

Leaders' Guide, BS 6: Talk It Up

Goal: That God would help students to overcome their fears and do the right thing (evangelism) from the right motive (biblical convictions) with the right power source - the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Vision (2 minutes)

We want to be a Christ-centered community demonstrating compassion to MSU and campuses around the world. As much as we exist for one another, we also exist for the other 45,000 students at MSU. Here we want to reach in to each other's lives within this group but also to people outside this group who don't know Christ. This is a place where you can bring those who you are reaching out to. What would make this a place that you would want to bring your friends to?

Getting to know you

Hook:

- ❑ Can you think of a situation in your life when you knew the right thing to do, but you just didn't do it? What was the situation and what kept you from doing the right thing?
- ❑ What keeps you from sharing your faith in Christ with others who don't know Him?

As always, be honest with your own fears in sharing about Christ with others if the group doesn't open up

Context (The epistle of 2 Corinthians was written to the Christians at Corinth by the Apostle Paul in A.D. 56. Paul's purpose in 2 Corinthians is to defend his message and ministry among the Corinthians in light of attacks from false apostles infiltrating the church. Consequently, this is one of the most personal of Paul's letters. Paul feared that the Corinthians would be "led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (11:3). In this instance, the Gospel was directly linked to the Corinthian acceptance of Paul's genuine, God-given message.)

Book and Look

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-15

- ❑ What initial are your initial observations or thoughts from reading this section?
- ❑ From v.11, what is one thing that motivated Paul to persuade others of the truth of the Gospel and the truth about himself?
- ❑ What do you think it means to "fear the Lord"
Not in terror or fright, but rather ... "Reverential awe that Paul had for Christ as his divine assessor and judge." from the Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 10, p. 350. "Fear is the response of humbly bowing before God as Creator and Lord of history. It is recognizing that He is King of our lives, King of the universe, and

therefore He alone deserves glory and our obedience." from Tell It Often, Tell It Well, Mark McCloskey, HLP 1985, p. 140.

(If questions come up about v.12-13, Paul was basically defending himself to the believers in Corinth from people who were attacking his character and the truth about Jesus. If you want to know more, read a commentary on www.studylight.org©)

- ❑ From v.14, what is another thing that motivated Paul to tell other of the truth about Jesus?
"Christ's love compels us"
- ❑ What do you think it means to be compelled by the love of Christ?
The Greek word "sunechei" means "to be held together," "confirmed," or "pressed from all sides." The picture generated by this word is of the love of Christ pressing in on and surrounding Paul, removing from him all pursuit except unselfish, radical commitment to the person and purposes of Jesus." Tell It Often, Tell It Well, pp. 143, 144.

Took:

- ❑ Paul was motivated to tell others about Jesus both by the fear of the Lord and the love of Christ. What difference should these truths make in our own lives?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

- ❑ What initial are your initial observations or thoughts from reading this section?
- ❑ What does it mean to "regard no one from a worldly point of view"?
Not making superficial judgements about people or viewing them based on external appearances, but rather viewing them from a spiritual point of view- viewing people the way God views people.
- ❑ We talked about this last week, but from v.17, what does it mean to be a new creation in Christ?
- ❑ From v.21, what does it mean to be Christ's ambassador?
Paul viewed himself as one commissioned as an envoy or messenger for Jesus Christ. Similarly, we are representatives of Christ to the world.

Took:

- ❑ Do you ever find yourself viewing people from a "worldly point of view"? If so how?

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- ☐ Paul was also motivated to tell others about Jesus by viewing them from God's perspective and by knowing that he is Christ's ambassador. What difference should these truths make in our lives?

Overall Took:

- ☐ What is one practical way you can begin telling others about Christ this week? Who is someone here at MSU (on your dorm floor, in your classes, etc.) that you would like to talk to about Jesus?

- ☐ What are some ways that you can initiate a spiritual conversation with another person?

Possible questions you can ask:

1. *What was your religious background? Was it a positive or negative experience?*
2. *What words would you use to describe your life spiritually?*
3. *Have you ever experienced God? If so, how?*
4. *What do you think it means to be a Christian?*
5. *What is your opinion of Christians?*
6. *Who do you think Jesus is? What was His purpose of coming to earth?*

(Take some time to pass out Knowing God Personally booklets to everyone in the BS. Read through the booklet together and explain that this is an easy way to share what it means to have a relationship with God to another person. Follow-up with the guys/girls in your study individually to make sure that THEY have a relationship with God. Never assume☺)

Prayer

Take some time to pray for one another. Specifically pray for the areas mentioned in the application time.

Announcements

Along with the normal announcements like Real Life, you will want to mention that our fall getaway will be coming up October 20-22.