4 Talks: Witness

Spread the word about Christ with your non-Christian friends and acquaintances

+Essentials

A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their ***action to take*** and ***person to tell*** went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"It is normal for news to spread when people who know about a subject tell others."*

  Then, surface experiences:

  "Let me tell you how I have experienced this."

  "Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"This is also true in the Christian life."*

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

  Choices:

  Matthew 28:18–20
  John 4:19–41 (story)
  Acts 4:1–13 (story)

  Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.

  Commentary:

  Matthew 28:18–20 — Jesus challenges us to pass the gospel on to others, as widely as possible. Knowing the message of Jesus Christ should motivate us to share it with others.

  John 4:19–41 — These verses show us the great impact one woman's witness had on her entire town.

  Acts 4:1–13 — This passage documents how Peter stood up to the religious leaders in Jerusalem and proclaimed that salvation is found in Christ alone. The leaders took note of his courage.
- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:

  What do you think this passage teaches us?

  What can we learn about God or our response to God?

  How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "It is normal for news to spread when people who know about a subject tell others"?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: *"Spread the word about Christ with your non-Christian friends and acquaintances."* Have them write the ***lesson learned*** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
  What are some barriers to talking about Christ with non-Christians?

  What is one action you can take this week to have a spiritual conversation with someone who doesn't know Christ?
- Have them write down their specific ***action to take.*** Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after ***person to tell.*** Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

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notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear.**

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ Matthew 28:18–20
  1. *What did Jesus command His disciples to do?*
  2. *Why do you think Jesus considered this important to tell His disciples?*
  3. *Why do you think it is important for us to do the same things today?*
- ☐ John 4:19–41
  1. *Do you think the woman at the well concluded that Jesus was an important person to listen to? Why?*
  2. *What were the results of this one woman's witness?*
- ☐ Acts 4:1–13
  1. *What would you guess were the risks to Peter and John if they witnessed about Christ?*
  2. *Despite the risks, what were some evidences of their clarity of message and courage in sharing their faith?*

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply.**
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print Witness Mini Journal.

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.