

*Discipleship Course*

## 8. Why should we witness?

*Being God's people today*

### The Big idea

*As God's people, we are a 'royal priesthood'. This means 'declaring God's praises' in the world and passing on the wonderful good news about Jesus to those who don't know it. This week we'll think about why we all need to be involved in this great task.*

### Introduction: What are you 'evangelistic' about?

*'You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'*

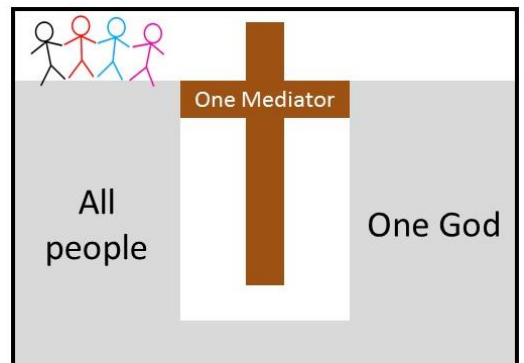
**1 Peter 2:9**

### 1. Why does everyone need to hear about Jesus? (1 Timothy 2:1-7, p. 1192)

a. There is one God who is king of all people (v3-5)

b. There is one saviour who died to ransom all people (v5-6)

c. There is one way to salvation: hearing about and trusting in Jesus (v7)



## 2. What is God's plan to make sure this happens? (Acts 1:1-8, p. 1092)

a. Christians passing on the good news...

b. ...Empowered by God's Spirit

## 3. What does all this mean for me?

➤ 'Gossip the gospel!'

*"The early spread of the gospel must have happened, not through formal preaching, but informal chattering to friends and chance acquaintances, in homes and wine shops, on walks, and around market stalls. They went everywhere gossiping the gospel; they did it naturally, enthusiastically, and with the conviction of those who are not paid to say that sort of thing. Consequently, they were taken seriously, and the movement spread, notably among the lower classes." Michael Green*

➤ How well do you know, love, and speak the good news about Jesus

## Small groups

1. How does the idea of spreading the good news about Jesus make you feel?
2. What might make us reluctant to speak about Jesus with those we know?
3. Have you had the opportunity to share the good news about Jesus before?

Read Matthew 5:13-16 (p. 969)

4. How do the two metaphors Jesus uses help us to know how his followers should relate to the world around us?
5. Where might we be in danger of 'losing our saltiness' or putting our light 'under a bowl'?
6. What is the goal of being 'salt and light' (v16)?

*Jesus is talking about much more than just 'be nice people'. Salt and light are v strikingly different to earth/darkness. Jesus is talking about being distinctively Christian in every area of life in a way that's impossible for others to miss!*

7. How might this be exciting? Challenging?

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

Jesus has just risen from the dead, and is preparing to return to his Father in heaven. Before he goes, he has one final word for his followers...

8. (In pairs?) pick out all the 'alls/everys' in v19-20.
  - What do you think each means?
  - How do they connect with each other?
9. Why is it important to remember Jesus has 'all authority' when being his witnesses?
10. Jesus tells us to 'go', rather than waiting for non-Christian people to 'come'. What does that mean for us?
11. What is the ultimate goal of our witness to Jesus? (v19-20)
12. Why is it so important to keep remembering Jesus' last words to his disciples in our witnessing?

# Taking it further in the week

## Learning your testimony

Everyone who is a Christian has a story of how God has worked in their lives. It's great to be able to tell this story to people clearly and warmly. Next week, there will be a chance to give our testimony in our small groups.

Two great rules of thumb for explaining your testimony are these

### 1. *'Make it about Jesus'*

Jesus is the heart of our faith. So explain how you came to understand all that he has done for us, and what it's meant to you personally to experience his love and forgiveness and to live in a relationship with him.

### 2. *'Make it about three minutes'*

There is no need to explain every last detail, and often in a normal conversation we're simply answering a question, and it would be weird for it to go on too long. We also need to know how to explain our testimony informally, without being worried about exact words, or needing any notes!

## Learning the ABC

This is a simple way to remember the logic of the gospel so we can explain it to others. It's not perfect, and obviously misses lots out. But it's a great start.

### Admitt

God made us and has full rights to our love and obedience as our creator. However we have rejected him, and live not for him but for ourselves. We need to admit this is the case.

### Believe

Because of his love, God sent Jesus into the world to die on cross to face the punishment our sin deserves. He rose from the dead showing that the price had been fully paid. We need to 'believe' this: not just that it happened, but that it was for *our* sin that Jesus died and rose again, offering *us* forgiveness.

### Come

Jesus invites all to come to him as their saviour (who offers forgiveness), and their Lord (who must now call the shots in our lives). To become a Christian, someone must come to Jesus and personally accept all he's done for him, and commit to follow him as Lord.