



Small Group Curriculum

Intro and Week 1: The “Want To”





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Intro

Share Life is a practical process for introducing people to Jesus Christ in a relational way. If we enjoy a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we will come to a point in our faith journey where we desire to be more effective witnesses for Christ. By developing a better understanding of the Gospel and a simple process, we will be equipped to lead a conversation from the superficial to the Gospel.

If you are like most Christians today, the thought of sharing your faith often brings anxiety or frustration. *Why do I shiver at the word “evangelism?” Why am I always tripping over my words when I try to share my faith? How can my conversations with friends at the coffee shop be more meaningful? How do I share Christ with my neighbor, co-worker, or the person next to me on an airplane?*

This evangelism course will:

- equip you to grow deeper in your walk with Christ by helping you learn how to develop relationships, model the Christian message, and present the Good News of Christ in a non-threatening way;
- help you develop a relational, three-story approach to sharing the Gospel; and
- strengthen your witness.

The best results will come when you invest time in prayer, preparation, and practice. Schedule adequate time, and enjoy the journey of being an effective witness for Christ, sharing the greatest story ever told: the Gospel.

Week 1 - *Group Discussion*

CONNECT

What brought you here today? What are you hoping to get out of Share Life?

REVIEW SHARE LIFE GOALS

Make the best use of this training by committing to the following goals.

With God's help, I will make the most of this teaching and . . .

Goals Checklist	
• Get the Message Right: clearly and succinctly share the Gospel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gospel presentation
• Start Gospel Conversations: know how to move a conversation from the secular to the eternal using the SHARE process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHARE process
• Live a Great Commission Lifestyle: intentionally reaching people close to you by developing the habits of prayer-care-share for at least five people who don't know Jesus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My 5
• Be Ready: make the most of every opportunity, having a brief version of your testimony and the Gospel that can be shared in one minute (i.e., Minute-to-Witness)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minute-to-Witness testimony
• Be Equipped: have a tool that you can use to share or leave with someone with whom you have started a Gospel Conversation (i.e., MyStory tracts)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyStory tract
• Disciple: as God opens the door, inviting people to trust Jesus and helping them to begin their walk with Christ as well as training someone else to share their faith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gospel invitation
• Go: participating in community evangelism (e.g., Temple DMD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHARE the Gospel

After each lesson, there will be an application to do as homework for the following week. This is designed to move us toward a lifestyle of seeing the lost around us and pointing people to Christ in a loving and appropriate way. It will help you achieve these goals but will require changes in your lifestyle and commitment of your time to follow through and apply what you are learning.

So, be in prayer for God to keep you on course with what is pleasing to Him, sharing the Good News, and pick someone from your small group as your partner in this effort.

SHARE LIFE PARTNERSHIP

Share Life partners pray for each other as you provide and receive support from each other as you work on the weekly application. The Share Life partnership for the duration of the six weeks. Partners will be responsible for application check-in every week and a commitment to praying daily for their partner throughout the study. We highly recommend that it is not your spouse as familiarity tends to engender little to no motivation.

Their Name: _____

My Name: _____

MY COMMITMENT

Realizing that it is my responsibility as a member of Jesus Christ's Church to obey His order to present the Gospel to all peoples, I commit myself to God to do the following:

1. I will attend all the sessions and complete the "Application" unless prevented for a reason I know God would approve.
2. I will seek to grow in Christ and in my ability to present the Gospel.

Sign: _____

Week 1 Video: *The “Want To”*

VIDEO INSTRUCTION

This week we will watch the video together.

Note: For the remaining weeks, you will be expected to watch the video before our group time.

[Play video – group members can fill in the blanks below while watching.]

VIDEO NOTES

Why? Intro Video

Three Story Approach

Whenever we talk to people, we want to hear their story first, get to know them. Then, we share our story, what God has done in our lives. Ultimately, we share God’s Story.



When it comes to the “want to,” the heart preparation, it is important we recognize what encourages us to share and what stands in our way. Our first impulse is that God has chosen us to be the deliverers of this good news (2 Corinthians 4:7). God has placed this treasure in earthen vessels and calls us to share.

What Scripture Says About Being a Witness:

Insert your name in the blanks.

