

Share your short, personal, spiritual story with one other person in the group.

We can freely talk about sports, movies, events, etc. with no problem whatsoever. Why do we sometimes find it challenging to share how God has worked in our lives?

How can we overcome insecurity of talking to others about Christ?

When you hear the word “evangelist” what image pops into your mind? Is it a negative or positive image and why?

Who are some people you know in your church that seem to be especially effective at connecting others to God or bringing them to church? Do they fit the evangelist stereotype? Why or why not?

We are not all necessarily gifted evangelists, but we are all called to have spiritual impact in our world, helping others know Christ. Look at the following passages to determine various ways we are to have influence.

Influence 1

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Influence: _____

Describe the effect salt has on food.

What symbolism does salt hold in the Bible?

When Jesus tells his disciples they are salt of the earth, what do you think he means?

In what practical ways might we have a savoring influence in the world around us?

In what ways might we cease being salty?

Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

What does it mean to season your conversation with salt?

What are some practical ways you could have a savoring influence within the circles God has placed you that might reflect the love of God?



Influence 2

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Influence: _____

How would you define the role of an ambassador?

According to these verses, what is the message that we are to represent to this world?

Do you think the people within your circles of influence see you as an ambassador for Jesus? Why or why not? How could you represent his message of reconciliation to them?

If you truly understood your role as an ambassador, how that might affect your life?

Influence 3**Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)**

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Influence: _____

What does it mean to image God in this world?

What are some characteristics of God that we are to represent?

In what practical ways might you represent God's character this coming week in your circles of influence?

What does it mean to represent God's rule in this world?

John 14:12 (NIV)

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NIV)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

How might you exercise God's rule within your circles of influence?

Influence 4**Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)**

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Acts 13:46-48 (NIV)

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" ⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Influence: _____

Light, as a symbol, has two main connotations in scripture:

- 1.
- 2.

How might we radiate the glory of God?

Have others ever mentioned they saw something different in you? What do you think it was that they were seeing?

Psalms 96:3 (NIV)

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

How might we help people see the glory of God?

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ *This is good, and pleases God our Savior,* ⁴ *who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

How can we help push away darkness and reveal truth for people?

Have you had opportunities in the past to help clarify some misunderstanding about God or faith? Share your story.

How might you be able to lovingly bring truth about God into your circles of influence?

This week, intentionally try to have impact in one of these areas.