

GUIDEBOOK

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 • SEP 22

NAME

Key Dates

That's Good News Series

Aug 25 - Sep 22

21 Days of Prayer

Sep 8-28

Faith Conversations Workshop

Sep 15



Learn more at
weareasbury.com/goodnews

Your Guide to the Series

Based on Shane Bishop's original series, these 5-weeks of our "That's Good News" series will unpack how we can be part of helping the lost find Jesus, become disciples, and go back out to reach the lost. We believe that as a church, we must reestablish our focus on evangelism as we also press into discipleship, prayer, and missions.

Of course, it can be intimidating. It can be uncomfortable. It can also be fun, exciting, and life-giving. The good news for our next few weeks together is that sharing the Gospel becomes less intimidating when you have a guide and tools to help. If you've already met Jesus for yourself,

you already have exactly what you need to get started, and this guidebook can serve as a plan to help break down your next steps in sharing your faith.

Be sure to bring this guidebook with you to church every week! You'll find space to take notes during worship along with weekly challenges. When we begin our 21 Days of Prayer together on September 8, you'll also find weekly devotionals and daily prayer prompts you can press into with your Life Group. Plus, check out the app for Life Group curriculum to go deeper and reference additional resources. Let's get ready to share the Good News, Asbury Family!

FOCUS AREAS

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Weekly Challenge Resources | p. 22

SERMON NOTES

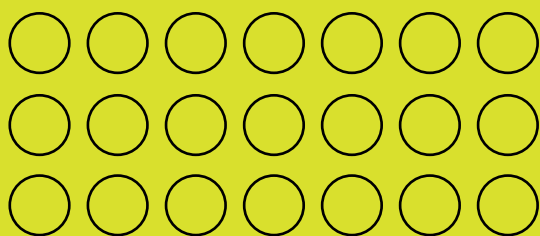
AUG. 25 The Commission

SEP. 1 The Gospel

SEP. 8 The Lost

SEP. 15 The Promise

SEP. 22 The Power & The Plan



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

Days 1-7

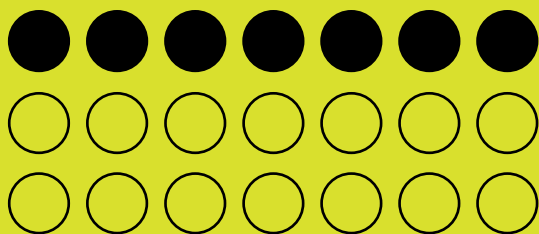
The Lost

Days 8-14

The Promise

Days 15-21

The Power & The Plan



The Lost

September 8-14

Shared by Aaron & Sarah Houin

God has a heart for the lost - so should we!

When you hear that God cares about the lost, who do you picture in your mind? Is it your coworker that followed God at one time in their life and no longer does? Is it a friend that has never heard the Gospel before? Is it a family member that has anger against God?

It's a core Christian belief that Jesus has a heart for the lost, but how do we know that? Luke 15 is an entire chapter dedicated to three examples—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

Jesus said that Heaven rejoices for the one sinner that repents. He also told us about the prodigal son that was once a part of his father's household, demanded his inheritance, left, and was welcomed back with open arms. Additionally, in the Great Commission right before He ascended back to heaven, Jesus instructed His followers to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). This command demonstrates Jesus' deep desire for every

tribe, tongue, and nation to come back into relationship with their Creator.

Finally, something that stands out amongst the three parables about the lost is that Jesus pursued, and Heaven rejoiced, for the one. When we reach out to our friends, family, strangers, or enemies, we are reaching out to the one person that Jesus sees. While a broad term such as "the lost" can bring to mind groups of people, evangelism is about truly seeing and reaching individuals. Seeing them through the lens of our heavenly Father, who knows every hair on their head and has more thoughts of them than there are grains of sand on a shore. It is that intentionality and passionate pursuit of the lost that Jesus demonstrated for us and calls us to live in today. This week will focus on God's heart for the lost, why He cares, and why we should too. "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10).



Daily Practice

Use these pages this week to ask God to help you cultivate a heart for the lost in your life.

9.8

Who do you identify as “the lost”? Write out a definition of “the lost.” Now look at Scripture and compare your list to what Scripture says about the lost. If you need a starting point, read Luke chapter 15.

9.9

Ask the Holy Spirit to help identify those in your life that are “the lost.” Think about different people in the different types of “lost” you identified in the previous day.

9.10

Ask God to guide you in pursuing the lost in your life. If you had trouble identifying a lost person in your life, then ask God to provide you with an opportunity to get to know someone you can share the heart of God with.

9.11

Think about someone in your life that is difficult for you to extend love towards. Then meditate on what Jesus's heart is towards that person, then pray He will give you His heart for them.

9.12

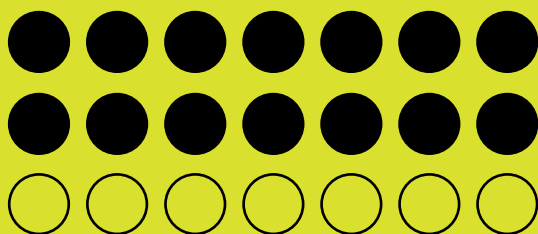
Pray today that God would break your heart the way His is broken for nations that haven't received the gospel. Look up unreached people groups and pray for one by name, and for missionaries reaching that nation.

9.13

Spend time asking the Lord for the strength and courage to create ministry opportunities with the lost. Sharing the Gospel is more than just telling others about Jesus; it's about sharing who Jesus is (Matthew 25:35-40).

9.14

Ask the Holy Spirit to show us the eternal urgency of being evangelists. Many things in our lives will pass away but humans are eternal beings.



The Promise

September 15-21

Shared by Prayer Team Member

God is all we need to evangelize and gives us all we need. He will always come through and never leave us.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing” (Psalm 23:1). Because of our familiarity with this verse, we sometimes fail to recognize how truly outlandish it can seem the first time you hear it. If your life is anything like mine, you are constantly reminded by life of myriads of things you “lack:” money, time, sleep, friends, peace... the list goes on. Given that problem, isn’t it odd that the author David chose this statement as the starting point for his most famous Psalm?

Throughout this 23rd Psalm, David describes God’s perfect shepherding by taking the reader to various “places” in life where His goodness is experienced: a green pasture, the valley of the shadow of death, a table with enemies and eventually the house of the Lord. It’s a reminder that in any season in which we find ourselves, God has somehow given us everything we need, not necessarily in our surroundings or our feelings, but in Him.

This reminder couldn’t be more timely as we enter into yet another week of prayer for our church to reach the lost. Again, if you’re like me, the topic of evangelism exposes many, many ways in which I feel like I’m “lacking:” lacking the perfect testimony, the right social confidence, the ability to think on my feet or all the textbook theological answers. Yet I’m reminded of other verses that support David’s outlandish claim: “The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and a sound mind.”

In Christ - you are powerful, you are loving, and you have a sound mind! You lack nothing. These are the weapons you bring to the battle of evangelism. Throughout this week, may we pray and ask God to help us use those weapons for His glory as we reach the lost.

DAYS
8-14

Daily Practice

Use these pages this week to ask God to help you cultivate a heart for the lost in your life.

9.15

Today, quiet your heart with a few minutes of silence. Then, spend a moment asking God to give confidence to all those from our church who try to have a spiritual conversation with a nonbeliever in this season. Include yourself in that prayer.

9.16

Take a brief walk in nature today. As you do, look up at the sky and trees and notice the grass and ground. Remind yourself the same God that created all of them is with you as you evangelize. Take time to thank God for that truth.

9.17

Think about a time in the past when you were scared or struggling and God helped you through it. Now thank Him for that, and thank Him that He will never leave you nor forsake you.

9.18

Make a list of 5-10 attributes of God. Now, look at that list and ponder this—the same Spirit that possesses all those attributes has been given to you. Take a moment to thank the Holy Spirit for the access He’s given you to the fullness of God.

9.19

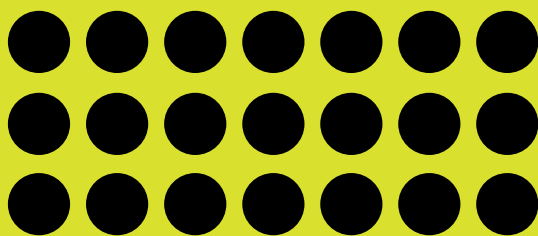
Pause and quiet your heart. Now ask the Holy Spirit to go ahead of you into your next conversation with a nonbeliever, whenever it may be. Ask Him in advance to guide that time and give Him the reins of that conversation... even before it happens!

9.20

Read Psalm 23 and think about it for a few minutes. Then, ask God to give you “His eyes to see” any nonbeliever you encounter, that you might see beyond their outward appearance or attitude and truly perceive their spiritual need. Ask for His compassion.

9.21

Listen to a favorite worship song of your choice from your computer or phone. Afterward, take a few moments to thank God for allowing us to participate in helping others find Him and then worship Him!



