

GOD SENDS US TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: I AM IN CHRIST
SERIES: GOD IS HOLY—I AM A SINNER/SAINT

BIG TRUTH: GOD SENDS US TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 16:6-10

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:18B-19

“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,”

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus followers are God’s ambassadors.
- To share the gospel, we must use words.
- We need the Holy Spirit to help us make the gospel known.

BIBLE PASSAGE: EPHESIANS 6:18B-24

TRANSFORM - I AM IN CHRIST

The Transform Year is an exploration of what it means to become a “new creation” in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) In order for this to happen, we must first find our identity in Him. Many of us live in a consistent state of identity crises. We wrestle with questions like who am I, where do I belong, why do I exist? The answer to these questions is found in Jesus. Our prayer for this semester is that like the Apostle Paul we would be able to say, “I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- God is holy and we are separated from Him in our sin.
- The gospel transforms sinners into saints.
- The Christian life is about becoming who we already are in Christ.



Every student should feel...

- The depth of their sin against the holy God.
- Wonder and awe at the good news of the gospel.
- Secure in the identity that they now have in Jesus.



Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire book of Ephesians
- Memorize the Bible Verse each week during the Ephesians series.
- Learn how to use a commentary.



Every student should want to...

- Be transformed by the gospel.
- Put sin to death and pursue holiness.
- Share the good news of the gospel.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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GOD SENDS US TO MAKE
HIM KNOWN**BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 6:18B-19**

“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,”

Believers are called to keep alert and to persevere.

“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saint...”

- Paul gives the formula for a believer to live in victory over his or her flesh nature in these verses in Ephesians. It's easy as a believer to live unaware of the spiritual battle taking place every day. Paul exhorts believers to keep alert, to be watchful, to live in the knowledge that we are always at war against the darkness of our flesh nature and this world.
- Paul also encourages believers to keep living for Christ, or to persevere. Christ-followers are promised troubles and struggle because of the darkness of this world, but they are also promised God's help. Paul knew very well the struggles of being a follower of Jesus. From his own experience, he knew the spiritual battle and the temptation to give up, but he exhorted the Ephesians to never give up. As believers, we must be watchful, knowledgeable, and strong in the Lord.

Believers are called to verbally share the gospel.

“and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.”

- Paul asks the Ephesians to pray for him as he shares the gospel. Paul is not alone in his call to share the good news of Jesus with the world. Every believer is called to share the gospel with the world. As we seek to share the gospel, we must verbally do so. Though it is important that our lives do not detract from the truth of the gospel, we cannot merely live moral lives and call it sharing the gospel.
- God has reconciled His children and given them the job of being His ambassadors to the world. God has chosen to use His people to carry His message to those who are perishing. We are all called to seek out the lost and verbally tell them the gospel story in hopes that God's Spirit draws them to faith in Jesus.

Believers can boldly share the gospel.

“that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.”

- Paul lived a bold life for Jesus, yet he asked the Ephesians to pray that he speak boldly. Believers have the same access to God in prayer and can pray for boldness to share the gospel with others. We can trust that God will give us the words to say and will guide us as we share the truth about Jesus.

GOD SENDS US TO MAKE
HIM KNOWN**BIG IDEA #1: JESUS FOLLOWERS ARE GOD'S AMBASSADORS.¹****[THIS]**

An ambassador is someone who acts as a representative of someone or something. Paul describes himself as an ambassador of Christ in Ephesians 6:20. Paul is not the only ambassador, as he says in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that believers are all Christ's ambassadors. God is appealing to unbelievers through us. Being God's ambassador means that we have the responsibility of sharing the gospel with an unbelieving world. Just as Paul gave his life to the cause of Christ, every believer is called to die to themselves and to boldly share the gospel with the world.

[THEREFORE]**Are you living like an ambassador of Christ? Why or why not?**

In Romans 1:16, Paul declares that he is not ashamed of the gospel, though it is foolishness to the unbelieving. When we are ambassadors of Christ, we are not ashamed of the truth. In 1 Peter 3:15, believers are encouraged to be ready to answer why they believe the gospel. Being an ambassador means being knowledgeable of the truth. Lastly, Philemon 1:6 teaches us that sharing the gospel grows us spiritually.

[THIS]

We can share the gospel boldly because we have the Holy Spirit to give us power. Paul lived a life of boldness in everything that he did because of the Holy Spirit inside of him. When we live controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will receive power to share the gospel boldly no matter the cost to us. Just as Paul's life was fully submitted to serving Christ, our lives should be fully committed to being God's ambassador. Romans 10:14 shows us that it is God's plan that His people verbally share the good news of the gospel with all the world. It is through this audible sharing and hearing of the word that faith is given to those called by God.

[THEREFORE]**What fears or hindrances keep you from sharing the gospel with others?**

1 Peter 4:16 says that those who suffer for Christ's sake should not be ashamed, but should glorify God instead. Sometimes the fear of ridicule or suffering keeps our mouths silent. John 15:18 tells us that the world hated Jesus and it will hate His followers. Persecution should be expected and accepted as part of boldly sharing the gospel. Luke 6:22 tells us that those who suffer for Christ's sake are blessed by God. We can trust in God to care for us when we suffer as His ambassador.

How do we grow in boldness as God's ambassadors?

