

(re)union

Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 1: Not Ashamed

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Romans 1:14-17; 10:17**
- MEMORY VERSE: **Romans 1:16-17**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTERS: 1-5 (Next week chapter 6)
- HOMEWORK: Find a study buddy!

APPETIZER: The Best Way to Learn

In Jesus we see the PRESENCE of the kingdom, and we *hear* the PROCLAMATION of the kingdom.

The story of Mary (Maeyken) Wens (1573, Antwerp, Belgium)...

"Alexamenos worships his God."...

- That reminds me of a story Jesus told...
- That reminds me of a teaching of Jesus...
- That reminds me of something Jesus did...
- That reminds me of something the Bible says about Jesus...
- [Backup plan] That reminds me of something I heard at church...

The Protégé Effect...

| Learning Method | Knowledge Retention Rate | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Lecture | 5% | Passive |
| 2. Reading | 10% | |
| 3. Audio/Visual | 20% | |
| 4. Demonstration | 30% | |
| 5. _____ | 50% | Participatory |
| 6. _____ | 75% | |
| 7. _____ | 90% | |

*Adapted from the American National Training Laboratories, Maine

DINE IN: The Power of the Gospel

Romans 1:14-17; 10:1-17

1. The gospel builds up believers. We should review it and live by it.
2. The gospel message itself is power-full. It's the truth that produces change.
3. The gospel is about God's righteousness, not ours. That's grace.
4. We receive rescue (salvation) simply by trusting that it's true. That's faith.
5. Talking about the gospel is one way God generates faith in people.

Romans 10:17

Why Evangelize?

1. Because we want to **honour** Jesus. (v. 5)
2. Because we are **obligated** to love others. (v. 14)
3. Because we are **eager** to see God's power at work. (v. 15-16)

TAKE OUT: What is your "tongue screw"?

What holds you back?

- a. Fear? Of what? Being judged? Being misunderstood? Being awkward? Making someone else feel bad? Something else?
- b. Not knowing what to say or how to start the conversation?
- c. Not thinking the good news of Jesus is a message worth sharing?
- d. Other?

HOMEWORK: Find a study buddy! Ask a friend or family member to allow you to practice being clear with them each week about what you're learning at church. You'll take less than five minutes to share what you've learned and ask them for feedback.

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- Our pastor has given us homework to help us learn – can you help me? [Explain requirements]
- I've heard the idea that human spirituality functions more like a kite than a balloon. Our spirits soar highest when attached to a guiding hand, rather than when we cut all ties. What do you think? What, if anything, are you attached to for spiritual guidance and growth?
- If the kite idea doesn't fit for you, try other ways of asking...
 1. *What is your spiritual/religious background/history?*
 2. *How would you describe your spiritual beliefs today?*
- One last question: What comes to mind when you think about Jesus?

NEXT WEEK: God with us!

Next week we begin to walk through the Gospel in Thirty Words, starting with the first phrase, "Jesus is God with us". Read chapter 6 in *(re)union*.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What are you most/least looking forward to in this series?
2. Are you going to partner with a study buddy? Talk about that.
3. Who has had “beautiful feet” in your life, bringing you the gospel and helping you believe in Jesus?
4. Has anyone memorized this week’s Memory Verse? Give it a try.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

5. Read **Romans 10:1-17**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Do you have anyone in your life who you think about the same way Paul thinks about his fellow Jews in **verses 1-3**?
 - c. What differences does Paul highlight between the righteousness of Jesus vs Moses, or of faith vs law? (Also see **1:16-17**.)
 - d. “Jesus is Lord.” That’s the gospel in three words. Talk about the significance behind each word.
 - e. In the first chapter of Romans, Paul talks about “the obedience of faith” (**1:5**). Keeping that in mind, how would you define “faith”?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Review the question in the “Take Out” – what is acting as your tongue screw? Talk about what, if anything, holds you back from sharing the gospel more often with more people. Then pray for each other, and for your study buddies during this series.

Quotes

Welcome to our new series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus!

Today’s Message is about the importance of communicating the message of Jesus accurately and often.

The Apostle Paul encourages Christians to understand the gospel and share the gospel in Romans chapter 10, where he writes...

Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

So, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.