

## One Conversation at a Time

Texts: Romans 1:16–17; Colossians 4:5–6; 1 Peter 3:15–16

Bottom Line: You don't need a script. You need a story.

### READ

- Romans 1:16–17
- Colossians 4:5–6
- 1 Peter 3:15–16

### DISCUSS

1. When you hear the word “evangelism,” what do you feel first: excitement, guilt, fear, pressure, awkwardness, hope, or something else? Why?
2. The sermon says, “The barrier is almost never theological. The barrier is shame.” Where do you see fear of embarrassment, rejection, or awkwardness keeping Christians silent?
3. Peter says to give a reason for “the hope that you have.” What is the difference between arguing about religion and giving an honest account of your hope?

### COME AND SEE

#### The Gospel Is Power

Romans 1:16–17 teaches that the power is not in the person. The power is in the gospel itself. This frees ordinary Christians to speak honestly and humbly without needing to be impressive.

See also: **1 Corinthians 2:1–5; 2 Corinthians 4:5–7; Acts 1:8**

#### Evangelism Is a Posture

Colossians 4:5–6 gives us a way of life: walk wisely, watch for open doors, and speak with grace. Evangelism is not only a moment when we “present the gospel.” It is a posture of attentiveness, love, wisdom, and readiness toward the people God has placed near us.

See also: **Matthew 5:13–16; Ephesians 5:15–16; 1 Thessalonians 2:8**

#### Your Hope Needs Words

1 Peter 3:15–16 does not call every Christian to become a professional theologian. It calls every Christian to be ready to explain the hope they have in Christ. Our lives should be distinct enough to raise questions, and our words should be gentle enough to answer them well.

See also: **John 9:25; Isaiah 8:13; Matthew 11:29; 2 Timothy 2:24–25**

## FOLLOW ME

### 1. Facing the Fear Barrier

Paul begins, “I am not ashamed.” Spend time honestly naming what makes you hesitant to speak about Jesus.

- What are you most afraid might happen if you brought up faith with a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member?
- Are you more afraid of being rejected, misunderstood, labeled, or unable to answer a hard question?

#### **Reflect:**

Where do you need to believe again that the gospel is not weak, embarrassing, or outdated, but the power of God for salvation?

### 2. Walking Wisely Toward Outsiders

Colossians 4 does not tell us to avoid outsiders. It tells us to walk wisely toward them.

- Who are the “outsiders” God has already placed in your life?
- Are you intentionally building genuine friendships with people who do not yet know Christ?
- Where might you need to become more present, curious, hospitable, or attentive?

### 3. Look for the Moment

Paul says to “make the most of every opportunity.” Often the door opens in ordinary moments: grief, stress, questions, parenting, disappointment, loneliness, beauty, or gratitude.

- What kinds of moments tend to open deeper conversations with people?
- Can you remember a time when someone gave you an opening, but you missed it or avoided it?
- What would it look like to respond with one more question instead of changing the subject?

**Practice Questions:**

- “What has that been like for you?”  
“What gives you hope in the middle of that?”  
“Has faith been part of your story at all?”

**4. Speaking with Grace and Salt**

Paul says our conversation should be “full of grace, seasoned with salt.”

- What does gracious speech sound like in a spiritual conversation?
- What does “salt” add: honesty, clarity, interest, courage, warmth?
- Which do you tend to lack more: grace, or clarity?

**Reflect:**

How can your words make Jesus more compelling rather than making the conversation feel forced, combative, or canned?

**5. Preparing Your Story**

1. **Before:** What was your life like apart from Christ, or where have you most needed Him?
  2. **Encounter:** How did Jesus meet you, change you, forgive you, sustain you?
  3. **After:** What difference does He make in your life now?
- What part of your story might connect most naturally with someone who is skeptical, hurting, successful but empty, lonely, anxious, or searching?
  - How can you tell your story without exaggeration, religious jargon, or pressure?

**GO AND BE**

This week, take three simple steps:

**Pray for one person by name.**

Write down one person you would love to see come to know Jesus. Pray for them every day this week.

**Practice your story.**

Prepare a two-minute version of your story: what your life was like, how Jesus met you, and what difference He makes now.

**Pour the coffee**

Invite someone into a low-pressure conversation: coffee, lunch, a walk, or a casual meal. Don't jump into the deep end. Wade in with love, wisdom, and purpose.