Psalm 34:4 is a great reminder that God is always available to His children. When we are fearful, we can call on Him and He will give us boldness. Psalm 118:6 teaches us that we do not have to fear man when we are following God. God is greater and mightier than man. 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that we do not have a spirit of fear and timidity, but one of boldness. This spirit is the Holy Spirit who is fully God and mightier than anything we will ever face in this world. Because of this Spirit, we can boldly share the gospel.

1. Ephesians 6:20: Paul called himself an ambassador because we are all ambassadors for Christ.

GOD SENDS US TO MAKE
HIM KNOWN**BIG IDEA #2: TO SHARE THE GOSPEL, WE MUST USE WORDS.²****[THIS]**

In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asks the Ephesians to pray that he be given words to boldly share the gospel. This request implies that in order to adequately share the gospel, words are necessary. God designed man to be relational and it is His design that the gospel is shared from a believing person to unbelieving people. Though it is important that we live holy and set apart lives, our life alone is not enough to count as sharing the gospel. The gospel is not a silent gospel; it is vocal, appearing foolish to those who are perishing and eliciting great rejoicing from those who are saved by it. As ambassadors, we get to tell others about Jesus who came to the earth, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross for our sins. We are granted the opportunity to participate personally in God's great plan of redemption.

[THEREFORE]**What words can you use to share the gospel?**

John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world and sent His Son to reconcile the world to Himself. This verse teaches that belief in Jesus' redemption on the cross is necessary for salvation. Romans 10:9-13 teaches us that we must confess with our mouths and that our belief is in our hearts. Acts 2:38 reveals repentance is part of salvation.

How have someone else's gospel words impacted your life?

Ephesians 1:13-14 teaches us that the gospel changes our lives. We are sealed in our salvation by the gift of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:15-18 shows us that the gospel words of someone else can transform our lives because it is the way in which we can receive faith and be made into new creations.

[THIS]

If we are to fulfill God's plan, we will share His good news with the world. Just as Paul taught in Romans 10:14 that faith comes from hearing the gospel, people cannot believe the gospel if they do not hear it. As ambassadors, we have the great responsibility to share the life-saving news with unbelievers. We can speak boldly when we use the power of the Spirit. As we seek to obey God fully, we will share the gospel with all those we know who do not believe.

[THEREFORE]**How has seeing others boldly share the gospel affected your own sharing of the gospel?**

In Acts 4:13 and Philippians 1:14, a boldness in proclaiming God's truth led to other believers growing in their own boldness. Our actions impact our fellow Christians. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 also shows us that our boldness encourages others to be bold and that we do not have a spirit of fear.

2. Ephesians 6:19: Paul prayed for words to be to given to him to share the gospel because words are required to share the gospel.

GOD SENDS US TO MAKE
HIM KNOWN**BIG IDEA #3: WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US MAKE THE GOSPEL KNOWN.³****[THIS]**

In Ephesians 6:19-20, when Paul speaks of boldness, he is seeking a boldness that comes from the Holy Spirit. The gospel is a mystery, yet through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make the mystery known to those God is drawing to Himself. We are vessels used by God to gather His people to Himself. We cannot save people, because it is the Spirit who makes the gospel clear. When we share the gospel, we need a work of the Spirit to use our words to reveal truth to the unbeliever and draw them to repentance.

[THEREFORE]

How does the Holy Spirit enable and embolden us to share the gospel with others?

Because of the truth found in Romans 8:15 about our new identity as adopted sons and daughters, we can boldly live out God's purpose and plan in sharing the gospel. Also, 1 John 5:14 offers encouragement as we seek to live as God's faithful ambassadors. As seen in Luke 12:12, the Spirit gives us the words to share as we represent Christ.

What is an obstacle that keeps you from relying on the Holy Spirit as you share the gospel?

2 Corinthians 5:7 speaks to an obstacle to our walking in the Spirit and living by the Spirit. Our spiritual journey is one accomplished by faith, not necessarily by sight. We must believe that we have power in the Spirit in order to boldly share the gospel. Psalm 119:105 shows us the value of knowing God's Word and being led by it. When we know God's Word and immerse ourselves in it, we will rely upon the Spirit to do all things, especially share the gospel.

[THIS]

Just as Paul prayed for boldness, we can too! We must walk by faith, relying on the Spirit to show us opportunities and give us the words to share the gospel. The Holy Spirit is at work in the world, drawing people to God in salvation. It is our responsibility to submit our hearts to Him, to be led by Him, and to share the good news with unbelievers. God sends us into the world to make Him known to the world. As we grow in our own knowledge of God through His Spirit, we can boldly share this life-saving, life-changing news with others.

[THEREFORE]

What behaviors, attitudes, and disciplines can you establish to help you rely more fully upon the Holy Spirit?

Proverbs 3:5 tells us to not trust in ourselves, but to trust in God. John 15:4-5 teaches us that we must abide in Jesus and when we do, we will grow in Him. Studying His Word is one way to rely more fully upon God's Spirit. Philippians 4:19 says that God supplies our every need. When we go to Him asking to grow in knowledge and wisdom, He answers and gives us what we ask.

3. Ephesians 6:19-20: The Holy Spirit gives us boldness and opens the eyes of those who are perishing.