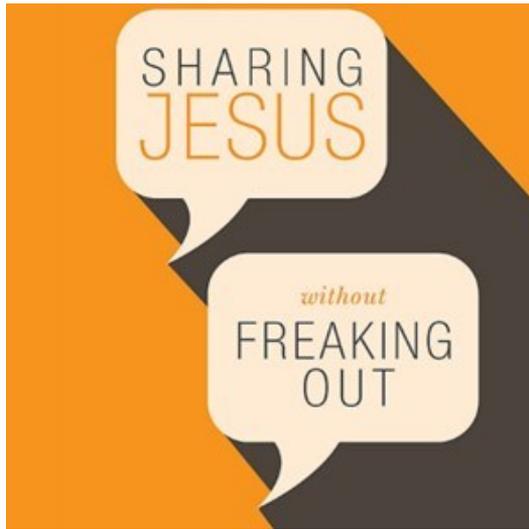


THE EIGHT-WEEK CHALLENGE



Week 7

Principle #7: Gospel conversations must be grounded in relationships, both with Jesus and with others.

Scriptures for Meditation

“In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.” (1 Pet 3:15-16)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” (Gal 5:22-26)

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. What is the first image that comes to mind when you think about evangelism? Is it something that happens with a stranger or a friend? Can you imagine sharing Christ with someone in your family?

2. What are two questions about the gospel or the Bible you don't know the answer to and are afraid someone will ask? Spend some time this week researching answers. Think about how you can explain your answers to a nonbeliever.
3. Think of three people you observed living in such a way that you could say you saw Jesus through them. Write out what they did that made Jesus more real to you.
4. Reflect on this statement: "The closer you are to someone, the less your words matter and the more your actions matter." Think about those closest to you. How can you live so that your words about Jesus are validated?
5. Look at the list you made from your concentric circles. Who on the list are you most concerned about? Who do you think is the closest to trusting Jesus? Who is furthest away? If you think of the principle of "plus one," what is that person's next step toward Jesus?
6. *Who's Your One?* What is his or her next step toward trusting Jesus? How can you adjust your life to help that person see the gospel or hear the gospel verbally from you?

Topics for Prayer

1. For God to help you establish a witnessing rhythm that is right for your context.
2. For the Holy spirit to guide you to show the gospel with your life as well as to share it with your lips.
3. For God to deepen your willingness to pay the price and bear the burden of living an evangelistic lifestyle.

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.