

Lesson 2

Overcoming Your Fears

Thesis: This lesson is designed to expose the fears and obstacles that keep Christians from sharing their faith and teach them how to overcome those fears.

Memory Verses:

- † **1 John 3:4** - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- † **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Have you ever had the opportunity to share the Gospel but didn't? What held you back?
- Write down what your greatest fears are that have kept you from sharing the Gospel at times in the past.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Does the Bible speak to any of these common fears and struggles people have with sharing their faith? Read through the passages that speak to these fears and share what you learn from each.

1. **Fear of being rejected**

- a. Whose message are we carrying? If people reject the Gospel, who are they rejecting according to the following verses? _____
 - † **Luke 10:16 — 16**; *He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.* (Matthew 10:40, John 13:20)
 - † **Matthew 10:40 — 40**; *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.* (John 13:20)
- b. Was Jesus rejected for bringing us the Gospel? Should we expect anything different from the world? What do you learn from John 15:18-21? _____
- c. How did early Christians feel about being rejected by the world in Acts 5:40-42?
 - † **Acts 5:40–42 — 40**; *And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41; And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42; And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*
 - ↳ How should we feel about being rejected? Should we “fear” that or see it as an honorable shame you endure for Jesus Christ?
- d. **If I do not share the Gospel out of fear of what people think, who am I truly seeking to please? How does the following passage apply to this question?**
 - † **John 12:42–43 — 42**; *Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43; For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

† **Luke 9:26 — 26**; *For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*

2. Fear of offending people

a. Share how the following verses apply to this fear:

† **Galatians 1:10 — 10**; *For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*

† **1 Thessalonians 2:4 — 4**; *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

b. Did Jesus ever offend people?

c. We never seek to offend people or want that to ever happen, but we must remember, *the Gospel is offensive.*

3. Fear of not knowing what to say

† **2 Timothy 2:15 — 15**; *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

† **1 Peter 3:15 — 15**; *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

a. How can people use this as an excuse for not sharing the Gospel?

b. How can we overcome this fear?

• **NOTE: These fears cause us to hide the Gospel. How do the following verses respond to this truth?**

○ **2 Corinthians 4:3 — 3**; *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

○ **Matthew 5:14–16 — 14**; *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15; Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16; Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

○ Did others have to overcome their fear of sharing the Gospel to share with you?

○ Would you have been saved if they stayed silent?

○ If I know someone needs the Gospel, but I do not share with them out of fear, what am I valuing more, my fear or their soul? _____

○ We often don't share the Gospel because we value our own discomforts more than the need of others to be saved. We must learn to value their soul more than our fears.

4. Being Spiritually asleep; this means that we don't "think" about it enough.

a. What rebuke did Paul give the Church at Corinth in the following verse?

† **1 Corinthians 15:34 — 34**; *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

b. What is heaven's focus according to **Luke 15:7 & 10**?

† **Luke 15:7 — 7**; *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

† **Luke 15:10 — 10**; *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

c. What was Jesus' focus when He came according to **Luke 19:10**? To seek and save the lost

† **Luke 19:10 — 10**; *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

5. Not feeling it is my responsibility

a. How would you respond biblically to someone who felt this way?

b. What do the following passages teach about evangelism?

† **Matthew 28:18–20 — 18;** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19; Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* (Mark 16:15, John 20:21, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

† **Mark 16:15 — 15;** *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

† **John 20:21 — 21;** *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

† **2 Corinthians 5:18–20 — 18;** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20; Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

6. I don't feel capable to share the Gospel; I'm not good talking to people.

a. When God called Moses, how did He respond?

† **Exodus 4:10–12 — 10;** *And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11; And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12; Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.*

b. Do you believe if God equipped Moses to speak that He will give us the words to say if we are willing? Read the following passages and share what you learn from each and what God says He will do.

† **Acts 1:8 — 8;** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

† **Luke 12:11–12 — 11;** *And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12; For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*

† **Luke 21:12–15 — 12;** *But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. 13; And it shall turn to you for a testimony. 14; Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15; For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.*

c. God will never call you to do what He will not equip you for.

How do I overcome my fears and reasons for not sharing the Gospel?

1. **Identify** what the fear or reason(s) are that are holding you back. What are they? _____

2. **Repent** of the reason you have not shared the Gospel. Ask God to forgive you for allowing these to hold you back. Spend time in prayer this week specifically about those reasons.

3. **Surrender** these fears and reasons to God. Chose to no longer give reasons why you “can’t” share the Gospel, and start giving reasons why you “will” share the Gospel.

a. God is not looking for the most “qualified and talented” people, He is searching for “willing” people.

† **Isaiah 6:8–9a — 8;** *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. 9; And he said, Go, and tell this people, ...”*

† **1 Corinthians 1:26–27 — 26;** *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27; But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

4. **Replace** the reasons you haven't shared the Gospel with truths from God's Word in this lesson that apply to those fears. If you have a "fear of being rejected", then meditate throughout the week on those verses that speak to those fears in this lesson. It wasn't until Moses excuses were replaced with God's truth that rebuked those excuses that Moses obey God.
5. **Go** soul-winning or on visitation with someone who has been, and watch and learn.
 - a. Paul told the believers in Rome: **I Corinthians 11:1** – *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."*
 - b. If you are a soul-winner, you should be teaching others to win souls to Christ by taking them with you.
 - c. Iron sharpens iron – Proverbs 27:17
6. **Follow** Christ closer
 - a. **What did Jesus say the result would be if you followed Him closer?**
 - † **Matthew 4:19 — 19;** *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*
 - † **John 15:5 — 5;** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
7. **Realize** it is not your job to save people; it is your job to tell them.
 - a. What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 3:6-7? God gives the increase; God saves them
 - † **1 Corinthians 3:6–7 — 6;** *I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7; So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*
 - b. What is our responsibility to the unbeliever? To tell them about Jesus.
 - c. So if we share with 1 million people, and no one gets saved, have we fulfilled our responsibility? YES
 - d. Don't be discouraged if people don't get saved; be upset if you don't tell them.
 - e. Whose job is it then to save them and bear the fruit? God
 - f. If we faithfully share the gospel, we can be certain God will do His job and bring the increase. God blesses our obedience. Sometimes we plant the seed, sometimes we water it, but if we are faithful, God will bring souls to salvation.
 - g. How does it make you feel knowing God hasn't called you to "save them", He has only called you to "tell" them?
8. **Prepare** yourself to share the Gospel.
 - a. The more you prepare yourself the more boldness God gives you. As you allow your heart to be taught by the Scriptures it will strengthen you to share your faith.
 - b. 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 3:15
 - † **2 Timothy 2:15** - *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*
 - † **1 Peter 3:15** – *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"*
9. **Set Goals** to invite at least 1-2 people to Church every week, and then set a goal to share the Gospel with someone.
10. **Pray** for lost people. Begin a prayer list that includes lost people you pray for every day. Ask God to lay upon your heart lost souls to share with.
 - † **Matthew 9:37–38 — 37;** *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*