

Intro to Witnessing

What is witnessing?

5 common biblical terms we use that describe what we're doing:

1. Witnessing (testify of something you saw, heard, or experienced)

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2. Preaching the gospel (explaining the good news of salvation through Jesus)

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. Make disciples (baptize and teach, i.e. bring to faith and mentor in the faith)

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

4. Sharing your faith (speaking and demonstrating the love, joy, and truth of God to others)

Philemon 1:6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

5. Defending your faith (giving reasons why it makes sense to believe and follow Jesus)

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Why is it important?

5 things you need to know:

1. The stakes are really high, punishment forever for those who don't know God (don't regret what you didn't say).

2 Thessalonians 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

2. God chooses to use us as an important part of His plan to reach others.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

3. God has made us ambassadors, pleading with people on Christ's behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

4. Every Christian is called to be a witness, teaching other people about Jesus.

Luke 12:8 “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

5. One of the main reasons we're here is to preach the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

How do we do it?

1. Know what one must do to be saved.

- The bible is clear that all you need to do to be saved is believe in Jesus

Acts 16:30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **31** So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- But what does the Bible mean by “believe in Jesus”? Trust, Confess, Act
 - 1 John 5:13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
 - Romans 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 - Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Salvation is only in Jesus, it is a new life, and produces obedience
 - Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
 - John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 - James 2:17** Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2. Learn how to communicate that to others.

- ‘Romans road’
 - **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - **Romans 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Ask good questions:
 - Do you think you’re a sinner?
 - Do you want forgiveness for your sins?
 - Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you and rose from the dead?
 - Are you willing to dedicate your life to Jesus Christ and begin a personal relationship with Him?
- Pray these principles of salvation (not magic words, just guiding confession and relationship):
 - Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and I need Your forgiveness.
 - I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose again.
 - I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life.
 - I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

3. Try different methods.

- invite people to church
- talk to friends, family, and co-workers about your faith
- share your faith in online posts, videos, and reposts
- participate in church outreaches (or start new ones)
- go out and talk to random people on the street or door-to-door

4. Make a habit of conversation.

- build open and honest friendships that talk about deep things
 - what do you think is the biggest problem facing women today?
 - what is something that is emotionally difficult for you right now?
 - do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?
- learn what others believe
 - ask good questions out of genuine curiosity, not with an agenda
 - find common ground of things you both agree on
 - start to question or correct false beliefs with gentleness and persuasiveness

- **Colossians 4:5** Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. **6** Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

5. Follow-up with discipleship.

- be responsible for staying in contact
- take time to spend with them
- study the Bible together
- encourage obedience and fruit
- connect them with your local church

How do we prepare?

1. Have love for the lost

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; **15** and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

1 Corinthians 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

2. Be filled with the Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

3. Study theology and apologetics

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

4. Have no fear (or self-consciousness, discouragement, embarrassment)

Hebrews 13:6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; **20** for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

5. Start now

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

Matthew 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Questions:

1. What are your biggest concerns or hesitations about witnessing?
2. What conversations or situations have stumped you in the past?
3. What should our church focus on to reach our community?

Good example on YouTube: @NeedGodnet