



..... Week 5:

## Sharing the Story

### How Did it Go?

**Did you do any of these practices? If so, what effect did it have? If not, what got in the way?**

- Did you spend regular time in Scripture last week?
- Did you try the Spiritual Practice of the week, [Lectio Divina](#)?
- Did you make a concrete plan for the good work that God is calling you to do to heal a broken world?
- Did you pray for Alpha?

### Read aloud and consider Romans 1:14-17.

**Head** (15–20 minutes) *Observe the text and the author's main points.*

1. What are the categories of people to which Paul is obligated (v.14)?
2. Paul writes to Christians in Rome that he is eager to preach the gospel to them (v.15). Why does it benefit us to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ on a regular basis?

**Heart** (15–20 minutes) *Envision how the text - when applied - might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.*

1. Why isn't Paul ashamed of the gospel (v.16)? Why might we be? How does this impact our eagerness to share the gospel?
2. The gospel saves anyone who believes. Ultimately it is the Holy Spirit, not us that changes people's hearts. How can this make us bolder to share our story?
3. What practical steps can you take to grow together as a small group in practicing witnessing? How could you support one another to grow in this area?

**Hands** (10 minutes) *Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others.*

### **Reaching Upwards:** Growing in Your Relationship with God

1. Reflect on your own calling story. How did God call you into relationship with Him? How did He use the witness of others? (Even if you grew up in Christian family, He placed you there so your family and your church could witness to you.) Thank God for those people, and ask Him to show you to whom in your life you can witness today.
2. Ask God to bring to mind 3-5 people in your everyday life who need to hear the gospel. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 slowly every day this week (including with Lectio Divina), so that you might immerse yourself in the good news of the gospel. Pray this passage over the people who need to hear the gospel, and for opportunities to share your story with them. You will be ready for those opportunities when they arise!
3. Praise God that it is the Holy Spirit and not us that “converts” people. Pray for God to reveal His heart for the lost to you, and for courage to be bold in your witness.

### **Reaching Outward:** Investing in Your Neighbors

1. Jesus tells a teacher of the law that the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:28). Meditate on the fact that the greatest thing we can do for your neighbor is to introduce them to Jesus Christ. Pray to be alert to opportunities to share with them how Jesus has changed your life.
2. Engage the Witness practices this week in the Transformed: Practicing the Christian Life Guide. See for example, the “story starters” to help you reflect on your own story—and will be involved in next week’s practices too. Access the digital version here: [fpchouston.org/transformed](http://fpchouston.org/transformed).

### **Practice of the Week:** Witness

- Everyone who knows Jesus has their own calling story—and is called to be ready to share what their relationship with God means to them (1 Peter 3:15).

### **Alpha Prayer Points:**

Alpha is a listening community designed to help participants explore questions about faith in a non-judging space. The current session will run from October 6th through December 1st.

1. Praise God that we have had 70 people come through ALPHA, 43 of which are non-Christian or Christian but searching - prayers to start a journey of faith.
2. Pray to God to provide believers willing to build one-on-one relationships with visitors at Alpha.
3. Pray for the Christians at Alpha to have their faith deepened and empowered.