



Outsiders

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Make the Most of Every Opportunity

Week of September 5, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*
- *Have you ever felt like an outsider or an outcast? Explain.*
- *Before you became a Christian, how did you come to realize that you were an outsider from God's family and salvation?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

If we thought long enough, we could all come up with examples of ways we have been outsiders in our lives. Perhaps we didn't make the team, never were accepted to a certain group of friends, lost out on a job opportunity, etc. Spiritually speaking, we are all outsiders. We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Without faith in Christ, none of us are members of God's family. That is why Jesus came. Jesus made the most of every opportunity He had to share the Good News with outsiders so they could become insiders, a part of the family of God! In Luke 19:10, Jesus declared his mission clearly: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." As disciples of Jesus, we are his messengers sent to the world to declare that He is the way, the truth, and the life and that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord can be an outsider no more.

Main Scripture

- **Read Colossians 4:2-6** - *2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*
- **Read 1 Peter 3:15** - *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

Why do we make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with outsiders?

- **Eternal Life is at Stake (John 3:16)** - Christ offers the eternal salvation and security of heaven available to all who believe in him as Lord and Savior. Salvation can only be applied to those who believe in Christ during their physical lives on earth.
- **Abundant Life is Available Now (John 10:10)** - The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but Christ came so that we may have life and have it abundantly. Abundant life doesn't just happen in the future glory of heaven, but it is available right now in Christ.
- **Opportunity is Plentiful, Workers Are Few (Matt. 9:35-37)** - Jesus said the harvest is plentiful. There are many lost people in need of the saving work that Christ offers, but the workers are few to go and reap the harvest.
- **Christ's Return is Imminent (1 Thessalonians 5:1-5)** - We do not know the dates and times of Christ's second coming, but we share his good news with urgency because he could come back at any moment.
- **Ask Questions**
 - Which one of these four reasons resonates most with you when you consider Christ's calling for you to make the most of every opportunity?
 - What other scriptural reasons can you give as to "why" we should make the most of every opportunity to share the Good News of Christ with others?

How do we make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with outsiders?

1. Revere Christ as Lord in your hearts (1 Peter 3:15a)

- We don't share our faith because we have to. We share because we want to. We share, not because of a mandate, or a law, but because our hearts compel us to. It's our desire! Peter noted that in our hearts we are to revere Christ. The heart was used symbolically to discuss the place where life decisions were made. The heart includes the mental, emotional, and spiritual capacities of a person. Therefore, the decision is one that involves the whole being. Therefore, revering Christ is not simply an intellectual exercise, but a response that includes a deep value, appreciation, and an emotional relationship with Christ. To revere Christ is to be so captivated by who He is that you supremely honor him as the most valuable being in all of life.
- **Ask Question**
 - Sharing the truth (the information) of the Gospel of Jesus is important. But, why do you think it is important for others to see that your heart has truly been changed by Jesus?

2. Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have (1 Peter 3:15b)

- We should always be prepared to use every tool necessary to share the gospel. We have prepared three tools that will help you to be more effective in sharing the hope you have in Christ. Read over these three tools and have a couple or a few members practice sharing the gospel using one of the tools.

