

# Introduction

*“Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace”*

*Ephesians 5:15*

**T**his class offers a fast, effective way to share the gospel without memorizing a script. The goal of the class is to help you understand the gospel thoroughly, so you can explain it in your own words, as the Lord leads in conversations with family members, friends, acquaintances and complete strangers. You will learn effective ways to start sharing, the best time to share testimonies or illustrations, and how to turn objections into opportunities. You will also have a better understanding of how and when the Holy Spirit is leading.

Class time includes teaching, practice, answering questions, and plenty of encouragement as you prepare to share with people. You will learn that evangelism is not about talent—it’s about being willing. Sometimes the shyest or youngest believers are the first to lead someone to Christ—which inspires others, and helps believers realize that God can use anyone. It may encourage you to know that most believers I’ve trained have not been charismatic or outgoing, and very few thought they would ever lead someone to Christ.

Do you know someone who has not received Christ? Have you prayed for family members, friends, or acquaintances? Have you prayed that *someone* would share with them? Perhaps that someone is *you!* If you have received Christ—you can share the gospel. It doesn’t matter if you’re young or old, shy or bold. You don’t have to be charismatic, convincing, or a Bible scholar. Because sharing your faith isn’t about talking people “into” anything—it’s about presenting the facts and letting the Holy Spirit work. You just have to be willing.

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You would think that God would have His prophets or angels to do all the evangelism, but God wants us—redeemed sinners like you and me—to tell other sinners about His forgiveness and grace. Jesus didn’t command unbelievers to go to church—He commanded us to go to them! Some people will never go to church, a crusade, or any other Christian event. You could be the only Christian some unbelievers know or would listen to. You know people and have sphere of influence, that in all likelihood no one else on earth has. God wants us all to **“Do the work of an evangelist.”** 2 Timothy 4:5.

The reasons why we need to share the gospel are simple: Jesus told us to; people are going to hell; eternity is forever; and receiving Christ is the most important decision a person can make. This is the only time we have to share our faith with unbelievers. When we get to heaven we will celebrate, worship the Lord, and do a multitude of incredible things for all eternity—but we won’t be telling unbelievers how they can get to heaven. The only time we can evangelize is now.

You are getting ready to share the most important message people can hear, so they can make the most important decision of their life. At the end of everyone's life, the only thing that matters is whether or not he or she has received Christ.

## Start getting prepared

**Y**ou will be telling others how they can have a relationship with Christ so it's important for you to have a good relationship with Christ yourself. The better you know Jesus, the easier it will be to tell others about Him. The more you obey God, the more joy you will have and the easier it will be to tell others about Him.

In order to have a good relationship with Christ, you need to read the Bible, pray, and fellowship with other believers. More is almost always better. I strongly suggest that you have a devotion every morning by spending some time reading the Bible and praying. For many people, the first step to sharing their faith is simply getting up a little earlier to pray and read the Bible. After Peter preached the gospel, the Bible tells us that people realized that Peter and John were **“uneducated and untrained men”** and they marveled because **“they realized that they had been with Jesus.”** Acts 4:13. Look at it this way—reading the Bible, praying, and fellowship is to a believer what staying in shape is to an athlete.

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In addition to spending time with the Lord, you will need to spend time preparing to share—by learning the gospel and memorizing helpful scriptures. When it comes to praying and reading the Bible you just start reading or praying—but when it comes to evangelism, you need to get prepared. I believe this is why the Bible tells us to **“...Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”** Ephesians 6:15.

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If you made it a habit to pray and read the Bible every morning—and never shared with a single person—you would still be ahead, but I believe you will share with people. God may give you an opportunity sooner than you think. It happens all the time. If you are currently serving the Lord, you may find opportunities you weren't aware of. This can be especially true for Sunday school teachers and those who minister around people. God will use the testimonies and talents He has already given you to reach those you are in contact with.