Chosen In Grace Empowered – Ephesians 3:14-20

Questions based on Sermon from June 4, 2023

Getting to Know Me

1. What energizes you? Was there something you were really good at that made you feel invincible?

Digging Deeper

- 2. What new insight or information did you learn from hearing the sermon this Sunday?
- 3. Read Ephesians 3:14-20. How does knowing that it is God's unlimited love and power working through you help you to share the gospel?

Evangelism Training

Transition from the sermon into the video series "Jesus Conversations." https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqvq4MPT9UDQFWFjpqQGo3rc9KJuuR8kH We will be taking these video segments a bit out of order. Today we will be learning a new tool to help you share the gospel with confidence in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Watch Video #7. "The S.A.L.T. Method of Evangelism." After this video, discuss the "S" – Start a Conversation:

Read Colossians 4:6 together. Share with each other how you normally start conversations with other people. What are some good starter questions to engage with others?

How would you bring the conversation around to asking about their spiritual or religious beliefs?

2. Watch Video #8: "Asking Great Questions and Listening." After the video, discuss the "A" and "L" of the S.A.L.T. method.

What stood out to you in this video? What did you really like or really struggle with?

"A" - Ask Questions:

In a few minutes, we'll try to put this into practice as we role play with one another. Here are some questions you can consider using:

- What do you believe?
- Why do you believe that?
- How did you come to that conclusion?
- Do you believe in God?
- How certain are you that God exists?
- Would you like to hear my story of why I believe in God?

Discuss: What are some other questions that you might ask to open a spiritual conversation?

"L" Practice good listening skills:

In your experience, what makes for a good listener?

Here are some good tips on developing your listening skills:

- Maintain eye contact with the speaker
- Avoid distractions
- Visualize what the person is saying
- Limit judgements
- Don't interrupt
- Wait for a pause to ask any clarifying questions
- Empathize with the speaker validate how they feel
- Pay attention to their nonverbal body language
- Show them you listened by using their words to summarize, rephrase what you just heard

Why do you think it is so important for us to begin with asking questions and listening deeply to the other person?

3. The "T" in S.A.L.T. stands for "Tell Your Story." This means to tell your personal testimony of faith or the gospel story.

Reflecting on Sunday's message, we learned that we are strengthened with power from the Holy Spirit. Our words have power.

Sum up the story of John 4, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. Then read John 4:39 together. Note that the 'words' of her testimony were powerful and led many to believe in Jesus. Do you think God can use your story in a similar way?

4. Exercise: Pair up and practice the S.A.L.T. method with one another. Have fun with it. Take turns sharing. The more you practice your telling your story, the better you will be at sharing the gospel in your everyday conversations.

Where Do I Go from Here?

- 1. At home, watch Video #9 "The Importance of Getting Answers." Write down a verse or verses that you want to memorize this week so that you can internalize and share God's truths.
- 2. Continue to work on your testimony so you can share it in less than 3-4 minutes. Refer to last week's Growth Group Questions for instructions on preparing your testimony.
- 3. Pray that God will give you boldness in sharing the gospel and bring people to mind this week with whom you can share the Bridge or S.A.L.T. method of evangelism.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we are amazed that you would choose us to further your kingdom here on earth. We do not deserve the grace you extend to each of us. Help us to see the opportunities you have prepared in advance for us to share the gospel with our friends, family, and neighbors! We are fully dependent on your power that works within us and not on our own. To you be the glory! Amen.

