practical things that we need to practice. More than anything, we have to trust God's plan to work and our calling to be used for His purposes.

If we can authentically live to what God called us to, while speaking God's truth humbly and lovingly, then we can trust God to work in the hearts of people the way that He always intended to. All it takes from us is a step of faith to be used.

Paul wrote *"6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused it to grow. 7 So neither the one who plants counts for anything, nor the one who waters, but God who causes the growth."* - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

This quote, together with those words from Paul, have given me much freedom from the results and allowed me to trust God as I do the work in front of me in faith. "If God is passionate about something, He alone is responsible for the results. We just have to make ourselves available to do the work." - author unknown.

<b>April</b>	<b>Series</b>
<b>4-11</b>	Evangelism: Introduction- Starting Spiritual Conversations
<b>4-18</b>	Evangelism: Testimony 1. Speak Your Story With Actions
<b>4-25</b>	Evangelism: Testimony 2. Speak Your Story with Words
<b>May</b>	<b>Series</b>
<b>5-02</b>	Evangelism: Essentials of the Gospel
<b>5-09</b>	Mother's Day- Evangelism: Presenting the Gospel



## Week 1

### Evangelism: Introduction- Starting Spiritual Conversations

#### Colossians 3:1-4, 12-17

**Opening Discussion Questions:** What topics do you find yourself talking about the most with people? In comparison, how often do you talk about spiritual things? (Maybe share about how often you talk about God and spirituality with people you know that are believers, and how often you speak about God to those that aren't)

#### **Scripture:**

1 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him.

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. 14 And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. 15 Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

#### **• Commentary**

When it comes to evangelism, we find in current culture that it is difficult for people to have any kind of spiritual conversations, let alone discussions on the true gospel of Jesus Christ. There are 3 potential reasons for this.

1. As lights that God intended to shine into the darkness, we just aren't fully lit because our connection with God is not what it should be.

2. We are afraid of what the perception is of the church and Christianity and how people might respond to us speaking about faith.

3. The culture of not talking about religion or God has been created and we are not comfortable breaking rank.

When we read Colossians 3, we see a path to a solution for these issues.

#### **• We Consider the Things Above:**

When we set our minds on the things above, this is not a "think only about God and forget everything else" statement as much as it is a "think about everything through the filter of God's perspective instead of an earthly one." We do not forget about earthly needs, food, clothing, work, school, etc. But we do not seek those things as our priority.

We do not give into our anger, or hold onto our grudges, even if we are right in being angry. Through the filter of heavenly things, with God's perspective, we forgive people, we



release the burden of guilt, the same way that God forgave us. Our temporary earthly hurt is nothing in comparison to the eternal peace that God intends for us.

Considering our 3 potential reasons for not having spiritual conversations, how does focusing on Colossians 3's "things above" help us step out in a radical faith? How would that perspective change our culture?

• **As the Outside World Considers Church:**

A lot of our fear comes not from people not agreeing with what we believe, it stems from the animosity in response to the way the church acts/is perceived. Reread Colossians 3:12-17.

Which of these attitudes resonates the most with you and how you give or receive love? Which one of these attitudes is the most hard for you to live out? Do we think this description of attitudes reflects the way that we perceive church? Do we believe that the non-believing world would say that the Christian church reflects these attitudes?

In my experience and with my non-Christian friends, I have received resounding "No's" about them believing that the church, or "organized religion" is living out the principles that it teaches. If the church truly lived out what God had called us to be, would there be as much cultural animosity to Christianity? How do we change the perception of the church?

Reread Acts 2:42-47 and take time to see what the church is doing, and what the perception is of the church. As a church, what does Pathway, your life group, you individually, need to work on from these acts?

**Additional Scripture (extra scripture to consider if you do want to look deeper into any of these themes):**

- John 3:12-16
- James 3:13-18

**Action Challenges For the Week:**

- Can you start a spiritual conversation with someone this week? Even asking, "I know you are not a church person, but can I ask what you think about God or the church? Even if it's something hard, will you please share it with me?"
- Begin to pray over people that God has put in your life that He is calling you to have deeper spiritual conversations with.
- **Share and Pray:**



## Week 2

### Evangelism: "Speak God's Story With Your Actions"

2 Corinthians 2:14-15; Matthew 5:15-16

#### Opening Discussion Questions:

What do you think someone would say if they were asked to name the most "Christian" part of your life? It needs to be something that they have personally observed of you. What do you think someone would say was the least "Christian" part of your life? Again, something that they have personally observed or experienced while being with you. You may not feel comfortable sharing about the second question, but please allow yourself to meditate on what your answer would be.

#### Scripture:

##### **Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)**

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

##### **2 Corinthians 2:14-15 (ESV)**

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

#### Observations/Commentary:

This week we learn about sharing our faith through our actions. Witnessing to others by the way we live our life. Reflecting Christ to those around us by the way we behave and act in a broken world.

Matthew 5:14-16 points out that believers "are" the light of the world. If you are a believer you don't need to strive to be the light because Jesus says you "are" the light. The question becomes do others see this light? The world will see the light of the kingdom through the good works done by Jesus' disciples.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 uses a slightly different metaphor and compares believers to a fragrance and an aroma. The Apostle Paul also makes it clear that our position is to follow Christ so that we can be His fragrance and aroma. The Greek word for aroma here is the same word often used to refer to the aroma of a sacrifice pleasing to God.



### **Discussion and Sharing:**

- Share some other observations, thoughts, and comments you have regarding the two passages above.
- In practical terms what does it look like to be the “light of the world?” What does it mean to be the “aroma” of Christ? (hint: you can look at Matthew 5:3-10 and Galatians 5:22-23)?
- Name some things that you can do at work, school, and/or home to allow your light to be seen more clearly and allow your aroma to be stronger for Jesus.
- Do you think that by living and loving like Jesus in our everyday lives we can change the world? Why or why not? Do we need to do more than that, or is that enough?

### **Action Items/Being the Aroma of Christ this week:**

#### **K.F.C.**

- **Act of Kindness** (Perform an act of kindness for a friend, loved one, or stranger [i.e. neighbor])
- **Act of Forgiveness** (Show forgiveness toward someone who has wronged you, or pray for God to help you)
- **Act of Connection** (Connect with someone who you don't normally connect with, or it's just been a very long time since you last spoke)

### **Share personally with your Life Group and Pray together**

(Suggestion for accountability: Before the weekend check in with your Life Group, mentor, or a pastor to let them know how you are doing with the KFC action items. Perhaps post on Slack what your experience has been. This can also encourage others to action.)

