



Day 31 The Heart for the Lost

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Lk 19:10).

For the last phase of the campaign, we are focusing on sharing the Good News. The first key in sharing the Good News is to understand the “why”. The more we focus on the “why”, the easier for us to figure out the “how”.

This scripture spells out the mission of Jesus Christ—the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Jesus also said, “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” (Jn 20:21).

In Luke 15, Jesus gave three parables in a row—the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. In each of this parable, something of great value was lost, something that really mattered. The lost sheep was very important to the shepherd, it represented a significant part of his livelihood. The lost coin was vital to the woman’s survival (in that tradition, the coin is part of the dowry, almost equivalent to a modern-day engagement diamond ring, an important part of her estate). It goes without saying, the wayward son mattered to the father.

What was missing was important enough to warrant an all-out search. The sheep got lost and the shepherd went out looking until he found it. The coin was missing, so the woman hunted through her house until she located it. In the story of the wayward son, the father exercised restraint because he respected the boy’s freedom and wanted to let him learn some hard lessons. But his eyes kept scanning the horizon, waiting for the day when his son would come back home. The question is, “Is our commitment to seek and rescue greater than the search and destroy of Satan?”

The shepherd left the ninety-nine to search for ONE. Is there ONE in your sphere of influence that you need to reach out to? He has sent you. If you were the one lost in the middle of nowhere, would you have sent yourself to be the rescue team? Are you a trustworthy search and rescue team member?

Prayer

Father, I thank you that you searched for me until I was found. Today, I pray you give me a renewed sense of urgency to go after those who are lost.



Day 32 God's Ambassadors

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" (2 Cor 5:19-20).

An ambassador is a person who is sent from one country to another to represent his/her home country's people, government, and interests while developing relationship with their host country. As a Christian, you are Christ's ambassador. Your citizenship is in God's kingdom, but you have been sent here to represent Jesus, to support and encourage your fellow citizens, and to bring peace and prosperity.

One of the functions of a diplomat is to broker peace agreements. God does not make war on us; we make war on God. In effect, our sin is a declaration of war, a rebellion against God. Jesus came as the one and only mediator, and through his death and resurrection, He satisfied God's terms for the peace treaty. Now as the ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, it is our responsibility to announce and to proclaim this message of reconciliation accurately and faithfully. It says, "we speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God'". What an incredible privilege as well as responsibility. We are offering eternal "peace treaty" to those that we share the gospel to.

As you go about your day, think about this fact—you are representing the Kingdom and the King. Do you think you represent Him well, so that people would know His love, goodness, authority, and power through your life and testimony?

Prayer

Father, thank you for giving me the ministry of reconciliation and making me your ambassador. Help me to represent you well in all I do and say, so that I can draw people back to you.



Day 33 Divine Intersections

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

One of the key things in evangelism is to stay attune and be co-operative with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can empower us as well as guide us in sharing the good news.

In Acts, Philip was preaching the gospel in the city of Samaria when the Holy Spirit re-positioned him for a divine appointment. The angel of the Lord directed him to go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he met the treasurer of Ethiopia who was travelling in a carriage. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk alongside the carriage”. Philip immediately obeyed and as he did that, he heard the Ethiopian official reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip then engaged in a conversation with him and led him to the Lord. That one conversion brought the gospel to Ethiopia. It was divinely orchestrated by the Holy Spirit.

Yet that divine appointment would not have happened had Philip not been attuned to the Holy Spirit and was not willing to respond in obedience. The Holy Spirit did not explain to Philip why he had to walk alongside the carriage. It was only after he took that step of obedience that the plan became apparent. This is the life of faith. A pastor was telling the story of how he was mowing the lawn when the Holy Spirit spoke to him to bring food to the neighbour across the street. When he did that, the neighbour broke down and cried. The neighbour was recently diagnosed with cancer, he was looking out of the window and saw this man mowing the lawn (the neighbour knew he was a Christian) and prayed : “Lord, if you are real, you will send him to bring a plate of food for me”. Later the man accepted Christ and died soon after. What would have happened if this pastor did not obey the prompting?

God’s spirit will want to guide us into such spiritual conversations today.

Prayer

Father, open my ears to hear your guidance today. I pray for divine appointments and divine intersections that I can be used to bring people into your Kingdom.



Day 34 Make Your Friends Their Friends

“Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi’s fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them.” (Luke 5:29)

After Levi (Matthew) the tax collector came to know the Lord, he invited his tax collector friends to his house for dinner with Jesus and his disciples. There his friends might rub shoulders with Jesus in a safe and hospitable environment.

