

DISCUSSION GUIDE

How to Make the Maximum Impact Stand-Alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: What's your position on capital punishment?

OVERVIEW: In Luke 15 Jesus taught two life-changing truths: People far from God matter to God and they should matter to us. Second, God is on an urgent, sacrificial mission to save the lost, and He has called us to share in that mission. This mission is called evangelism, and it is the privilege and responsibility of every Christ-follower and every church. In this discussion we will think about how to become more contagious witnesses for Christ.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. In 2 Kings 7, the Aramean army had besieged the city of Samaria, the capital of Israel, causing a great famine in the city. People were starving to death. Read 2 Kings 7:3-11, and answer the following questions.
 - What did the lepers risk by venturing out of the city? What do we need to be willing to risk in order to reach people far from God?
 - The lepers had a choice to make: Share the good news and the plunder with the rest of the city, or keep it to themselves. How was their decision selfless and sacrificial, and how does evangelism require selflessness and sacrifice?
 - The four lepers also felt called to share the good news because they believed that God would punish them if they didn't. What are the consequences for Christ-followers who don't share their faith?

3. What are some actions or attitudes you can take to help our church be...
 - A safe place to hear a dangerous message?
 - A place where people far from God feel comfortable bringing all their problems rather than feeling the need to get all fixed up and straightened out before attending?
 - A hospital for sinners rather than a hotel for saints?
 - A rescue ship rather than a cruise ship?
 - A place where lost people are treated like the mission rather than the enemy?
4. In Matthew 5:13-16 Jesus said that you need to be highly potent, or salty, by living in such a way that you make lost people spiritually thirsty. How can you be more authentic, compassionate, and sacrificial in your relationships with nonbelievers?
5. What are some other ways that you can be highly potent, creating spiritual thirst in the nonbelievers around you?
6. In order for salt to be effective, it needs to be on the food (close proximity); and in order for you to make an impact, you need to build close relationships with lost people. How can you better build close relationships of trust and respect with lost people? Who are the lost people that you think God wants you to pursue?
7. Jesus also said that you need to be a light to the lost, showing them the way by clearly communicating the gospel. How well do you understand the gospel message? Can you briefly explain how to be saved in 4 points: God, Us, Christ, and You?

The Last Word: 50,000 people die every day without Christ. Those on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone.