

# GATHER TO SCATTER

# EVANGELISM TRAINING

## WEEK 6: HOSPITALITY, CHRISTIAN LOVE, AND EVANGELISM

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

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**Matthew 4:19** ~ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Christians have a zeal for the lost and a desire that all would come to salvation (Psalm 40:3).
  - Yet many people find it difficult to start talking about the gospel (Acts 4:20).
  - Others don’t know how they will respond to objections or hard questions (Luke 6:3; 1 Pet 3:15).
  - Others just lack confidence (Acts 4:29).
- This monthly mini class will teach the foundation for evangelism and give you greater confidence to put it into practice (Philippians 4:9).
- The nature of the class will provide a Biblical foundation that shapes how and why we evangelize, provide opportunities to discuss real situations, and encourage us to share our faith with others.
- Schedule:
  - Fall 2024: Message, Barriers, Motivation, Methods, Action, Aim, Prayer
  - February 2: Hospitality, Christian Love, and Evangelism
  - March 2: Creating a Culture of Evangelism: The Gospel as Part of the Life of the Church

### EVANGELISM ESSENTIALS

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**Definition:** Essentially evangelism is explaining the gospel so that God would save sinners.

- God the Father has chosen the means: believers communicate His Word so that God the Spirit would convict the hearts of sinners to find their salvation in God the Son.
  - “Evangelism is **teaching** the **gospel** with the **aim to persuade**.”<sup>1</sup>
  - Evangelism includes the biblical explanation of God, sin, Jesus, salvation, and faith and repentance. God’s salvation comes through God’s Spirit when God’s people preach God’s Word.
  - “The work of the Christian... is to confront every part of the thinking of the natural man with *biblical* authority, allowing the Holy Spirit to accomplish His results in the heart and mind.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism, 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 26.

<sup>2</sup> Rolland McCune, *Promise Unfulfilled: The Failed Strategy of Modern Evangelicalism* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador, 2004), 228.

## YOUR HOME CAN BE A PLATFORM FOR THE GOSPEL<sup>3</sup>

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Hospitality: The expression of love for strangers.... The generous and gracious treatment of guests. Sometimes the word for hospitable combines *brotherly love* and *stranger*, or “stranger-friendly”.

- How can we love others well? With our food, resources, housing, practically whatever they need while they are in your service.

Hospitality consists of the welcome and care of guests, especially those who are travelers or strangers to the family or community. In biblical use, hospitality serves multiple functions, including relief for the poor or dispossessed, the strengthening of bonds of affection, inclusion of the outsider, and especially in the NT, **the propagation of the Christian message.**<sup>4</sup>

### General Hospitality:

Hospitable among the church: **1 Peter 4:9** ~ Be **hospitable to one another** without complaint.

Hospitality by the elders: **1 Timothy 3:2** ~ An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, **hospitable**, able to teach,

A godly widow’s hospitality to all: **1 Timothy 5:10** ~ if she has shown **hospitality to strangers**, if she has **washed the saints’ feet**, if she has **assisted those in distress**, *and* if she has devoted herself to every good work.

### The early church conducted much ministry in their homes:

**Acts 2:46-47** ~ Day by day continuing with one mind **in the temple**, and breaking bread **from house to house**, they were **taking their meals together** with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor **with all the people**. And the Lord was **adding to their number** day by day those who were being saved.

**Luke 5:27-32**... Matthew’s big reception for Jesus in his house with tax collectors and others so that Jesus could “call the sinners to repentance.”

**Acts 5:42** ~ And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.

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<sup>3</sup> See Alexander Strauch, *The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community: Building Bridges to Friends and Neighbors*. This book further develops our three headings.

<sup>4</sup> Garwood P. Anderson, “[Hospitality](#),” in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

**Acts 8:3** ~ But Saul *began* ravaging the church, **entering house after house**, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

**Acts 10:17, 22-48**... Cornelius allowed his house to be the place where Gentile men would hear Peter's message of the gospel.

**Acts 12:12**.... Mary's house (mother of John Mark) used for a prayer meeting

**Acts 16:32**... Paul and Silas **proclaimed the gospel to all gathered** at the house of the Jailer: "And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house."

**Acts 20:7-8**... They gathered together in a home in Troas to hear the preaching of the word

**Acts 20:20**... Elders in Ephesus are reminded of Paul's gospel ministry from house to house.

People gathered in homes to study the Scriptures, pray, and evangelize!

- They served, fed, gave, provided, and taught in their homes to serve their needs and offer the gospel.
- Sometimes we entertain close friends and family... this is normal Christian love and fellowship
- We need to expand our understanding of hospitality.
  - Jesus ate with close friends and loved ones (Mary/Martha in Luke 10:38-42)
  - Jesus also ate with tax collectors, (Zaccheus in Luke 19), prostitutes (Luke 7), and swindlers (Matthew's tax collector colleagues in Luke 5)
- Would we welcome the *unwelcomable*? See Luke 14:12-14
- How about even in our church? Are we caring for all?

## **YOUR HOME CAN BE A REFUGE AND LAUNCHPAD FOR GOSPEL WORKERS**

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In the early stages of the church, Christian teachers, preachers, and evangelists depended on the hospitality of other believers as a platform for ministry. People provided them with lodging, food, and travel expenses.

- Jesus commissioned the twelve on their first short term ministry trip with the expectation there would be help along the way:

### **Matthew 10:5-10**

- This doesn't mean that the twelve couldn't own anything, but that this particular trip had requirements.
- They had to trust God
- Other people learned to provide resources for God's messengers

### **Luke 10:1-8**

- These 70 were also sent to depend on others. Their support came from those who accepted their message.
- Their mission was dangerous and required haste.
- To refuse hospitality to the **messenger** of God meant refusing the **message** of God.

**Luke 10:16** ~ “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.”

- As the Gospel spread, churches were established and strengthened by the apostles, such as Apollos.

**Acts 18:27** ~ And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

**3 John 5-8** ~ Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially *when they are* strangers; <sup>6</sup> and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. <sup>7</sup> For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup> Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

- The host had motives to promote the gospel (““send them on their way **in a manner worthy of God**”)
- The guest was a minister who “went out for the sake of the name,” not their own glory.
- Financial gain nor taking advantage of others was never the goal... they were not in it for the money.
- There is an element of co-laboring when we show care to those who preach the gospel.
- Not just Gaius had this expectation: “WE ought to support such men...”
- Honored Hosts in the NT:
  - Simon the Tanner made his host a base of operation for Peter (Acts 9:43)
  - Lydia was regenerated, then eagerly welcomed Paul into her home (Acts 16:13-15)
  - Philemon was known hospitality (Philemon 1:21-22)
  - Gaius #1 hosted Paul in Corinth (Romans 16:23),
  - Gaius #2 hosted itinerant preachers (3 John 5-8)

## **YOUR HOME BRINGS RESPONSIBILITY AND ENABLES REWARD**

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- Caring for God’s messengers makes us partners in the Gospel, spreading the truth, and protecting it by not hosting (endorsing) those who spread a false gospel.
- Hospitality can be the result of God’s joy, and produce God’s joy, such as with the Philippian jailer:  
**Acts 16:27-34... v:34** ~ And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.