

THE
HOPE
YOU
NEED

2017

the year of

H·O·P·E

SUNDAYS

FEB 12 - APR 16

9 & 11 am



GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

By Sharing Your Faith

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | March 12, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

Getting to Know One Another

- If you attended the Festival of Hope, please share what you saw, felt, and/or experienced.
- If you didn't attend the Festival please share what experienced on Sunday when we celebrated the Victory of Hope.

GROWING CLOSER TO GOD BY SHARING YOUR FAITH



Five Purposes

1. **FELLOWSHIP**: Being in relationship with God and other Christians
2. **WORSHIP**: Spending time in God's presence personally and corporately
3. **MISSION**: Serving God with the gifts He's given us
4. **DISCIPLESHIP**: Intentionally growing to be like Jesus
5. **EVANGELISM**: Intentionally reaching out to the lost

The Purpose of Evangelism

Evangelism is the process of you and I sharing the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ with those who have yet to know Him.

Evangelism is the work of **sharing** the Gospel or good news of Jesus.

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
1 Corinthians 15:3,4*

We expand on the gospel a bit by talking about **God's love**.

But God demonstrates His Love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

The good news part of the gospel is that you can be **Forgiven**.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Acts 2:38

Repentance and Baptism

Repentance: To change one's **mind**.

- You need to change your mind about who is **God** in your life.

- You are going to need to put Jesus on the **throne** of your life.

Understanding Jesus as Lord and God is the only way a person will ever be **transformed** or change.

Baptism: is that very critical and wonderful event of making my **commitment** public.

The **Why** of Evangelism

The Great Commission. **Great**, meaning important or incredible, or fantastic. **Commission**, meaning a calling or mission.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
Acts 1:8



How do you Witness?

A witness is someone who simply tells what they have seen and heard, what they believe to be true.

- Your own personal witness is the most powerful tool you have.
- Your testimony while critically important is not simultaneous to the gospel.
- People don't get saved because of your testimony. They get saved by putting their faith and trust in Christ.
- You need to add some scriptures to your testimony.

To as many as received Him to them He gave the right to become the children of God even to them who believe on his name. John 1:12

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

... Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Leaders, emphasize the primary witness.

1. Pair up and share how you came to Jesus Christ and who it was that was the primary witness in your life.
[7-10 min]



Go around in the circle and ask everyone to share this question. If someone from your group hasn't been baptized please ask them to let me know at kevin@the-grove.net. I will not come after them but I will try to come alongside of them to encourage them in that direction.

2. Share when you went through believer's baptism and what that experience was like for you. If you haven't as yet been baptized why not consider doing it now?
3. Describe the setting and circumstances surrounding the first time you shared your faith, who it was with, and how you felt?



Might be good to have a few share on this as well.

4. Describe the last time you shared your Faith and how it went?

5. What are your favourite scriptures to use when you are sharing the gospel with others?
6. What are your biggest struggles when it comes to evangelism? Fear of rejection, fear of persecution? Fear of failure, Fear of looking foolish? Fear of communicating?



Ask if anyone would be willing to share. Affirm and express your understanding. Pray.

7. Who in your life would it be, that would be the easiest for you to give a WITNESS to? Who would be the hardest?

APPLICATION

STOP & PRAY | Walking in Obedience

1. As you wind down pray for each other that you would walk in a great obedience to the Lord this week.
2. Pray and ask the Lord to embolden you and give you courage you do not have.
3. Pray for the follow-up to be done well with all who responded at the Festival of hope.

NOTES