TOO GOOD NOT TO SHARE

When something really great happens to you, you wanna tell people, right? When you read something on IG that hits different, you *share* it on your own feed so your followers can see what impacted you. When you taste something amazing, you offer a bite to your friend and say, “You’ve gotta try this!” There’s a reason so many videos go viral — some things are simply *too good not to share.*

We can’t help but share the things we’re passionate about. When we truly connect with something, we want others to connect with it too.

Often, we share things like a good burger or a new app with a friend while saying something like, “This will change your life!” (Honestly, there really are apps that can change your life and if you’ve had Shake Shack, then you know that statement 100% applies.)

But what if we could actually share something with someone that didn’t just change their life, but also changed their eternity?

What God did inside Elevation YTH during YTHX2020 wasn’t meant to end on July 17. The work God is doing in your life right now is meant to be shared. In fact, it’s actually too good not to share!

So follow along this month as we talk about how to take what God is doing inside you and inside Elevation YTH to the people in your world!

WEEK ONE
LIGHT UP THE DARK

If you've been in church for more than a minute, you've most likely heard that you're here on purpose, for a purpose. If we're honest, it's easy to roll our eyes at that statement and brush it off as another church cliché. But, if you pause and think about it — *really* think about it — you want that to be true, don't you? We all want to believe that we're a part of something bigger and there's a reason we're living on this earth.

Maybe that's why we devote so much energy to growing our followers. We think our followers and the likes they bring validate our life. We want the spotlight, but do we even fully understand *why* we want it? We're all fighting to be seen, but we were actually made to shine, and when we settle for simply being seen, we rob ourselves of the satisfaction that comes from living out our purpose.

As followers of Jesus, our calling goes so much deeper than being in the spotlight. We are called to actually *be the light*. Jesus tells us exactly what our purpose is in Matthew 5:14-16. We were created and put on this earth to light it up! *That's* why you're here. Now, lighting up the entire world sounds far-fetched, but lighting up *your world* is definitely doable.

When you decide to give your life to Jesus, your life changes because your purpose changes. **Your biggest motivator should no longer be being liked, but rather being like Jesus.** Jesus didn't go out of His way to gain likes — He went out of His way to make sure people knew His Father in heaven. That means instead of obsessing over how many followers we have, we should be far more concerned with how many people *aren't* following Jesus. Instead of fighting to be seen, sometimes we need to slip behind the scenes to serve — and that's how we'll actually shine.

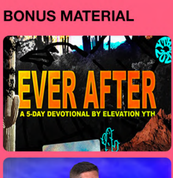
Let's be real — in a lot of ways, it has felt like the lights got switched off during 2020. But if you're a follower of Jesus, you are a light this world can't turn off. Light is what gives us sight, and there are people in your world who desperately need to see. They need to see joy and unconditional love. They need their lives to be lit up with hope.

God didn't save you so you would hide away in your house or hide behind a screen. You can be a light in your home, in your school, in your community, and even on social media. You have a purpose to light up the dark!

THINK IT THROUGH

1. What's one thing you love that you wish you could tell everyone about?
2. What is something you love that you never would have known about if someone hadn't shared it with you?
3. Why do you think we all crave the spotlight?
4. What do you think your purpose is in life right now?
5. Read Matthew 5:13-15. Talk about what stands out to you.
6. What is one way you've hidden your light in the past instead of letting it shine? *(An example could be not speaking up for a friend who was being left out or not speaking the truth into a friend who needed guidance and love.)*
7. Why do you think it's sometimes easier to hide what God has given us than it is to share it? What causes us to keep our faith a secret?
8. On a scale of 1-10, how comfortable are you talking about Jesus with the people in your world? Explain your answer.
9. What's one practical way you can be a light this week?

BONUS MATERIAL



Ever After Devotional
A 5-Day Devotional

Active In Sharing Your Faith
by Craig Groeschel

WEEK TWO
PURPOSE > PLANS

Last week we talked about how our purpose is to light up the world. Unfortunately, our culture often places a higher value on platforms than purpose. But we aren't the first generation to struggle with getting it backward. People have been missing their purpose as they attempt to build their own personal platforms since the beginning of time.

We're all busy. Somehow, even in the midst of a mandatory quarantine that opened up our calendars, our mental spaces still managed to stay full. We've got lots to do and lots on our mind, and to an extent, that's a good thing! It means we're alive!

The problem is when we get so focused on our personal agenda and our preferred destination that we miss opportunities to light up our world for Jesus.

This truth is seen clearly in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus told a story about a man who was attacked one day by robbers, stripped of his clothes, and left for dead.

A priest walked by, but when the priest saw the man who had been left for dead, he crossed the street so he could pass by from a safe distance. Another religious man approached the injured man, but just like the priest, he also crossed the street so he wasn't forced to help the one who was hurting.

