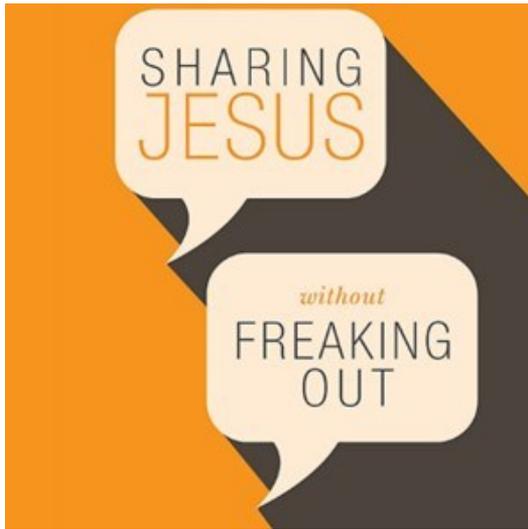


THE EIGHT-WEEK CHALLENGE



Week 5

Principle #5: The issues people face are open doors to connect the gospel to them.

Scriptures for Meditation

“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

“I pray that your participation in the faith may become effective through knowing every good thing that is in us for the glory of Christ. For I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.” (Phlm 1:6-7)

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Let's take some time to evaluate and improve our prayer lives:
 - a. How are you praying that God will help you live out the gospel?
 - b. How are you praying that God will help you further develop your ability to witness for him?
 - c. Who are you praying for daily? Are you asking God to give you an opportunity to share Jesus with someone? Who? Are you praying daily for *your one*?

- d. What fears and insecurities are you praying that God will take away—or use for His glory?
 - e. How has your prayer life improved over the past month?
 - f. Take a few minutes to thank God for the growth you have experienced in the past several weeks. Ask him to help you continue to mature in Christ.
2. Which of the five keys for healthy conversation seem most natural for you?
 3. Can you think of one person with whom you can talk this week and apply this key during the conversation?
 4. Sometime this week, try to use one of the other conversation keys as an opportunity for sharing Jesus. Take a few minutes to reflect on this experience. What went well? How could you improve?
 5. Consider beginning, or maintaining, a prayer journal that records your requests as well as God's answers to your prayers.
 6. *Who's Your One?* Pray every day this week for *your one* and ask God to give you an opportunity to talk with that person. Be alert for the thought of Jesus to come to mind. If it does, try to introduce him into the conversation.

Topics for Prayer

1. For God to help you live the gospel well.
2. For God to continue to give you a gospel love for others.
3. For God to provide you with an opportunity to show Christian love for at least one nonbeliever whose lifestyle or life choices you do not endorse. Look past their actions and try to minister to that person. Are they hurting and needing encouragement? Do they feel unnoticed and unloved, and could they use a reminder that they are seen and cared about?

God, I know you love people. Give me an opportunity today to help someone see your love for them and hear how they can enjoy your work in Jesus Christ. Give me the boldness to talk with them about Jesus.