|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SERIES** | Discipleship 101: 9 Week Challenge |
| **BIBLE** | Colossians 4:2-6 |
| **TITLE** | Sharing Jesus with Words |
| **OVERVIEW** | The gospel is communicated through words. This may be hard to believe, considering how often a certain “quote\*\*” is thrown around. Our lives can reveal whether or not we believe the gospel is true… it can hinder or help an outsider see the validity of the gospel… but it is absolutely necessary that words be shared for the gospel to go forward. When someone believes the gospel, the Holy Spirit can set them free, but the question is: do we share? Do we believe that people want to/need to hear the gospel? Do we believe that we need to share it? Do you believe that Jesus can use you to bring real life to another person? |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **It Starts with Prayer** (Col. 4:2-3)  Paul is writing this letter from prison, where he has been put in chains for the gospel. He has the chance to write a letter to his friends and what does he write? Pray that I may have more opportunities to share the gospel. Paul’s priority list was very different than ours. He believed that spreading the gospel was so important, that it mattered far more in his life than something small—like being falsely imprisoned. And the incredible thing about this request, is that Paul—the man who has helped lead countless people to Jesus—asks for prayer so that God would open the doors for the gospel. Prayer is not just a “good idea”. It’s the foundation for evangelism that actually works. If you are not praying, than you are trusting yourself too much (or you just don’t care). Just like Paul, we must come to Jesus daily… asking Him to open the doors for the gospel: to be shared with our co-workers, neighbors, family, and friends.  **Look. Listen. Speak.** (Col. 4:4-5)  In sharing the gospel, you have to look and recognize the opportunities that happen every day (if you are praying for them, Jesus will bring them). And if you are “ready” than you are able to jump into that door. You’re listening. Hearing how God is already working in someone else’s life. Ready for every “opportunity” that God brings. And as you do this, you by necessity will have to NOT treat everyone the same. If you are listening, you will hear how God is already working. God has been seeking this person’s heart, before you got here, what are the inroads God is already using? And finally, we must have the boldness to share. To speak. To proclaim it clearly.  **You Are Not God… Let Him Do the Work** (Col. 4:6)  Paul—the man who constantly shared the gospel—said “be gracious” and “season your words”… because he knew our tendency to either: 1. Say too much. 2. Say too little. 3. Say things judgmentally. 4. Say things forcefully. etc. etc. So again, you must be in prayer. Can’t emphasize this enough. THEN… you walk the teeter-totter of listening and speaking. Knowing that you are just a link in the chain of what God is already doing in this person’s life. Trust God to do His part. Share as the Spirit leads, but also listen and look for opportunities to connect again. Your goal is faithfulness. You spread seeds. God grows them. |
| **GOSPEL** | **1 Peter 3:15** – Always be ready to share the gospel  **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** – We will become all things to save some  **1 Corinthians 3:7** – Some plant, some water, God grows |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Go on a prayer walk and ask God to lead you to someone that you can have a gospel centered conversation with. |

Book to read: God Space by Doug Pollock

\*\*Quote: “share the gospel, and if necessary, use words” —I like AND don’t like this quote at the same time ☺