The Power & The Plan

September 22-28

Shared by Matthew & Julia Ragain

God has given us the Holy Spirit who empowers us for evangelism.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This scripture is literally referencing the empowerment of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of sharing the Gospel. This was true for the disciples and it is still true for us today.

It is easy to relegate these tasks that make us feel awkward to other people that seem more equipped for the role. Most of us are not ministers or people working full time in ministry.

Yet, God chose Moses to speak for Him despite Moses’ speech impediment. God chose Jonah to tell Nineveh to repent, despite Jonah’s blatant hatred for the people.

The same God that sent them has sent us. We have been chosen for this time, place, and people. God will give us what we need as we need it. All we have to do is obey God and then we will see Him work

in both the mundane and the miraculous. The Gospel is not just good news for me and you. It has the power of life and death, both on earth and in heaven. Who are we to keep that glorious truth to ourselves? May we open our eyes to those around us in a new way.

We invite you to pray this prayer today: “God, show us your heart for the people around us. Show us how to love them well and how to share the Gospel with them. Holy Spirit, empower us to do what you have commanded us to do—to make disciples.”

Matthew 28:18, “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

DAYS
15-21

Daily Practice

Use these pages this week to ask God to help you cultivate a heart for the lost in your life.

8.22

Read 1 Chronicles 16:34. Then spend some time today to reflect on the goodness of God. Thank Him for His goodness.

8.23

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3. God is faithful. Think about times in which God has been faithful to you throughout your entire life, even in the distant past.

8.24

Read John 3:16. Then spend time today thanking God for His love. Ask God to open up opportunities to share with others about the love of God.

9.25

Read Titus 3:4-7. Pause during your day to think about the ways God has been kind to you. Then spend a few moments thanking God for his kindness and mercy. Make a list of specific times in the last few months or year that God has shown His mercy and kindness to you.

9.26

Read Revelation 4:8. Remember that God is holy. Pray that the Lord will teach us to be holy as He is holy.

9.27

Read James 1:5. Take time today to thank God for providing us wisdom. Ask that the Lord will give us wisdom in our relationships with “lost” people.

9.28

Read Romans 1:16. Thank God for the gospel and the gift of salvation. Ask Him to open up doors for our non-believing friends to share the Gospel message with them.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE RESOURCES

- The Gospel in 4 Steps
- The FRAN Chart
- 15-Second Testimony

The Gospel in 4 Steps

When you're trying to share the Gospel with someone, it can be helpful to have a simple framework to start. While there are many ways to break this down, below is one way to explain the four key aspects of the Gospel.

Creation

1

God's creation was perfect; He created man perfectly to be in a perfect relationship with Him. Nothing hindered this relationship between God and man.

Fall

2

Sin entered the world and broke that perfect relationship. A Holy God could not be in communion with sin and we could not escape the curse of sin.

Redemption

3

God's solution was to pay the price of sin for us because we could never pay the cost. He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to die for us and pay the price of sin once and for all.

Restoration

4

Will we accept the free gift of salvation God has offered us through His Son and live in that restored relationship? Or will we refuse?

The FRAN Chart

The FRAN chart is a helpful tool that allows us to recognize the people around us that need to know Jesus. It's simply an acronym to help you list one person in your life that fits into each category. **Fill in the blanks below with someone you know.**

Friend _____

Relative _____

Acquaintance _____

Neighbor _____

Once you've identified each person, commit to praying 1) for your heart to be opened to what the Lord is calling you to do, and 2) that the Lord would open their hearts to receive Him. Then take time to connect with them in person over coffee, lunch, a walk, a hike or some other way that allows you time to engage in conversation.

15-Second Testimony

A very useful tool in sharing the Gospel is telling your own story of meeting Jesus! Practice identifying how Jesus changed your life with the prompts below. This simple approach should help you be able to share your testimony in 15 seconds!

- 1 Pick one word describing **who you were** before you met Jesus. *Ex: Before I met Jesus, I was hopeless.*
- 2 Pick one word describing **who you became** when you met Jesus. *Ex: When I met Jesus, I realized that I had hope in Him.*
- 3 Pick one word describing **who you are now** because of Jesus. *Ex: Now because of Jesus, I have a hope and joy that cannot be taken.*

Share your story with Asbury!

Because everyone who's met Jesus has
Good News to share!



Get more resources on the app!

Check out the We Are Asbury app for Life Group curriculum to go deeper, and reference additional resources to help you have faith conversations.

Just click the Grow tab!

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



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