



EXPLORING EVANGELISM

Insights from the Gospel of John

7 Bible Studies John 1-5

February & March
2024

EXPLORING EVANGELISM

TERM 1 MORNING TEACHING SERIES



PRIMARY AIM

To introduce or re-establish the importance of Gospel witness and evangelism as normative in the Christian life and to provide a robust biblical framework for evangelistic conversations.

SUBSIDIARY AIMS

- To explore the first five chapters of John's Gospel;
- To demonstrate that witnessing one's faith is normative for every Christian;
- To assist people in overcoming fears of rejection and/or 'not knowing enough' to share their faith;
- To prayerfully prepare people for a launch of a Parish Evangelism Strategy later in the year;
- To encourage people to invite their friends to Alpha in term 2. .

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS

While Evangelism is universally acknowledged as a crucial focus for any evangelical Church, the reality often falls short of the desired effectiveness. In the preceding Church year, we joyfully marked only three Baptisms and eight Confirmations. However, despite respectable attendance at our Alpha Course, a significant portion of participants already profess Christianity.

In line with the St Hilary's Strategic Vision 2022-2025, a pivotal objective has been identified: the formulation of a Parish Evangelism Strategy. Anticipated to be unveiled this year, this initiative aims to provide a platform for biblical reflection on the significance and attributes of an effective evangelism strategy. Additionally, it seeks to mobilise individuals, inspiring them to embrace their Christian mandate to actively engage in disciple-making.

2 Exploring Evangelism

STRUCTURE AND TOPICS

We will work through Chapters 1-5 over seven weeks.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING
1	Feb-11	The Mission of God	John 1:1-14
2	Feb-18	Missional God, Missional Bible, Missional Church	John 1:14-34
3	Feb-25	Knowing the Gospel	John 3:1-21
4	Mar-03	Sharing the Gospel	John 4:1-26
5	Mar-10	Embracing Every Opportunity	John 4:27-42
6	Mar-18	Demonstrating the Gospel	John 4:46-54
7	Mar-24	Responding to Objections	John 5:19-29

RESOURCES

Gerald L. Borchert, John 1–11, vol. 25A, NAC (Nashville: Holman, 1996).

D. A. Carson, The Gospel according to John, PNTC (Grand Rapids: IVP, 1991).

Colin G. Kruse, John: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 4, TNTC (Downers Grove: IVP, 2003).

This series has been largely influenced by an online subject in Evangelism that the Lead Minister audited over through the Dallas Theological Seminary. This course can be audited for free here: <https://courses.dts.edu/courses/evangelism>

1

John 1:1-14

THE MISSION OF GOD

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 1:1-14.
2. What insights can you find by comparing John 1:1-5 with Genesis 1:1-5?
3. List out key words and metaphors used in 1:1-5. Then if time allows, list out where these words and metaphors are used throughout the gospel of John.
4. According to verses 6-8, what role did John the Baptist play in God's purposes? Why do you think the clarification in verse 8 was included?
5. How is the 'true light' received (vv.9-13)? List some of the different ways Jesus and his message were received in the gospel and throughout the Acts narrative.

6. What is the promise to all who believe in his name (vv.12-13)? How do you feel about this promise of God - is this a promise that you desire, or regularly meditate on? Could you say it is part of your identity?
7. What does the gospel writer mean by the word 'world' (vv.9-11)? What is the impact of this word on us?
8. What is the significance of verse 14? What has been revealed through the 'Word became flesh'?
9. Think about one person in your life who doesn't know God. If you were to share this passage or ideas with them, share ideas of how might you do it?
10. What are some of the characteristics of the Mission of God (*Missio Dei*) found in this passage? How might you define God's Mission in the world, using your own words?
11. How does our overall understanding of God's Mission influence our beliefs and values and actions?
12. Pray for each other.

