The Call to Evangelism

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling and doing.

MAIN IDEA: The church thrives in every way when it prioritises sharing of the gospel.

> **Head Change:** To know that the death and resurrection of Jesus is the most important moment in human history.
> **Heart Change:** To feel an urgency to spread this good news, because so many still don't know it.
> **Life Change:** To look for practical, creative ways to give precedence to evangelism.

OPEN

What's your top priority this week?

Besides the fact that the Great Commission was Jesus' final instruction to His people before He ascended to heaven, Nicky explains that if the church makes evangelism its top priority, all other goals or main concerns naturally align and fall into place, because to be effective, evangelism necessitates unity, the empowering of the Holy Spirit, discipleship, and any other aspect of church life we choose to emphasise.

VIEW

As you watch, write down how Nicky answers these questions.

Why is Nicky so passionate about evangelism?

According to Nicky, what three things is every person looking for?

What follows when a church makes evangelism its top priority?

Show SESSION #3: *The Call to Evangelism* (10 minutes)

REVIEW

Nicky and Bobby discuss how in more and more churches all over the world there's a growing passion, excitement, and unity around evangelism. **When you became a Christian, did you want everyone to know the good news, or was the magnitude of what Jesus had done for you more of a growing realisation you shared with others over time? Does evangelism come naturally to you, or do you find it awkward or downright terrifying? Have you ever done an Alpha course? Would you recommend Alpha to a friend who doesn't yet know Jesus? Why, or why not?**

Nicky again touches on the power of online communication and community. **Would you rather be involved in an online or an in-person Alpha course? What are the advantages of each?**

The Great Commission—Jesus' parting

charge to His disciples—is for all Christians, everywhere and at every time in history. **What happens when a church or Christian community stops placing this mission at the top of its agenda? How does evangelism meet the need every person has for love, purpose, and belonging?**

Nicky explains that unity is so important, but if you make it your aim, you'll just discuss your differences. If you make evangelism your aim, you'll naturally unite because Jesus said that He prayed for unity amongst believers so that the world would believe in Him.

If we keep praying for people to be filled with the Holy Spirit, they'll become like the Dead Sea, with water flowing in but never flowing out. But make evangelism your priority, and Jesus promises we'll receive Holy Spirit power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

If we make discipleship our top priority, we will fill our notebooks and listen to dozens of podcasts and grow in knowledge and maturity—and possibly lose touch with the world. But if we make evangelism our priority, we're galvanized to grow in our discipleship journey because it figures we'll never lead someone to faith unless our lives are bearing the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Is there an aspect of life in Christ you've tended to prioritise above evangelism?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Matthew 28:18–20 says, ‘Jesus came and told His disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”’ **Where is mission—sharing the news of Jesus with others—on your list of priorities? What would need to happen for it to become a top priority?**

Read 1 Corinthians 2:2, Galatians 6:14 and Philippians 1:15–18. **How did Paul demonstrate his overriding passion for the gospel? How did he make it clear that his preaching ministry wasn’t about him at all, but all about Jesus?**

Psalm 138:8 reads, ‘The LORD will work out His plans for my life—for Your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Don’t abandon me, for You made me.’ **How does this verse encapsulate what every person is searching for: love, purpose, and belonging?**

Read Ephesians 5:15–16. **How does Paul speak to purpose, and making the most of the one life we’ve been given?**

Paul writes that in the body of Christ, the church, ‘we all belong to each other’ (Romans 12:5). **What does belonging look like, for you? Why might people who haven’t yet met Jesus think that ‘belonging to each other’ is weird? How would you explain it to them?**

LAST WORD

We can all come up with excuses for not prioritising the mission of telling the world the eternity-altering, good news of Jesus. We're busy. We don't want to offend people. We don't want to mess up. We don't want to face rejection. Let's encourage one another to take Jesus at His Word. He promises to be with us, lending us strength, wisdom, and opportunity.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: You've possibly heard people say things like, 'Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.' Our walk should be louder than our talk—but we absolutely do need to talk. Read Romans 10:9–17 and reflect on the importance of speaking out whenever we have an opportunity to share the truth of the gospel.

Write: The year 2033 will mark 2000 years since the resurrection of Jesus, and the Great Commission. Spend some time brainstorming or storyboarding or just free writing your dreams of what a world could look like in which every human on the planet had the opportunity to hear about Jesus, 2000 years after He ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen and comfort us.

Pray: Set a reminder on your phone to make a hard stop for five minutes of prayer, somewhere in your day, and use that time to pray for those working on Bible translations, so that every person in the world might be able to read God's Word in his or her own language.