

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

The Promise

Date: September 15, 2024

Text: 2 Timothy 1:6-8; John 14:6

This week's challenge (compounded with the others) is to write a 15-second testimony. This is one word describing each of the prompts:

Before I met Jesus I was _____

When I met Jesus I became _____

Because of Jesus I am _____

BIG IDEA

God knows that this calling is too much for us; that apart from Him we could never do it. Therefore, He equips us and provides all that we need in Him—He alone is the strength that we need. He gives us gifts to build His Kingdom, a strength to endure, and self-discipline. Through Jesus Christ, He fills us with love and faith, and it is only from this love that we can serve (1 Timothy 1:14). Do not fear, your role is to be faithfully obedient, and you already have all you need for that. God will take care of the rest, and He promises to never leave or forsake us.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

Conversation Starter

- Have you ever felt like our calling to share the Gospel was too much? Too hard or scary? Explain.
-

COMMENTARY #1

(2 Timothy 1:6-8) Paul encourages Timothy to be bold; but not to be bold in who he is but rather, to be bold because of Who God is in him. Chances are, Timothy was a man of normal courage who held enormous responsibility and for that, he would need to boldly rest in the security of the Holy Spirit. When we rest in this identity, we are no longer held captive by fear, doubt, or shame. We can boldly trust the testimony of the Lord and lead others to Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul tells Timothy to “stir up the gift of God in you.” What does this mean? How do we do this?
 2. Timothy was to be bold in Who God is, not who he was. How does this impact our ability to share the Gospel?
-

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

COMMENTARY #2

(John 14:6) Jesus is responding here to Thomas' question "Lord, we don't know the way so how will we go?" Jesus does not give definitive destinations or certainties; rather, He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." We do not have to know all the answers, rather, we need to know Him and from this knowing, we can trust where He leads.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus tells us to focus on Him rather than a destination?
 2. How does knowing Jesus personally allow us to trust Him more?
-

GOING DEEPER

1. If you haven't, take a spiritual gifts test. Discuss as a group how you can use your different gifts to share the Gospel.
2. How do your unique gifts compliment and complete the group?
3. What does it mean in 2 Timothy when Paul writes, "God has not given us the spirit of fear..." Why do we still face fear?

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

4. How can you “stir the Spirit of God” within you? How can you call the Spirit out in others?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sermon - [Jesus Wants Steadfast Faithfulness - 2 Timothy 1 | Lifeway](#)

Sermon (3-min) - [Verse of the Day - 2 Timothy 1:7 | NickV Ministries](#)

GROUP ACTIVITY

This week, as a church family, we looked at how to make a 15-second testimony and practiced doing this in service.

If you missed it, take time as a group to make yours following the prompts given at the beginning recap.

Once everyone has completed theirs, share it with the group.

Discuss why you picked certain words; did anyone pick the same words? Are testimonies similar or different? Why is it important to remember who we were and recognize who we are now because of Jesus?

If you feel led, share your testimony [with us here](#) or on social media and tag @weareasbury! We want to be a family that shares our stories for His glory!

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

The Promise

Date: September 15, 2024

Additional Curriculum Text: Exodus 4:1-17

BIG IDEA

God knows that this calling is too much for us; that apart from Him we could never do it. Therefore, He equips us and provides all that we need in Him—He alone is the strength that we need. He gives us gifts to build His Kingdom, a strength to endure, and self-discipline. Through Jesus Christ, He fills us with love and faith, and it is only from this love that we can serve (1 Timothy 1:14). Do not fear, your role is to be faithfully obedient, and you already have all you need for that. God will take care of the rest, and He promises to never leave or forsake us.

Conversation Starter

- What is it that have you convinced yourself “disqualifies” you from sharing your faith?
-

COMMENTARY #1

(Verses 1-5) This is a familiar story. God (as a burning bush) calls Moses to lead the Israelites. Yet, even in the face of this

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

miraculous calling, Moses can only see his own inadequacies. He asks himself the same questions we often do, “what if they don’t believe me? What if they don’t believe God sent me? How could I do this?” God responds by asking what is in Moses’ hand; He then uses the rod to show His power. The same way God would use what He had already equipped Moses with is the same way He uses our everyday routines, passions, and hobbies to glorify Him.

