



Outline for Fall Lighthouse Groups 2021: Session 2

Session 1: The Gospel (5 weeks)

- **God's Motives** (The gracious divine intention for us to live with the King in His Kingdom)
- **Prisoners of War** (Satan has held mankind captive with the seduction to sin and deception of lies)
- **Jesus our Savior and Deliverer** (Jesus was crucified and rose again to provide entrance into the Kingdom)
- **Breaking Free** (Repenting, Believing & Receiving are keys to freedom in Christ)
- **Fun & Fellowship Night** (Each group will decide what they want to do.)

Session 2: The Call (5 weeks)

- **Fishers of Men** (The call of being a co-laborer of Christ, Making Disciples)
- **Spiritual Conversations** (How to engage our culture and ask great questions)
- **Ambassadors putting Jesus on Display** (Good Works, Godly Character, Miracles)
- **Testimonies and Truth** (the power of testimonies and Ambassadors declaring God's opinions/truth)
- **Fun & Fellowship Night** (Each group will decide what they want to do.)

THE GOSPEL INGREDIENTS

- **Lost Humanity:** All are lost and enslaved to sin and destined for the Lake of Fire
- **God's Heart:** A Loving Father God, Creator of all life reaching out to reconcile all
- **Satan's Fury:** A devious & evil enemy of God oppressing & inflicting pain upon God's creation
- **God's Rescue Mission:** A Son on a Heavenly Mission on behalf of God for mankind to reveal the Kingdom of God and to seek and save lost humanity
- **The Ultimate Sacrifice:** A Cross where the Son would sacrifice His life to ransom mankind from the eternal consequences of sin
- **Resurrected King:** An empty tomb where the Son's victory as Lord of all would be revealed & proclaimed over sin and death
- **God's Truth Declared:** God draws people to Himself by His grace and by declaring the truth of the Good News
- **Blind Eyes Opened:** The lost prisoners believe the truth, repent of their sins against God and each other, place their faith in the Son and receive the gift of salvation
- **Transformed Lives:** Each person receives the Holy Spirit into their hearts through faith in Jesus becoming a new creation, receiving a new destiny and becoming a child of God and citizen in the Kingdom of God



Fishers of Men and the Lights of the World

Mt. 4:16-17 (From the prophet Isaiah)- *“The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned.”* From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

What great Light did they see? We know this as a prophetic declaration concerning the Messiah. Jesus came and declared for all to hear, “I am the Light of the world.” Jn 8:12. Amazingly, He who is “the Light” also said of His followers, “you are the light of the world”. 1 John 4:17 declares this of those who are followers of Jesus: “as He is, so also are we in this world.”

We see this theme on display when the prophet Isaiah declared:

Is. 60:1-3a “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. “For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Without a doubt the people of God are to make a big impact in this world of darkness because of the glory upon His people by the Spirit of God.

This type of impact requires ongoing intentionality. Consider these additional pictures of God’s people in action.

Mt. 4:18-20 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, **“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Mt. 21:28-31 A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”



Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. Consider the words and works of Jesus who is “the Light of the world”. How did He demonstrate being “the Light of the world” through His life (in word & deed)? Be specific.
2. If followers of Christ are also the “light of the world”, what words and works are we called to display? Read Matthew 5:14-16 and discuss your thoughts about being a city on a hill for all to see vs hiding your light under a basket so others won’t see? Discuss what each of these look like and how we can continuously shine brightly and not allow our light to be hidden.
3. Jesus said, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” We know Jesus used this analogy with Peter and Andrew because they were professional fishermen. With this in mind, consider how fishermen fish: (various baits, methods, strategies, effort and presentations). What truths concerning fishing for fish can be transferred to fishing for people? What is required of you to fish for people?
4. Discuss together the reactions of the two sons in Mt 21 as it relates to being the light of Jesus and fishing for people in partnership with Jesus.
5. Discuss this proverb: “Many believe, some follow, a few fish.” What does this mean, which are you, and what are you called to do?

Final Thought:

If we are lights, then we are called to shine! If we follow Jesus, then we are called to be fishers of men! If we truly love God and are obedient sons and daughters, then we will work to bring in the harvest and advance the Kingdom of God!



Opening Doors of Ministry through Spiritual Conversations

Have you ever noticed how often Jesus asked people questions as recorded in the four gospels? *(See some examples on page 6)*

Jesus discerned the heart and mind of people and surely knew the answer to His question even before asking it. But He still asked. Why?

Questions cause a person to consider things in a different light. Questions sometimes confront without confronting, often challenging our values and assumptions. Questions are great conversation starters and give subtle direction to that conversation. Sometimes questions are asked so people will ponder & process those questions without the need to answer at that moment. A great and timely question will provoke, in some, a deeper search that will have life changing results.

