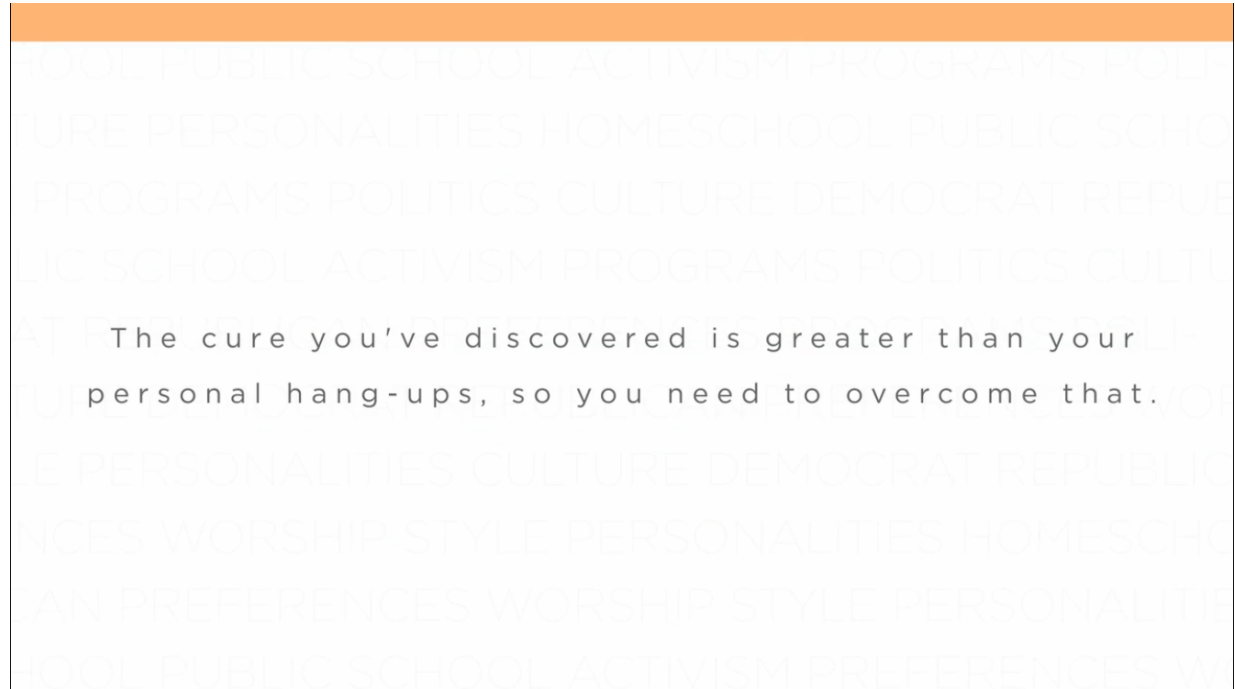


## Gospel Evangelism

Evangelism is a way of life; as such, our homes can be the starting point for Great Commission living.



Do you think evangelism is something all Christians should do, or only certain Christians who are gifted in that area? Explain.

When I heard we should share our faith, I thought,  
*Well, I got to get out and do that.*

Discipleship occurs when people take the Spirit of God's work in them and pass it along to another follower of Jesus. God is faithful to take small moments and conversations and use them to multiply His glory on the earth. However, for disciples to be made, they first have to hear the gospel.

The problem is that we haven't made evangelism the central concern of our lives. This week we'll examine evangelism as a way of life, and we'll consider ways we can use our homes as the starting point for Great Commission ministry.

Read Matthew 13:44.

What are some of the attributes of the kingdom of God that Jesus described in this story?

Why should the gospel compel us to do whatever possible to bring someone to Jesus?

What lines of comfort do you have trouble crossing to share the gospel?

### **Practical Tips for Evangelism**

1. Ask, "Who's your one?"
2. Have an unbeliever in your home one time a month.
3. Don't sit with someone for more than fifteen minutes before beginning a conversation.