These two men were religious leaders, so knowing God's Word was basically their job. However, despite all they knew, they got it all wrong in this situation because they didn't act in love. You can know every book of the Bible and every lyric to every worship song that comes out of Elevation Church, but if you aren't willing to go out of your way to love the lost and help the hurting, you can end up succeeding at all the wrong things.

You will never be able to serve from a safe distance. The two religious leaders mentioned here pretended not to see the man because they knew if they didn't fully see the problem, then they wouldn't feel responsible to solve it. Before we judge them, let's think about how we're guilty of this same thing. How often do we keep scrolling, or put in our headphones, or pull out our phone instead of engaging with those who God has put around us?

There are people around you who are hurting. Maybe they haven't been stripped of their clothes, but they've been stripped of their dignity because of racism. Perhaps they haven't been left for dead, but they've been left out and lonely for a long time. It's easy sometimes to think that if we didn't cause the hurt, we shouldn't be responsible to heal it, but nothing could be further from the truth. **Just because you didn't knock someone down doesn't mean you aren't responsible to help them back up.** God solved a problem He didn't cause when He sent His Son to this earth to die for our sins.

The story in Luke 10 goes on to show how it was actually a Samaritan who finally stopped to help the injured man. The Samaritan had every reason to keep walking — racial tensions kept Jews and Samaritans separated — yet he was still intentional about helping. And he didn't just offer the man a bandaid. He used his resources and went above and beyond to ensure the man got everything he needed to make a full recovery.

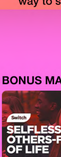
And at the end of the story, Jesus tells us to "Go and do the same."

There is someone in your life who needs your help, and the choice is yours to look away and pretend to not notice or to go out of your way to meet them in their pain. Following Jesus often means embracing inconvenience and allowing your purpose to disrupt your plans.

THINK IT THROUGH

1. Think of a time your plans got totally interrupted or hijacked, but things actually ended up working out better than you planned in the end! Share it with your eGroup!
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13. Why do you think the Bible says love is the most important thing to have?
3. Talk about a time when you saw someone with a need and you met their need. Why did you do it?
4. Read Luke 10:25-37. Talk about any similarities you see between this story and things that are still happening in our world today. This could be something you've seen on the news or something you've personally seen in the hallways of your school.
5. Would you say you make yourself available to be used by God? Why or why not?
6. What are some tensions and challenges that keep you from opening yourself fully to being used by God?
7. What are some ways God has equipped you to reach others? What resources, talents, or skills has He given you that you could use for Him?
8. What are some ways you could be better at seeing people's needs and meeting them?
9. Spend a few minutes getting real with your eGroup. Talk about what holds you back from stepping in and helping out when you see someone in need.
10. Who is someone in your life who is hurting and needs some extra help? What will you do to go out of your way to show them God's love?

BONUS MATERIAL



Selfless: Living an others-first kind of life
Devotional

The Church Has Left the Building
by Dr. Dharius Daniels

WEEK THREE
IF YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW

Last week, we looked at how our *plans* can keep us from showing God's love to those around us. This week we're going to talk about how sometimes it's our *pain* that actually keeps us from sharing God's goodness with the world.

During YTHX2020, Gina McCauley preached an incredible message about the woman at the well, found in John 4.

The Bible documents this conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman, but never gives us her name. We know where she is from (Samaria) and where she is right now (the well), but that's all the Bible tells us about her.

Perhaps you've felt labeled because of where you've come from or where you're currently at in life. It's hard when the world slaps a label on us that shames us, but it's even worse when we allow those labels to limit us from walking in the purpose God has called us to.

The Samaritan woman chose the hottest part of the day to get the water she needed to avoid interacting with the people who knew her story. Most women collected water early in the morning or late in the evening. However, her pain was so deep that it was easier for her to survive the heat of the day than the judgmental stares of others.

You see, she had been married five times and was currently living with a man who wasn't even her husband. That was a HUGE DEAL back then. But as Gina pointed out to us during YTHX2020, this woman didn't have the ability to leave her husband during this particular time in history. Women were considered property. So, this woman had been left five different times and had been reduced to living with a man, most likely just to survive, who wouldn't even give her the honor of commitment.

Perhaps she had made some mistakes along the way, but how tragic to be known for your pitfalls in the midst of so much pain.

But Jesus saw beyond her pitfalls to her potential. In fact, He looked at her pain with compassion and was able to see what nobody else could — in her brokenness, He saw an opportunity for His light to shine even brighter.

After the woman realized who she had met, she ran back to her village — the place of her pain and rejection — to tell everyone about Jesus. The Bible goes on to tell us that many Samaritans from her town believed in Jesus *because of her testimony*!

