Make the Most of the Opportunity

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 We have this ministry

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Getting an Eternal Perspective

1. Why do we not lose heart? (v1; see also see 4:16-18)

2. As we speak, what do we do? What do we not do? (v2)

3. What is the outcome for those who do not believe? (v3)

4. Why is our ministry hard? (vv's 3-4)

5. Who is at the centre of the message we share? (v5)

6. As we speak, what part does God play? (v6)

7. Why do we have a better message than the world? (See also v7)

8. Crisis? What crisis! Our response – my conviction. My prayers.

(See also 4:13-14; 5:14-15)

EVANGELISM IS HARD – IT IS DIVISIVE. IT IS CONFRONTING.
BUT IT IS POSSIBLE AS WE PRAY FOR BOLDNESS AND OPPORTUNITY, AND WE ARE PREPARED WITH A GOSPEL OUTLINE

Bringing Jesus into the conversation

1. **<u>The Elephant in the Room – why are we tempted not to speak?</u>**

- F_ _ r

- A_ _ _ _ y

- N_ _ my r_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ y

- E_ _ _ _ _ _ y w_ _ l be ok

- D_ _'t k_ _ _ w_ _ t to s_y

- N_ t g_ _ _ _ _ d by J_ _ _ s

- L_ _ k of c_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ n (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- L_ _ k of l_ _ e (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 John 4:7-21)

2. **<u>Listen well</u>**

- Be interested in people

- Ask questions

3. **<u>Crossing the Pain Line – Hunger or Hostility</u>**

- Talking to God about people

- Talking to people about God
  - Conversation seasoned with salt

- Taking advantage of natural opportunities

- "Come and see" "Go and tell"

4. **<u>Your 30 second testimony</u>**

➢ The difference Jesus makes; answering "why" and giving hope

- The before and after

- Do you know what I mean?

- The next step

5. **<u>A Framework for Discussion – A simple gospel outline</u>**

➢ 2 Ways to Live

➢ The Ruler; The Revolt; The Rescue; The Response

➢ God made it; we broke it; Jesus fixed it

➢ The Book; The Bridge; The Curtain; The Flags

6. **<u>A Pleasure Cruise or the Sydney to Hobart</u>**

➢ Everyone has a role in seeking and saving the lost

➢ What we do on Sunday

➢ What we do during the week

7. **Go fishing together – be part of a team!**

➢ Do evangelism together!

8. **What happens next…?**

Resources – Books

- Sam Chan "How to talk about Jesus (without being THAT guy)" 2020
- John Chapman "A Fresh Start" 1997; "Know & Tell the Gospel" 2020 (Revised)
- Dave Jensen "Made Alive" 2026; "Evangelism in the Local Church" 2026
- Tim Keller "Reasons for God" 2008; "Making Sense of God" 2016; "The Stories We Live By; Seven Cultural Myths that Fail Us and the Story that Never Will" 2026
- Rebecca McLaughlin "Confronting Christianity" 2019; "10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity" 2021
- Glen Scrivener "The Air We Breathe" 2022
- Matt Smethurst 'Before you share your faith – 5 ways to be evangelism ready" 2022
- Rico Tice "Honest Evangelism" 2015
- Peter Williams "Can We Trust the Gospels?" 2018

Resources – Videos, Podcasts, Articles

- Gospel Coalition – Colin Hanson, Tim Keller + Russell Moore "How sharing the gospel in our secular age is different" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3fipzYKxKs
- Gospel Coalition – Colin Hanson, Tim Keller, Brett McCracken, Jen Michel "Why we love Jesus in a Secular Age" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Wz8P0BHwmY
- Caleb Greggsen, Sam Emadi "Building a Culture of Evangelism takes time so be patient & get to work" https://www.9marks.org/article/building-a-culture-of-evangelism-takes-time-so-be-patient-and-get-to-work/
- Keller https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-supremacy-of-christ-and-the-gospel-in-a-postmodern-world
- Keller;https://poddtoppen.se/podcast/352660924/timothy-keller-sermons-podcast-by-gospel-in-life/the-true-older-brother; https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/e/second-lost-son-and-the-dance-of-god/
- Keller; https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/first-lost-son-and-the-kiss-of-god/id352660924?i=1000495775961
- Keller; https://qcpodcast.gospelinlife.com/ Faith & Proof; Meaning; Satisfaction; Identity; Morality; Justice; Hopefulness
- Scrivener; "3 Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection" 2023 https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/reasons-believe-resurrection/
- Matt Smethurst "Before you share your faith! How to be evangelism ready" https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/video/before-you-share-your-faith/
- Rico Tice https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd_oSxqpUQQ