



SESSION FOUR: Trust as We Take Jesus to the End of the Earth

Introduction

The apostles had a seemingly impossible task of taking the good news about Jesus to the known world. The obstacles were overwhelming. To us, taking that news to the end of our block, the adjacent work cubicle, to a friend, or family member can seem just as impossible. But long journeys begin with first steps. We pray this session will help us take those first steps.

SELFLESS LOVE CAN ATTRACT INTERESTED EARS

1. The events in Philippi created a dramatic opportunity for Paul to demonstrate selfless concern for the jailer (watch 24:55–29:15). Agree with the person next to you on at least one reason selfless acts can be a powerful tool the Spirit uses to prompt an interest in the gospel. Tell the others.
2. Look back at your list of people you wrote on a 3x5 card in session 2. As a group, brainstorm ways we can show selfless care or interest in others. Then circle one you will try with a person from your list in the coming week and explain why you chose it.

TAKE ANY SETBACKS TO JESUS

3. Jesus used Paul to set the slave girl free of her possession by an evil spirit. But this act of kindness was twisted into a cause to persecute Paul and Silas. List ways our attempts to show interest, love, or concern, especially by sharing the gospel, can be misconstrued or used to try to stop us.
4. Read John 16:33 and 1 Peter 4:12-14. We should expect opposition to our attempts to share Jesus. List specific actions (including those of Paul and Silas) that can help us use the power we have in Christ to keep showing interest, love, or concern for the eternal benefit of others despite opposition.

5. List ways members of your group can carry out some of the above actions with and for each other.

MOVING FROM EARTHLY TO ETERNAL OR SPIRITUAL CONCERN

6. Although selfless acts can win an audience for the gospel, it can be challenging to capitalize on those opportunities. Both Lydia and the jailer opened the door to spiritual conversations. List questions we can ask, possible times to ask them, and responses that would indicate a willingness to talk about eternal matters.
7. Read Acts 1:8. Our job, like the apostles before us, is to be witnesses. A witness testifies to what he or she has seen or heard. Take several minutes to write out a short “testimony,” that is, in your own words tell what Jesus has done for you in your life. Include ideas such as the joy of forgiveness and freedom from guilt; purpose for this life and an anticipation of the life after death; comfort in trials and confident peace of mind when death approaches. If you get stuck, ask for ideas from others in the group. Keep your testimony in a place you will see and can review it often.
8. Celebrate with and encourage each other. Get a group member to set up an email list, Facebook group, group text, or other ways to communicate. Share your progress, successes, and setbacks. Pray for each other continually. Hold each other accountable to seize either planned or unplanned opportunities to show selfless interest, love, or concern, as well as share your testimony when the time is right.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, you have placed each of us exactly where you want us at this time. There are people around us to whom you have called us to be witnesses. Open our eyes to see the ones you have chosen for each of us. Open our hearts to fully trust you and your gospel to give us power to do what you are inviting us to do. Remind us we are joining with the apostles on YOUR mission, and you have promised to be with us every step of the way. Amen