



## Prepare, Then Share

### Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles and copies of the Bible study for attendees.]

Learning to become an “at-ease” witness tool, useful to Jesus for sharing His love, saving grace, forgiveness, wisdom, and hope, is a goal we all want to attain. As most worthwhile endeavors, it usually takes study, determination, prayer, and practice. How does one go about this? By examining and following examples given us in Scripture through the inspiration of our God. Let’s look at a few of these for *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms* (1 Peter 4:10).

**Read** 1 Peter 3:15.

Begin at the beginning. First, consider the phrase *in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord*. Prepare a written response to give if someone asks you why you believe in Jesus. Then practice saying it in different ways, imagining a scenario, including tone, touch, and expression. Write a quick outline now to finish at home later. Share with the group what you wrote and incorporate some of their thoughts into your own.

**Read** Matthew 16:13-19.

This **is** the question that needs the **right** answer.

How or when might you ask someone their response to it? What might be some of their answers? How can you, *with gentleness and respect* (1 Peter 3:16), speak the truth in love?

**Read** Acts 8:26-40.

Who told Philip where to go – then to whom to speak?

Share an example of a time when you felt the Spirit’s “nudge” to go to someone – to be there just in case.

**Read** verse 30 and 35 again.

How can you use this example to utilize an opportunity to “begin where they are” as Philip did?

**Read** Acts 17:16, 22-25, 27-28.

Are you distressed, as was Paul, at what you are seeing in the “market place”?

How can you use an object to segue into a discussion about the One True God?

Read verse 32.

Have courage. Some won't, but some **will!**

**Read** 2 Timothy 3:15.

As was true of Timothy, many of us also have been blessed to know the Holy Scriptures since we were children. In Baptism we have all been reborn (John 3:5-6) so that we can *walk in newness of life* (Romans 6:4 ESV).

Share an event or a person who made the Word come alive for you and how this deepened your faith.

Witnessing isn't just to those who do not know Jesus yet; it is also to encourage fellow believers. Take a minute to find and share a few verses listed in your Bible's concordance under "encouragement," i.e. Philemon 2:1-4 or Titus 1:9. Share a time you were encouraged by a fellow believer.

**Prayer:** Close by reading together Ephesians 1:15-19a and Ephesians 3:14-21 as a prayer for each other.

Scripture references are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

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