

# Why Should We Tell People About Jesus?



## SABBATH—JUNE 27

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Luke 19:10; Zephaniah 3:17; John 7:37, 38; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 18–20.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “This is good and pleases God our Savior. God wants everyone to be saved and to fully understand the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3, 4, ERV).



**More than anything else,  
God wants to save us.**

**WHAT DOES GOD WANT?** He wants all people everywhere to accept His love. He also wants people to be changed by His Holy Spirit. God wants humans to live with Him in His kingdom. More than anything else, God wants to save us. His love has no limits. We cannot measure His love. God's love has no end. His forgiveness never runs out. His power cannot be used up or worn out. God is different from any other god that humans ever worshiped. Humans gave these false gods gifts. But the true God gave His life as a gift for us. Do you want to be saved? God wants to save you even more than you want to be saved! (1 Timothy 2:3, 4, ERV). With all His heart, God wants to save you and me.

What is witnessing all about? Witnessing is telling other people all about Jesus and what He did to save us. It is about how Jesus changes our lives. Witnessing is about wonderful Bible truth. The Bible teaches us about God. The Bible shows us the beauty in God's heart. Why should we witness or tell people about Jesus? Because we understand who God is. We want to share our experience about God's love and His mercy with other people. Why else should we witness? Because we want to work with Jesus. We want to share the joy He feels when He saves people. His love changes lives.

**GOD GIVES US THE CHANCE TO BE SAVED (Luke 19:10)**

God gives people everywhere the chance to know Him every day. God's Holy Spirit touches our hearts. God shows Himself to us in all the beautiful things we see in nature. This earth and the stars in the sky show us God's power and wisdom. God also controls what happens in our lives to bring us near to Him. He leads us so that we will know that He cares about us.

Yes, the Holy Spirit, nature, and God's leading in our lives help us to know God. But what is the best way for us to understand God's love? Jesus shows us God better than anything else. We see God in Jesus' life and His work. So, we should share Jesus with other people. Then we will give them the best chance to be saved.

**Compare Luke 19:10 with James 5:19, 20. What does Luke 19:10 teach us about why Jesus came to this earth? How do we work together with Jesus to save other people?**

The book of James tells us: "Anyone who brings a sinner back from the wrong way will save that sinner's soul from death. By doing this, that person will cause many sins to be forgiven" (James 5:20, ICB). The book of Romans helps us to understand this idea better. In Romans 1 and 2, we read about the Jews and the non-Jews. The non-Jews did not have the Bible to show them about God. But they learned about God from nature. The Jews had the Bible. The Bible showed them who God is. But both groups will be lost if they do not have Jesus Christ. In Romans 3–5, Paul tells us that we are saved only by our faith in God's mercy. In Romans 6–8, Paul tells us that the same power that saves us also makes us holy. In Romans 10, Paul says: "anyone who asks the Lord for help will be saved" (Romans 10:13, ICB). Then Paul tells us, "before people can pray to the Lord for help they must believe in him" (Romans 10:14, ERV). We cannot believe in Him if we do not know Him. We cannot know Him until someone tells us about Him. So, do you see how important we are in God's plan to save other people? God uses us to share the Good News with sinners. We help God save lost humans.

**The reason we tell people about Jesus is not to give people their only chance to be saved. We share Jesus with them to give them their "best" chance. What is our part in God's plan to save humans? How many people know about Jesus because of what you have shared with them?**



**Jesus shows us God better than anything else.**

**LET US MAKE JESUS GLAD! (Zephaniah 3:17)**

**All heaven feels joy and sings when God saves a sinner.**

Has anyone ever asked you, “How is your day going?” Or “Is everything all right with you today?” What if you asked God these same questions? What if you say, “God, how is Your day going?” How do you think God will answer? Maybe He will say, “My day has been very hard. Tears filled My eyes because of all the people and children who lost their homes. These people ran to another country. They are cold and hungry there. I also walked the streets of this earth’s crowded cities. I wept when I saw the homeless and the poor. My heart broke when I saw women who were beaten and children who were sold as sex slaves. I saw how war destroys lives. I saw how floods and earthquakes hurt people. I saw people suffer pain from awful sickness.” Then we can ask, “But God, is there anything that fills Your heart with joy? Is there anything that makes You sing?”

**Read Luke 15:4–32. How do these stories end? What do their endings tell us about God?**

All heaven feels joy when God saves a sinner. Yes, we live on an earth filled with sickness, earthquakes, floods, and death. But we can fill God’s heart with joy when we share with other people the Good News about Jesus. What is one of the best reasons for sharing Jesus’ love with other people? The answer is: when we share God with other people God’s heart fills with joy. Every time we show God’s love to other people, everyone in heaven sings!

