

WEEK 3: I AM MARKED... TO RESCUE PEOPLE

SET IT UP

We can count on the fact that someone's last words are pretty important words. The last thing Jesus said to his followers before leaving this earth was "GO!" He commissioned His followers to go out into the world and tell about Him.

CONNECT

1. Continue to allow one or two people to share a little about who they are and what their spiritual journey has looked like so far... (Continuing group option: Share where God has been "growing you" lately.)
2. Have you ever been so excited about something you couldn't stop talking about it? Share the details.

GROUNDED IN THE WORD

This week we are building on these scriptures. Take a minute to read them together then watch the third session of our study DVD.

⁷As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

Matthew 10:7 NIV

¹⁹...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:19-20 NIV

VIDEO NOTES

As a follower of Christ we are _____!

Make the message _____.

Make _____ central.

TALK IT OVER

3. When you think back to before you were a Christian, what motivated you to check out church, Jesus, and/or faith?

4. Who have been the people throughout your life that took time to talk to you about Jesus or influenced you to check out Christianity?
5. As followers of Christ, what is the commission we have according to these Scripture passages?

¹⁵He (Jesus) said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

Mark 16:15 NIV

⁷As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’

Matthew 10:7 NIV

¹⁹“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19 NIV

6. Who is someone that God has put in your life that might be your assignment to share your faith with?

TAKE IT DEEPER

We know what God’s asking us to do... now let’s dig into the how and why! John 3:16 may be the most famous passage in the Bible. Read it and the verses that follow. We’ve included both the NIV and the Message® versions to help stir your understanding:

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

John 3:16-18 NIV

¹⁶⁻¹⁸This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because

of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

John 3:16-18 MSG

7. This is the simplest form of the Gospel or the Good News of Jesus. What is the good news we have to share?
8. When we read verse 18 we see the bad news for people who reject or choose not to believe. What is that?
9. How would your life be different if you'd never heard about Jesus? What kind of inspiration does that give you to share God's Good News?
10. Read 1 Peter 3:15. What holds you back or causes you not to be as forthright when asked about your faith?

¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

11. Look at God's Word and discover what assurances He has for you:

¹⁹...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:19-20 NIV

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:31 NIV

ACTION ITEM

12. Take some time this week to write, email or call and thank the people that have been especially positive influences in your walk with Christ.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHALLENGE

Discuss any details or updates for your project.

PRAY



TAKE IT HOME

Imagine what life would be like without a relationship with Christ. List the things that would be different and then thank Him for the positive changes He's brought into your world! Take a few minutes and write out your "testimony" - your spiritual story. Write as if you are telling someone for the first time how you came to faith in Christ and the circumstances surrounding that.