2

John 1:14-34

MISSIONAL GOD, MISSIONAL BIBLE, MISSIONAL CHURCH

1. Have you ever been mistaken for someone else? Share your experience.
2. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 1:14—34.
4. Thinking about verses 16-17, what might be the ‘grace already given’ (NIV)?
5. ‘No one has ever seen God’ (v.18). But didn’t Moses see God (find out the answer in Ex 33:20)? What is the important point being emphasized in verse 18 about Jesus?
6. Who did people think John the Baptist was (vv.19-21)? Why did finding out matter so much to the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem?

7. In verse 23, how does John understand his role and relationship to Jesus? What do you think was involved for John in making a straight path and what were some of the obstacles?
8. What did John intend by referring to Jesus as the 'Lamb' in verse 29? (cf. Jn 2:13; Is 53)
9. John repeatedly says he 'did not know him' (v.31,33). What convinced John that Jesus was 'God's Chosen One' (v.34)? What things did God do to help prepare John for his moment of revelation?
10. If you are a believer, what convinced you that Jesus is God's Chosen One?
11. Matthew 28:18-19 records Jesus' great commission to his disciples. What does this mission involve based on these two verses?

12. Mission is a significant focus at St Hilary's.

Fundamentally this is realized through the work of both the Mission and Social Justice Committee and Hope Ministries. The danger in our model is that mission is "outsourced" while the Church continues with ministry and maintenance. Where in the Bible do we especially see the "missional character" of God and in what sense?

13. How does the interchange between John and Jesus provide us with an insight into God's missional heart for His Church?

14. Pray for each other.

3

John 3:1-21

KNOWING THE GOSPEL

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 3:1-21.
2. Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at midnight? What was his understanding of who Jesus was (v.2), and how is Nicodemus' understanding of Jesus significant in the discussion that follows?
3. What does being 'born again' mean (v.3)?
4. What is the source of Nicodemus' misunderstanding and what needs to happen to be born again (vv.5-8)?
5. Does Jesus really mean that the spirit is good and the flesh is bad? Discuss.
6. Jesus confronts Nicodemus for his lack of understanding in verse 10. Are there any people today that you meet, who know a lot about God but still do

not understand what is needed to be 'born of the Spirit'?

7. Whose 'testimony' is referred to in verse 11?
8. Look up Numbers 21:8-9. What comparison is Jesus making between Moses lifting the snake and the Son of Man in John 3:14-15?
9. Thinking about verses 16-21, what is the default condition of the world and what is needed for a person to be given eternal life?
10. What do we learn about God and his mission in John 3:1-21?
11. In describing the Gospel to a non-believer:
 - How might you use this passage?
 - What other bible passages might you point to?
 - What imagery, analogy or personal anecdote might you employ?
12. Pray for each other.

4 **John 4:1-26**

SHARING THE GOSPEL

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 4:1-26.
3. What do we learn about Jesus, given he did not bypass Samaria in his travels or avoid talking to a Samaritan woman (John 4:3-9)?
4. In what ways is the exchange between Jesus and the women about identity (vv.9-10)? Discuss.
5. What does Jesus mean by 'living water' (vv.10-15)? What is Jesus' use of 'living water' so perfect for sharing about salvation?
6. Do you think Jesus intended from the beginning to share about salvation with the woman?
7. What significance does the context of Jacob's well (v.6) have for what Jesus shares about?

8. Why does the woman see Jesus as a prophet in verse 19? What is Jesus' intention by raising the women's relationship history and how is it relevant to 'living water'?
9. What does Jesus mean in verses 23 and 24? What implications does this have for who can receive salvation?
10. From this exchange, what principles can we use for sharing the gospel with those we come in contact with?
11. How can we follow Jesus' example of sharing the gospel with those who are in need or that are not in our social circles?
12. Have you ever shared your faith with a non-believer?
 - When was the last time you did this?
 - What is your style or approach?
 - Do you know how to tell your own before and after story?
 - Share the brief version with your group.
13. Pray for each other and for good opportunities to share our faith with people we know and meet. See if you can work Ephesians 2:8-9 into your prayers.

5

John 4:27-42

EMBRACING EVERY OPPORTUNITY

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 4:27-42.

