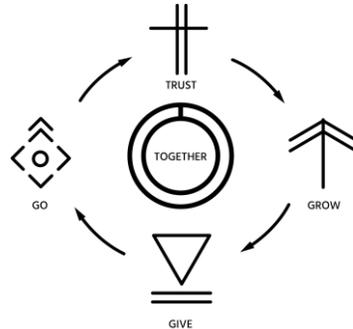


# B A D I D E A S

REMOVING ROADBLOCKS TO KNOWING GOD

## BAD IDEA #6: Faith Should Be Private

### APPETIZER: It's eight o'clock!



### DINE IN: Faith, Hope, & Love

1 Thessalonians 1

#### Alter-cultural Outreach...

1. Living differently by FAITH
2. Serving others in LOVE
3. Enduring persecution with HOPE

IDOLECTOMY – Early Christ-followers were perceived to be involved in irreligious and unpatriotic behaviours.

#### Resisting the idols of:

- a. SEX – turning from lust to love is one of the most altercultural things we can do, anywhere in the world, anytime in history. (4:1-5)
- b. STATUS – turning from success to serving and simplicity frees our hearts to love well and it raises questions. (4:11-12)
- c. SUBSTANCE – turning from abuse to sobriety allows us to love better and serve more. (5:6-8; also see Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 1:13) Acts 17:6-7

What would radical versions of these look like today?

• Hospitality?	• Generosity?
• Simplicity?	• Sharing possessions?
• Serving the poor?	• Racial reconciliation?
• Peace-making?	• Holy living? (set apart to live a distinctive altercultural life)

WHO & HOW:

1. Family & Friends
  2. Work & School
  3. Social Media
  4. Cold Turkey
- } Conversation & Invitation

### TAKE OUT: Three Beautiful Words

Ways to talk about your faith. Use these “Three Beautiful Words” collections as reminders of the kinds of things you could share in spiritual conversations.

- **GOD IS LOVE:**  
Jesus gives us the evidence that this is true and teaches us how to live the life of God-like love.
- **FAITH:** I believe Jesus is the key to understanding God and ourselves, since he is both God and human.
- **HOPE:** Jesus helps me look forward to the future – no judgement!
- **LOVE:** Jesus shows me how much God loves me and he is teaching me how to love like he loves.
- **PURPOSE:** I live to experience and extend God's love.
- **PLACE:** I belong with God and with God's extended family.
- **PEACE:** I'm not afraid of judgement, and I want to share that peace with others. Also, Jesus mentors me in the way of peace and reconciliation, so I can help bring healing to this broken world.
- **BELOVED:** I know how much God loves me because of Jesus.
- **BELONG:** I have a place where I am nurtured and needed.
- **BECOME:** God and the Church are helping me be the best version of myself.

**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.**  
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Thessalonians 3:12)

### NEXT WEEK: Q & Eh Sunday!

Send your questions to [ask@themeetinghouse.com](mailto:ask@themeetinghouse.com)

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## Home Church Questions

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

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about something you learned or some question that remains. Take your time with this – there's lots to cover!

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

2. Read **1 Thessalonians 1**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
  - b. What does it mean to live "in" God (v. 1)? How does this make a difference in your daily life?
  - c. Remembering what God has done in us and through us (v. 3) leads to thanksgiving (v. 2). Take a few minutes to remember and thank God for some examples of faith, hope, and love in your life and in the life of our church.
  - d. Christian disciple-making seems to involve *imitation* as much as *education* (see vv. 6-7; also 2:8, 14). In what ways have you been involved in this process – as a student and/or teacher?
  - e. In what ways have you "turned to God from idols" (v. 9)? Share your story and, if you like, your struggles.
  - f. How does Jesus "rescue us from the coming wrath"? What does that even mean?
  - g. Try presenting the gospel in a couple sentences, based upon principles in this passage.

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

3. Use your Huddle Handout Questions and pray for one another.

November 19/November 26, 2017 // @Bruxy

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## Quotes

Welcome back to our series about common bad ideas that interfere with people knowing God.

Today we tackle Bad Idea #6:  
*Faith Should Be Kept Private*

Here are some statistics because, well, everybody loves statistics...

In North America, 80% of regular church attenders believe it is their personal responsibility to share their faith, but 61% of them have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months.

79% of Christians haven't invited someone to church in the last year.

95% of Christians have never led another person to faith in Jesus.

Of all the living generations today, millennials are least likely to go to church, but most comfortable talking about faith with their peers.

Of all income brackets, those with lowest income are most likely to share their faith, higher income are next likely, while middle-income people are least likely to ever share their faith.

27% of Canadians express negative feelings toward "evangelicals."

Approximately 70% of non-religious North Americans believe the attempt to convert someone to your faith should be considered "religious extremism."

**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!"**  
~ The Apostle Paul

**You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**  
~ Jesus