

WORD

⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” **LUKE 15:4-7**

When Jesus died for us on the cross, He paid the penalty for our sin. Because we are all sinners and can never save ourselves, He took our place and offers us forgiveness for our sins. Nothing we do can make us good or righteous, but God, in His love and mercy, made a way for us to know Him and to have eternal life. This gospel, this Good News, is powerful and life-changing—not just for us, but for everyone who believes. Like the shepherd who sought out the one sheep that was lost, we are called to leave the ninety-nine and go after the one. Evangelism is simply telling others about God’s solution for sin and His great love for us. In this lesson, we will look at how we can tell others about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1 Pray continually.

³And 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. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. **COLOSSIANS 4:3,4**

To tell others about who God is and what He has done in our lives, we will need to pray. We have to pray for the lost to be saved (Romans 10:1). Paul prayed for open doors and boldness, in spite of the opposition. In Luke 10:2, Jesus told us to pray for more workers. Who is the Lord of the harvest? Why should we pray continually as we share the gospel?

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2 Engage strategically.

¹Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

LUKE 15:1,2 (READ ALSO LUKE 15:3-7.)

Jesus was known as a “friend of sinners,” yet He was without sin. He strategically engaged the lost for the purpose of leading them back to God. He extended love, mercy, and grace to those who did not deserve it. Why do you think Paul said he became all things to all men to save some (1 Corinthians 9:22)? How can you purposefully reach out to, meet, and engage those who don’t know Jesus yet?

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3 Share boldly.

... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 PETER 3:15

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .

ROMANS 1:16

We can pray for the lost, serve them, and invite them to a church service, but the most important thing we can do for them is to share the gospel. We should give them an answer for what we believe. What does it mean to *always be prepared*? How can you be prepared? How can you boldly share the gospel as Christ’s witness (Acts 1:8)?

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