



The “Do More” Challenge
“Have More Gospel Conversations”
Luke 19:1-10

Introduction

Cary First exists to demonstrate the love and share the good news about Jesus everyday, everywhere, with everyone.

If Cary First is going to accomplish our purpose and impact lostness in our town we must “Do More!”

Lostness— Refers to a person who is far from God. Anyone that does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is spiritually dead, separated from God, does not have the hope of eternal life and is destined for ruin, destruction and death.

The **“Do More Challenge”** is a compelling task calling people to utilize their uniqueness, gifts, abilities, and resources to advance God’s Kingdom on the earth.

The **“Do More Challenge”** is a challenge to:

Dream More

Pray More

Read More

Serve More

Give More

Connect More

Have More Gospel Conversations

Today we are going to talk about the importance of Gospel Conversations.

Scripture

“He entered Jericho and was passing through.

2 There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man.

4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.”

6 So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully.

7 All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.”

8 But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.”

9 “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” CSB

Quotes of the Day

“A church that doesn’t evangelize will fossilize.” —Greg Laurie

“Hell, hell fire, the damnation of hell, eternal damnation, the resurrection of the damnation, everlasting fire, the place of torment, destruction, outer darkness, the worm that never dies, the fire that is not quenched, the place of weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, everlasting punishment ... these are the words which the Lord Jesus Christ Himself employs. Away with the miserable nonsense which people talk in this day who tell us that the ministers of the gospel should never speak of hell.” — J.C. Ryle

“If Jesus had preached the same message that ministers preach today, He would never have been crucified.” — Leonard Ravenhill

Julian Gentry Testimony Video

Everyone loves to hear good news! Several years ago my sister in law Anne called Angela my wife and shared some “really good news.” Osh Kosh B’ Gosh in Pigeon Forge was having a major sale on baby clothes. Angela asked me if we could go to Pigeon Forge. I said “sure, let’s go buy some baby clothes”— what else was I going to say? Early the next day we left for Pigeon Forge. It was February, it was cold and we lived in the mountains of Western North Carolina. To save time and try to get there early I decided to travel over the mountain from Cherokee into Pigeon Forge on Highway 441. The trip normally takes about one and a half hours. On this day, however, the weather on top of the mountain was horrible. It was snowing, the roads were icy and after three hours of intense driving in treacherous conditions we finally made it over and down the mountain to Osh Kosh B’ Gosh in Pigeon Forge. When we drove into the parking lot we realized we weren’t the only ones who heard the “really good news.” It looked like every young mother from Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Arkansas was at the Osh Kosh B’ Gosh store in Pigeon Forge. The parking lot was full, the store was full and anxious mothers were waiting outside the store standing in line to get a good deal on baby clothes.

I learned several things from that experience!

- * **Anyone can share “Good News!”** Anne who is a naturally shy person had no fear of sharing “Good News” about a good sale on baby clothes.
- * **People enjoy sharing “Good News!”** People are excited to share “Good News” especially “Good News” that affects those we care about the most.
- * **Sharing “Good News” is very effective!** When women get excited and share the “Good News” about a sale on baby clothes— Osh Kosh B’ Gosh knows great things can happen!

Why is it we can easily share good news about things like baby clothes on sale but yet followers of Christ struggle to have “**Good News**” conversations about Jesus?

The purpose of this message is to encourage, instruct and challenge followers of Christ to engage in Gospel Conversations.

A Gospel Conversation is— the act of engaging people in casual conversations that lead to sharing the “Good News” of Jesus on some level.

A Gospel Conversation is the same as— Sharing the Gospel, making disciples, Evangelism, and Witnessing.

Sharing the Good News about Jesus on some level means: Some people plant seeds of Good News, some people water seeds of Good News, some people cultivate seeds of Good News and some people harvest fruit from the seeds of Good News. Whether it is planting, watering, cultivating or harvesting fruit from the seeds of Good News it is all part of the process of “Gospel Conversations.”

WE WILL NEVER PICK FRUIT IF WE DO NOT PLANT SEEDS!

The story of Zacchaeus found in **Luke 19:1-10** is one of the most important passages of Scripture in the New Testament regarding evangelism or “Gospel Conversations.”

