

6-SESSION BIBLE STUDY FOR TEENS

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EVERYDAY EVANGELISM FOR TEENS



PURSUING HEARTS, NOT ARGUMENTS

PRESTON PERRY

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NOT ARGUMENTS*

PRESTON PERRY

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Preston Perry

Preston Perry is husband to Jackie and father to Eden, Autumn, Sage, and August. He is also a poet, performance artist, teacher, and apologist.

How to Use This Study

This Bible study provides a guided process to help individuals and small groups step into the calling of evangelism. Six weeks of sessions give a biblical framework and practical guidance to help prepare students for effective evangelism. Through the book, we will learn the foundational heart posture, principles, and apologetics necessary to win hearts for the sake of Christ.

GROUP TIME

Regardless of what day of the week your group meets, each session of content begins with the group session. Each group session uses the following format to facilitate simple yet meaningful interaction among students and with God's Word.

START

The group session will begin with an icebreaker and a few questions designed to help you introduce the session's topic and encourage students to engage in the conversation.

WATCH

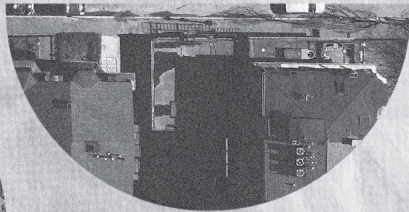
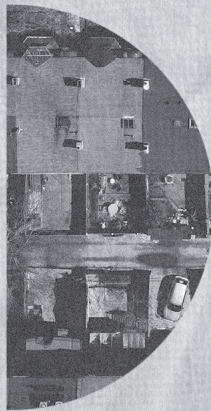
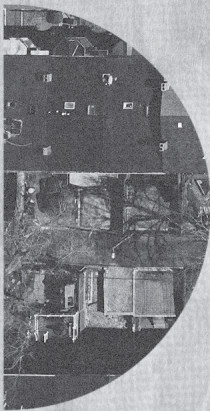
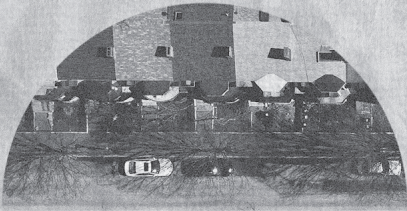
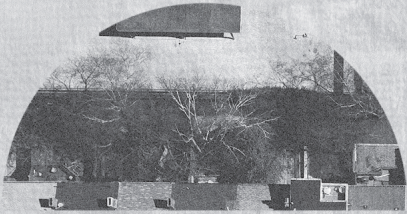
This page provides notes and blanks to fill in on the video teaching. Codes to access the videos are included with your purchase and can be found at the back of this book.

DISCUSS

This section is the main component of the group session. The questions provided are designed to facilitate group discussion on the session's topic. The goal is to help students better understand God's perspective on evangelism and apply the biblical teaching to their lives.

PERSONAL DAYS

The group time and personal days are paired together to help students grow in their understanding of the topic for each session. Two personal days are provided after each group session along with an evangelistic exercise to help students apply the week's teaching to their evangelistic efforts. With biblical teaching and introspective questions, these days challenge students to grow in their understanding of God's Word and to respond in faith and obedience.



Week 1

**EVERYDAY
EVANGELIST**

Group Time

START

Welcome to week 1 of **Everyday Evangelism**.

Icebreaker: Find a partner and discuss these two questions.

1. How did you become a follower of Jesus? (If you are not a follower of Jesus, discuss why you've not made the decision to follow Him.)

2. What does "evangelist" mean?

The truth is, most Christians find it difficult to share the gospel with others. It can make us nervous and clam up. We're afraid we won't have the right words—especially if someone starts arguing with us. We're anxious that someone might ask us a question we don't know the answer to. If we aren't careful, we'll let these hesitations keep us from this important job God has given us.

We have to think about sharing the gospel, or evangelism, differently. And that starts with remembering God has called us to be evangelists. The word *evangelist* simply means "a sharer of good news." The gospel is good news but only if people hear it.

If we are willing to engage with God's calling to be a sharer of good news, He is more than willing to empower us through the Holy Spirit to share the gospel with anyone we encounter. If you're willing to be used by God, He will use you. This Bible study has been designed to help you embrace this truth and equip you with practical tools to be the everyday evangelist God has called you to be.

Pause to pray as you begin this study, asking God to give you passion and boldness to embrace your calling as an evangelist.

WATCH

Use this page to take notes and fill in the blanks as you watch video session 1.

1. In _____ be aware when people shut down. They are shutting down for a _____.
2. “In order to figure out why she was getting _____, I had to ask her good _____.”
3. “When I shared my wife’s story, I could tell that she felt like she could _____ to me for the first time in a way that she couldn’t before. And I saw her _____.”
4. The first indication of somebody being open to you is when they start asking you _____.
5. “I’ve seen evangelists . . . only stick with the ‘_____’: They never get to the ‘_____.’ They never truly see people because they don’t ask the right questions.”
6. “Once people feel _____, they will allow you to give the gospel to them.”

“Lord, I don’t know what to say to this lady. Help me.”

