

# EVANGELISM | WEEK 2

**Read** | One of the common objections that people make when it comes to evangelism is that they simply don't have the gift of evangelism. This might be true. The Bible does teach that some people are specially gifted for the work of evangelism—such as Philip in the book of Acts (see Acts 8, 21:8). However, evangelism is not just a gift; it is also a *command*. Every believer is called to make disciples (Matt. 28:18–20), and a key aspect of disciple-making is the initial act of evangelism. Mark Dever puts it well: “Part of our failure to evangelize comes from a lack of understanding. God uses not so much gifts for evangelism (though there is a biblical gift of evangelism) but the faithfulness of thousands and millions of Christians who would never say evangelism is their gift” (Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism*, 25).

Thankfully, the reality that different members of the church have different gifts means that we do not have to do everything by ourselves when it comes to evangelism. Someone who is particularly gifted in hospitality may be able to invite both unbelieving neighbors and fellow church members over for a cookout and help begin gospel conversations. Someone who is just learning how to share his faith can invite a non-Christian co-worker to do a Bible study. It is encouraging to remember that we are not on our own in the work of evangelism.

Not only do we have other believers around us who can help us reach out to those around us, but we also have a God who is sovereign in salvation. We do the hard work of planting and watering with our gospel-saturated words, but God is the one who ultimately gives the growth (1 Cor. 3:6). This encourages us in our evangelism for two different reasons. First, because of the sovereignty of God, our messy gospel presentations, where we stumble over our words, can be used to bring about someone's salvation. Because of God's sovereign grace, we can have confidence that His word—even when spoken through weak vessels like ourselves—will not return empty. He is the one who saves, not our programs or presentations. Second, because God uses means to accomplish His purposes, our evangelism truly matters. When we speak, God works. Everyone who has ever come to faith has done so because someone—whether a pastor, a parent, a co-worker, or a friend—took the step of faith to share the gospel.

- Write |** 1. What are three different things that regularly prevent or hinder your evangelism? How can a fellow member of the body of Christ help you in these areas?
2. **Read Romans 10:8–15 and Ephesians 2:1–10.** How does the gospel both challenge and encourage us in our evangelism?

**Pray |** Knowing that our evangelism is entirely dependent upon God's grace should drive us to pray for our unsaved friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. Throughout this week, regularly incorporate a time of prayer for the unsaved in your quiet time.

**Do |** Commit to share the gospel with someone this week. This could be the same person with whom you shared last week or someone else. Share with your Small Group the name of the person to whom you are going to reach out and ask them to pray and follow up with you on how it went.