

Sunday, March 5, 2017  
Did You Know?

## Reaching One

Let's lay down the ground rules. One of the goals we set for each of our members is that we each share the Gospel with one person in 2017, but how do you know if you've reached the goal? You'll only know if you've done it if you know the ground rules. So, let me lay them out for you.

First, you have to clearly articulate the Gospel message. That means you have to know the Gospel message by heart or use a Gospel tract like "Two Ways to Live" which can be had in our bookstore. But, even then, you can't just give it to the person, tell them to read it and be on your way. Unless you walk through it with them or have a follow up conversation, an in-depth conversation, you haven't done it. If you prefer not to use a Gospel tract, then you'll need to talk about God, and sin—our sin, and God's judgment, and Jesus—the cross and the resurrection, and the purpose for why he died, and our response, which requires two steps—repentance and faith in Jesus. Then you can ask if they have any questions, if it makes sense to them.

Second, you have to ask for a response. It can be something like this: "Do you believe you are a sinner, that you've violated God's commands and are deserving of his judgment?" "Do you understand that Jesus died for your sins because he loves you?" "Would you like to receive Jesus into your life, or would you like to receive the gift of eternal life?" Or, you can walk them through the ABC's. ADMIT you're a sinner in need of forgiveness. BELIEVE that Jesus died for you and rose again. COMMIT your life to follow him. You can ask them to pray or you can lead them into a prayer that they can follow after.

That's it -- these two steps; that's all it takes to pass the test, to reach the goal of sharing the Gospel with one person.

Now, just think about it...if we each share the Gospel this year, that'll mean that there will be at least 300 Gospel presentations and invitations to trust in Christ. That's 300 more opportunities to know Jesus. That's 300 souls, 300 precious people created in God's image, 300 people who have the possibility of meeting the most important and life changing Person in the universe, 300 more chances for God to be glorified in the salvation of sinners.

Remember, our job is to pray and share the message. It's God's job to save the person. Start making a list of people. Pray for them and pray for the opportunity to share. Learn and practice sharing your testimony, and the Gospel.

God our Father, give us courage, urgency and boldness this year, but more than that, give us love...for you and for the people around us who need Jesus. Amen.

*Pastor Peter*