

Tell Someone

YOU CAN SHARE
THE
GOOD NEWS

G R E G L A U R I E

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Contents

ABOUT THE AUTHOR	4
INTRODUCTION	5
HOW TO USE THIS STUDY	6
TIPS FOR LEADING A GROUP.	8
GROUP INFORMATION	11
Session 1	
WHY SHARE THE GOSPEL?	12
Session 2	
WHEN AND WHERE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL	28
Session 3	
THE POWER OF YOUR PERSONAL STORY.	44
Session 4:	
HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.	60
Session 5	
WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?.	76
Session 6	
CLOSE THE DEAL.	92
YOUR PERSONAL PLAN.	108

About the Author



GREG LAURIE is the senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside and Orange County in California. Harvest is one of the largest churches in the United States and consistently ranks among the most influential churches in the country. He recently celebrated 40 years as the senior pastor. In 1990, he began holding large-scale public evangelistic events called Harvest Crusades. More than 5 million people have attended Harvest events around the world, and more than 5 hundred thousand people have registered professions of faith through these outreaches.

He is the featured speaker of the nationally syndicated radio program “A New Beginning,” which is broadcast on more than seven hundred radio outlets worldwide. Along with his work at Harvest Ministries, he served as the 2013 honorary chairman of the National Day of Prayer and also serves on the board of directors of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

He has authored over 70 books, including *As It Is in Heaven*, *Revelation: The Next Dimension*, *As I See It*, *Hope for Hurting Hearts*, *Married. Happily. Every Day with Jesus*, *Signs of the Times*, *Hope for America*, and his autobiography, *Lost Boy*.

He has been married to Cathe Laurie for 41 years, and they have 2 sons, Christopher and Jonathan. Christopher went to be with the Lord in 2008. They also have 5 grandchildren.

Introduction

This is what every follower of Jesus should be engaged in on a regular basis:

SHARING our faith,
LEADING others to Christ,
DISCIPLING them,
and HELPING them to get grounded in the church—
and then GOING out and DOING it all again.

This study is not written to make you feel bad or condemn you if you haven't engaged others with the gospel message.

This study is written to
ENCOURAGE and EQUIP you.

I want to share some stories from my own life of both failure and success in my attempts to share my faith. But the most important things you will find in this study are biblical principles that you can apply in your life. I have put these principles to the test over 40 years of ministry in both one-on-one occasions and large-scale evangelistic events in arenas and stadiums.

If you will take the time to attend these six group sessions, engage in the conversations, and complete the exercises in this book from beginning to end, I believe that as you apply these biblical truths, you will not only be able to share your faith, but also bring others to Christ.

How to Use This Study

This Bible study book includes six weeks of content for group and personal study.

GROUP SESSIONS

Regardless of what day of the week your group meets, each week of content begins with the group session. This group session is designed to be one hour or more—half of the time being teaching and half being personal interaction. Of course it's even better if your group is able to meet longer than an hour, allowing more time for participants to interact with one another.

Each group session uses the following format to facilitate simple yet meaningful interaction among group members, with God's Word, and with the video teaching by Greg Laurie.

START

This page includes questions to get the conversation started, to review the previous week's practical application, and to introduce the video segment.

WATCH

This page includes key points from Greg Laurie's teaching, along with blanks for taking notes as participants watch the video.

RESPOND

This page includes questions and statements that guide the group to respond to Greg Laurie's video teaching and to relevant Bible passages.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each week provides three personal Bible studies with relevant Scripture, learning activities for individual engagement between group sessions, and practical application.

Each week's personal study helps members identify ways they can share the gospel in their daily lives. These personal exercises will build upon one another to encourage and equip participants with everything they need to begin telling their stories in a way that points to the ultimate story: the good news of Jesus Christ.

If only completing one section of the personal study each week, participants will want to fill out the exercises in Personal Study 1. Those exercises focus very specifically on the unique opportunities each person has to share the gospel and what evangelism looks like within each person's circle of influence.

PERSONAL PLAN

At the end of the six weeks, the final pages of this book contain space to gather the key steps from each week in a personal plan for sharing the gospel. Each person can tell someone how his or her life has been changed by the gospel.

ALSO AVAILABLE

This study is based on the book by the same name from Greg Laurie. To get the most out of this experience, everyone can also read:

Tell Someone: How to Share the Good News (B&H, 2016) ISBN 978-1-4336-9014-3.

Books are available for individual or bulk purchase for groups and churches at lifeway.com/tellsomeone.

Tips for Leading a Group

PRAYERFULLY PREPARE

Prepare for each meeting by—

REVIEWING the weekly material and group questions ahead of time;

PRAYING for each person in the group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to work through you and the group discussion as you point to Jesus each week through God's Word.

MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

Create a comfortable environment. If group members are uncomfortable, they'll be distracted and therefore not engaged in the group experience. Plan ahead by taking into consideration—

SEATING;

TEMPERATURE;

LIGHTING;

FOOD OR DRINK;

SURROUNDING NOISE;

GENERAL CLEANLINESS (put away pets if meeting in a home).

At best, thoughtfulness and hospitality show guests and group members they're welcome and valued in whatever environment you choose to gather. At worst, people may never notice your effort, but they're also not distracted. Do everything in your ability to help people focus on what's most important: connecting with God, with the Bible, and with one another.

ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

A good small-group experience has the following characteristics.

EVERYONE PARTICIPATES. Encourage everyone to ask questions, share responses, or read aloud.

NO ONE DOMINATES—NOT EVEN THE LEADER. Be sure that your time speaking as a leader takes up less than half of your time together as a group. Politely guide discussion if anyone dominates.

NOBODY IS RUSHED THROUGH QUESTIONS. Don't feel that a moment of silence is a bad thing. People often need time to think about their responses to questions they've just heard or to gain courage to share what God is stirring in their hearts.

INPUT IS AFFIRMED AND FOLLOWED UP. Make sure you point out something true or helpful in a response. Don't just move on. Build community with follow-up questions, asking how other people have experienced similar things or how a truth has shaped their understanding of God and the Scripture you're studying. People are less likely to speak up if they fear that you don't actually want to hear their answers or that you're looking for only a certain answer.

GOD AND HIS WORD ARE CENTRAL. Opinions and experiences can be helpful, but God has given us the Truth. Trust Scripture to be the authority and God's Spirit to work in people's lives. You can't change anyone, but God can. Continually point people to the Word and to active steps of faith.

Tell Someone

INCLUDE OTHERS

Your goal is to foster a community in which people are welcomed just as they are but encouraged to grow spiritually. Always be aware of opportunities to—

INVITE new people to join your group;

INCLUDE any people who visit the group.

An inexpensive way to make first-time guests feel welcome or to invite someone to get involved is to give them their own copies of this Bible study book.

KEEP CONNECTING

Think of ways to connect with group members during the week. Participation during the group session is always improved when members spend time connecting with one another outside the group sessions. The more people are comfortable with and involved in one another's lives, the more they'll look forward to being together. When people move beyond being friendly to truly being friends who form a community, they come to each session eager to engage instead of merely attending.

Encourage group members with thoughts, commitments, or questions from the session by connecting through—

EMAILS;
TEXTS;
SOCIAL MEDIA.

When possible, build deeper friendships by planning or spontaneously inviting group members to join you outside your regularly scheduled group time for—

MEALS;
FUN ACTIVITIES;
PROJECTS AROUND YOUR HOME, CHURCH, OR COMMUNITY.

GROUP INFORMATION

name

contact info

SESSION 1

WHY SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Start

Welcome everyone to the first session of *Tell Someone*.

Take a few minutes for participants to introduce themselves if anyone is new to the group. Then start your discussion by asking everyone for a quick answer to the following questions.

What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done? Why did you do it?

When you hear the word *evangelism* do you think of adventure? If not, what word comes to mind and why?

For the next six weeks, we'll be studying and discussing personal evangelism. This is something most of us know to be part of the Christian life, but we often feel intimidated by the idea and unsure of what to say.

Greg Laurie has decades of experience as a pastor and evangelist. He's going to share personal experiences, biblical insight, and practical guidance through video teaching in our group and personal study in your books each week.

Here's the spoiler: You can tell someone the good news of Jesus. It's simple. It's also exciting!

Before showing the video for session 1, pray for God to work in your hearts during the next six weeks, beginning right now.

Share what you're learning!
#TellSomeone

Tell Someone

Watch

Use the space below to take notes as you watch session 1.

Respond

Respond to the video teaching by discussing the questions below.

As Christians we share the gospel because we're commanded to and because we care. How does this change the way you see evangelism?

READ LUKE 15:7,10,32.

What do the conclusions and the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son teach us about God? About "lost people?"

Why is leading someone to Christ a joyful celebration?

READ PSALM 126:6.

What does going out weeping have to do with spreading gospel seed and returning with joy?

What did Greg mean by getting mad about people not knowing Jesus?

How does understanding the difference between a sin of commission and omission help you think about the Christian life? About evangelism?

On a scale of 1-10 (1 = dry and stagnate and 10 = full of life) how would you rate your spiritual life? Why? How are giving and receiving both related to spiritual health?

Does anyone have a story to share about a time when you felt spiritually refreshed by sharing your faith, teaching, or discipling someone?

Before closing in prayer, are there any final thoughts from today's video?

We can't control whether or not someone believes the gospel, but we can control whether or not we share it. This week's personal study will help you identify people in your life needing to hear the Good News of Jesus.