Is. 50:4 The Sovereign Lord has given me His words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning He wakes me and opens my understanding to His will. (NLT)

Is. 50:4 The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. (NASB)

Our partnership with the Holy Spirit and dependence on His leading is critical in all phases of spiritual conversations. Holy Spirit will give you spiritual discernment, insight and understanding beyond your natural mind. Holy Spirit will inspire great spiritual conversations if we are willing to step out. Words of knowledge, words of wisdom and the prophetic gift are activated as we move forward in partnership with the Holy Spirit to labor in God's harvest fields.

One of the keys to asking great questions is to be willing to listen to the answers. People can easily tell the difference between someone who just wants to speak their own mind and someone who is really listening to them. If you really listen, the Holy Spirit will give you great discernment to actually hear the deeper things of a person's life as they speak. This will open the door for another great question if the person remains open. Remember the words of Jesus, "the mouth speaks that which fills the heart". (Lk 6:45)

One of the best examples of a spiritual conversation in scripture is the interaction of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well found in John 4:7-42. *(Please read)* Here Jesus never asks a question, but combines requests, claims, teachings, and words of



knowledge (a spiritual gift) to capture the attention of this woman. Jesus was a great fisherman. The woman herself was asking questions and Jesus was giving her answers that provoked deeper questions on her part until the spiritual conversation inspired a life change. This woman's life change in Christ inspired a revival in her town as many came to Jesus over the next few days. As you study the conversations Jesus had with people, you will learn how to fish for men and women more effectively.

A question I (pastor John) like to ask people to get a conversation going is, "What is God doing in this season of your life?" I have seen it open up many doors for ministry.

Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. Has anyone ever asked you a great question or made a great comment that sparked growth and change? If so, what was it and what change did it inspire? If not, why not?
2. How do we become better listeners? Who do you know that is a great listener? What skills are necessary? What disciplines are to be applied?
3. In what ways is the Holy Spirit involved in this whole process of spiritual conversations? Be very specific. What gifts are available for this task? (Look at 1 Cor 12) How do we grow in our reliance upon the Holy Spirit and learn to follow His lead in starting and flowing in spiritual conversations?
4. Why are intentionality and sensitivity two crucial ingredients for anyone who wants to fish for men and women through spiritual conversations? How did Jesus demonstrate both ingredients in His conversation with the woman at the well in Jn 4:7-26?
5. Which of the 12 Great Questions of Jesus listed below is most pertinent to you in this season of your life?



12 Great Questions Jesus Asked

Assembled by John Wilson (www.RadiantChurch.us)

1. **Why do you think evil in your hearts? Mt 9:4**
2. **But who do you say that I am? Mt 16:15**
3. **What do you want Me to do for you? Mk 10:51**
4. **Why are you testing Me? Mk 12:15**
5. **And why do you call Me, "Lord, Lord," and do not do what I say? Lk 6:46**
6. **Where is your faith? Lk 8:25**
7. **Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Lk 24:38**
8. **What do you seek? Jn 1:38**
9. **Do you wish to get well? Jn 5:6**
10. **What have I been saying to you from the beginning? Jn 8:25**
11. **Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me? Jn14:9**
12. **Do you love Me? Jn 21:16**

Final thought

Spiritual conversations open doors and give insight into people's hearts and lives. God wants people's hearts and wants to transform their lives and will use us to accomplish His purposes. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, be bold and intentional, knowing God is with you, at work in you and will work through you to minister His love and truth to the lost and hurting!



Putting Jesus on Display (Good Works, Godly Character, Miracles)

An ambassador is a representative of the president and the interests of his home country in a foreign land. Paul said that he and his companions were ambassadors for Christ. (2 Cor 5) Therefore, they were representatives of Christ and the Kingdom of God wherever they went. This understanding of their calling resulted in some overriding mindsets and perspectives in how they were called to live. As ambassadors for Christ: 1. they knew the fear of the Lord and worked hard to persuade others to come to the truth, 2. they did what they did to glorify God and benefit others, 3. the love of Christ controlled them, recognizing they no longer lived for themselves, but for Christ 4. they no longer saw any person according to a natural point of view, 5. they carried and declared the message of reconciliation (the Gospel) in order to reconcile people to God and see them made right in His sight.

Pastor Steve Coyle says this about ambassadors of Christ: "True ambassadors have surrendered their right to speak their own opinions and are only authorized to speak the opinion of their king." Such qualifications of being an ambassador require a deep transformation of thinking, understanding and living. Not every Christian is willing to go to these great lengths to surrender their lives to Jesus and serve Him in this way while here on this earth.

Yet, each of us is called to reflect & represent Jesus Christ to our world. How we do this is accomplished in a variety of ways. Let's look at three specific areas of influence and consider how they empower a believer to accurately represent (re-present) their king.

Doing Good in His Name

Acts 10:38 *You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*

Hebrews 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

1 Timothy 6:18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,



Demonstrating Godly Character

1 Tim. 6:11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

2 Pt. 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

Gal. 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Confirming the Gospel with signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Spirit

Matthew 9:35 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Mark 16:15, 20 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. And they (the apostles) went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the (attesting miracles) signs that followed.

