

HOW DO WE SHARE THE GOSPEL IN OUR POST-CHRISTIAN CONTEXT?

RECAP

Start by asking your Home Group to share any further reflections on the sermon.

What stood out to you?

Did you learn anything new that you didn't know before? Do you have any questions?

IDEA 1

Paul in Corinth (Acts 16). Paul learned the culture and discovered what they were after (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). Knowing that they were after good things in the wrong places, Paul showed them what they should be after and how the Gospel provides that and redefined their questions (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). Paul was willing to identify with the culture in order to determine how to contextualize the gospel to them (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

How do we learn about our culture?

What are people in our culture after? How does the Gospel respond to and redefine what people are after?

How can we apply Paul's approach in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 today?

IDEA 2

Paul in Athens (Acts 17). Paul was an expert in Greek philosophy and poetry and engaged with the Athenians in discussing their ideas in order to present the Gospel alongside these ideas. Paul's expertise and engagement earned him an audience, then he showed the Athenians how the message of the Gospel has overlap with some Greek thought in order to overcome prejudice and attract them.

What overlaps does our culture have with the Gospel?

What prejudices does our culture have against the Christian faith?

IDEA 3

Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19-20). Because of the rampant idolatry and corruption in the culture, Paul's strategy then was to tear down the cultural idols and dismantle the system which kept people from the Gospel, even though it was dangerous (vv.19-28; Ephesians 3:6). Paul also showed the contrast between the Gospel and the culture (Ephesians 5:18-20).

What are our cultural idols and how can we show the Gospel's contrast?

What are the dangers of living counterculturally?

APPLICATION

Reflect on Mark 5:1-20, how will you faithfully live out the reality taught in this passage over the next week?

Share your application with the group. Commit to checking in with one another during the week about this process.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Take some time to pray for each other.

Take some time to listen first. Ask Spirit to share his heart for these requests. You may want to use a timer and set it for five minutes of quiet listening.

Open up the time for people to pray the things out loud that Spirit has prompted.