As Jesus was passing through Jericho He demonstrated five principles that lead to making disciples.

We are passing through this life:

1. Be Intentional

2. Be Redemptive

3. Be Relational

4. Be Attractive

5. Be Urgent

We are passing through this life:

Be Intentional v.10

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” CSB

in·ten·tion·al adjective, done on purpose; deliberate.

Jesus made it very clear that He came to live with humanity for one reason — He came to **SEEK** and to **SAVE** the **LOST**.

SEEK— “**Zeteo**” to seek after, to search with expectation.

The word “**Zeteo**” is found in **Luke 19:10** as well as **Luke 19:3**.

In **Luke 19:3** Zaccheaus “**was trying**” to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. The phrase “**was trying**” literally means to investigate, to search for answers.

In **Luke 19:10** Jesus said: “For the Son of Man has come **to seek** and to save the lost. The phrase translated “**to seek**” means to seek with expectation.

DON'T MISS THIS— It is our responsibility as Christ followers to seek after those who are seeking— those who are searching for answers.

All people without Christ are **LOST**, some are like Zaccheaus and are searching for answers.

HOW DO I SEEK THOSE WHO ARE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS?

1. Develop Relationships with people in my world starting with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances.

2. Start Conversations with people in my world. Simple conversations about sports, food, cars, weather, similar interests, etc. often lead to serious conversations about Scripture, Jesus, Faith and salvation. ** avoid politics, senseless arguments, money, personalities, gossip etc.

According to a study published in *Scientific American*, we each speak an average of 16,000 words per day. Research studies show that we routinely talk to a very small group of the same people over and over again.

Most of us have meaningful conversations with 7 to 15 people every day.

Approximately 80 percent of our words are shared with a small group of about five trusted confidants, allies, and buddies. That means that close to 13,000 of our 16,000 daily words are directed at a very small group of friends and confidants. These closest coworkers, team members, family members, and friends make up our true inner circle. These are the people who think like us, care about us, and believe in us. **As followers of Christ we must break out of our Christian "huddle" build relationships and use some of our other words with people who don't know Christ.** Citation: Adapted from David Sturt, *Great Work* (McGraw Hill, 2014), pp. 80-81

3. Listen Closely to people in our world. Based on our conversations we need to listen closely and seek to determine the level of interest in Spiritual, Biblical, Christ related issues.

4. Discern The Spiritual Condition of people in my world. It is not our place to judge people in our world we can however, ask God to help us discern the spiritual condition of people in our world.

Jesus said in **John 6:44** "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day." CSB

Jesus said in **Matthew 7:6** Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. CSB

Sharing the Good News about Jesus to people who do not want to hear it is discouraging for the one who shares and frustrating for the one who hears.

Discernment matters!! I shared the Gospel with a person that I discerned was not ready or willing to hear the Gospel. IT WAS BAD!

Seven signs that a person is open to hearing and receiving the Good News about Jesus:

1. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are Curious.
2. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are Contemplative.
3. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are Dissatisfied and looking for more.
4. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are Hurting and Broken.
5. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are Desperate and Helpless.
6. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they have Experienced God in a Powerful and Life Changing Way.
7. A person is open to hearing the Good News about Jesus if they are searching the Scriptures.

Jesus made it very clear that He came to live with humanity for one reason — He came to **SEEK** and to **SAVE** the LOST.

SAVE— “**Sozo**” to deliver from danger, to bring safe and sound out of a difficult situation.

Sozo— doing whatever it takes to lead people to safety

Broken down couple at Lake Junaluska

Every Christ follower has the responsibility to do whatever it takes to lead people to safety— starting with our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances.

We cannot lead people to safety if we avoid them

We cannot lead people to safety if we ignore them

We cannot lead people to safety if we don't care for them

We cannot lead people to safety if we expect someone else to do it

We cannot lead people to safety if we are not willing to save them

We cannot lead people to safety if we are not prepared to save them

God has not called me to win the entire world to Christ he has called me to GO!

God has not called you to win the entire world to Christ he has called you to GO!

As WE GO having Gospel Conversations— we will influence the entire world for Christ!