“When I found a way to relate to her, she felt seen and she wanted to engage in a conversation with me.”

To access the teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.



DISCUSS

Use this page to facilitate the group discussion.

All Christians are called to be evangelists because what Jesus has done for us is good news. We should want everyone to know about it. And what Jesus commands us to do, He will give us the grace to carry out with confidence because the God who brought the good news to us will be with us as we share it. Through this study, we will learn how to share the gospel wherever God places us—winning hearts like God has won ours.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. These verses are known as the Great Commission.

- 1. What does Jesus tell His disciples to do? What encourages you to be an evangelist from these verses? How have you seen these promises hold true for us today?**
- 2. In the past, what has kept you from being an evangelist?**
- 3. Do you have relationships with people who have different worldviews than yours? If so, what do they believe?**

Much of what keeps us from being evangelists are the burdens we place on ourselves. When you received the gospel, did you believe as a result of one conversation? In most cases, God uses several people, planting and watering seeds over a period of time, to open our hearts to Him. It usually takes time, multiple conversations, and prayer for someone to come to faith in Jesus. When we share the gospel with someone, even if that person does not receive Jesus in that moment, our conversation will never be pointless. We can trust the Spirit's work in his or her life.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.

- 4. What do these verses reveal about God's process for bringing people to faith in Jesus?**
- 5. Your responsibility when it comes to evangelism is planting the seed. God is the One who makes it grow. How does this truth impact your mindset about sharing the gospel with others?**

6. Read verse 9 again. How are we “God’s coworkers”? In what ways are the people with whom we share the gospel “God’s field, God’s building”?

If you’re concerned about having the right words to say when you share the gospel with someone else, remember you’re not alone in your efforts. The Holy Spirit has everything you need for the task. When you obediently give people the gospel, He will empower you. The Great Commission is not dependent upon your communication skills; it is dependent upon the power of God in you. As you step out in faith, God will give you the words, the courage, and the wisdom you need to effectively share the good news.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

7. How does the Holy Spirit empower believers for evangelism?
8. Do you currently feel comfortable with the idea of sharing the gospel with others? Why or why not?

Hopefully, today’s teaching and discussion have encouraged you to be an evangelist. If you still have hesitations, don’t worry—this is just the beginning! As you dive into your personal study days, continue to engage in discussions with your group and rely on the Holy Spirit throughout this process, and your confidence will continue to grow. God is going to do powerful things through your obedience!

Use this time to pray for one another as you close your time together.

PRAYER REQUESTS



WHO THE SON
SETS FREE

Jesus came near and
said to them,
"All authority has
been given to me in
heaven and on earth.
Go, therefore, and
make disciples of all
nations, baptizing
them in the name of
the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching them
to observe everything
I have commanded you.
And remember, I am
with you always, to
the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Week 1 Everyday Evangelist

PERSONAL DAY 1

Commissioned

All of us who are saved by God's grace have a story. God uses His Spirit, His truth, and His servants to call people to faith in Jesus. In my own life, God used difficult life experiences and the ordinary faithfulness of people like my Aunt Denise and my friend Gary to share the gospel with me. I did not respond immediately, but the seeds that were planted and watered eventually bore fruit. God used their faithfulness to completely change my life.

**Take a moment to write out your story below. How did God win your heart?
What people or which truths did He use to call you to Himself?**

All followers of Jesus are evangelists. In the Holy Spirit, every saint has all that is needed to give the gospel to the community around him or her. God uses all faithful Christians to go and tell the world that we were once blind, but now we can see—and that they can, too, if they will only repent and believe. God doesn't use us because we are some sort of all-star Christian. God uses us in spite of ourselves.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29:

Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, so that no one may boast in his presence.

In what ways are you tempted to see yourself as unqualified for evangelism?

What actually qualifies someone to share the gospel?

God can and wants to use each of us to share the gospel. We do not have to have a certain level of status, education, talent, or wealth to be worthy of this calling. We carry an extraordinary power inside of us through the Holy Spirit. Evangelism is much more about what He is doing through us than what we do. God uses our simple obedience to spread and water gospel seeds. The Spirit brings the fruit.

All we need to become an evangelist is the Spirit's work and Jesus's commission. He has commissioned you just as He did the first disciples.

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Notice that some of the disciples still had doubts about Jesus's resurrection. Why do you think they were struggling to believe?

Jesus tells us to make disciples of all nations, which means we will encounter people with different beliefs and worldviews. How does Jesus’s authority give you confidence in approaching those potentially challenging situations?

The One who has “all authority” (v. 18) is with us always (v. 20). This is the truth we should hold to most tightly as we share the gospel—His calling on our lives is our covering as we step out of our comfort zone and into obedience to His commission.

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

What does it mean that Jesus has “the name that is above every name”?

Why is His authority a necessary part of evangelism?

Because of Jesus’s humility, obedience, and perfect sacrifice for our sins, God has given Him supreme authority over everything. Therefore, Jesus not only has the right to give commands, He has the power to ensure His commands are fulfilled. Nothing can stand against Jesus. No person, argument, worldview, or power we encounter can defeat His purposes.