Tell Someone

PERSONAL STUDY 1

SHARING STARTS WITH CARING

As we get started, I want to tell you how the time between your group sessions will work over the next six weeks. Between each group time of the video teaching and discussion, this book has three “days” or sections of personal reflection and study. These are designed to fit your life no matter where you are or what you prefer.

- If you want to do the three sections on three different days of the week, that’s great. Or this may be an every other day pattern for you. Choose a routine that works best for your schedule.
- If you get excited about something, feel free to do as much as you’d like at one time. Of course my hope is that you *will* be excited, but if you are intimidated, unsure, or simply not excited right now, my prayer is that you will jump at the opportunity to tell someone—tell everyone—the good news of Jesus Christ.
- The first section of each session is the most important. If you only do one thing each week, please do Personal Study 1. The very first thing on the pages following the group session is a practical step to consider what all of this looks like in your own life. By the end of the six sessions, you will be able to see how each practical step has mapped out a personal action plan for fulfilling the Great Commission.

The point of this study isn’t to hear what I have to say about evangelism, it’s to encourage and equip YOU to tell someone.

Today you’ll consider the people in your life. We all have more relationships than we realize. Some relationships are closer than others, but we have regular interactions or connections with all kinds of people. They may be friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, people at the gym, parents of your children’s friends, that old classmate you still interact with on social media, etc.

For each category of relationship listed below, write down the names of as many people as you can (whether or not you like the person). Begin with the people of whose salvation you are unsure.

Friends

Family and Relatives

Coworkers and Associates

Neighbors

People you know through activities

People who attend church but may not yet be saved

Tell Someone

People with whom you regularly interact on social media

Other

Now go back and circle the names of people with whom you interact most often. Next star the names of people with whom you have the closest relationship. (These may be people you have circled already or people you are close to but don't interact with often.)

Do you see what is happening? You have key connections with people who need a personal relationship with God.

You probably care about some of these people more than others, that's natural. It's OK to want to circle or star their names more obviously, but we need to care about everyone's salvation. Why? God cares.

Sometimes it's easier to talk to people we are closest to. Other times it can be easier to talk to people with whom we have a minimal or passing relationship—like a parent on a team, someone at the gym, a taxi driver.

Do you care that people in your life don't know the Lord? No, really. Consider your thoughts, feelings, and actions, and answer the following questions as honestly as possible.

On a scale of 0-10, how often do you think about the spiritual condition of the people you know (0 = never, 10 = constantly)?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What would help increase this number, keeping people's spiritual condition in the front of your mind?

On a scale of 0-10, how urgent is it for people to hear and respond to the gospel? (0 = not urgent at all, 10 = extremely urgent)?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

In your own words, describe the difference in someone's eternal reality based on his or her response to the gospel.

In what ways does keeping this eternal reality in mind increase your sense of urgency to share the gospel?

How do you feel about unbelievers?

As I said, some of these people may be more friendly and receptive to the gospel; others may be more defensive or even antagonistic about the Christian faith. We'll talk more about those things later. But far too often we see certain people as the enemy when, in reality, they are bound by the Enemy.

Effective sharing of your faith starts with
a CONCERN and a BURDEN.

Over the next six weeks, we'll keep moving one step at a time toward a confidence and joy in telling people about the good news of Jesus Christ. Every follower of Jesus should be regularly sharing his or her faith, leading others to Christ, discipling them, and helping them get grounded in the church—and then going out and doing it all again.

Tell Someone

PERSONAL STUDY 2

SHARING THE GOSPEL IS AN ADVENTURE

Next to personally knowing Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, the greatest joy I know is leading others to Christ and watching them grow spiritually. And you can do that, too. It should be a joyful, happy thing to tell others about your relationship with God and explain how they can have one as well.

I have found that the HAPPIEST Christians
are the EVANGELISTIC ones.

I have also found that the unhappiest Christians are the nitpicky ones. They are so busy arguing about things inside the church and in the surround culture that they miss opportunities to share the gospel and literally change someone's life forever.

As the old country preacher Vance Havner used to say, "If we are too busy using our sickles on each other, we will miss the harvest!"

*We are writing these things
so that our joy may be complete.*

1 JOHN 1:4

How would you summarize what John is saying in this verse?

There is a happiness we miss out on if we are not sharing our faith. Don't miss it!

Scripture also tells us that Jesus said:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ACTS 20:35

What does this verse mean?

When have you experienced great joy in giving something to someone?

Why did it bless you as much or more than it blessed the other person?

God doesn't just expect us to give. He has set the ultimate example.

*For God loved the world in this way:
He gave His One and Only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him
will not perish but have eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16

Tell Someone

God has given His Son. He's given us His Word, the Bible. He's given the Holy Spirit to be with us each day. He's given us an opportunity to not only have eternal life in heaven, but abundant life and joy in the world right now.