Discussion Questions

1. What has been a “burning bush” moment for you? A moment where God showed up in a miraculous way. Share.
 2. In light of these moments, how often do we focus on our inadequacies? What are those things that you think God can’t use?
 3. What is “in your hand?” What are the everyday routines, habits, or hobbies that you could use to share your faith?
-

COMMENTARY #2

(Verses 6-17) God continues to show Moses signs of transformation—exhibiting His ultimate authority to use and

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

transform things as He decides. But rather than be in awe of God's power, Moses is still consumed with his own weakness when he says, "I can't speak well." God again reminds Moses of His ultimate authority by asking, "Who made the mouth? The mute? The deaf? The seeing?" God was reminding Moses that the same One Who was calling him knew him intimately and wasn't concerned with Moses' weaknesses. It wasn't until Moses became *unwilling* that God became angry, proclaiming, "I will put words in your mouth, I will teach you, I will lead." God isn't concerned with our weaknesses because His strength is enough; He needs our "yes" not our perfection.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Moses only noticed his weaknesses in light of God's strength and power? Do you do this?
 2. What is something God is calling you to do that you feel "too weak" to do?
 3. What is one way that you can say "yes" to sharing your faith this week knowing that God is the One giving you words to say?
-

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

GOING DEEPER

1. What are some practical ways that God has equipped us to share our faith?
2. Name one person in your life who could help guide you in sharing your faith.
3. Have you ever done something you know you couldn't have done without the Holy Spirit? Share.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

Faith Sharing Stories

Tommy Gray

Sharing our faith can be really scary! We often believe that we're not qualified, we're going to mess it up, or that we don't speak well enough to be a witness. But God has called each of us, even in our imperfection, to tell the world about Him. He delights in using imperfect, broken people for His glory; even in our failures and missteps, He can be honored by our simple "yes." His strength is made perfect in weakness! These are some stories of what seems to be "faith sharing flops" but, as you'll see when you read them, maybe they are exactly what God could turn around and use for good.

That's Good News!

I still think about it often; I was a pastor in my early twenties. It was the end of a long day at the end of an even longer week when I got word that one of my lay leaders was in the hospital. In the words of John Wesley, "I went very unwillingly." My lay leader was in bed *B* and as I passed the young lady in bed *A*, I sensed the Lord telling me to stop and have a conversation. I ignored that voice. Instantly, the excuses flooded my brain; I was too tired, I needed to visit the member of my church, and besides, the young lady likely didn't want this stranger to interrupt her rest. So, I visited the member of my church and off I went.

After a sleepless night, I returned to the hospital to find the young woman had been discharged. I spoke with several people

THAT'S GOOD NEWS

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF SHARING OUR FAITH

WORSHIP SERIES

AUG 25 - SEP 22

and soon discovered she was in the hospital because she had tried to take her life. The pain in my heart was intense because I knew I had failed to obey the Lord's calling. Still today, this stands as a memory that motivates me to pay attention to the Spirit's prompting even if it doesn't make sense or seems inconvenient to me. I don't know what happened to the girl, but over the years, I have often found myself praying for the "young lady in bed A" hoping that she found the hope of Jesus through someone else's "yes".

I am reminded of the story from Acts 8. "Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south.'" Philip was obedient and it led to the Ethiopian Eunuch's conversion and baptism. But what if he, like I did, had said no? What if he had chosen his own convenience or comfort over what the Lord was calling him to do? I don't know if the Eunuch would've still come to know Jesus; but I do know that Philip would've missed out on the gift of being the one who introduced him to Christ. It's a gift I never again want to miss out on.

May I—may we all—be more obedient to the Spirit's leading; that even in our own busyness and routines, we stop to see those we are passing on our way. Or else, spend a lifetime wondering what God would have done with our "yes."

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch..."

Acts 8:26-27