**Read Zephaniah 3:17. As we see in this verse, what does the Lord do when we accept His power to save us?**

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Make this picture in your mind: you share Jesus with someone. Then this person accepts Jesus as his or her personal Savior. What happens next? Jesus is filled with joy. Everyone in heaven sings. Our mighty Savior sings with joy too. Yes, we live on an earth that is filled with so much sorrow and pain. But your story about Him fills God’s heart with joy and song. What can be more wonderful than knowing that!

**WHEN WE GIVE, WE GROW (John 7:37, 38)**

The lowest part of planet Earth is the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is 1,412 feet lower than the top of the other seas on earth! Where does the Dead Sea start? It starts with the Jordan River. The Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee. Then the Jordan River flows south into the Jordan Valley until it ends in the Dead Sea.

The air around the Dead Sea is very dry. The sun there is very hot. It makes the air feel the same as a desert. The Dead Sea is 33.7% salt! Few things live in its salt waters. There are no fish or plants. Only some very small things live on the bottom of the Dead Sea. These living things are too small for us to see without a microscope.

The Dead Sea helps us understand our need for grace. Grace is God's gift of mercy, forgiveness, and power over sin. We must let God's grace into our lives. Then we must let grace flow from our hearts to other people. Without grace, we will be the same as the Dead Sea. We will not have any spiritual life. That is not the way a Christian should live. We should not be "Dead Sea" Christians.

**Read John 7:37, 38 and Luke 6:38. These verses show us what happens in our lives when Jesus gives us Living Water to drink. What happens when we drink it?**

"Does God need our help to save sinners? No! God wants us to become the same as His Son. So, we must join God in Jesus' saving work. Then we will feel the joy that God feels. That joy comes from our seeing people saved because of Jesus' death."—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 142, adapted.

"Do you want to win the war against sin? Then stop acting selfish. Start caring about saving other people. That will help you to stop being selfish."—Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 207, adapted.

So, let us share with other people what Jesus has done for us. Then our spiritual lives will grow strong. Think about everything that God gives us in Jesus! Only a selfish heart will keep us from sharing this gift with other people. If we fail to share our faith, what will happen? Our spiritual lives will become the same as the Dead Sea.

**Have you shared Jesus with anyone? How did your experience make your faith grow stronger?**



**Share with people what Jesus does for you. Then your spiritual life will grow strong.**

**OBEYING JESUS' COMMAND (1 Timothy 2:3, 4)**

When we are loyal to Jesus, we will follow His plan. We will obey His commands. What is important to Jesus will be important to us. Is your heart loyal to Jesus? Then you will work with Him to save people who are lost in sin.



God wants all people to be saved to fully understand Bible truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

**Read 1 Timothy 2:3, 4 and 2 Peter 3:9. What do these verses tell us about God's heart? What is the most important thing to God?**

God is excited about saving people. His children are very important to Him. God wants all people to be saved and to “fully understand the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4, ERV). “But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost. He wants everyone to change his heart and life” (2 Peter 3:9, ICB). *The SDA Bible Commentary* tells us that the word “want” in 2 Peter 3:9 comes from the Greek word “**boulomai**.” “**Boulomai** shows us ‘a desire or wish to do something.’” Next, the *SDA Bible Commentary* talks about the word “but.” The Greek word for “but” is “**alla**.” Peter uses this word to “show us two different ideas. The first idea is the false belief that God does not wish to save everyone. But the second idea is the truth that God wants everyone to be saved.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 7, page 615, adapted. Jesus commands us to work with Him to save people. He wants us to tell people about His love, truth, and grace. Grace, as we saw, is God's gift of mercy, forgiveness, and power over sin. When we work to save people, we show them Jesus' wish to save all humans.

**Read Acts 13:47 and compare it with Isaiah 49:6. Who is Paul talking to in Acts 13:47? What is Paul telling us in this verse?**

Sometimes Old Testament messages have more than one meaning. In Acts 13:47, Paul tells the Jews and non-Jews an Old Testament message about Israel and the Savior (read Isaiah 41:8; Isaiah 49:6; and Luke 2:32). Paul shows how this verse is about the New Testament church too. What happens when the church does not pay attention to Jesus' commands? The church will fail to do the work God gave her.

**What is the danger of forgetting why we, as a church, are here on this earth?**

**LOVE LEADS US (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 18–20)**

This week, we have answered the question: “Why should we share Jesus?” We discovered that we feel joy when we share our faith. We also feel joy when we work together with God to save people. Our stories about God’s love show people how they can be saved. They can see more clearly God’s truth and grace. Remember, grace is God’s gift of mercy, forgiveness, and power over sin.