Sam Chan, the author of *Evangelism in a Sceptical World*, suggests that we should make our friends their (non-Christian) friends. Ps Andy Gourley, the founder of Red Frogs, also uses the same approach in evangelism. He simply includes some of his non-Christian friends whenever he does something with other Christians whether it be skate boarding, movie, basketball, etc.

Sam Chan also suggests the coffee, dinner, gospel approach. He says that Australians are incredibly private people when it comes to their personal lives. They find it threatening to talk about serious things in a public space. This mean we need to build up trust progressively. We can start with something casual such as a BBQ in the park, then maybe coffee and perhaps then progress to dinner at home. In that home environment, the conversation may get beyond the superficial topics e.g. weather, holidays, hobby to something more meaningful e.g. beliefs and values. (Read more in our *Mature Partners* book, Week 1 Day 2)

What have you planned to do with your Christian friends this week? Why not invite a couple of your non-Christian friends along?

Prayer

Lord, help me to bring my non-Christian friends into my other friendship circle. Help me to create opportunities for friendship bridges to be built and that people can come to know Christ naturally.

Day 35 Sharing Your Testimony

“If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way” (1 Pet 3:15-16)

One of the most effective tools you have for sharing your faith is the story of how Jesus Christ gave you eternal life and how He enriched your life. In fact, here it says, we should always be ready to explain our hope as a believer.

When the Apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa (Acts 26), he spoke simply, logically, and clearly about his life before salvation, how he met Christ and what his life was like after conversion. Paul was in a tight spot, as the author of half the New Testament, he could have given a brilliant exposition of the Old Testament or the law or the gospel. Yet he chose to tell his story. Revelation 12:11 tells us that we overcome the devil by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony. There is tremendous power in our salvation story.

Paul’s testimony in Acts 26 is certainly a good model you can follow to prepare your testimony:

Before: What were some of the unsatisfied deep needs you had before you came to know Christ e.g. loneliness, lack of peace, no meaning in life, etc. and what unsatisfactory solutions did you use to attempt to meet those needs e.g. work, hobby, alcohol, drugs, etc.

How: Describe the circumstances/events that led you to your conversion. Paint the picture of how you responded to God’s love, and what repentance looked like for you.

After: How did God’s love change your life? Give some specific examples of ongoing benefits of following Christ i.e. forgiveness, new life purpose, victory, etc. (for more tips of how to share a testimony, refer to our Make Disciples Book, Week 4 Day 3)

Your testimony can serve as a door opener or a convincing tool. Be prepared to share yours this week with the people you have been praying for.

Prayer

Father, thank you for what you have done in my life. Teach me to share your love and grace to others so that they too can experience your love.

Day 36 Clear Message

“But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” (Rom 10:14)

Francis Assisi said, “Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words”. But yet there is no substitute to explaining the gospel. Though we may express love through acts of kindness, we still must at some point be able to explain the gospel clearly.

Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world. Light makes things visible and helps us see them for what they really are. When we look into the biblical use of the term “light”, the main idea that emerges is that of clearly and attractively presenting God’s truth to others, illuminating it in order to show it for what it really is. We’re told that when the message of Christ was first clarified to us, “God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Cor 4:5-6)

The Roman Road is a very good format to explain the gospel:

Romans 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Roman 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Prayer

Father, help me to shine the light clearly so that others can find the way and learn the truth about Jesus and the cross.



Day 37 A Net for Evangelism

*“After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God’s servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow”
(1 Cor 3:5-6)*

Paul portrayed evangelism as planting—a process that takes time, effort, and ultimately dependent upon the Lord.

This verse highlights the fact that we must not inappropriately rush or push a person to accept Jesus. It takes time to understand the message, believe it, and act on it. Seldom do people hear the message for the first time and commit their lives to Christ. We must patiently bring people along, step by step.

Sometimes we are the one who plants the seed, other times we may be the one who bring in the harvest. Evangelist Cliff Knechtle says, “A person’s coming to Christ is like a chain with many links. There is the first link, middle links, and a last link. There are many influences and conversations that precede a person’s decision to convert to Christ. I know the joy of being the first link at times, a middle link usually and occasionally the last link”. We do not have to feel that we individually carry the full burden of leading family and friends all the way to the point of trusting Christ.

