

God Provides Courage To Do What Is Uncomfortable And Inconvenient



Commented [PZ1]: Goal: This lesson's goal is to have an honest conversation about how uncomfortable and inconvenient sharing the gospel often is. It's good to remember that Jesus was honest with us. Jesus clearly communicates to us just how difficult following him will be. Only the peace God provides to us, thanks to the forgiveness of our own sins, can provide us with the courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

To get us started

"It was worth it." Almost without fail, that phrase follows some sort of discomfort or inconvenience. And yet, "it was worth it." Take five minutes to share a few "it was worth it" stories. (Second-hand stories are allowed. Personal experiences are even better!)

Read Luke 7:36-50

Some in this room are probably more like the sinful woman than they are like Simon. Others in this room are probably more like Simon than they are like the sinful woman. Satan's goal is that no one in this room be saved. Identify strategies Satan might use in his efforts to drag the "sinners" in this room away from Jesus. Then identify the strategies Satan might use in his efforts to drag the "Pharisees" away from Jesus.

Sinners

Jesus couldn't love you. Not someone like you

Everyone will judge you at church. Stay away

Just do it. Just do what feels good.

You'll never be able to do it right.

Pharisees

Jesus loves you because you're better

You should make sure everyone knows how great you are.

At least you're not *that* bad

You have so much to offer. Just think of how much better of a leader you'd be.

In what ways did Jesus address any attack Satan could dream up in this section? Take 5 minutes to develop as long of a list as possible! (hint: It might be helpful to re-read the section as you consider this question)

Jesus is present with both. Jesus didn't leave the woman or tell her to get away from him. We don't know exactly how, but Jesus had made sure this woman had heard of his great love for her. She knew she was forgiven already. It's that knowledge of her forgiveness that results in her actions. Jesus is explaining to Simon what has already happened. "Simon, I have something to say to you." Jesus knows the sins of all. He knows the woman's sins, and Simon's. Jesus loves Simon enough to reveal his sins to him—and Simon wasn't treating him with much love/respect. Only when he better understands his own sin, will he begin to appreciate the great Love of God shown to him in Jesus, *and Jesus wants him to appreciate that Love!* Jesus says outloud, what she already knew. "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Digging Deeper

In Session One, we heard about the confidence Joann had "on the day of judgment" because she knew what Jesus had done for her. Her husband Richard had this same confidence. This made all the difference in the world for them as they faced Joann's death. For those of us still alive, we have the same peace of forgiveness. It's this same peace of forgiveness, that provides the courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

"And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us."

1 John 4:16a Christian Standard Bible

Compare the translation of 1 John 4:16a above to the bible you're reading. What jumps out at you? What is God communicating to us in this verse?

NIV84 and 11 has "know and rely." Believe is more literal to the word used in Greek. Rely may help better communicate the impact belief in Christ actually has on our life.

Now read 1 John 4:16-5:4. In small groups, identify as many blessings that flow from the truth above as you can.

Confidence. No fear in love. Perfect love drives out fear. The one who fears is still worried about punishment. Jesus took the punishment so have no fear! Presence of God. We are provided evidence of true faith as we demonstrate love to others. Part of God's family. "This is how *we know...*" He loved us in spite of our sin. Our faith in Christ has conquered the world! (There's a lot to unpack! What kind of victory are we talking about? No one, nothing in this world, can take us away from God)

One By One: God Provides Courage To Do What Is Uncomfortable And Inconvenient

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 7 minutes long and provides priceless insight into the gift of God that provides courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

[watch video](#)

Application

We need courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient. We need comfort when guilt plagues us over missed opportunities or failed attempts to share the gospel. Do we realize these are different things? Do we realize how different these two things are? Let's list every excuse my sinful heart could dream up that could prevent me from sharing the Gospel.

I don't know what to say. I don't know where to start. I'm not an evangelist. What if they don't like me. I know God has given me some gifts, but he hasn't given me the gifts needed to share the Gospel. What if they ask me a question I don't know the answer to. I don't want to be confrontational. I don't want to mess of the relationship/be left out/be the odd one out/be judged. I don't want to hurt them. I just don't want to. It's too hard. I'll say it wrong. And on and on it goes.

These are the kinds of thoughts that often keep us from sharing the Gospel with others. But dig a little deeper into your heart. What are the *real* reasons we often don't share the good news of sins forgiven and peace with God?

Sadly, it often comes down to an underwhelming appreciation for what God has done for me. I forget so easily what the Gospel means for me, now and in eternity. I lose focus. I don't see life clearly. One minute the light of Christ is shining in my life, and I see obstacles for what they are. The next minute, I find myself stumbling in the dark and am unable to see what's really going on around me. I'm selfish. I know I'm good in God's eyes. They're just going to have to figure it out for themselves.

We need courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient. We need comfort when guilt plagues us over missed opportunities or failed attempts to share the gospel.

Justification = Courage

All are "not guilty!" Yes, me! Them too! MORNING

Election= Comfort God's got this. Not one of His elect will fall because of me. EVENING

Read 1 John 3:19,20

Remember, courage alone isn't the thing. The *source* of the courage is the thing. It's the gift of God's forgiveness, and the peace provided thanks to that forgiveness, which provides the courage to speak—even when it's uncomfortable—even when it's inconvenient. So then, if you're going to speak, because you're no longer afraid, what might you say? Of course, you'll share the peace of forgiveness!

What Jesus has done for me is the key. If I forget the impact of what Jesus has done for me, I'll find myself scared and stumbling over my words. When I realize the simplicity of evangelism, I'm liberated. There is nothing easier for a human being to do, than to tell their own story. I lived my story. Who could tell my story better than me? Your story as a Christian centers on what Jesus has done for you. When you realize that evangelism is as simple as saying, "This is what Jesus has done for me. And what he's done for me, he's done for you." This. Is. Liberating. It's not about "saying it right." Evangelism is as simple as saying, "This is what Jesus has done for me. And what he's done for me, he's done for you."

Right here, right now, let's see how many different ways we can come up with to share the peace of forgiveness. (If you're not in the habit of writing things down on these sheets, I encourage you to grab a pen and write these down!)

Challenge: If there's time create categories and then fill in each category. (Mothers to Daughters (vice versa) Fathers to Sons (vice versa). Sibling to Sibling. Friends. Co-workers. Acquaintance. Strangers. Feel free to create categories based on the relationships of the people in the session!)