Heb. 2:3b-4 After it was first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

1 Co. 12:7-11 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.



Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. What would it look like and what would be involved for a follower of Christ to live their life having surrendered their right to their own opinion?
2. Acts 10:38 says that Jesus Christ “went about doing good”. What comes to your mind when you think of this phrase? If we’re called to be like Jesus, how might this impact how we live our lives?
3. Describe an unexpected and/or extravagant good work expressed toward you? What is the impact of doing good in the midst of an evil generation? Are good works within your power to do? What is required?
4. Why is a Godly Character so important in being an effective witness for Christ? Highlight a quality that has been powerfully evident to you in the life of another believer (*reference the Godly Character scriptures listed above*). In what ways does a Godly character shine forth vs an ungodly character?
5. It is evident that both Jesus and the apostles walked in the power of the Spirit as they preached the Gospel. The power demonstrated opened wide many doors for ministry. In fact, the book of Acts is all about the apostles reaching out to their lost culture with the Good News and miracles. Is the Good News and the demonstration of the power of the Spirit still available to us today? How does one partner with the Holy Spirit for this to happen? What part does faith play in this? Look at Acts 4:29-31 to hear how the believers prayed.

Final Thought

Preaching & declaring the Gospel is one part of our calling! We are also called to represent Jesus to the world around us by the way we live. Our good works, our godly, moral character and the miraculous are all part of representing Jesus and the Kingdom of God here in this world! We accomplish this as we surrender to and walk with the Spirit, know who we are in the Spirit and do what Jesus did in the power & presence of the Spirit! May we live Spirit lead lives!



Testimonies and Truth

Acts 4:18-20 And when they (*the Jewish religious rulers*) had summoned them (*Peter and John*), they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

Jn 19:35 (*the apostle John speaking of himself*) And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him (the Devil) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.

Jn. 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

A witness is one who gives testimony about what has been seen and heard. A valued testimony must be the truth. In court, they only pursue truthful testimonies and one who gives a false testimony may be charged with perjury. Testimonies are powerful!

Yet for Jesus, the apostles and for believers over the last two thousand years, a truthful testimony about God is often challenged and opposed by the unbelieving, oftentimes resulting in persecution and death. Notice in the scriptures above, that those who maintained their testimony on earth were persecuted and for that they received heavenly acclaim. Our truthful testimony concerning Jesus Christ and His life-changing power lives on eternally in the heavenly realm. If you share your testimony it may cost you here on earth, but it will be part of your heavenly prize. Jesus said, “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. Mt. 10:32



The man born blind that Jesus healed is a perfect example of what we are saying. His testimony rocked the learned religious scholars and angered them. He said, ***“this I know, I once was blind but now I see.”*** They tried to shake him from his testimony about Jesus, his healer, but his famous statement to them is an example of a testimony established in deep heart-felt conviction coming from within him. He said, ***“Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”*** John 9:32-33

Your heart-felt testimony established with deep understanding from the Holy Spirit is powerful. It sparks interest, it opens up spiritual conversations, it stirs up hope and can inspire faith in those who hear you. Your faith filled testimony may also be accompanied by miracles as Jesus is glorified in your words and life. Truly, the greatest miracle we will ever see is a life transformed by Jesus.

Remember, your testimony is not the Gospel, but it is highly effective to embed the Gospel in the midst of your testimony.

Questions to Consider and Discuss

1. What is the difference between your testimony and the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do you include the Gospel with your testimony? How can one include the Gospel within their testimony? Give examples.
2. How does it impact you knowing that your testimony lives on for all eternity? How does that influence how you live your life? Do you live life with an eternal perspective?
3. Hopefully your testimony is firm, reliable and true concerning Christ in you. What have you seen and heard concerning Christ in your life that is immovable and unshakable?
4. Consider what Peter and John must have been experiencing when they faced death before the same court that sentenced Jesus to death. Their response is so amazing: “for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” What



happened in their lives that empowered them to stand with such conviction, such boldness? Are you standing with this kind of conviction and boldness for Christ in your life? Why or why not?

5. What is your testimony concerning Jesus Christ the Lord? Do you share it? Why or why not? What level of intentionality and boldness is required from you in the face of the culture in which you now live?

Final Thought:

For all who know Jesus and walk with Jesus, there is a testimony about Jesus! We are called to boldly and confidently share our testimonies in truth and with the truth of the Gospel to those who are lost and going to hell. It may be met with anger, confrontation, persecution, suffering and even death, but we are called to be faithful and declare the truth even to the point of dying for what we know is true! Jesus suffered and died for what He said and did and Jesus said His followers would face the same things, but if we are faithful to the end, we will receive the eternal rewards which God has for those who love Him!

And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved. Matthew 10:22

Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12