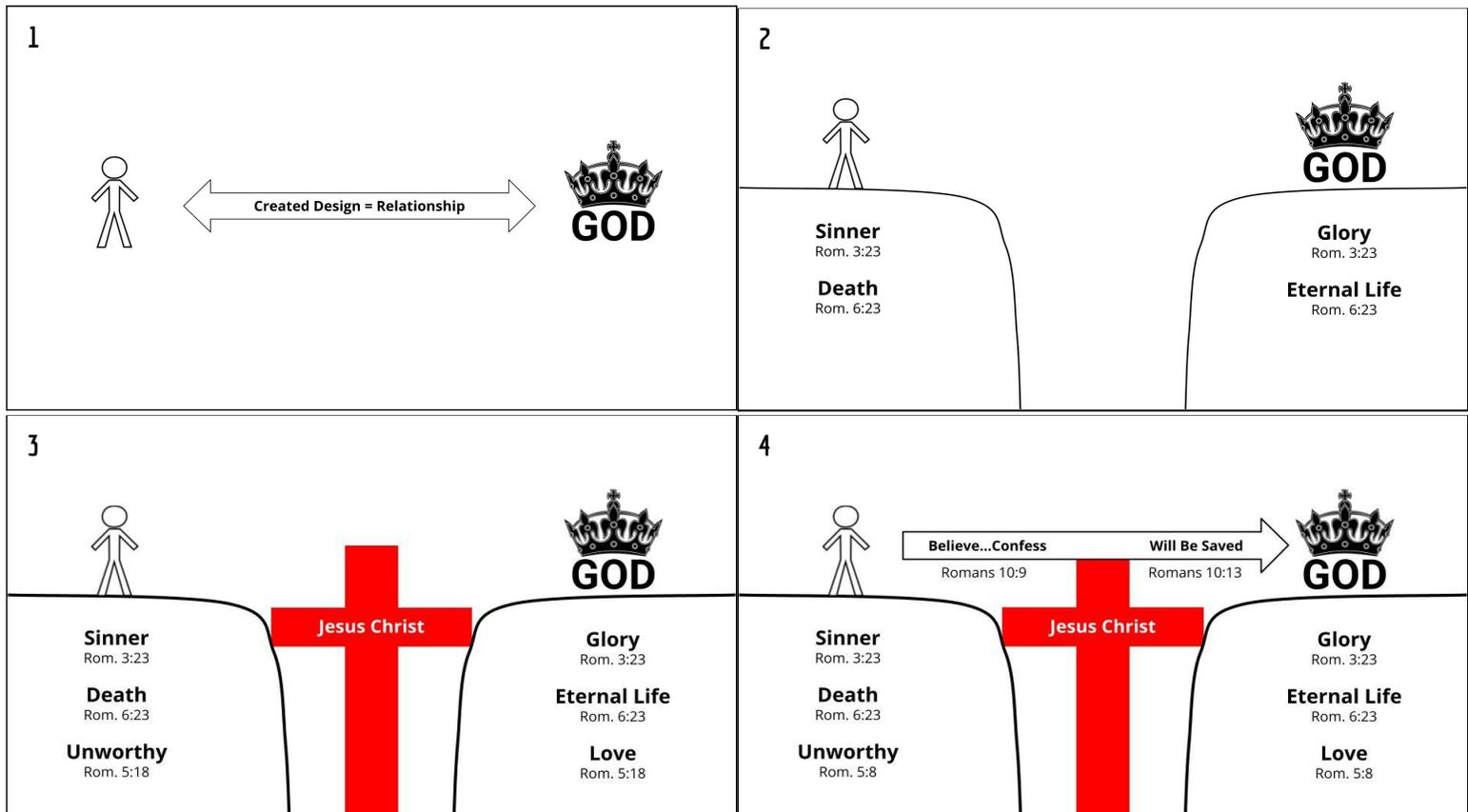
A. Share the Gospel from Scripture (The Romans Road)

- Have someone practice sharing the gospel using these five Scriptures. Use your Bible. It may not be easy determining what to say transitioning between the Scriptures, but that is okay. Perhaps other group members can help.

Romans		
3:23	We Are All Sinners	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
6:23	Consequence of Sin	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
5:8	God Loves Sinners	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
10:9	You Can Be Saved	If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
10:13	God's Promise	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

B. Share the Gospel Using a Gospel Illustration (The Chasm and the Cross)

- Review this Gospel Illustration and then have someone practice sharing the gospel with the group by drawing it out on a piece of paper. The scriptures it uses is from the Romans Road above. It doesn't have to be perfect, just give it a try.



C. Share the Gospel Using Your Testimony

- Have someone in the group practice sharing their story of how Christ saved them. They can use the following categories to help guide their conversation:
 - My life before Christ....
 - I accepted Christ....
 - My life with Christ....

3. Share with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15c)

- **Gentleness Creates Conversational Boundaries**
 - Christians are to model Christ's character in the way they share Christ's story. Christ was so compassionate, loving, and truthful. He always shared the truth about people's sin and the consequences of sin, but he also pointed to the hope of redemption. These theological truths must be displayed in the content we share but also in our presentation of that content. For example, gentleness should be modeled in our tone of voice, the volume of our speech, questions we ask about understanding, and language we use about the truth. Sharing the gospel is not forcing, coercing, or tricking someone to say yes to Jesus. Gentleness should be the boundary that determines how you say what you are saying.
 - Confrontation is unavoidable in evangelism because you are urging someone to change their deepest thoughts about their worldview. However, confrontation can be handled in a gentle and civil manner rather than resulting in a verbal wrestling match.
- **Respect Values People's Position**
 - This old adage holds for evangelism: "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." Spending time in evangelistic conversations getting to know the person to whom you are talking can go a long way in showing concern for others and building their trust in what you have to share. Christ met people exactly where they are and so should we.
- **Ask Questions**
 - How have you seen gentleness and respect lead
 - What are some questions that you can ask nonbelievers that would help you get to know them better and lead into gospel conversations? (See questions at the end if you need some other suggestions or help)

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.

Questions to Spark Gospel Conversations

- Where did humans come from? What do you value most in life? What is the ultimate goal in your life? How do you determine what is right and wrong? What do you believe God is like? Do you think people are mostly good or mostly bad? Why? How do you think people are made right with God? How do you think someone goes to heaven?