

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

30 Days to Greater Faith: Week Four

Teaching by Pastor Jackson

WARM-UP QUESTION

What makes it easier or harder for you to talk about your faith with people who do not follow Jesus?

DISCUSS

1. We Are Called to GO

Pastor Jackson opened with the story of the man Jesus delivered from many demons in Mark 5. After experiencing an incredible miracle, the man begged Jesus to let him go with Him. Instead, Jesus told him to return home and tell his own people what God had done.

Jesus was essentially saying, "For the sake of the people in your hometown, you cannot just stay here with Me."

The Church is called to gather, but we are also called to go. We are not simply consumers of what God is doing. We are ambassadors who carry the message of Jesus into our homes, workplaces, friendships, neighborhoods, and communities.

Read *Mark 5:18–20*.

- Why do you think Jesus sent the man back to his own people rather than allowing him to travel with Him?
- What does this story teach us about the importance of sharing what Jesus has done in our own lives?
- Where has God placed you that allows you to represent Jesus?

2. Our Job Description: Reconciliation

Pastor Jackson shared that many Christians are unfamiliar with the Great Commission. Yet Scripture makes our assignment clear. God has given us the task of helping people be reconciled to Him.

Read *2 Corinthians 5:18–20*.

Paul describes believers as **Christ's ambassadors**. We represent Jesus and allow God to make His appeal through us.

Pastor Jackson summarized our job description this way:

Receive → Represent

Experience → Express

Abide → Advance

See → Share

- What stands out to you most about these four phrases?
- What does it practically look like to live as an ambassador for Christ in your everyday relationships?
- Which part of this job description do you feel you need to grow in most right now?

3. Relationships Are Our Greatest Tool

Pastor Jackson emphasized that relationships are one of the greatest tools we have for sharing our faith. While public preaching can be effective, sharing Jesus one-on-one can have tremendous influence.

Our culture has also changed. Great content is still important, but people are increasingly drawn to authentic community. The way we live, love, listen, and build relationships can create opportunities for people to encounter Jesus.

Jesus was AUTHENTIC.

Jesus did not pretend to be something He was not. He challenged the Pharisees for appearing righteous on the outside while their hearts were different on the inside.

Read *Matthew 23:27–28*.

- What are some areas where people are tempted to "dress up" who they are for others?
- In what setting do you find it hardest to simply be yourself?
- Why can authenticity make conversations about faith more natural?

Jesus was RELEVANT.

Jesus spoke to real people with real problems. He understood that people have questions about marriage, money, parenting, purpose, and everyday life.

Pastor Jackson described three phases:

1. What can Jesus do for me?
2. How can I become more like Jesus?

3. What is my role in expanding the Kingdom of Jesus?

Someone who does not yet know Jesus may not be ready to think about phases two or three. That is okay. We can begin by meeting people where they are.

- How can we make conversations about Jesus relevant to the real questions people are asking?
- What is one real-life issue where you have personally experienced Jesus' help that you could share with someone else?

4. Be Curious and Compassionate

Pastor Jackson highlighted two more attributes of Jesus: **curiosity** and **compassion**.

Jesus asked hundreds of questions. He listened, engaged people personally, and moved conversations from abstract arguments toward personal spiritual reality.

Being curious means asking questions and genuinely listening rather than feeling the need to have all the answers.

Read *Matthew 9:36–38*.

Jesus saw the crowds and was moved with compassion because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- What is the difference between talking to someone to convince them and talking to someone because you genuinely care about them?
- What could change in our relationships if we became better at asking questions and listening?
- Who is someone God may be asking you to see with greater compassion?

5. Take the Pressure Off

Pastor Jackson gave two reminders to take the pressure off when it comes to sharing our faith:

1. It has never been easier.

We have more opportunities than ever to connect with people and build meaningful relationships.

2. Sharing my faith is on me. The rest is on Him.

Our responsibility is to plant and water the seed. God is responsible for making it grow.

Read *1 Corinthians 3:6*.

- How does knowing that God is responsible for the growth change the way you think about evangelism?
- What fears or pressures can keep us from sharing our faith?
- What would it look like for you to simply be faithful with the opportunities God gives you?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to remember that I am called to GO, not simply gather.
- I need to become more authentic in the way I represent Jesus.
- I need to learn to ask better questions and genuinely listen.
- I need to see people with greater compassion.
- I need to trust God with the results and be faithful to share.

PRAYER

Close by thanking God for allowing us to be part of His mission. Ask Him to help us live as authentic representatives of Jesus, become genuinely curious about the people around us, and see others with Christ's compassion. Pray for courage to share our faith and wisdom to recognize the opportunities God places before us. Finally, ask God to remind us that our responsibility is to plant and water, while He makes the seed grow.