

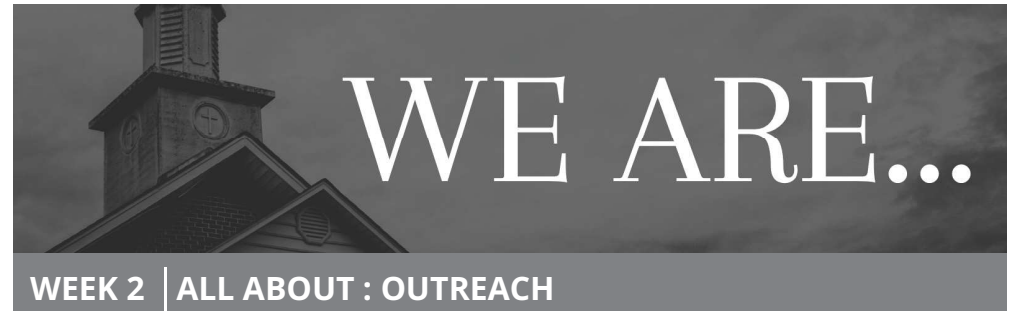


© 2023 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.



PRAYER

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

- *If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?*
- *If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?*
- *If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?*

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might hear the call of the Gospel to deepen my faith, grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Adapted from Prayer for the New Evangelization - USCCB

OPENING QUESTION

(OPTIONAL)

If you could solve one problem that is happening in the world today, what would it be, and what would you do to help solve it?

WORD

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. 46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,

that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

[Acts 13: 44-52](#)

"The gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died—in our place. Three days later He rose from the dead, proving that He is the Son of God and offering the gift of salvation to those who repent and believe in Him." - RICE BROOKS

RELIGION HATES THE MESSAGE of the GOSPEL

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

If people receive the GOSPEL as the MESSAGE and that causes more of a JEALOUSY than it does a JOY, we may want to check whether we have become ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES.

- "If you allow your frustration to turn into disgust and disdain for people you've left behind, you'll end up on a dangerous detour. Instead of becoming more like Jesus, you'll become more like his archenemies, the Pharisees of old, looking down on others, confident in your own righteousness." - LARRY OSBORNE "ACCIDENTAL PHARISEES."

THE MESSAGE is a LIGHT to the LOST

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

**"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."**

DOES the MESSAGE of YOUR LIVING HELP PEOPLE FIND THEIR WAY HOME? Or make them EVEN MORE LOST?

THE MESSAGE is FILLED with the JOY of the HOLY SPIRIT

51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

DESPITE persecution and being OUTCAST - they were filled with the JOY of the HOLY SPIRIT. The JOY of the LORD is RESILIENT beyond CIRCUMSTANCES.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. Can you think of a time someone made a loving impact in your life that was outside of your family or circle of friendship before they made the impact? What did they do, and how did it impact you?
2. On a scale from 1-10 (1 meaning never, 10 meaning always) how often do you actively serve, give and pray for those beyond your household? Why have you rated yourself this way?
3. If your life was a MESSAGE that is being sent to others observing your life, what would that message be? Is that a message worth spreading?
4. Would you like to receive Jesus Christ, giving full control of all you have as your Creator, Redeemer and Comforter during this time? Ask your leaders to guide you through the prayer below as you dedicate your entire life to seeing God reign? Pray the prayer below with a trusted leader:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.