It should also remind us to partner with other Christians, link up our strengths and abilities in order to lead people to Christ. When Jesus told his disciples that he would make them fishers of men, he did not have in mind, each person going out individually with a fishing rod; in those days, the fishermen fished in groups using nets. Work together as a connect group or in twos or threes to share the gospel.

Prayer

Father, help me to be patient and not give up easily when I do not see the result straight away in sharing the gospel. Help me to sow seeds faithfully and help me to work together with other brothers and sisters.

Day 38 Discipleship

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:19-20)

Paul was one of the greatest evangelists who has ever lived. Largely on foot, he travelled the nations winning souls to Christ wherever he went. Yet, he understood the deep and essential value of discipleship. Wherever he went, he not only won souls into the kingdom, but he also took the time to disciple them in God’s way. Our love for others should go beyond merely seeing people come to Christ; we must go on to disciple them until they are on the journey to be conformed into the image of Jesus.

A disciple is a learner, a student and a follower of Jesus. In ICC, we put the five “E” as the measure of discipleship based on 1 John.

- Encounter Christ—as Lord and Saviour. It also means to have a **revelation** and daily relationship with God.
Milestones: Water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism.
- Enforce the new life—from Sin to Grace (**separation**).
Milestones: Encounter Camp.
- Enjoy God’s word—Journal, pray and obey the Bible (**transformation**)
Milestones: Journaling.
- Engage in the local church—love and serve people (**activation**)
Milestones: Spiritual gifts identified and activated into works of service. Committed to celebration services and connect groups.
- Evangelise the lost children of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Milestones: Can share personal testimony confidently; bring someone to Christ.

It takes a disciple to make disciples. Do you need to be disciplined? Have you ever had someone going through the Make Disciples book together with you? And if you had, will you be willing to take what you learn to disciple one other person?

Prayer

Father, help me to go and make disciples and not just converts. Give me the capacity to grow as a disciple and also the capacity to disciple others.



Day 39 Not a Solo Job

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Prov 27:17)

The Redwood trees in Northern California are some of the largest trees in the world. Imagine a tree more than two hundred feet tall and twenty feet wide. Now imagine someone handing you a dull axe and an axe sharpening tool, then telling you, “You have three hours to chop this down”. Would you start striking the tree immediately in order to make progress as soon as possible, or would you spend your initial time sharpening the axe so that every swing at the tree was much more productive.

Discipleship and growing in Christlike character do not happen in a vacuum. God often uses those iron-sharpening-iron relationships to cause us to mature and grow in our Christlike character.

In fact, a lifestyle of accountability and mutual submission with other Christ followers is essential to remain deeply connected to Christ. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near”. Notice that we can motivate one another to acts of kindness and good work and that a lifestyle of love is possible when we are in an environment where we can encourage one another.

As we come to the end of the campaign, and as restrictions are being lifted so that we can gather together as a church, let us prioritise “our meeting together”, and not allow fear or inconvenience to stop us. Or else, we might lose the cutting edge in our spiritual walk and in danger of remaining dull and uninspired.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the people and blessings you have put in my path to encourage me. You know those whom you intend to be part of stirring me up towards love and good works. I ask for your forgiveness for the times that I have neglected to meet with others in this way. I choose to surrender myself to you and ask that you remove any hindrance to a life of deep connections to others. Remove my pride. Remove my fear of rejection. Help me to grow in my connections to others.



Day 40 Keep Receiving

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns” (Phil 1:6)

To enter a lifestyle (not a campaign) of love is no small thing. We have times when we fail and will need to humble ourselves and ask God’s forgiveness. We believe the Spirit of God who has begun the good work will bring it to completion.

Remember that the author of love is God. We cannot give what we have not first received. He said, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). If you ever feel differently on a certain day, stand on this promise and accept what He has said about you as the truth and walk in it daily as your daily inheritance as one of His children.

Remember that love is choice—a choice to prefer others above yourself. Love also needs to be demonstrated. Each day remember to practice tangible expression of love to those around you. We need to continue to practice that. For example, a pianist may play the piano for leisure, but he/she also needs to “practice” to upgrade his skills. When you practice, you polish songs you already know as well as dive into new songs that challenge you and take more works. If we do not practice, we forget what we have learned, and we do not expand our talents. This is also true in developing a lifestyle of love. We will forget what we have learned unless we consciously practice that each day.

Finally, remember the greatest expression of love is to share the gospel with others and see their lives change for eternity.

Prayer

Father, thank you for the journey you have brought me through these few weeks. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to mould me into the image of Christ.