

Every Believer Is Personally Prepared to be a Witness



To get us started

Read John 1:29-42

There is no reason to speculate about the context that Peter and Andrew shared as brothers. If God wanted us to know details of their life before this moment, he surely would have shared those details with us. That said, the word "**brother**" in verse 40 gives us reason to pause and ponder.

Share a few stories about your relationship with your sibling(s) (without ruing their reputation! 😊)

For what reasons do you appreciate this detail in the story? (hint: consider how the account would change if John shared no information about their relationship)

Naturally, Andrew wanted to share the good news about finding Jesus with his brother whom he loved. We want to share good things with those we love most. This detail gives us confidence and clarity as to our role in evangelism. It's not always so scary. Sometimes it's as simple as sharing something good with a loved one!

Who am I?

Take a minute to answer the two questions below.

What's the role you've most identified with through your adult life (This is probably the answer to the small talk question, "What do you do for a living?")

What's the role that most impacted you *before* the bulk of your adult life. (This could be an experience in High School or college, a first job, etc.)

If you're in the Confirmed to College group, you probably can't answer those questions yet. Instead, share one life experience that has been most impactful for you. (This could be time on a sports team, theater production, outdoors experience, hobby, etc.)

Digging Deeper

If there's time, read John 1:43-51. Philip is from Bethsaida. The same town Peter and Andrew were from. While we are told Peter and Andrew are brothers, we're told nothing about the relationship between Philip and Nathanael. That said, the nature of the dialogue between Philip and Nathanael gives some clues about their relationship. Re-read the conversation between Philip and Nathanael. What do you notice? Share your observations with the group. (Challenge: There's quite a bit to notice! See how long of a list you can come up with!)

Philip going to find Nathanael implies he already knew him and wanted to share this news of Jesus with someone he cared about. They both had previous knowledge of the law of Moses, so they had a common context. Nathanael used sarcasm with the question "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" which seems to imply a close relationship with Philip. Nathanael was willing to follow Philip to "come and see" so there must have been some sort of trust or respect between them.

Follow-up: For what reasons are your observations important to the topic of sharing Jesus with others?

It is natural to want to share Jesus with people we know and love. Our relationship gives us opportunities to talk about Jesus because we have context, trust, and understanding with people we already know.

One By One: Every Believer Is Personally Prepared To Be A Witness

Pastor David Rosenau

Pastor David Rosenau is a second career WELS pastor with a very unique story. This week's video is a little under 15 minutes long and gives us a glimpse into his unique life experience that God used to personally prepare him for his role in God's Kingdom.

[*watch video*](#)

Pastor Rosenau's life experience might leave Christians with a past that's (shall we say) "less exciting," feeling a bit underqualified. On the one hand, it is good to give thanks to the Lord for people he uses to bring many to faith in Jesus. On the other hand, we'd be mistaken if blessings to the Church, like Pastor Rosenau, left us convinced we have no role. Read Acts 17:22-27. For what reasons is verse 26 so important to hear? (Keep your Bible open to Acts 17! We'll come back here at the end.)

God has appointed the time in which we live and the place. He puts us exactly where He wants us to be to have the greatest opportunities to share Jesus with others.

At your table, review the life experiences Pastor Rosenau shared in this week's clip. Discuss ways God used those experiences to prepare him for work in His Kingdom.

Mortician

He learned how important it is to be professional, personable, to know the names of people, to be respectful, saw the impact of kindness during a hard time in people's lives, etc.

Detective

He learned to work hard, gained insight into how challenging people's lives often are (saw lots of suffering), how to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

At your table, review the ways other individuals placed by God into Pastor Rosenau's life provided him much needed encouragement. Identify blessings provided by that encouragement.

Parents of Sunday School Kids

Attendance increased, parents started to stay to listen, parents encouraged him to be a pastor

His pastor

His pastor encouraged him to be a pastor and told him that God would keep after him until he did

A pastor he didn't know at a homicide scene

The pastor said that even though he didn't know anything about Pastor Rosenau, he thought Pastor Rosenau should be a pastor.

MLC Visit

MLC second career committee encouragement, Deutschlander class, Women's choir at chapel, A man at MLC who told him "I think you need to be here."

Application

Review the "**Who am I?**" exercise from the beginning of today's session. One at a time, remind the people in your group of your answers. Once an individual has shared their answers to the "**Who am I?**" exercise, it's the job of everyone else in the group to encourage that individual. Help each person see how God might use their unique life experience to prepare them for service in His Kingdom.

If there's time, finish reading Acts chapter 17 (verses 28-34.) This is the first time Paul is sharing the gospel with many of the people in Athens! In the very first sermon he preaches to them, Paul not only shares Law and Gospel, he confronts his listeners with the urgency of the mission Jesus gives to his Church. The risen Christ is coming to judge the world and he's coming soon! This is incredible! No one is better equipped to share the Gospel, than a sinner who's been healed by the Gospel. And the time to do so is short!

At your table, discuss how the way we view our own capabilities impacts our willingness to share the Gospel.

If we are unsure of our ability to share Jesus we may be hesitant to bring up the Gospel. We may feel that we don't have "opportunities" to share Jesus if our lives or abilities are "ordinary." We may be tempted to "slow play" the Jesus conversation in relationships if we are focused on our own capabilities.

Follow-up: For what reasons does a better understanding of how God has uniquely equipped each one of us provide us with much needed encouragement to share the Gospel with the people God has placed into our lives?

It is God who has appointed our time and place to live. He will work through our experiences to personally equip us to share the gospel with those he has placed in our lives at each season. He has designed our opportunities and only asks us to share what he has already given to us! Remember, it's only the one who has had the Gospel applied to him/her who is able to share the Gospel with others. If the Gospel has been applied to you, which it certainly has, then you already have what is needed to share Jesus with others (to apply the Gospel to their sinful heart)!