

CONFIDENT WITNESS

Competency: Learn to share the gospel, tell your personal story, and ask good questions so that many may hear about Jesus!

Assignment:

- Read the Scripture passages and underline important ideas.
- Listen to this podcast episode: [“Winsome Conviction: Sharing the Good News, Part 2” with Dr. Cas Monaco](#)

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

Read the following scriptures and underline important ideas.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ¹⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ¹¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

1 Peter 3:8-15

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” ¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

Colossians 4:2-6

²Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

**The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Crossway Bibles.*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Believing in the Gospel results in no less than an individual transformation of a person's life, but it is also more. The Gospel is a message of a New Kingdom, a hope for a changed world. Our opportunities for evangelism are broad and often look different depending on the situation. As Christians, it is important that we are equipped and ready to be used by God in any circumstance. At Calvary, one of our shaping values is *Confident Witness*, meaning that we would communicate in word and deed that salvation is found in Christ alone. As Paul emphasizes in Colossians 4, making the most of every opportunity involves not only our words, but how we act toward others.

Reflection Questions

- In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Paul says that those who are in Christ are a *New Creation*. What does Paul say those in Christ are called to be?

- 1 Peter 3:15 says "Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." List below five or more words that Paul uses to describe the posture and attitude of those who are sharing their faith.

LISTEN: Listen to this podcast episode: ["Winsome Conviction: Sharing the Good News, Part 2" with Dr. Cas Monaco](#)

Reflection Questions

- What does Dr. Cas Monaco say is the difference between a Gospel presentation and a meaningful Gospel conversation?
- Respond to Dr. Monaco's question: "Are you prepared to talk to someone who has a different point of view than you?"

Reflect below on sharing your faith with others.

- Describe a time when you talked with someone about your faith.
- What excites you about sharing your faith with others?
- What keeps you from sharing your faith with others?

THREE SPHERES OF CONFIDENT WITNESS

Other's Story: Involves being curious about other people's stories, getting to know someone, building a relationship, and learning where they are spiritually.

- Ask good questions
- Active listening to learn and build relationship
- Follow conversation and not agenda
- Notice the person in front of you
- Find common ground—and help them find common ground with you, which builds trust.

Reflect: Think about what your daily/weekly/monthly life consists of and the people you are in regular connection with. (Family? Neighbors? Coworkers? Friends?)

- List Below 2-3 areas of influence you have currently and some of the people you engage with in each area.

- Getting to know people includes assessing where they are spiritually. Are they resistant to talking about faith? Reluctant? Responsive? Ready?* Assess the people you've listed above and indicate next to their name where you think they are spiritually.

**"Evangelism is Relationships" by Cadremissionaries.com, 2017.

Sphere of Influence	Name	Resistant, Reluctant, Responsive, or Ready
Ex: Coworker	Ex: Bob Smith	Ex: Reluctant
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

- Choose one person in each of those areas who you could be more intentional getting to know and describe 1-2 things you could ask them more about of their own stories.

My Story: Involves telling your story. Do you know your own testimony? Reflect on your own experience of encountering Christ and the Gospel.

- When did you first encounter Christ and what were the circumstances surrounding that encounter?

- What difference or change have you experienced as a result of following Jesus?

God's Story: Involves sharing the Gospel of Christ. Do you know the Gospel? The word Evangelism comes from the Greek word *euangelion* (Gospel), which means "Good News." Spend some time reflecting on the Gospel.

- Use the space below to describe the Gospel in your own words using everyday language or using key passages of Scripture to aid you.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to Practice

- Continue to practice because that will help build confidence. Set up a time with a friend and practice having conversations in these three areas.
- Think of 2-3 people in your life that you could intentionally engage with in these three areas.

Resources to explore beyond today:

Other's Story:

- [Wondering Questions](#)
- *God's Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally* by Doug Pollock
- *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did* by Randy Newman

My Story:

- [How to tell my story](#)
- [How to tell your story with Jesus as the Hero](#)

God's Story:

- Three Circles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k>
- Bridge to Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPvpEnHHeEA>

Other Resources:

- Bible Project Videos: [Gospel](#) and [Witness](#)
- *The Reluctant Witness: Discovering the Delight of Spiritual Conversations* by Don Everts
- *Gospel Conversations Reimagined: A Missional Framework for Today* by Cas Monaco
- *Sent: Living a Life That Invites Others to Jesus* by Heather Holleman and Ashley Holleman