

## **A What should we share?**

### **❖ The Great Commission**

- “Go... [to] all nations” was the command Jesus gave to the people who had gathered to see him after his resurrection (Mt. 28:18-19a).
- What were they to do? They were to go and make disciples. That is, to contact people, baptize them, and teach them to be disciples of Jesus (Mt. 28:19-20).
- Those disciples, in turn, taught other disciples... and so on for two thousand years... until our own day. Now, we are the ones who receive Jesus' command.
- Like Peter and John, “we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). We can speak from a pulpit, cry out in the streets, share our testimony on social media, or simply share it with someone. We are all involved.

## **B How can we share?**

### **❖ Imitating Jesus**

- What motivated Jesus to seek out the “lost sheep” (Matthew 15:24)? Undoubtedly, it was his love for us (Matthew 9:36; Ephesians 5:2). He has also placed his love within us, so that we may share it with those who do not yet know Jesus. Sometimes, people try to force others to accept Jesus for their own good. But that is not the method God chose.
- God did not force Adam and Eve not to sin. He did not force the antediluvians to enter the ark. He did not force the Ninevites to accept him. He spoke to them with love and warned them of the consequences of following their own paths.
- By imitating Jesus, we show His love to others, and invite them to follow Him.

### **❖ Cultivating friendship**

- We are all preachers of Jesus and are commanded to prepare ourselves for this. (1 Peter 3:15). But not all of us know how to preach. However, we have the promise that God himself will give us the necessary words (Isaiah 50:4).
- Here are some simple tips to keep in mind as you consider how to be more intentional about sharing Jesus with others:
  - (1) Get to know someone and build a friendship over time
  - (2) Pray for the Holy Spirit to work on the person’s heart. Pray for the right opportunities to interact with them
  - (3) Look for natural ways to talk about your own faith experiences or offer a prayer for them
  - (4) Find ways to connect your new friend with others from your church
  - (5) Pray about the specific needs or questions your new friend might have
  - (6) Look for an opportunity to show them how the Bible offers comfort, advice, and guidance in our lives
  - (7) There will come a time you’ll want to ask if your friend would like to study the Bible with you. Later, your friend may wish to get baptized

## **C How to bring back those who left?**

### **❖ God seeks his children**

- At a certain point, God's people split: Ephraim (the northern kingdom) abandoned God; Judah (the southern kingdom) remained faithful.
- Despite his abandonment, God continued to regard Ephraim as his beloved son. (Jer. 31:20). He even depicted his grandmother, Rachel, as weeping for her sons, who had died in their sins (Jer. 31:15).
- Those who served God and then abandoned Him, God continues to call out to them with love. They are His children, and He loves them and persistently urges them to return to Him.
- Perhaps some of our own children, who once knew the faith, have abandoned it. Far from turning our backs on them, we must continue to love them and speak kindly to them. God reminds us that they are the object of His tenderest compassion, and He earnestly desires that they return to Him.

### **❖ We are looking for the one who left**

- Our spouse; our son; our daughter; our friend; our neighbor; that brother or sister who used to sit on that pew... One day they worshipped with us, but now, where are they?
- There are many reasons why people leave the church. We are not called to judge their reasons, criticize their motives, or simply forget about them.
- Our duty is to go and find them and bring them back to the fold. How do we do this? First, by praying. Second, by being an example of love and kindness toward them.
- The testimony of your life, your actions, words, and prayers for someone who has strayed from God can radically change their life and their future.