



Proclaiming Christ Simply and with Urgency

Opening Song: The Lord Is My Light (LSB 723)

Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico distinguishes itself as a place where people arrive daily and move around often. In ministry, we focus on teaching the basics of the Christian faith and showing the love of God in concrete actions of service. We plant a seed and ask the Holy Spirit to deposit faith in every heart of the people we serve. We have a sense of urgency to share the Gospel with love, because we know the people may be here this month and the next month they may have moved on or returned to their home village. We pray that what we share will be taken with them when they move. How beautiful —this urgency that communicates the great truths of God with simple humility!

In our country, people accept that there is a god, but many don't have knowledge of the Word of God in the Bible. They believe God to be a tormentor who looks to punish. That is, they do not know the true God who is loving, as He has revealed Himself in His Word. We can only know the true God through His Word. We focus on visiting homes, gathering people (adults, children and seniors) in community groups and community events. Wherever we go we always share these three truths:

1. God's Word is true.

Read **Psalm 119:160**, **2 Samuel 7:28** and **John 17:17**. What is the sum of God's Word?

Psalm 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

2 Samuel 7:28 And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

God's Word is truth. It is not only true for today. It is true forever. And as we read in 2 Samuel, these words are a "good thing" for us. God wants what is good for us. And yes, the truth, the Word sanctifies as it leads us, through the Holy Spirit to faith in Christ.

2. God keeps his promises

Read **Joshua 21:45** and complete this: "Not one word of all the good _____ that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all _____."

Also, consider **Philippians 1:6** and **Hebrews 10:23**. How can we know that God will keep His promises?

Joshua 21:45 Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

We can trust God to be faithful because He has kept His promises to His people. We also trust and have faith more and more as the Holy Spirit works faith in us. God uses Word and Sacrament to feed that faith, but only He can provide the growth.

3. God loves you and He will always be with you and will never leave you. God is on your side.

Read **1 John 4:9**, **Romans 5:8** How did God show His love for us? _____

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God sent His Son Jesus to die for us, to save us. It was the only way for us to be His righteous children.

Read **Romans 8:35-39**. What can cause God to leave you? _____

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Absolutely nothing! God won't choose to leave you and He won't allow anything to separate us from His love. Remember that people have freewill and may walk away from the Lord, but He will never let us go. He is also ready to welcome each and every one of His children back into His fold.

At a community event for children, we were studying the topic, "Who is Jesus?" A little 8-year-old girl asked: "How can I trust God if my mother left and abandoned me?" I told her I didn't know the reasons her mom left, but I do trust God knows and He has promised to be with her always and that she could trust God. We prayed together about this. Later, I heard this same girl was rescued from her drug addicted father when her mother returned and brought the police to help. We trust that this young girl saw God responding to her prayer for safety.

To proclaim Christ, we can share these three truths: God's Word is true. God keeps His promises. God loves you and will always be with you. Simple. True. Urgent.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, be with us as we live our lives as Your children. Help us to share, in Your time, the true promises of your love and presence in our lives. In Your name we ask this. Amen.