

WITNESSING

CHAPTER 13 (week 8)

MY INTRO:

This chapter is about witness, sharing your faith in Christ with others. When you share your faith, you are actually growing spiritually because you are remembering and talking about the gospel. The more you share, the more you grow. And the more you grow the more you want to share. It just keeps improving your walk with Christ.

Let's go into this chapter, not being occupied with talking about Jesus with others but seeing opportunities to share the mercies of God with those we care about.

Memory Verse – Mark 5:19

"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."

Introduction

What could you tell someone about how your life has changed because of Christ? Have you thought about how to give a clear explanation of your faith?

Peter wrote, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

(I Peter 3:15)

As someone who has experienced God's saving love, you have much to share.

In Mark 5 we read how Jesus encountered a man who was demon-possessed and living in tombs. With power Jesus healed the man.

As Jesus was leaving, the man begged Him to let him come along. Jesus' reply – the memory verse for this lesson (have them say it- *"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you."*)

was that the man should instead return home and share his newfound life with others. The man did so, and we read in Mark 5:20 that “all the people were amazed.”

We too were living in the “tombs” of deadly sin before we accepted Christ as our Savior. And we also have good news to tell others!

EXPLORING MARK 5:19

What did Jesus tell this man to share with members of his family?

Read Mark 5:2-5 What impact do you think this man’s changed life would have on his family?

v.2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

v.3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain;

v.4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

v.5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

TELL THEM HOW MUCH THE LORD HAS DONE”

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does God say we are?

v.20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2. In Acts 4:18-20, Peter and John were ordered not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Why did Peter and John say they could not obey this order. (v.20)

v.18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

v.19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;

v.20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

3. Write a paragraph summarizing the most important things you believe the Lord has done for you.

4. Read Romans 1:16. Why can we have confidence in speaking to others about the good news of Jesus Christ?

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

"TELL THEM... HOW HE HAS HAD MERCY ON YOU"

5. What important facts do you see in these verses about why and how God saved you?

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

6. Describe in your own words the truth of Romans 5:1 as you have experienced it in your life.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

7. How did Paul summarize the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4?

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
1Co 15:4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

8. You are sure to receive a variety of responses as you share your faith with others. Many will raise objections to the gospel and will not recognize their need of Christ.

Read the Scriptures listed below and tell how they apply to the following objections to the gospel.

"I'm basically a good person."

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;
v.9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

"People from all religions will make it to Heaven."

John 14:6 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

"What about all the Christians I know who are hypocrites?"

Romans 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

"I'll become a Christian some day."

2Corinthians 6:2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

9. What did Paul request prayer for regarding his witnessing to others? Col 4:3-4

praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

v.4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

WRITE OUT MARK 5:19 FROM MEMORY

APPLYING MARK 5:19

Write here the names of some people you would like to witness to about what Christ has done for you.

Begin to pray regularly for those people, and plan a time you could share the gospel with at least one of them.

Briefly describe your plans here.

(Get volunteers to give their examples.)