

This midweek study will explore the biblical teaching of evangelism. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Evangelism

It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all thus rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

1 Evangelism is both a command and an honor (Matt. 24:14; 28:18-20; Acts 10:42-48).

Invite students to list activities they are commanded to do, but that are also an honor (i.e. loving one's family, respecting the elderly, etc.).

► Why is evangelism both honor and command?

Read Matthew 28:18-20; 24:14.

► How does this passages reveal the command to evangelize?

According to these verses, we are commanded to go into the world and make disciples of all nations, but we do this willingly, out of love for Christ.

► When have you shared the gospel solely out of love for Jesus?

Read Acts 10:42-48.

Commands are not negative, they assist believers in knowing what to do and what not to do.

► How does the command to evangelize assist us in knowing how to act as believers?

► How should the command to evangelize impact the way the church functions?

2 Evangelism is loving others (John 13:35; Rom. 10:13-15).

Option: Ask students to share about a time they were thankful to be told something hurtful or negative out of love (perhaps by a parent or a teacher), which saved them a lot of pain later.

► How does evangelism say to others that you care for them, even if they reject what you say?

Even though we tell the truth, we must do so with a heart of love and concern and not with harsh words and attitudes.

Read John 13:35.

► How will people know that we are Jesus' disciples?

► Why do you think it's important that people see our love for each other?

Read Romans 10:13-15.

► How did Paul describe the gospel in verse 15?

► Describe how evangelism looks without the presence of love.

► Consider the message of the gospel: is it one of condemnation or of love? How can your evangelism be more like Christ's?

When we evangelize it can often appear unloving because we talk about personal sin, but like a doctor diagnosing a patient, unless the cause of the problem is addressed, true healing can't take place.

► In what areas of your life can you focus more intentionally on loving evangelism? What holds you back from sharing the gospel more effectively?

3 Evangelism is both words and action (John 14:11-12; 1 John 3:17-18).

Read John 14:11-12.

The Christian life isn't limited to moral behavior, nor it is just amazing concepts and words. If our words and life do not match, then it sends the wrong message. We are a people of both word and deed.

► What did Jesus say the one who believes in Him will do?

Jesus told His disciples they were capable of doing even greater things than He did on earth if they would follow Him in both word and deed.

► How does it feel to know that when the Holy Spirit dwells within you, Jesus says you are capable of "greater works than these"?

► What does this reveal about how Jesus thinks about our actions and our words?

Read 1 John 3:17-18.

► What does this passage tell us about the importance of our actions?

► How do positive and negative actions affect our witness?

► What steps can you take to make sure your actions and words line up?

WRAP IT UP

► Who are three people in your life you need to lovingly evangelize with words and actions?

► What holds you back from sharing the gospel more effectively?

► Challenge students to write out their strategy for loving evangelism and place it in their Bibles, marking Romans 10:13-15.