

Session 2: God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life

Open in Prayer

Opening Activity

Briefly share the results of the previous session's "Out of the Comfort Zone" assignment.

Food for Thought

The first step in learning to share our faith is to examine our own hearts. It is important to know our motivation for witnessing. The fuel that motivates us to share the gospel with others should be our gratitude to God for the cross, combined with a concern for the terrible fate of unbelievers. Who do you know who isn't saved and will one day be cast into the Lake of Fire? We should be horrified at the thought of this happening to *anyone*. If you're lacking the fuel of compassion for others and gratitude for your own salvation, the task of sharing your faith will become a chore, feeling loathsome and legalistic. If there's no fuel in your car, you'll have to push it rather than drive it. If you have to push the vehicle of evangelism, it will be a tiresome task, while driving it will be exhilarating. Without the fuel of gratitude, your attitude won't be an enthusiastic "I delight to do Your will," but a begrudging "I *have* to do Your will."

Each of us needs to have a Garden of Gethsemane experience, where we lay down our own will. It was in a garden where man first said, "Not Your will, but *mine* be done." And it's in a garden where we need to go back and say, "Not my will, but Yours be done." Don't be concerned that the rest of the church may be sleeping when it comes to seeking the lost. Just find a quiet place, get on your knees and say, "Father, the thought of sharing the gospel with strangers and my loved ones makes me sweat great drops of blood. Yet, not my will, but Yours be done." Make it so real that the next time you're standing at Starbucks and you want to share your faith with the person standing next to you, you will remember your Gethsemane experience.

Before we continue, take two or three minutes right now for silent prayer, as you meditate on the cross and surrender yourself completely to the Lord.

View the Video God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life

Discussion

1. Have you ever told people that God has a "wonderful plan" for their lives?
2. What do you think they perceive "wonderful" to mean?
3. Why do you think the "wonderful plan" message is so popular with Christians?

4. How would you explain to another Christian that the “wonderful plan” message is unbiblical?
5. What did Jesus say could be in store for those who trust in Him?
6. Explain what the Bible means by “abundant” life.
7. What were the fates of the disciples and other believers throughout history?
8. Have you ever felt that you couldn’t witness to people who were already happy as they were? What was the cause of your dilemma?
9. For what should sinners be “thirsting” when they come to Christ?
10. How can you “salt the oats” of a sinner?

Out of the Comfort Zone Activity

Make the effort this week to greet at least two complete strangers each day until the next session. At the grocery store, the gas station, school, or work, practice being friendly with people you don’t know. Learn to say to a complete stranger, “Hi. How are you doing?” This really isn’t difficult and will bring unexpected smiles to people’s faces. So go out of your way to greet someone, then note the person’s reaction. This may sound overly simplistic, but it’s a very important step toward sharing your faith.

Close in Prayer