- “. . . as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” (John 20:21)
- “faith cometh by hearing.” (Romans 10:17)
- _____, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19)
- _____, “and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8b)
- “He entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, _____ is an ambassador for Christ, God making his appeal through him/her.” (2 Corinthians 5:19b, 20a)

Heart Alignment

- “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Matthew 22:36-40).
- As Christians we are simply called to be **faithful**.

GROUP DISCUSSION

The “Want To”: Developing Motivation

Loving God

1. **What helps us kindle a fresh love for God?** (*suggested answers: missions, seeing the lost, encouragement from God’s Word, seeing God use us, witnessing His creation*) **What in your life hinders your love for God?** (Think about what hinders love in earthly relationships.) (*suggested answers: business, love for the world, trials, laziness*) **Any personal stories?**

Loving People

2. **Read Matthew 9:35-38.** Jesus had compassion for the crowds because they were lost, like sheep without a shepherd to guide them. **What do you see people following today?** (*potential answers: earthly love, money, fame, material things, respect, alcohol, drugs, illicit pleasure*) **What affect does it have on their lives?** (*It destroys them.*)
3. **Read Matthew 13:41-42 and 2 Thessalonians 1:9.** How does the Bible describe the fate of those who do not believe? (*potential answers: fiery furnace, weeping and gnashing of teeth, eternal destruction, away from God the giver of every good and perfect gift*) **What does this mean for us who hold the only solution?** (*potential answer: We must share it.*)
(For Further Study: Matthew 25:41 and 46, Mark 9:43, John 3:36, Romans 1:18, Romans 2:5, Ephesians 5:6, Revelations 21:8)

Overcoming Resistance

Two Principles of Evangelism:

1. Evangelism is a process.
2. The results are up to Him.

Most people have to hear the Gospel **six times** before accepting Christ.

Obstacles to Sharing

4. **What fears or concerns arise when you think about sharing your faith? Can you think of a Scripture that addresses those concerns?** (*e.g., Romans 8:31 But my God shall supply all your need . He did not spare His own Son; Philippians 4:19, John 15:18-20: opposition should not surprise us*)
5. **Who are some biblical examples of people who, when called by God to do something, did not see themselves as qualified? How did God use them?** (*all of them fit this category: Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, David, Elijah, Jeremiah, the twelve apostles, Paul, etc.)*)
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5, Luke 2:10, and Romans 1:16.** What would you say are the qualifications of someone called to be a witness? (*potential answers: God is not expecting perfection. He does the work. The Gospel has the power. Having the message right, not the quality of our speech, is most important. It’s good news of great joy.*)

Pray together.

Week 1 - *Application*

Complete the following before group time next week.

START - DAY 1

Prepare

1. Read Psalms 24:3-4 and Psalms 51:10-13. A Spirit-led witness begins with a clean heart. Read Psalms 139:23-24, and ask God to search your heart for any unconfessed sins. Confess them, and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).
2. Start making a list of those close to you who are far from God. Begin to pray for them daily.

CONTINUE - DAYS 2-4

Practice

3. The GOSPEL – Memorize the first statement of the GOSPEL acronym: **God created us to be with Him.**
4. Memorize at least one supporting verse for that statement:
 - Colossians 1:16
 - Revelation 4:11
 - John 10:10
 - John 17:3
5. Review the remaining five Gospel statements:
 - **Our sins separate us from God.** (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2, Hebrews 9:27)
 - **Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.** (Isaiah 64:6, Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - **Paying the price for our sins, Jesus died and rose again.** (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3)
 - **Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life.** (John 3:16, John 14:6, Mark 1:15)
 - **Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.** (John 5:24, John 10:10)

COMPLETE - DAYS 5 AND 6

Action

Engage two non-believers in deeper conversation this week. This does not have to be a spiritual conversation, but we want to begin the habit of regularly engaging people beyond the surface level. Some suggested conversation transitions would be:

- If you could change one thing about your life thus far, what would it be?
- What do you think the purpose of life is?*

Be ready to answer these questions yourself.

*The second question applies directly to the “G” in our GOSPEL acronym. God created us to love Him and enjoy a relationship with Him forever. The Bible says that “all things were created by Him and for Him.” God also intended us to have abundant and eternal life. Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.” That is, a life that is full and meaningful, with purpose. Jesus also said, “This is eternal life that we might know Him, the true and living God.”

Watch Week 2 video, and complete discussion questions before the next meeting.