

Talk It Over

EVERYDAY FAITH (Week 4) Witness

SMALL TALK

1. How comfortable are you talking about your faith with someone who does not believe as you do? If you are comfortable or uncomfortable? What are some of your reasons?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Acts 1:8.** How accurate is the statement, "Every Jesus follower is a witness"? What did Jesus promise that his followers would receive and how does this promise help us as his witnesses? What does a witness do? (Acts 22:15; 4:20)
3. **READ Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 3:15** What are some of the "Everyday Faith" behaviors that are described? How do these help you in your calling as a witness?
4. **READ John 15:4-5** What difference does knowing and obeying this teaching make in your calling as his witness?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Who did God use as his witness to help bring you to faith in Jesus? What was their approach like?
6. Who can you love and serve who does not yet know Jesus as their savior? As a group pray for these people.

MAKING PROGRESS

7. One of our core statements is "Saved people serve people". Why is this important to our calling as one of Jesus' witnesses? Who will you serve this week? How?

August 30, 2020

1. Everyday Faith
2. Worship
3. Word
4. **Witness**

Every Day, and in everyday ways. This is the 4th and last message in this Everyday Faith series that is designed to help you move from a **Sunday faith to an everyday faith-** to help you move from **religion to an everyday relationship-** to help you move from a **private inward faith to an action oriented faith.**

Review:

WORSHIP:

Is an Everyday RELATIONSHIP, earnestly seeking God, knowing that he rewards those that do

WORD:

More than believing the facts. Believing facts is not enough! It means knowing the resurrected Jesus, in a personal way that transform us.

What we believe is impressed on our hearts. We want to live like Jesus.

We want to please him more than pleasing ourselves.

Everyday Faith is a faith that trusts God when he commands something. Trusting enough to obey what he commands.

Theme Verse For The Series

*Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.***

For those doing the everyday faith challenge, I hope this is a memorized verse now, for you. I love the promise! He rewards those who earnestly seek him.

I imagine some of you who are doing the 30 day challenge have already experienced some of the rewards these last 20+ days. If you aren't paying attention and looking for them, you can miss them. They are usually "Everyday" rewards.

Rewards like encouragement, & motivation, when I felt tired, empty, and well, just DONE, or even UNDONE. Everyday is a reset. Everyday I need to earnestly seek him. That's how he made me and you even if you don't know it yet.

The rewards for earnestly seeking God are *not just pie in the sky by and by. Not just going to heaven when we die.* It is a transformed life and purpose.

You want meaning? **ME**aning is a bigger word than **ME**.

Our lives now can make a difference for others forever.

I. **Every Jesus follower is a WITNESS.**

This is at the very core of what it means to following Jesus!

Acts 1:8 (NIV2011) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

But let's be honest, so many of us are intimidated by what Jesus asked us to do as followers. We feel inadequate and intimidated.

There is no need to be intimidated.

Here is what you do:

- Stay revived through your "everyday faith" practices.
- Pray for and look for opportunities to meet unbelievers.

- Build relationships with them by loving them and serving them.
- Then simply follow God's leading

II. TALK about what you have EXPERIENCED

Acts 22:15 (CSB) “since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:20 CSB (CSB) “for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

- You cannot be a witness if you have not witnessed it.
- In a court of law, a witness testifies about what was personally experienced firsthand.
- This is also true as we are talking about being a witness for Jesus.

III. This is your TESTIMONY about God's POWER

Acts 1:8 (NIV2011) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Only by experiencing the Holy Spirit's power in your life are you equipped to be witnesses of Jesus.
- If you have not experienced God's life transforming power your “testimony” will only sound like hollow words.
- You don't have to wait till you are perfect to be a witness!

IV. God changes my MESS ... into a MESSAGE

- Each of us is a mess apart from Jesus.
- You can be a believer in Jesus and still be a broken mess.
- We still sin. When we sin, we experience broken fellowship with God. But the good news is that God provided us with a solution to restore back to made right with him.

1 John 1:8-10 (NIV2011) {8} If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess

our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. {10} If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Address your **mess** with the gospel
and your **mess** can become part of your **message**.

When we build a relationship with an unbeliever and can talk about our messes we demonstrate vulnerability.

EXAMPLES: Recovery ministry. Divorcee... Recovery and Marriage ministry.

Jesus took her messy broken pieces and pieced it back together and changed the mess into a good news message that helps other people who feel all messed up find hope.

When Jesus addresses our messes, and we are vulnerable enough to talk about it, our lives sound real instead of phony. Even if they don't believe in God, people will listen and they can relate...

You can explain how God meets you in your broken mess and how he puts you back together again. Listen, Humpty Dumpty, God CAN put you back together again. He does every time I humbly confess my sin and return to him.

Here is another example:

“It is only as I repent of my unlove that I have His love; only as I confess my worry and lack of peace that I have His peace; only as I

confess my impatience that I have His patience; only as I confess my resentment that I have His gentleness, and so on.”

--Roy and Revel Hession, *We Would See Jesus*

When Jesus puts you back together again **You can't help but talk about that.**

Stay revived in everyday faith practices.

Pray for and look for opportunities to meet unbelievers.

Build relationships by loving them and serving them.

Talk about what God is doing in your life.

This is real and it is powerful.

Acts 2:47 (the last sentence in chapter 2) Says “And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.” This is how EVERYDAY faith works. He doesn't wait for Sundays. Every day, with Everyday people, he makes a difference Every Day.

Would you imagine with me what would happen if we all stopped treating church as something we do and we decided it is who we are, followers of Jesus on a mission everyday! Would you do more than imagine, would you pray with me and ask God to help you live our your everyday faith on a mission?