The gospel is the most valuable message in the world. The joy we've found in Jesus is worth sharing. We have no resistance to talking about topics that are much less important. Like the man who found treasure in a field, no comfort is worth keeping if it means keeping Jesus to ourselves. Every Christian can take part in evangelism.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:6.

In your own words, what does this verse mean? Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 for further context.

God is the only One who can save people. What's our responsibility? Why is this realization freeing?

What are some things that help you with sharing the gospel?

### **Practical Tips for Evangelism**

4. Pray for wisdom.
5. Look for opportunities.
6. Say something related to your faith.

Sharing our faith isn't complicated. One reason we overcomplicate it is that we put too much pressure on ourselves. Our fear of being unsuccessful stops us from sharing. The reality is that we can't save anyone; only God can. All God wants from us is faithfulness. Release yourself from the pressure and embrace the freedom to share. Begin by putting some of J. D.'s and Greg's ideas into practice.

Do you know someone in whom God seems to be working? What questions could you ask to engage with him or her?

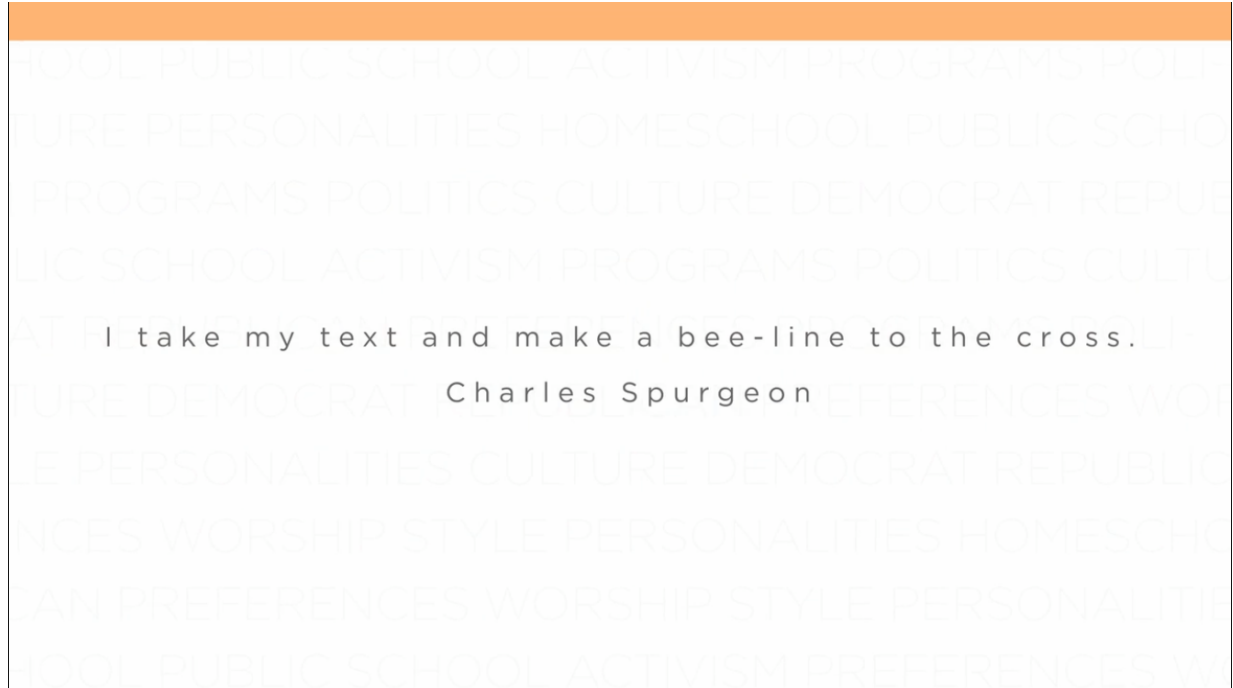
Sometimes evangelism looks like a traditional gospel presentation; often evangelism happens through our relationships. Rosaria Butterfield, who had been a lesbian and accepted an invitation to go to the home of a couple because he wrote a letter in response to her newspaper article against Promise Keepers and she wanted to learn more about him, explained that walking through the threshold of a Christian's house literally changed her life.