Understand, this study is not intended to make you feel bad or condemn you if you have not engaged others with the gospel message. This study was written to encourage, inspire, and revitalize you.

Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

PROVERBS 11:25, NLT

If you've shared the gospel or been blessed to lead someone to Jesus, in what ways did it energize your own faith and enthusiasm?

How did it give that person(s) a new and noticeable change in his life or in her life?

God hasn't blessed you with all the messages you've heard in church or read in books over the years for you to keep it to yourself. Have you seen the TV programs that show the lifestyle of what they call "hoarders"? I'm not talking about people who just keep a few things too long. These are people who've filled their homes, their garages, and every square inch of their space with stuff. It takes days to clear it out.

Sometimes as Christians we can be the same way—hoarding all God has given us and not sharing it with others. Remember this: you are blessed to be a blessing. So let's get the idea out of our heads that sharing our faith is something we can't do or something miserable to engage in. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If you'll take the time to go through this study from beginning to end and apply the biblical truths, I believe you will be able to not only share your faith but to bring others to Christ.

*Though one goes along weeping,
carrying the bag of seed,
he will surely come back with shouts of joy,
carrying his sheaves.*

PSALM 126:6

Jesus told us there is joy in heaven over every sinner who comes to repentance. (See Luke 15:7.) If heaven gets excited, we should get excited, too!

No doubt about it, new believers are the lifeblood of the church. They also are the lifeblood of the Christian. We all need new believers in our lives. We need to deepen and ground them. In turn, they reignite and excite us.

You show me a church that doesn't have a constant flow of new Christians coming in, and I'll show you a church that's stagnating.

We have a choice: **EVANGELIZE** or **FOSSILIZE!**

Tell Someone

PERSONAL STUDY 3

WE'RE COMMANDED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

We share the gospel because we care and because we are commanded to do so.

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

MARK 16:15, NLT

Why tell others about Jesus Christ? Here's the short answer: Jesus told us to.

In fact, Jesus commanded us to take this message to the ends of the earth. The verses above are commonly known as the Great Commission. Another way to think of this is as a co-mission. This is a mission for every one of us to carry out together.

According to Jesus' words in the verses above, what did Jesus command His followers to do?

To what group of people are followers of Jesus commanded to go?

What's the first word, thought, or feeling that pops into your mind when hearing the words "authority" and "command"?

Do you think of Jesus more in the past tense (He said and did things in the past) or in the present tense (His words still apply and He's at work in and through you today)? Explain your answer.

Does the fact that Jesus has "all authority" and "commanded" His followers to do these things fit with your picture of Jesus? Why or why not?

Jesus' words are a command. It was never a mere suggestion that we, His followers, bring the gospel to others if we feel like it. This was, and is, as they say in the military, a direct order!

So, let's put this together: the Great Commission is to preach and teach; it's to proclaim and disciple.

In the Great Commission, we're commanded by Jesus to go and verbally communicate His good news of salvation to as many people as we can. If they respond to this message, we're to "make disciples" of them. That is, we're to help them become grounded in their faith and integrated into a local church. Then, we're to go and repeat this process.

Paul writes:

We proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ.

COLOSSIANS 1:28, PHILLIPS

Tell Someone

That's the objective: lead people to Jesus and bring them to maturity.

God says He is looking for people He can "show Himself strong for" (2 Chron. 16:9).

That is where you come in. God wants to use
YOU to bring other people to HIMSELF.

You might protest, "God could never use someone like me!" Actually He can and will if you let Him. It could even happen before the day is over. He won't force you to share your faith, but He will prompt you. And when you take that step of faith, He'll empower and use you.

What's your excuse?

Think of Moses. When called by God to speak out for Him, Moses essentially said, "I can't. I have a speech impediment!" (See Ex. 4:10.) When called by God to speak, Jeremiah felt he was too young. (See Jer. 1:6.) Think of those God used who had challenges and failures in life: Noah got drunk. Abraham was old. Jacob was a liar. David had an affair. Peter denied Christ. The disciples fell asleep while praying. Timothy had an ulcer. Lazarus was dead!

Paul wrote, "We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves" (2 Cor. 4:7, NLT).

I want you to discover the adventure of being used by God, especially in the area of telling others about Jesus.

God says He's looking for people He can "show Himself strong for" (2 Chron. 16:9). He's searching for someone who, like the prophet Isaiah, will simply say, "Here I am. Send me" (Isa. 6:8). Would you be that person? If so, a wonderful adventure awaits you.

Remember, God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God isn't looking for ABILITY as much
as He's looking for AVAILABILITY.

Write a prayer asking God for a passion and boldness to share the gospel. Ask for conviction that prompts obedience and a joy in obedient steps of faith. Thank Him for inviting you to join His work of seeking and saving the lost so that there will be great celebration in heaven.
