

A CARE NET INITIATIVE

*Caring* for those considering  
**ABORTION**

SESSION 1:

Understanding the Fundamental Role of the Gospel & Discipleship

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TAKEN FROM

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*making* **LIFE**  
**DISCIPLES**<sup>™</sup>

*Equipping the Church to offer compassion, hope, help,  
and discipleship to women and men considering abortion.*

## SECTION 2.2: EVANGELISM: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

*“God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.”<sup>1</sup>*

—C.S. Lewis

The Gospel is clear and simple, and it is about our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ: Christ took the penalty that we deserved for our sin, placed it upon Himself, was nailed to a cross, died in our place, and was buried. Three days later, Christ came back to life to prove that sin and death were conquered and that His claim to be God was true. We trust Christ as our only way to heaven as He alone forgives our sins.

The Gospel is the salvation message—also known as The Good News—found in the Scriptures. While the salvation message is found throughout the Bible, the verses below are often used as a summary:

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23)

*“For the wages of sin is death.”* (Romans 6:23)

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

*“For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and that not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Gospel has the power to transform lives, including pregnancy decisions, and is integral to all aspects of Christian ministry, including a *Making Life Disciples* ministry.

While many of the people you will serve as a Life Disciple will be members or regular attenders of your church, a Life Disciple should never assume that because a person has a relationship with the church, that person has a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Instead, every Life Disciple should stay alert for opportunities to share the Gospel with those who don't fully understand God's forgiveness and His provision of eternal life, which is available to those who trust in Jesus for their salvation.

A commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ ensures that Life Disciples will be as effective as possible when ministering to people in need.



## SECTION 2.3: EVANGELISM: YOUR ROLE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL <sup>2</sup>

The term “evangelical” comes from the Greek word *euaggelion*, meaning “the good news” or the “Gospel.”<sup>3</sup> Evangelism is simply sharing this Good News with others.

**Our role in sharing the Gospel is “contact.”** Contact includes spiritual conversations with the women and men we serve. The atmosphere of grace in your church creates an environment in which you are the contact, through truthful and loving conversations, with these women and men.

**God’s role is “conversion.”** God creates every opportunity for someone to hear the Gospel. He brings the women and men facing pregnancy decisions to the church for help. He softens the hearts of those women and men so that when you share the Gospel with them, God will help them hear and accept the Gospel as true. God then seals their salvation when they trust Christ as Savior.

You can share the Gospel with the people you serve and invite them to trust Christ, but only God can accomplish the spiritual transformation that occurs in their hearts when they trust Christ as Lord and Savior.

You have no power to make a person trust Christ. Any effort you make to convince someone to trust Christ is a mistake. You can certainly pray that they trust Christ (e.g. that God would open their hearts), but if they do not believe that day (or ever), you can take joy in the knowledge that you have fulfilled your role and that God will fulfill His. You may also be encouraged to know that you planted seeds that could eventually sprout and lead to salvation.

### GUIDELINES ON HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

The good news, pardon the pun, is that there is no exact formula for how to share the salvation message. But there are some guidelines that should be followed. Consider the following:

**Do not feel compelled to share the Gospel with every woman and man you meet as a Life Disciple.** Instead, heed the Holy Spirit’s prompting and look for opportune moments to begin spiritual conversations. Remember that there is no predetermined time or sequence for talking about the Lord. It may happen at any time during your visits together. Be sensitive to God and let Him lead you. If you begin to talk about Christ and you see that the person is not interested, move on to the next part of your time together. Perhaps another appropriate moment will occur.

**Adapt a “Get-To” rather than a “Have-To” attitude about sharing.** If you have the attitude that you are a failure if you don’t tell every person you meet about Jesus, you might fall into the trap of sharing out of obligation (“have-to”). Looking at

evangelism as a privilege (“get-to”), rather than an obligation, changes your perspective and puts you on the alert to watch for the Holy Spirit already at work in the hearts of the people you are serving. At this point, sharing the Gospel is a matter of joining God where He is already at work.

**Be authentic and willing to listen to their story.** Recall that authenticity is one of the four vital traits of an effective Life Disciple. Be yourself. Treat your interactions as conversations between equals. Remember that sharing the Gospel is not driven by religious duty, but it is born out of love for God and others. It happens best in the context of relationships. When a person knows you have heard him or her, he or she will be more open to hearing what you have to say. Use your communication skills to help others relax and converse more naturally. (More on effective communication in Session 3).

**Avoid lectures and arguments.** Women and men considering abortion may hold different views and beliefs than your own. If so, don’t lecture or argue with them or attempt to correct their views or beliefs. Doing so will only alienate them and may close their minds to hearing the Gospel. Your willingness to listen establishes trust and lays a strong relational foundation for sharing the Gospel when the Holy Spirit opens the door.

**Do not use religious terminology that is unfamiliar to someone that is unchurched.** While most of the people you will serve will have a relationship with your church, you may have an opportunity to share with someone who never attends church. It is good to remember that our Christian sub-culture can differ significantly from the larger culture around us. As a believer, you have probably integrated Christian terminology into your everyday speech, terms like “born again,” “sin,” “saved,” and “redeemed.” Even the word “Christian” can mean different things to different people (including those who consider themselves to *be* Christian). Effective evangelism happens when you talk with a person you are serving using language they understand.

Paul talked about evangelists as people who Christ gifted to equip the church, but regardless of whether we have this specific gifting or not, all of us are called to share the Good News.

Consider these verses:

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*





## SECTION 2.4: FEAR IN EVANGELIZING<sup>4</sup>

It is normal to have fear in evangelizing. Even the Apostle Paul sometimes feared that his lack of ability in certain areas would hinder his evangelizing. He overcame fear by focusing on God working through him. Consider the following Scripture:

*When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.** My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)*

Fear is a common reason Christians give for not sharing the Gospel. Fear can occur when Christians focus on themselves or are anxious about their performance in evangelizing instead of focusing on the power of God to draw people to Himself, using the Christian as His vehicle. Christians might also fear, for example, that sharing the Gospel might offend someone or cause someone not to like them.

Other reasons people might be fearful of sharing the Gospel are: fear of not doing a good job, fear of being unable to answer tough questions, fear of rejection, or fear of alienating the people they are serving.

Be encouraged with this truth:

*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made in perfect love.” (1 John 4:18)*

It is reassuring to remember that love is the antidote to fear.

In the context of evangelism, you can ask yourself this question and fill in the blank with your most prominent fear:

“Do I love people enough to be willing to risk \_\_\_\_\_ to save them from eternal separation from God?”

With God's help, the answer can always be YES!





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Designed by G. Nathan Smith, Martin Stanley and Audra Jon Hoover.

General Editor: Cynthia Hopkins, VP Center Services & Client Care, Care Net

Editor: Mary Chapman, Director of Church Outreach & Engagement, Care Net

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44180 Riverside Parkway, Suite 200

Lansdowne, VA 20176

(703) 554-8734 Office

(703) 554-8735 Fax

[info@care-net.org](mailto:info@care-net.org)

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