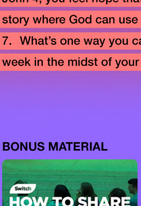
She didn't want to be seen in the beginning of this story, but in the end she ran to where she would be seen the most, not because of what she knew, but WHO she knew. If you get one thing out of this study, let it be this truth: It doesn't matter what you've done **— God wants to use you to share hope**. It doesn't matter what others say about you — God says you're valuable and useful to Him. Maybe you've done things you aren't proud of (spoiler alert: we all have). Perhaps you've had a lot of hurt inflicted upon you that was beyond your control and you feel too broken to be useful. But we don't serve a God who enjoys using perfect vessels — we serve a God who loves using broken vessels because it is in the very cracks of our broken story that His light is able to shine through.

It is your choice to shift your perspective in the middle of your pain to see what God sees. Don't be silenced by labels and don't let the pain of your past stop you from sharing the hope you have now because of Jesus.

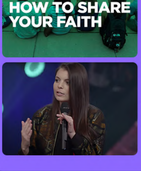
THINK IT THROUGH

1. If you knew someone could read your mind, would you want to be around them? Why or why not?
2. Read John 4:1-30. Talk about what parts of this story stand out to you.
3. Jesus told the Samaritan Woman in verse 10, "If you only knew who you were talking to… " What's something you wish you knew in this season of life?
4. Do you ever struggle with feeling disqualified to share what God is doing in your life now because of something you've done in the past? Explain.
5. In verse 28, we read where the woman left her jar (and maybe her labels too) while she ran back to her village to tell the people in her life about Jesus. What are some things you need to leave behind as you move forward in telling others about God's love? (This could be bad habits, old friends, etc.)
6. What's a part of your story that feels painful (i.e., the "middle of your village"), but after reading this story in John 4, you feel hope that maybe that's the part of your story where God can use you most?
7. What's one way you can tell of God's goodness this week in the midst of your pain or difficulties?

BONUS MATERIAL



How to share your faith
Devotional



IYKYK
by Gina McCauley

WEEK FOUR
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Everybody needs at least one ride-or-die friend — that friend who will have your back in any situation, and if they can't ride with you until the very end, then they will die trying because they just love you that much!

There's a story in the Bible in Mark 2 of a paralyzed man who had *four* ride-or-die friends. His friends heard that Jesus was in town, and since Jesus had the reputation of being a miracle-worker, they decided to take their friend to see Him in hopes that he would be healed. However, Jesus was a popular guy, so when they arrived at the house where He was, there was no more room — not even a place in the back to stand by the doorway. Major bummer.

But these weren't casual friends. These were ride-or-die friends. They weren't going home without Jesus seeing their friend. So, they decided to tear a hole in the roof and lower their paralyzed friend down to Jesus.

The Bible says in Mark 2:5 that when Jesus saw *"their faith"* He told the paralyzed man his sins were forgiven. Did you catch that? It wasn't the paralyzed man's faith — it was the faith of his friends that saved him.

They were willing to bring their friend to Jesus by *any means necessary*, and it was their faith that not only led to their friend eventually being healed, but more importantly, shifted his eternity. **Your example affects more than your existence.**

Bringing your friends to Jesus by any means necessary will mean trying and failing and choosing to try again. It will mean facing rejection, but risking it all again because you know the One who can meet any need. It will mean extra work, more thought, and compassionate action.

But when you practice your faith with *that level* of love and intention, God performs miracles.

The paralyzed man's need moved his friends to action, and their faith moved Jesus to perform a miracle. How often do you move in response to the needs of your friends? How often do you go out of your way to make a way for others to come to Jesus?

What we have in Jesus is too good not to share, and we should share it with those around us by any means necessary. If you don't bring those in your life to Jesus, then who will? If not you, then who? And if not now, then when?

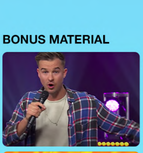
Don't stop if someone closes a door in your face and risk missing out on a miracle!

THINK IT THROUGH

1. Who is your ride-or-die friend and how did they earn that title?
2. Read Mark 2:1-12. Why do you think these guys went through so much trouble to get their friend to Jesus?
3. Why do you think they didn't just come back later when it was less crowded?
4. Would you describe yourself as a ride-or-die friend? What things keep you from being fully committed to the people around you?
5. How could you apply this story to your life right now?
6. Who in your world needs your faith? Why did you pick them?
7. On a scale of 1-10, how passionate are you about seeing lost people come to know Jesus? Explain your answer.
8. What can we do as a group to be intentional about meeting people's needs?