3. Why were the disciples surprised to find Jesus talking with a woman (v.27)?

4. What is the woman's response after her discussion with Jesus (vv.28-30; cf. vv.7-26)? What do you think was going through her mind and was feeling?

5. The focus of the narrative moves from the woman and living water to the disciples and food. Compare the disciples' misunderstanding about food with the Samaritan woman's misunderstanding about water (vv.31-33). What opportunities does Jesus take?

6. What is Jesus' work (vv.34-35)? What is the need he is responding to and what does Jesus mean?
7. In verses 36-38, who might represent the 'sower' and the 'reaper'?
8. Both the effectiveness of the woman's witnessing and Jesus' teaching are emphasized in verses 39 to 42. How does this illustrate verse 37?
9. Does the saying in verse 37 encourage you as you think about sharing your faith?
10. Name some of the things/obstacles that stop you from sharing your faith with others?
11. If someone rejects your invitation to trust in Christ, does that mean they will never trust in Christ? Discuss.

12. What did you learn this week that will help you to be bolder in sharing the gospel?

13. What would it take for you to share the gospel with someone?

14. Pray for each other, for courage and opportunities to share your faith. Work the scripture from 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 into your prayers.

6

John 4:46-54

DEMONSTRATING THE GOSPEL

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 4:46-54.
3. Jesus already had a reputation for healing in Cana (v.46). How might this reputation have contributed to the royal official's confidence in Jesus (v.47)?
4. The word 'wonders' has a possible magical sense. What is Jesus warning to the official and those around him about (v.48)?
5. In verse 50, what was remarkable about the man's response to Jesus' command to 'Go'? Does he heed Jesus' warning? Note that the journey from Cana to Capernaum would have taken over 29 kilometers, over a day in walking.

6. 'In the ancient world miracles and acts of power were linked to the presence of the miracle worker, but here the healer refused to be present.' (Borchert, 220). What are the implications on our faith and our prayer life in knowing this about Jesus (cf. 20:29-31)? How is Jesus' power different from magic?
7. The royal official's household believed (v.53). What does the second sign (v.54) reveal about Jesus' character, his purpose and mission?
8. The work of evangelism encompasses responding to immediate needs and demonstrating genuine love and compassion when opportunities arise. What great changes/transitions in history were impacted by Christians?
9. What are some ways we can demonstrate the Gospel in our life? How can we make choices in our own contexts that demonstrate the love of Jesus for the world?
10. Pray for each other, and for the ability to demonstrate the Gospel in our lives.

7

John 5:19-30

RESPONDING TO OBJECTIONS

1. Pray for the Spirit to guide your thinking and provide insights into his Word. Read John 5:19-30.
3. Why might Jesus begin teaching about the Son's authority, from verse 18 onwards? Look over the earlier part of the chapter (5:1-18).
4. What is Jesus claiming in verses 19-20?
5. What three 'greater things' does Jesus refer to (vv. 21-23)? How might this have sounded to his original audience?
6. Some see Father-Son apprenticeship imagery being used in verses 19-23. Is this a helpful or unhelpful metaphor? Discuss.
7. The 'Son gives life' (v.21). How does Jesus' teaching expand on this in verses 24 to 28?

8. What is the warning in verses 28 to 30? What does Jesus mean by saying 'those who have done good will rise to live'?
9. In summary, what does Jesus say is the source of his authority and what are his key responsibilities?
10. How do you experience Jesus' words in this section?
11. Brainstorm a list of the most common objections to the Gospel / Christians. Pick one and consider how with love and sensitivity we might respond to this objection.
12. Do you know of any good resources for handling objections to the gospel? Where would you turn to for help in responding to difficult questions?
13. What situations require an apologetic response and what situations might call for a listening ear and a more pastoral response? How could you discern this?
14. Pray for each other, infusing 1 Peter 3:15-16 into your prayers.



FEEDBACK?

*To share your ideas and feedback
on how to improve our bible study series,
follow the link QR code:*



Bible Studies written by Tavis Beer & Adam Cetrangolo.

Copyright © 2024 St Hilary's Anglican Church
www.sthills.com