



EVERYDAY WITNESS

A Quick Guide to Small Groups





Summary

Jesus calls us to be a light on the hill. The Lord works through everyday conversations as we share the gospel and our lives with others.



Two Minute Read



Small Group Commitment #7
Serve Together



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Despite these strange times of social distancing, COVID-19 has created incredible opportunities to share our faith. Jesus calls us to be a light on the hill, and we want to shine for Him. But sometimes in our desire to point others to our Lord, we cover up our dark cracks. We need to remember that Jesus can shine when we invite others into our imperfect lives. In fact, it's often through our brokenness and the cracks in our life that Jesus shines the brightest.

You don't need slick strategies, fancy programs or rehearsed presentations. God works most powerfully through relationships.

Health and financial concerns have bridged the gap and given us more in common with neighbors and coworkers. Worry is creeping in and crowding into everyone's lives. All of our lives have been disrupted. Nothing is normal. But people don't want to live gripped by fear. The desperate need for hope is being stirred in souls down your street.

How can we be a shining light in the midst of our own stress fractures?

First, we pray and listen. Ask God to bring a person to your mind. When it comes to being an unafraid witness, the hardest part is simply starting. Send a text, *"I'm thinking about you and praying for your family."* Or call and ask, *"How are you doing?"* This doesn't obligate you to run to the rescue. It's a simple act of kindness. It's reaching out. Here, the goal is cultivating a relationship by initiating a conversation. Then, throughout the week, continue to pray for those you connect with.



Theological Truth

Sadly, many modern forms of evangelism have generated a gospel witness that is impersonal, preachy, intolerant and uninformed about the real questions people are actually asking. But evangelism doesn't have to be mechanical. You don't need training. It's not results-oriented. It doesn't have to be pressure driven or revolve around some well-planned event. It's less about a program or formula and more about connecting with others in redemptive relationships as your love for God overflows into compassion for others. As you share your life, you will be able to discern how to share the gospel in a natural, relatable and biblical way. This is what it looks like to love people as you share the gospel and your life (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Second, be yourself. Sharing Jesus is not dumping information in conversations. Pick up the tool of authenticity. Dare to be transparent. Most people will identify with your problems and concerns before they're interested in your beliefs. In everyday evangelism, get rid of the "scripts" or Christian clichés. Gone are the days of dropping gospel tracts, because people don't want to read about the gospel... they want to see the gospel standing in front of them.

Nothing crumbles barriers like being vulnerable and in a position where others can help you. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water at a well, Jesus said to her, *"Will you give me a drink?"* Our Savior—Creator and Lord of all—was thirsty and He didn't hide His need. Instead of drawing the water from the well Himself, He asked for help. Jesus invited this woman to help Him because He had a need that she could meet. And He was humble to receive it.

Being real doesn't trump the need to be respectful. Being honest doesn't require an overload of every single detail. Most of the time, general statements are enough. We practice humility when we let others know that we, too, wrestle with finances or find parenting a challenge. Humility is the courage to look weak for the sake of the gospel.

As we admit to the cracks in our lives, it can lead to sharing our faith. We don't have all the answers. Our confidence does not come from deep within ourselves, it comes from knowing Him. We don't have it all together. We're trusting God with our messy and untidy lives because we're certain of His redeeming love.

Last, be personal. Don't rely on the shotgun approach to blast your light into a dark world. Facebook, Instagram or pick your social media preference might flash in many directions, but life-changing impact happens more often through personal connections. Keep it simple. Don't push. Just open your heart to others in simple conversations. Trust that God can work through everyday realities. Pray. Be Real. Be personal. It's His light that we reflect.