**Consider checking out Elevation Outreach for ways to serve in your community.*

BONUS MATERIAL



Gone Fishing
Rich Wilkerson Jr.

Capacity: Student Leadership
Devotional

Before next week, we want to give you an opportunity to put this month's content into practice and actually live it out! So, here's what you need to do before eGroup next week:

1. Think of a person in your life who needs to connect with Jesus.
2. Think of a sermon or graphic that you've seen lately that encouraged you that you believe will also encourage them. It could be something from YTHX2020, one of Pastor Steven's sermons, or a graphic you saw on Elevation YTH'S IG PAGE.
3. Send it to them along with a message letting them know you're thinking of them and maybe briefly explain why what you're sharing encouraged you.
4. Screenshot your message and bring it with you to eGroup next week for a discussion!

WEEK FIVE

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Sharing your faith is like anything in life — the more you practice it, the better and more comfortable you get! You may not get the results you want every time, but **the outcome is God's job and obedience is your job.** When you obey and step out in faith, you can leave the results to God and know you're doing your part in living out your purpose on this earth.

Spend this session of your eGroup talking about what you've learned, both in studying God's Word and actually applying it to your life this past week!

We're so proud of you and we believe in you more than you know!

THINK IT THROUGH

1. Who did you choose to share a message with this week and why did you choose them?
2. Did you find it to be hard or awkward? Explain your answer.
3. What was their response? Feel free to show your screenshot to your group!
4. How did you feel after you shared what you did with your friend?
5. What has been your biggest takeaway from this month's study?

Spend some time in prayer together during this session! Pray for each other and for the people God has put in your path and on your heart!

BONUS MATERIAL

Storyteller

Devotional

Needers and Feeders

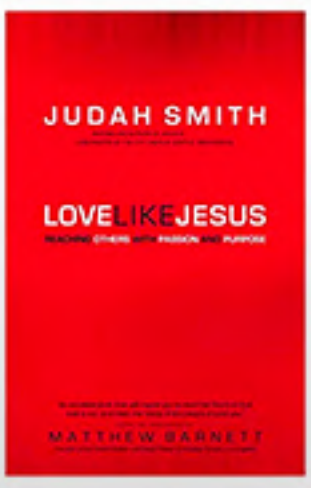
by Pastor Steven Furtick

PLAYLIST

EXTRAS
FOR eGROUP LEADERS

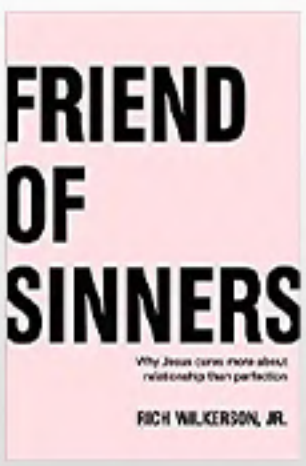
If you've enjoyed this study on evangelism and don't want it to end, we've got you! Check out these resources to continue learning how to reach the world around you with the love of Jesus!

BOOKS



Love Like Jesus: Reaching Others with Passion and Purpose

by Judah Smith



Friend of Sinners: Why Jesus Cares More About Relationship Than Perfection

by Rich Wilkerson Jr.

SERMONS

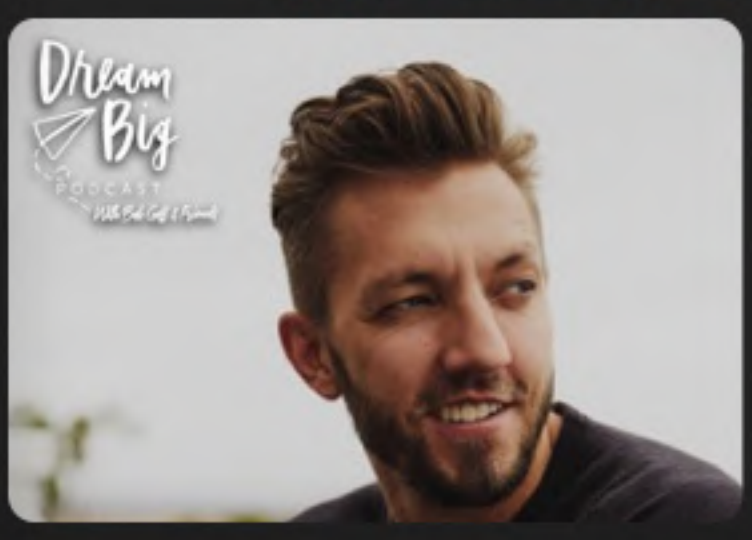
There's Another Door

by Pastor Steven Furtick

PODCASTS

Leadership Lean In

Chad Veach and Christine Cain



Dream Big Podcast

Waking Up to a Better Future