

# Message Discussion Guide

## THE GOSPEL AND PERSONAL EVANGELISM

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*July 6, 2008*

*Romans 1:1-17*

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### Connect . . .

*Use one, two, or three of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### Option 1

Invite learners to share how they felt when they discovered that the message was going to be addressing the gospel and personal evangelism. Ask the additional following questions:

- Do you feel that all believers have a responsibility to personally share the gospel with others?
- What are your greatest fears in sharing the gospel with someone?
- When was the last time that you personally shared the gospel with someone one-on-one? (Be sure to remind them we can all share gospel threads even when we don't have the opportunity to share the entire gospel.)

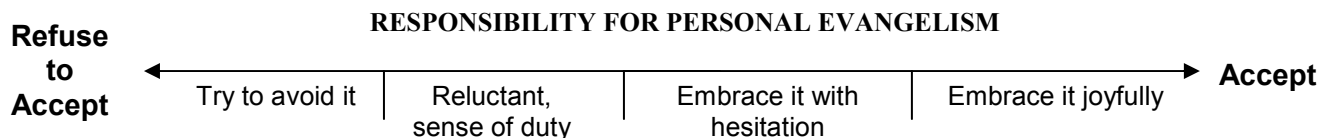
#### Option 2

Invite learners to share a time when they were in a conversation with someone and had a desire or felt a need to share the gospel with that person. Then, ask the additional following questions:

- Did you share the gospel with that person in that situation?
- What kept you from sharing the gospel with that person?
- Did you enjoy or dislike sharing the gospel with that person?
- What did you do after you shared the gospel with that person? Follow-up with them? Invite them to our worship gathering?

#### Option 3

Share the following chart with the members of your group concerning personal evangelism, then ask the following questions:



- Where, on the chart, would you place your acceptance of the responsibility for personal evangelism today?
- What hinders you from being at "Embrace it joyfully?"
- What can you do to move to "Embrace it joyfully?"

### Review the Message . . .

#### Foundations for Personal Evangelism . . .

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- We need to remember whose we are.
  - We are servants of the Gospel.
  - We are sent out with the Gospel.
  - We are set apart for the Gospel.

#### Discussion Questions

- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 1:1-17. Remind learners that this passage is a microcosm of the entire book of Romans.
- Read Romans 1:1-7. How did Paul view his identity in Christ?
- Why would it have been strange to the church in Rome that Paul saw himself as a servant (slave) of Christ?
- Enlist a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 6:19-20. What does this verse say about us? What does it have to do with evangelism?
- What does the word “apostle” mean in verse 1? (“Sent one”) What are the different uses of the word “apostle” in the New Testament? (See Matthew 10: 1-4; Romans 16:7; Acts 14:14; Philippians 2:25; 2 Corinthians 8:23)
- What is so significant about being “set apart for the Gospel” in verse 1?

#### Application . . .

- How does the way we see ourselves (i.e. our identity) affect our actions?
  - How would our personal evangelism be affected if we saw ourselves in the same way that Paul did? What hinders us from seeing ourselves this way?
  - What are the implications of being a servant/slave of the Gospel?
  - How does seeing that believers are the church, as opposed to seeing the church as a building, affect the way that we should participate in evangelism?
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- We need to recognize what we believe.
    - The Gospel...
      - The just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that all who have faith in Him will be reconciled to God forever.
    - The Threads...
      - The Character of God.
      - The Sinfulness of man.
      - The Sufficiency of Christ.
      - The Necessity of faith.
      - The Urgency of eternity.

#### Discussion Questions

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- Enlist a volunteer to read Romans 3:21-26. What do the 5 threads of the gospel that are described in these verses mean to you?
- Where does the gospel begin and end?
- David said, “The Gospel does not soothe the sinner; the Gospel slays the sinner.” What does this passage say that would “slay the sinner?” (v. 23)
- Read Romans 1:3-5. What do these verses say about the sufficiency of Christ in the gospel? (He is fully man and fully God and through Him we have received grace.)

#### Application . . .

- Why is it important to know all 5 threads of the gospel? What happens when we eliminate any of these threads?
- How does knowing these 5 threads affect the way we should share the gospel? Help the learners to see that if we are sewing these threads in our conversations, God will open their eyes to see the quilt that has been sewn before them.
  
- **We need to realize why we’re here.**
  - **We are here to exalt His name.**
    - **God is the giver of the Gospel.**
    - **God is the gift of the Gospel.**
    - **God is the goal of the Gospel.**
  - **We are here to penetrate the nations.**
    - **We have a responsibility to pray.**
    - **We have a debt to pay.**

#### Discussion Questions

- Read Romans 1:5, 14. What does verse 5 say about why Paul received grace and apostleship? Who is Paul in debt to?
- Invite two volunteers to read Galatians 1:15-16 and Psalm 67. What did Paul say is the reason that God has shown him the gospel? What does this psalm say is the reason that God blesses us?
- What does it mean that the gospel puts us under obligation to the world?

#### Application . . .

- How does our American consumer mentality affect the way that we understand and share the gospel?
- David said that God is the giver, gift, and goal of the gospel. How does seeing God as the giver, gift, and goal of the gospel affect the way that we approach personal evangelism? What are incorrect views of the giver, gift, and goal of the gospel?
- How should being in debt to the world affect our approach to the gospel?
  
- **We need to resolve how we’ll live.**
  - **We will live like nothing can shame us.**
  - **We will live like nothing can stop us.**

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#### Discussion Questions

- Read Romans 1:16-17. Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel?
- What are ways that we can act ashamed of the gospel?
- What does the gospel reveal?
- Read Acts 28:31. Remind learners of Paul's situation in Rome and that the last word in Greek, the original language of the New Testament, is "unhindered". What can stop the gospel from being successful? How should that affect our attitude in sharing the gospel with others?

#### Application . . .

- Do you live as if nothing can stop the gospel from being successful?
- What might that look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

#### The Ultimate Question for Personal Evangelism...

- Will the Gospel stop with you or spread through you?

#### Application

- Are you actively involved in personal evangelism?
- Is your identity wrapped up in Christ or something else? Do you see yourself as a servant? An apostle? A saint?
- Am I willing to admit that I've been negligent in my responsibility to share the gospel with others?
- Am I willing to begin living a life that joyfully accepts my personal responsibility in sharing the gospel and the threads of the gospel?