At the same time, God helps us to grow stronger when we share Jesus. So, we must remember to share Jesus with other people. We must tell them everything God does for us. We must help people in need too. If we fail to tell people about Jesus, our spiritual life will fail to grow.

When we tell people about Jesus, we come close to the God who wants to save all humans. We also obey God’s command. In today’s study, we will look at the best reason for why we should tell other people about Jesus.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 18–20. What helped Paul to stay strong during hard times, tests of faith, difficult problems, and bad experiences? How can Paul’s reason help us to stay strong in our work for Jesus too?**

Paul worked with love in his heart. You will do things for love that you will not do for any other reason. Paul says, “the love of Christ controls us” (2 Corinthians 5:14, ERV). Paul’s words are an everlasting truth. The word “controls” means to “lead, guide, to control, or to cause someone to strongly want to do something.” Jesus’ love controlled everything Paul did. It caused Paul to share God’s saving plan all over the Mediterranean area.

“Love must live in the heart. A loyal Christian has a deep love in his heart for Jesus. That is the reason for everything he does. His deep wish to help other people grows out of his love for Jesus.”—Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, page 425, adapted.

So, we must understand what Jesus did for us on the cross. Then Jesus’ love will fill us. We will want to share with other people everything He does for us.

**The One who made the stars and angels also died for us on the cross. How does this Bible truth help us to share His love with other people?**



**If we fail to tell people about Jesus, our spiritual life will fail to grow.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Ellen G. White, “God’s Purpose for His Church,” pages 9–16, in *The Acts of the Apostles*, and pages 822–828, in *The Desire of Ages*.

The New Testament church was in danger of not understanding its reason for being on this earth. Ellen G. White talks about this danger: “Non-Christians attack the members of the Jerusalem church for their beliefs. These attacks help the church to grow and to share the Good News about Jesus. Before the attacks start, church members share Jesus in Jerusalem. Many people join the church. But Jesus’ followers are in danger of staying in Jerusalem too long. Jesus tells His followers to share the Good News everywhere. His followers forget that the power to fight against evil comes from working hard to serve God. Church members start to think that the most important work they can do is to protect the Jerusalem church from attacks. So, church members do not teach new believers to carry the Good News to people who do not know about it. The church is in danger of being happy only with what they have already done in the past.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, page 105, adapted.



“The power to fight against evil comes from working hard to serve God.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① Look carefully at the Ellen G. White quotation above. Pay special attention to the last line. Why do we need to be careful of that same danger today? Why is feeling that way so wrong?
- ② Why do you think the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John end with the same command? Read this command in Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15, 16; Luke 24:46–49; and John 20:21. What does Jesus’ command in these verses show His followers living in the 1st century? What should it show us today?
- ③ Can witnessing and serving God ever replace true worship of God? If yes, how? What can we do to make sure we do not fall into this trap?
- ④ How does witnessing and serving God help to make your faith grow stronger? What have you learned from your experience that can help other people? What mistakes have you made? How can you help other people not to make these same mistakes?
- ⑤ God loves each one of us as if we were the only person on earth. This fact is wonderful! What does this Bible truth mean to you? It is the most important truth on earth and in heaven. How should you live your life because of it?

We are now living in the time when God judges His people. During His work as our Judge, I think God will ask us a very important question: “Why are you saved?” I was asked this same question when my plane landed at the Portland International Airport in Oregon in the United States of America. I handed my Norwegian passport to the U.S. officer in charge. He checked my passport and then looked at me. “What are your plans?” he asked.

“I am visiting a friend,” I answered.

“What is your friend’s address?” he asked.

“I don’t know,” I said. “But she is going to meet me here at the airport.”

The officer did not look happy when I said that I did not know her address.

“So, where did you meet her?” he asked suspiciously.

“At a college near London.”

“What did you study there?” he wanted to know.

“I studied about God and Bible truth,” I answered.

The officer looked long and hard at me. Then he asked, “Are you a believer in Jesus?”

“Yes,” I said.

He looked down at my passport and then back at me.

“So, why are you saved?” he asked.

“Because Jesus died for me,” I told him.

The officer looked at me. Then he said, “Good answer. You may enter.”

I smiled and entered the United States. Then I went to the luggage area to pick up my suitcase. As I walked there, I thought about my conversation with the passport officer. Will God ask us the same question in His work as our Judge that the officer asked me: “Why are you saved?” 1 John 5:11–13 tells us why we are: “This is the word He spoke: God gave us life that lasts forever, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life. He that does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. Now you can know you have life that lasts forever” (NLV).

Why are you saved? You can feel sure that God saves you because you can say, “Jesus died for me.”

God will answer, “Good answer. You may enter.”

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## INSIDE Story

by GLENN ERNFORD LIE

### STOPPED AT THE AIRPORT



“Good answer. You may enter.”

