

Study 11. We love everyone else (practice of evangelism)

Big idea: when we understand the gospel it is only natural for us to want other people to share in the riches of Christ.

Who was it that first shared the gospel with you?

What does "evangelism" mean? What connotations does it have for you?

Observation and interpretation

Read Psalm 96:1-13

- What does it mean to "praise" someone or something?
- In verse 2 where is our praise directed? (Who do we sing to?)
- In verse 3 where is our praise directed? (Who do we declare to?)
- Why is it right that the nations know about God's glory?

Divide these passages between the group members. From the passages, what reasons might Christians have for being excited about evangelism?

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 5:18-20
- Romans 9:1-4
- Romans 10:8-15
- Colossians 1:24-2:5
- 1 Peter 3:15

As you read these passages, maybe try to think about how we are 21st century Australians fit into them.

Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 1:16-17. What is the relationship between evangelism and discipleship?

EVANGELISM

DISCIPLESHIP

Read Colossians 4:2-6

- What do you think Paul is asking for when he says a “door for our message”?
- What things make the speaking of the gospel “clear”, and what might make it “unclear” (verse 4)?

Implications

- Think of a person who is good at “taking opportunities” for sharing the gospel. Turn to the person next to you and describe how this person lives. Then report back some of the main points to the whole group.
- Where does friendship fit into evangelism?
- In what ways can we make church meetings (whether small groups or big church services) safe spaces where people who are not Christians can hear the gospel and experience Christian community?

This is sometimes called “attractional” evangelism, because it involves people coming to the church.

- In what ways can we encourage each other to go out from our group, sharing the gospel in our everyday lives?

This is sometimes called “missional” evangelism, because it involves Christians going out into the world.

Prayer ideas

- Use Paul’s words in Colossians to guide your prayers - asking that doors to the gospel may be opened, and that we may be ready to take those opportunities.
- If your group is comfortable doing so, share the names of some people who you will commit this year to praying for each week.