



How to Share the Gospel

Romans 1:16

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How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/power-god-salvation>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/not-ashamed-Gospel.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-gospel-is-the-power-of-god-unto-salvation>

Discussion Guide Outline:

Romans 1:16

1. The Gospel Gives Us Confidence.
2. The Gospel Transforms Lives.
3. We Must Share the Gospel with Everyone.

Romans 1:16

The Gospel Exalted

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Romans 1:16.

INTRODUCTION AND MAIN IDEA

Everyone is afraid of something. Common fears include fears of heights, snakes, spiders, or public speaking. But deep down, many of us deal with the fear of rejection. What if someone tells me no? What if someone does not accept me? What if someone does not accept what I have to say? Oftentimes we overcome these fears by either realizing we have nothing to be afraid of or receiving courage to overcome our fear.

As Christians, we are called to share the Gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Ours is not a duty of conversion—only God saves—but a duty of sharing. Since God is in control, we need not be afraid of rejection. No rejection, humiliation, or even persecution by any human being can separate us from God. And since God is in control, we can rely on Him to empower us to share the good news: “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God.” 2 Timothy 1:6-8.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. The Gospel Gives Us Confidence.

1. What are you afraid of? Have you ever been afraid of rejection or humiliation? Have you ever been afraid of being punished for sharing the truth if it was unpopular?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. What is the Gospel?

3. Consider 1 Thess. 2:1-4 and Matthew 10:26-33. Who should we fear displeasing more, God or man? Why should we not be ashamed of Jesus?

4. How does believing the Gospel—genuinely being transformed by the Gospel—give us confidence to share the Gospel with others?

II. The Gospel Transforms Lives.

5. Consider Acts 9:1-22. How did the Gospel transform the Apostle Paul? How has the Gospel transformed your life?

6. If you knew a cure to an illness, would you share it with others? Do we think the Gospel has less value for transforming lives than medicine?

7. What is powerful about the Gospel, your words when sharing it, or the core message that Jesus Christ lived a perfect life we could not, died the death we deserved, and rose from the dead so that those of us who believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life?

8. Is anyone beyond the power of God to save? If God can save a murderer like the Apostle Paul, He can save your family member, your co-worker, and those God brings into your life.

III. We Must Share the Gospel with Everyone.

9. Consider Matthew 15:24, Matthew 28:19-20, and Acts 1:8. Jesus focused His earthly ministry on calling the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But He called His disciples, including you and I, to share the Gospel with “all nations” “to the ends of the earth.” Is there any nation, tribe, people group, or person whom you should not share the Gospel? What if they look different than you? What if they have a different culture? Should you still share the Gospel with them?

10. Since “all roads led to Rome,” Paul knew that sharing the Gospel in Rome made sense to get the message out to the greatest number of people possible. Should we expect people to come to the Gospel only by coming to our church or should we try to reach them wherever they may be?

11. Are there places or circumstances in your life right now where you find yourself intersecting with people? Work? School? What are some practical ways you can share the Gospel in those places?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Rom. 1:1–17 The Gospel as the Revelation of the Righteousness of God. In this first main section, Paul includes his opening salutation (vv. 1–7), thanksgiving (vv. 8–15), and his statement of the overall theme of Romans (vv. 16–17).

Rom. 1:16–17 Theme: The Gospel of the Righteousness of God. Paul explains why he is so eager to preach the gospel everywhere: the gospel is the saving power of God, in which the righteousness of God is revealed.

Rom. 1:16 Because of their lack of size, fame, or honor in the Roman corridors of power and influence, Christians might be tempted to be ashamed of the Christian message. But Paul says it is nothing to be ashamed of, for it is in fact a message coming with the power of God that brings people to salvation. Jew first indicates the priority of the Jews in salvation history and their election as God's people. The role of the Jews is a major issue in Romans, as seen especially in the discussion in chs. 9–11. Greek is not limited here to people from Greece but refers to all Gentiles.