With this highest level of authority, He has commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations. Because He has this authority, we respect and obey Him. And because He has empowered us with His authority, with His Spirit living in us, we can confidently carry out the mission. This is the unshakable foundation upon which we can build a life of evangelism for the glory of God.

PERSONAL DAY 2

On Apologetics

A common hesitation people have in sharing the gospel is the worry that they won't be able to answer every question people throw at them. Many fear evangelistic conversations will lead to arguments that they won't be able to "win." But the goal of evangelism is to win hearts, not arguments. Before we can have productive conversations about the gospel, we need to cultivate a desire to see people come to faith in Jesus—and desire that more than being right or proving a point.

Of course, many gospel conversations involve talking about our deeply held beliefs. We will inevitably encounter people who have different belief systems and worldviews. And while we must always remain focused on winning hearts, we still have to be prepared to defend our faith—which brings us to apologetics.

Do you currently feel equipped to have conversations about the basic truths of Christianity? Why or why not?

The term *apologetics* may make you think about upper level Bible classes or scholarly debates. Maybe you think that unless you earn a master's degree, you won't be able to effectively engage in apologetics. But you don't have to have a deep theological background or be an accomplished scholar to be able to defend your faith. Apologetics is really about loving the Lord and being willing to tell people about Him.

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17.

Summarize what Peter is saying in these verses. Rewrite them in your own words below.

In these verses, Peter provides vital instruction regarding our attitude when we share the gospel. How we speak to people about our faith matters. How they *feel* during our conversations matters, and our approach to these conversations can either invite others to learn more about Jesus or drive them away from Him.

According to 1 Peter 3:16, what characteristics should mark our conversations about faith?

When people challenge you, do you usually respond with gentleness and respect or defensiveness? Why?

We can defend our faith without being defensive. Preparation is the key. If we are confident in our ability to speak about our faith, we can be calm in the face of opposition. Let's consider some of the opposition you might face as you share the gospel.

Think about the people you know who don't know Jesus. What do they currently believe about God?

What are some common misconceptions people you know have about the Christian faith?

The more we are genuinely curious and seek to understand what the people around us believe, the better we can engage with them on matters of faith. If you feel like God is calling you to reach out to the Muslim student in your class, it would be helpful to familiarize yourself with the Quran and the five pillars of Islam. You don't have to know everything, but if you know the key points of that person's faith, you can go into

conversations aware of how his or her beliefs differ with Christianity and study Scripture that addresses those areas in advance.

This kind of preparation allows you to interact with your neighbors without anxiety over where the conversation might go. When you feel ready to defend your faith, if the need arises, you can more easily maintain a gentle and respectful disposition. Think about Jesus and the way He interacted with people who didn't believe. He never puffed out His chest or argued with people who disagreed with Him. He simply spoke the truth with conviction and compassion. His kindness led people to repentance.

God called the apostle Paul, a once-devout Pharisee, to spread the gospel across the Gentile (non-Jewish) world. He encountered foreign cultures and interacted with all kinds of people with a variety of customs—and always remained on mission to help people come to faith in Jesus.

Read his words from 1 Corinthians 9:20-22:

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. To those who are without the law, like one without the law—though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ—to win those without the law. To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.

“By every possible means.” A true evangelist, Paul was constantly looking for ways to connect with people in order to have genuine conversations that allowed him to share the truth about Jesus. That required a genuine interest in people and their beliefs. If you want to “become all things to all people,” you have to care and learn about people.

What belief systems or worldviews do you need to learn about so that you can prepare for conversations about the gospel with your friends, fellow students, teammates, and neighbors?

What aspects of Christianity do you feel you need to understand more fully in order to defend your faith?

Evangelistic Exercise

You have spent time thinking about your story, or testimony, throughout this first session. Our testimonies are powerful tools for evangelism because they describe our experience with Jesus, reflecting the ways He has changed our lives. Testimonies are helpful because we can immediately share them with people who have other worldviews, and they can't really be argued with because they are our lived experience—the stories of our lives. Sharing your testimony is a great way to begin an evangelistic conversation with either a stranger or with someone you've known for a while. One way to begin is talking about the way having a relationship with Jesus has blessed your life.

For instance, you might have a friend who is going through a difficult time because of the sudden death of a family member. You may not be sure if your friend follows Jesus, but you can take the opportunity to explain to her that one of the blessings of a relationship with Jesus is that He is near to the brokenhearted and gives supernatural comfort in times of need (see Psalm 34:18).

In what ways has your relationship with Jesus blessed your life? How can you use those experiences to start gospel conversations with others? The following prompts will help you think through some entry points for evangelistic conversations.

As you go through these questions, think of someone you already know personally but whose spiritual beliefs you don't know. Phrase your responses to these questions as if you were having an evangelistic conversation with that person.

What about your life has changed most positively because of Jesus?

What is something you're learning about Jesus?

What struggles have you experienced in your spiritual life?

What has been the most surprising impact that Jesus has had on your life?

Who does God bring to mind to begin sharing with? Trust where the Spirit of God is leading. Write his or her name and a prayer for that person below. Include in your prayer a request for God to give you the courage and an opportunity to talk with this individual about Jesus.