What about the pastor's letter made Rosaria accept his invitation? What can we learn from his example? ( Note: his letter was kind and made her want to reply. That led to more discussions and she is now married to a pastor and leading home Bible studies)

The gospel isn't primarily about heavy-handed moralism, but about grace rescuing a broken heart. You can't learn that from preaching—but from getting to know a Christian. Opening our lives to unbelievers gives credibility to our message.

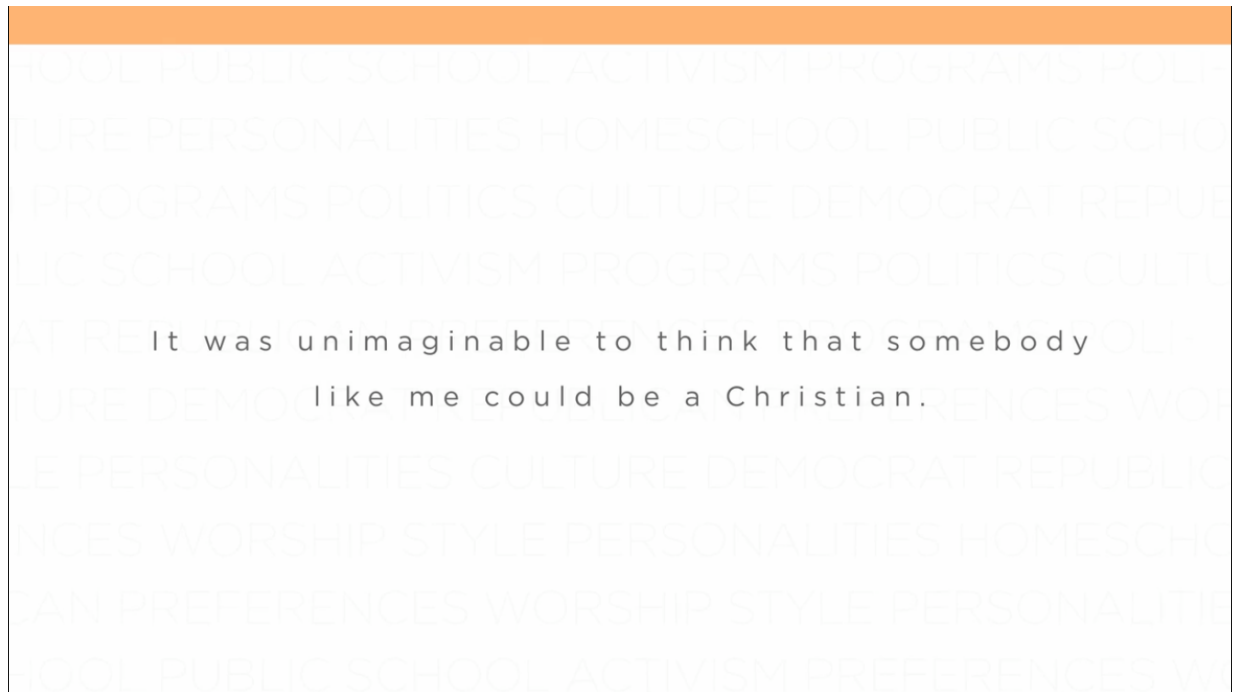


What kind of patience and intentionality does the hospitality-based approach to evangelism take? How could you restructure your schedule and budget to make room for people who don't know Jesus?



People are seldom converted at once. It often takes multiple conversations before a person receives the gospel. We need to be as patient with our lost friends, as Jesus was and is with us. Evangelism through relationships takes time and

presents the possibility that we'll get hurt, but bringing someone to Jesus is the most significant connection we can ever make.



God uses your story to help lead someone into the kingdom.

#### APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What will you do this week?

Do you have a person you will reach out to?