



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- NO ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEK

MY STORY

Is there somewhere where God is telling you to go right now?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:2, NIV

Point #1: Talk to GOD FIRST.

"Do lost people matter to you? Essential to our spiritual growth is all of us as Christ-followers, being obedient and faithful to take the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins and share those realities with others. Before you talk to people about God, talk to God about people. The word means to persist, to be committed to something. Christ-followers who talk to people who don't know God yet are invariably people who pray. This is not just praying when you feel like it, or praying when there's a big problem. You are doing what Paul say in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, pray without ceasing."

– Michael Nolen

Share a time when God prompted you to share the Word with someone.

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:3, NIV

Point #2: Look for openness to the WORD.

"Ask God to open a door. When God opens a door, stick the word through it." – Michael Nolen

What is your favorite scripture or scriptures you fall back on when sharing the Word with others?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:3, NIV

Point #3: Be willing to PAY A PRICE.

"The gospel was never proclaimed to anyone that it didn't cost someone something. It's free to the people the people we share it with. It comes by grace, but it costs us. It costs us time, money, energy."

It costs us comfort. For some Christ-followers, it costs their lives. It always costs us something. Maybe you know someone who isn't open to the gospel. They brush you off, they may insult you, treat you badly. Are you willing to pay the cost, to be treated as a doormat, so they can hear the truth?"

– Michael Nolen

What are you willing to sacrifice to share the gospel with others?

What have you sacrificed to share the gospel to others?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:4, NIV

Point #4: Speak the message CLEARLY.

"Paul doesn't say 'Pray that I'll be clever. Pray that I'll be impressive. Pray that I'll be likable.' He says, 'Just pray that when the door opens, and I have an opportunity to share Christ, just pray that I'll make it clear.'" – Michael Nolen

Discuss a time when you felt you were unclear or inadequate sharing the word.

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:5, NIV

Point #5: When opportunity knocks, OPEN THE DOOR.

"Paul says be wise and defines wisdom as making the most of every opportunity. The Greek literally says, "Buy back the time". In other words... watch and don't duck. Back in Colossians 4:2, Paul said to be watchful. We need to be on the lookout for opportunities to share our faith. Seize every opportunity God gives." – Michael Nolen

Has there ever been a time when you realized too late that you missed an opportunity to share the word?

Share a time when you had the opportunity to share the word but were disobedient.

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:6, NIV

Point #6: Don't be THAT GUY.

"He says, 'Just be gracious.' More people are turned off by the messengers of Christ than they are by the message of Christ. This is so important. I'm encouraging you to memorize 2 verses, Colossians 4:5-6. Make sure you're wise. Make sure you're gracious. Being gracious starts with a humbled heart. Are you mindful when you talk to people about God, that it was only by grace that YOU were saved? Do you talk to people with humility? Being gracious also involves sensitivity. Not every person we'll try to talk to about God will be ready." – Michael Nolen

Give an example of a time when someone has responded positively or negatively to your message of Christ.

Have Another Volunteer Read: Colossians 4:7, NIV

Point #7: Know what you're TALKING ABOUT.

"If we're going to talk to people about God, we don't have to be seminary-trained professionals in theology, philosophy and apologetics. But we do need to be people who have taken the time, who have exerted the mental effort (loving God with our minds) to learn as much as we can about the Bible and what it teaches. This doesn't mean you need to go through some big period of study before you talk to someone. If God opens a door, go through it. Trust him with whatever you know. He'll help you. But work to know what you're talking about. – Michael Nolen

What are you doing to grow in your understanding of God's word?

APPLICATION

"I believe that God will open a door of opportunity this week for every person at least once, for many of you, more than once. All you have to do is say, "Holy Spirit, make me sensitive. Make me sensitive to opportunities, and help me not to duck." – **Michael Nolen**

Look for opportunities this week to share the gospel.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS