

YEAR OF EQUIPPING

Show & Tell



by Dale Robinson

*A daily growth
guide for sharing
Christ with others.*

*Y*ou are the salt of the earth.
But if the salt loses its saltiness,
how can it be made salty again?
It is no longer good for anything,
except to be thrown out
and trampled by men.

*You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
Neither do people light a lamp
and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand,
and it gives light to everyone in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before men,
that they may see your good deeds
and praise your Father in heaven.*

– Matthew 5:13-16

Show And Tell
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How to Use this Growth Guide

THE SHOW AND TELL GROWTH GUIDE reinforces and builds upon the information presented during the *Passion For People* weekend. As the name suggests, sharing Jesus with others involves our lives as well as our lips. The gospel message must be “fleshed out” by believers who *show* before they *tell*.

As you work through this guide, you will be encouraged to act more intentionally toward people around you so that you will make a difference for Christ where you live.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS MATERIAL:

1. Set aside a specific time and place for your study each day. Don't rush through the material. Prayerfully consider what the Lord is telling you as you read His Word. Discipline yourself to write out your thoughts to each question.

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15

2. Partner with an individual who has already brought someone to Christ. Learning to share Jesus is better caught than taught. Of course, the optimum opportunity would be for you and your partner to begin studying with someone you know! If that is not possible at present, at least schedule time with your partner each week to review what you've learned.

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”
- Proverbs 27:17*

3. Act on what you learn. Jesus promised that putting His teaching into practice will make your life fruitful.

“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.” - Mark 4:24.

4. Pass on what you learn. Nothing reinforces the principles in this study more than striving to instill them into the lives of others.

“Freely you have received, freely give.” - Matthew 10:8

5. Above all, ask the Lord to equip you for testifying to His extravagant grace. A distinctive life, a transforming message, and redemptive relationships with people are the three defining elements of a life that powerfully impacts others for Christ.

“With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

People List

MAKE A LIST OF THE PEOPLE with whom you have the best and most consistent opportunity to influence for Christ (see page 5 in the *Passion For People workbook*). Consider your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors.

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

YOU WILL REFER TO THIS LIST OFTEN as you work through the study. Think of it as sort of a private fishing pool. Whatever you have in common with these people enables you to do a little fishing among them every day.

Keep in mind that it's not your primary task to make everybody on your list a Christian. But it is your task to live in such a way that what you do and what you say may be used by God to bring these people to Himself.

WEEK ONE
OUR MISSION

*"All this is from God,
who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation....
And he has committed to us
the message of reconciliation."
- 2 Corinthians 5:18,19*

**Our great calling and privilege
as followers of Jesus is first
to be Jesus
in the lives of broken,
hurting people and then
to speak the truth about Jesus
so that they can come to know him
as their Lord and Savior.**

Day 1 — Reflect God

1. Read John 1:14-18. According to this passage, what was Jesus' purpose for coming in the flesh?

As a follower of Christ, people should be drawn closer to God as a result of Christ living in you. As His eyes, His feet, His hands, you are to do whatever Jesus would do in the lives of others. How do you believe this perspective will affect the way in which you share Jesus with others?

2. What does it mean that Jesus was full of "grace and truth?"

Why are both qualities important?

3. What gospel stories do you think best illustrate the way in which Jesus was able to hate sin and still love the sinner?

Day 2 — Live Distinctively

1. Read Matthew 5:13-16. Have you ever stopped to consider, your “life message?” What implications do you see from this passage for living distinctively?

2. What is the difference between living so that people “see your good deeds” (vs 16) and the “acts of righteousness” (done in order to be seen by others) that Jesus condemned in Matthew 6:1-18?

3. Consider the list of Beattitudes (vss 3-12). What connections do you find between these verses and the way in which God intends for you to live (vss. 13-16)?

Do your attitudes reflect those of Christ? What adjustments do you need to make in order to reflect Christ more?

Day 3 — Value the Lost

1. Read Luke 15:1-24. What common elements do you find in all three stories?

What does this say about the value that God places on lost people?

2. Do you realize that there was a day when heaven rejoiced over *you* (vs 10)? Write down some of the specific ways that God “turned the furniture upside down” in His relentless search for you.

3. Do you think most people understand God’s love for them? Why or why not?

As you consider those on your People List, does anyone come to mind who could use a tangible expression of God’s love? What are some specific ways you can be used by the Lord to express His love this next week?

Day 4 — See the Need

1. Read Matthew 15:21-28. What was Jesus trying to accomplish by this trip into Gentile territory, given His earlier discussion about what makes a person unclean (vss 16-20)?

How did the Pharisees understand “uncleanness?” How did Jesus?

2. In what situations are you most likely to act like the disciples—discounting someone’s ability or desire to respond to God because of their background or appearance?
3. What do you learn from this passage that helps you better see the people that God puts into your life?

Ask the Lord to give you eyes that are open to all kinds of people. It could be this week that you will meet your Canaanite woman—someone starving for spiritual bread!

Day 5 – Tell Your Story

1. Read Acts 20:24. How does Paul summarize his life's mission?

In what sense is this the role of every Christian?

2. What is the difference between being a witness for Christ and just telling people facts about Christ and the gospel?

What makes testimony so powerful—and so much easier to share?

3. What would you share regarding the difference that Christ is making in your life in the following three areas?

forgiveness of the past–

purpose for the present–

hope for the future–

WEEK TWO
OUR MOTIVE

*"For we cannot help speaking
about what we have seen and heard."
--Acts 4:20*

**Knowing the life-giving
and life-changing grace of God
gives us a boldness and eagerness
to share what He's done in our lives
with others.**

Day 3 — Share Jesus' Burden

1. Read Matthew 9:35-38. What moves the heart of Jesus?

From where does such compassion come?

2. Have you ever cried over the lost? Do you find yourself burdened for certain people? Explain.

3. Do you find anything surprising about the focus of Jesus' prayer (vs 38)?

How would praying this prayer help you grow in your compassion for the lost?

Day 4 — Participate in God's Work

1. Read John 4:27-38. What did Jesus mean when He said that His food was to do the will of His Father (vss 32, 34)?

How true is this of you? How do you need to grow in this area?

2. Other than your relationship with God, there is nothing that will bring you more joy than being used by God to accomplish His work in the life of another person. Have you ever known that joy? If so, what made your experience so meaningful?

3. What did the disciples learn from the encounter with the Samaritan woman?

about Jesus—

about themselves—

about their mission—

Ask God to show you his work for you and that he would empower you to do it.

WEEK THREE
OUR METHOD

*"We loved you so much
that we were delighted to share with you
not only the gospel of God but our lives as well,
because you had become so dear to us."
– 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

**People need a demonstration
as well as an explanation of the gospel.
The only way some people will see Jesus
is by first seeing Him in your life.
Is it obvious to those around you
that Christ lives in you?**

Day 1 — Pray Fervently

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6. What does Paul want the Colossians to pray for (vss 3-4)?

What makes this kind of prayer vital to someone wanting to live as salt and light?

2. Compare this passage with 1 Peter 3:15-16. What does it mean to have conversation that is “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt?”

What do you think the Lord would have you do to better reflect these two qualities in your conversation with unbelievers?

3. Look for opportunities to apply the principles in these two passages this week. Consciously pray, “Lord, what do you want in this situation? What should I say to this person?” At the end of the week, get together with your partner and share what has happened.

Day 3 – Throw a Party

1. Read Luke 5:27-32. What motivated Levi (Matthew) to throw a party after accepting Jesus' call to follow him?

After your conversion, did you share Matthew's enthusiasm for sharing Jesus with friends? Why or why not?

2. What opportunities do you already have to be with unbelievers?

When you find yourself with unbelievers, are you more like Matthew (inviting), the Pharisees (judgmental), or the disciples (simply unsure of what to do)?

3. What sort of "Matthew Party" (a picnic, game night, dinner party, etc.) could your small group throw in the next month or two? Be creative—and partner with those in your group to build bridges with outsiders.

Day 4 — Extend Hospitality

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7-9. Hospitality is the act of graciously providing for the needs of others. Given this definition, how does extending hospitality differ from merely entertaining guests?

2. Think about a meaningful time when you enjoyed another's hospitality. What circumstances made your experience so special or their home so inviting?

3. Hospitality is a powerful and appropriate first step toward reaching others with the gospel (even before inviting them to a church activity). Why is this true?

How often do you invite others into your home? What could you do to make hospitality even more a part of your lifestyle?

Day 5 – Do Good

1. Read Titus 2:11-14; 3:1-2, 8. Being a Christian is more than getting a few doctrines down right and staying out of trouble. As a follower of Christ, you are called to a life of active goodness. Are you better known by your associates for the “good” you do, or for the “bad” you don’t do?

2. Read Matthew 25:31-46. How are the righteous and the unrighteous similar? How are they different?

What do you find most convicting about this parable?

3. Take a look at your People List. Jot down some of the physical and emotional needs that you see in their lives. What “good” can you be in their lives? Watch for ways in which you can serve them.

WEEK FOUR
OUR MESSAGE

*"...Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone who asks you
to give the reason for the hope that you have."
– 1 Peter 3:15*

**When it comes to sharing the gospel,
actions without words are just as empty
as words without actions.
Your life should naturally cause people
to ask questions about your hope in God.
And when it does,
you have the ideal opportunity
to share the difference
that Jesus makes in your life.**

Day 1 — The Problem of Sin

1. Read Luke 15:11-24. What words describe the attitude and the actions of the younger son?

In what way does this story illustrate the nature of sin and its consequences?

2. Read Mark 7:14-23. Why is God more concerned about addressing the attitude of our hearts than merely the exterior of our behavior?

How would knowing this truth both challenge and comfort someone struggling with sin?

3. What additional insights do the following passages provide about the nature of sin? As you study these passages, reference them in your Bible in a way that will help you to share them with others.

Luke 18:9-14

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Galatians 5:16-21

James 1:13-15

Day 2 — The Wonder of Grace

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16. Like the owner in the parable, God is motivated more by what people need than by what they deserve. That's what grace is all about! What, according to this parable, could keep us from experiencing God's heart and rob us of real joy (vs. 10)?

2. Which group do you identify with most—those hired first or last? Why?

How has God worked in your life to give you a greater awareness and appreciation for His mercy and grace?

3. What additional insights do the following passages provide about the nature of grace? As you study these passages, reference them in your Bible in a way that will help you to share them with others.

John 8:1-11

Romans 5:6-8

Ephesians 2:1-8

Titus 3:3-7

Day 3 — The Necessity of Faith

1. Read Mark 5:21-34. Of all the people pressing for Jesus' attention, what caused Jesus to single this woman out of the crowd and honor her request for help?

What do you learn from her about the kind of faith that pleases God (also notice Hebrews 11:1)?

2. Have you noticed a connection between crisis and faith? How has this been true in your own life?

What do you see in this for helping someone come to faith in Jesus?

3. What additional insights do the following passages provide about the nature of faith? As you study these passages, reference them in your Bible in a way that will help you to share them with others.

Mark 9:14-27

Luke 7:1-10

Romans 3:21-26

Romans 4:4-5, 16-25

Hebrews 11:1-6

Day 4 — The Possibility of Change

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. Repentance is not merely the conviction or confession of sin. Repentance is correction for sin. It is a change of mind that results in a change of one's life. How does Zacchaeus' response to Jesus illustrate this point?

What caused Zacchaeus to respond as he did?

2. A good way of discerning a person's readiness to commit his or her life to Christ is to ask about the changes they've already made and/or foresee making in the future (notice Luke 3:7-18). The Bible refers to these corrections or changes as "the fruit of repentance." Specifically ask, *"What values, attitudes, and behaviors will you need to change in order to follow Jesus?"* What values, attitudes and behaviors did you change when you submitted your life to Christ?
3. What additional insights do the following passages provide about the nature of repentance? As you study these passages, reference them in your Bible in a way that will help you to share them with others.

Luke 3:7-14

Luke 13:1-9

Acts 17:30

Acts 24:24-25

2 Corinthians 7:8-10

Day 5 — The Power of New Life

1. Read John 3:1-8. We don't need a little more religion. What we need is total regeneration—to be re-created from the inside out by the power of God. Why do you think this truth is so difficult for many to understand or accept?

2. According to this passage, what is the operative factor in our spiritual rebirth?

Properly understood, baptism is a powerful work of God, and never a work of man. How do other passages in the Bible make the same point, only with different metaphors (Romans 2:28-29 and Colossians 2:11-12)?

3. What additional insights do the following passages provide about the nature of baptism? As you study these passages, reference them in your Bible in a way that will help you to share them with others.

Luke 7:29-31

Acts 2:38-41

Acts 22:1-16

Romans 6:1-7

Galatians 3:26-27

Colossians 2:11-12

1 Peter 3:18-22

WEEK FIVE
OUR MINISTRY

*"If the ministry that condemns men is glorious,
how much more glorious is the ministry
that brings righteousness!"
–2 Corinthians 3:9*

**Apart from knowing God,
there's nothing quite as exciting
as experiencing God's powerful work
in and through your life
to accomplish His purposes
in redeeming the world!**

Day 2 — Honor Faith

1. Read Mark 9:14-27. Why would the father question whether Jesus could do anything for his son?

What does Jesus' response teach you about approaching people with similar faith struggles?

2. What is the significance of the father's reply for someone desiring greater faith (vs 24)?

What other principles can you glean from the following passages that would help a fellow faith-struggler?

John 6:28-29–

John 7:17–

1 John 3:23–

3. Faith is ultimately a decision of the will—and not merely an accumulation of evidence. God is far more willing to reveal Himself than most people are willing to find Him (Matthew 7:7-8). What faith issues are most likely to be expressed by those on your People List? Formulate a biblical response to each issue.

Day 3 — Call for Commitment

1. Read Luke 14:15-24. What is so incredible about the refusal of the invited guests to accept such a gracious invitation?

Who eventually comes? Why are they more responsive?

2. In this parable, the host's invitation is an allusion to Jesus' call for repentance and submission to God's rule in one's life (notice Luke 7:29-35). What do both of these passages teach about the reason people are either resistant or receptive to God's call for repentance?
3. Read Luke 14:25-33. What does each of the three parables teach about the necessity of giving our primary love and loyalty to Jesus?

As you help someone think through the implications of their commitment to Jesus, be sure to remind them that the cost is nothing compared to what is received (Matthew 13:44-46; Luke 18:29)!

Day 4 — Invest in People

1. Read Colossians 1:28-2:3. Do you share Paul's desire to see lost people come to faith and maturity in Christ? According to this passage, how do you help those around you to become more like Christ?

2. How does this affect the way in which you pray for and study with people?

Colossians 2:2 and 4:12 provide a great outline for praying about the needs of the people with whom you are studying. Pray this prayer for them.

3. Read Romans 15:15-16. What comes to mind as you consider the fact that helping others come to faith in Christ is actually an offering of worship to God?

*"I tell you the truth,
anyone who has faith in me
will do what I have been doing.
He will do even greater things than these,
because I am going to the Father.
And I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."*

-John 14:12-13