

Before the Lesson

Read the Scriptures and overview below before your LIFE Group meets next week.

Scripture passages: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21 & 6:3-10

Simply put, a pulpit is a means to point others to Jesus. It is any platform, place of influence, relationship, or opportunity you are given to make personal evangelism part of your everyday life. We all have these places of influence – a job, a committee on which we serve, a set of close friends, a mom's group, book club, country club, service organization, volunteer group. It doesn't matter. Wherever we're planted, we can rest assured that there is a field ripe for harvest right in our midst. The question, then, becomes personal: What will I do with the opportunity before me?

This week we will look at some very practical, thoughtful, and wise principles we can put into practice that will give us confidence to witness while we work. These strategies will help us encourage others with the confident hope we have in Jesus. God has blessed each of us with our own mission field. Our mission is our service to unbelievers. We must count the cost – and it is high – for those who do not know our Savior is eternal separation from Him. In counting that cost, we must look to those in our influence with a heart of love and humbly point them to the lover of our souls, Jesus. We must choose to step out in faith and boldly *Be the Church ... everyone. everywhere. everyday!*

How effectively are you using your job as a pulpit to show others the hope you have in Jesus?

Group Discussion

- Read Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:1-4.
 - What do these verses tell you about God?
 - What do they tell you about the way God equips and provides for His people for service?
 - How does this knowledge empower you to use your job as a pulpit to give testimony to the reality of Jesus Christ to an unbelieving world?
 - When have you seen this power to testify about Christ manifested in you or someone you know?
- What does 2 Corinthians 5:9-11, 20-21 say to believers about:
 - Our Aim (v. 9)
 - Our Reward (v. 10)
 - Our Ministry (v. 11)
 - Our Mission (vs. 19-21)
- How does 2 Corinthians 5 affirm this statement: *The greatest thing anyone can do for someone else is introduce them to Jesus. There is no greater joy, honor, or privilege than to share Christ and see people trust Him. This is God's plan and purpose for every believer.* – David H. McKinley

- Look at these passages and themes, then talk about the authentic character that is necessary to be an affirming (not offensive) witness in the workplace. Discuss ways you can apply these character traits in everyday life.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (Integrity)
 - Jeremiah 9:23-24 (Affirm Christ)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 (Promote godly wisdom)
 - Romans 12:12 (Be a person of prayer)
 - Proverbs 6:16-17, 16:5, Luke 16:15 (Display humility)
 - 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 4:7, 12:9 (Boast in the sufficiency and power of Christ)
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, John 13:35 (Display Christ's love)
 - 2 Corinthians 5:11, 20 (Promote the knowledge of God)
- Our ultimate job as ambassadors for Christ is to be ministers of reconciliation, yet we can only reap a harvest for God if we sow. Read John 4:35-38.
 - Are you fulfilling your job as an ambassador for Christ?
 - Are you persuading others in love to know the reality of the living God?
 - When someone comes to you with a problem at work, what is your response? Is it to pause and listen to them, pray for them, or offer them a word of hope from the Bible?

Further Study

Read these verses and let them sink deep into your heart this week. As you do, pray and ask God to give you the boldness, love, and discernment you need to be a pleasing ambassador for His glory. Rest in His power to work in and through you.

Isaiah 55:11

- You can be confident in God's Word because it is inspired (2 Timothy 3:16), it brings freedom (John 8:32), it judges the heart (Hebrews 4:12), and it promotes faith (Romans 10:17).

Romans 1:16

- You can rest in the power of the Gospel.

John 12:32

- You can point others to Jesus, but only He has the power to save.

Ephesians 4:1-3

- You can be an effective ambassador for Christ if you speak with love (Ephesians 4:15), humility (2 Timothy 2:24), and gentleness (Colossians 3:12-13).

Some Do's and Don'ts for Witnessing:

- Be a person of integrity
- Know God's Word
- Pray
- Have a genuine love for others
- Keep trying! Trust God and persevere!

Simple Presentation for Sharing the Gospel:

- Our Problem with God: Romans 3:10, 23
- God's Provision for Us: Romans 6:23, 5:8
- God's Promise to All: Romans 10:9-10, 13