

DEEP



WIDE

v GROUP STUDY



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Deep & Wide: vGroup Study

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WIDE-EVANGELISM

Do you remember the first time you ever heard the gospel shared? What was that experience like for you? Do you remember the first time you realized your need for Jesus? What was that experience like for you? For some of us, we heard the gospel many times before realizing our need for Jesus. For the rest of us, the first time we heard the gospel, we clearly understood our need for Jesus. Regardless of when we heard and when we realized, someone had to tell us.

Evangelism for many is an intimidating topic. Many of us are more comfortable discussing politics with someone than we are talking about our faith. We don't want to be the jerk who tells people to "turn or burn," and at the same time, we don't want to be the person everyone thinks a religious nut. However, if you've been a Christian for any amount of time, you know the importance of evangelism. We are the means God uses for others to hear the good news of Jesus.

- Recount your story. How did you hear the gospel and how did you respond?

- When you think about sharing the gospel with someone, what emotions do you begin to experience?

- In the past, what tools, if any, have you used to share the gospel?

In Paul's second known letter to the church at Corinth, he defends his ministry, reminding the people of who has called him and the message he has been given. In 2 Corinthians 5:16–21, Paul not only explains what the gospel does but how he and his fellow missionaries are now ambassadors of this gospel.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in

him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

- According to Paul, what did the gospel achieve?
- What is the significance of Jesus reconciling us to God?
- How does Paul describe the task of evangelism? What does Paul's description tell us about evangelism? (Hint: Look at v. 20).
- In v. 20 Paul says that God is making his appeal for the gospel through them. How does it make you feel to know that God has chosen to use us so that others will hear the gospel?

The gospel of Jesus is no doubt the best and greatest news for everyone. For this reason, everyone should have the opportunity to hear it. In order for that to happen we need to know the gospel, be compelled to share the gospel, and be intentional to actually go and do it.

- What fears might be holding you back from evangelizing? How can you overcome those fears?
- Pastor Dustin Turner shared an easy, conversational method of sharing the gospel called the 3 Circles. Take a moment to revisit the 3 Circles. Take turns walking through each step of the 3 Circles. After you walk through it, do you have any questions?

- Who is someone the Lord has laid on your heart to share the gospel with this week? Spend time praying for that one person right now. Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare their hearts for the gospel. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you boldness, clarity, and compassion as you share.