

TakeFive

Biblical insights for the week of **February 19-23, 2018**
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Evangelism

Monday — 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; John 3:16-17

How can you be the hands and feet of Christ without having arms or legs? That question will be answered this coming weekend, when we have the privilege of hosting Nick Vujcic, one of America's foremost evangelists. *Life Without Limbs* is his international evangelism ministry. He will inspire us to be better evangelists in our daily lives.

Evangelism is a fancy church word which simply means sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It is putting love into action. The gospel, *euangelion* in Greek, means good news. We are Christ's ambassadors when we share the good news of His great love and transformational power with the people God brings across our paths. We are urged in the gospel of Matthew to "go make disciples..." [Matthew 28:19-20] which is more natural for some Christians than others. None of us are exempt from Jesus' marching orders, so how can we build some habits of loving God more, loving people more and loving more people?

For Today: With whom might God want to use you to share His good news?

Tuesday — Isaiah 6:8; Luke 12:11-12

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This quote is a truism, regardless of who first said it. People are much more receptive to the gospel when it is shared by a trusted source, instead of someone shouting from a megaphone. Relationships breed source reliability.

We don't need to complicate evangelism. God isn't looking for the most competent and efficient people for the job. He is looking for a willing heart, like that of Isaiah, who said, "Here am I. Send me." We don't need to be worried; we just need to show up for others. Look for divine appointments all around you, at work, in your neighborhood, at the grocery store, or at a social event. Wherever you find yourself, ask God how to care for those around you. If Jesus has changed your life, you have a story to tell. Pray for Him to guide your words with truth and grace, bound up in love, and go for it.

For Today: Show up intentionally and make a difference for someone in your community. Ask Jesus for a willing heart and guidance.

Wednesday — 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 1 Peter 3:15-16

The apostle Paul reached more people for the sake of the gospel than almost anyone. But he never forgot that his role might only be planting a seed in someone's heart. His job was to be a servant and fulfill his task, though God might call someone else to finish the job. You never know how long someone will be in your life- maybe only for a moment, maybe for decades. All believers are on the same team, working together to further God's kingdom. Sow seeds generously, on all the soil, as in the Parable of the Sower. [Matthew 13:1-23]

For Today: Reach out to a couple of your Christian friends. Pray for one another to stay faithful in planting seeds of faith with those people that God has placed on your hearts.

Thursday — Matthew 5:15-16; John 13:35, 15:8

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine," is a traditional children's refrain. But the passage in Matthew says the point of it shining is not to see how bright we are. We don't manufacture the light, after all; God is our unending source of light, the light of the world! We need to stay plugged into Him to be able to shine.

Those in darkness are attracted to the light. The goal is that others "may see your good deeds and glorify your Father." When we love one another and bear fruit, we show ourselves to be disciples. To be holy, set apart, shows our priorities and motivation. How we live and love like Jesus should stand in contrast to the fickle ways of the world.

For Today: Write a card encouraging someone whose light shines brightly.

Friday — Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 20:24; Colossians 4:2-6

"I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord has given me, the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24 became my "life verse" years ago. Do you have a verse that speaks to your heart, and motivates you, that you can recall at all times? Hiding scripture in your heart and practicing telling others a short version of your story of how Jesus has transformed (and is transforming) your life will help you become a more natural evangelist.

For Today: Look through your Bible to see where you have underlined or marked a favorite passage. If you don't have one yet, pick one! Commit one verse to memory that will inspire and motivate you to share God's good news.