



Session 2

The Hopeful Community
week starting September 26

We love to share good news with people in our lives! However, Jesus' followers, in spite of having the BEST NEWS, are often reluctant to share their faith. The false narrative we tell ourselves is that we aren't smart enough or qualified enough to share our faith—it is reserved for the religious elite. But what if all you need to share your faith is what you already have?

GETTING STARTED

If you are new to one another or have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves and share one reason you are participating in or looking forward to this group. Discuss your group covenant and expectations. <https://sov.church/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covenant-Member-Website.pdf>

- Last week's Soul Training was to pray and to do peculiar acts of kindness because God is peculiar (in the best way). What did you do and how did it go?
- Share some good news or a good experience you've had lately (ie a restaurant, event, or something funny). What made it worth sharing?

DISCUSSION

1. In what situations or with which people is it most difficult for you to share your faith? Why is it difficult?
2. James Bryan Smith says that there are two ways we can share our faith—with our life and with our mouth (The Good & Beautiful Community, p. 44). How are you doing with this? Which one is easier and which one is more difficult for you?
3. In 1 Peter 3:15 Peter talks about sharing the "HOPE that YOU have." What do you think Peter means by this phrase? How do you define hope? How can we be prepared to share the reasons for our hope?
4. Pastor Sam shared, "Hope is what we hold on to until the promises of God are fulfilled." Which truths and promises of God increase your hope?
5. Read 1 Peter 3:13-15. Peter's urge for the believers to share their faith comes at a time of significant hostility and persecution. Why do you think the early Christians accepted the challenge in spite of the risk? If faith has become personal for you, when or how did that happen? What would it look like to share your faith with gentleness and respect?

SOUL TRAINING

1. Think of a brief (one liner?) way to share the core idea of the Gospel message. (Ex. I believe Jesus died for my sins and was buried. He rose to life and was seen.)
2. In a few sentences, explain who Jesus is and the difference He makes in your life. In preparation for future opportunities, try sharing it with someone you know and trust who could give you feedback.

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

"...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

PRAY

Jesus thank you for dying for my sins and rising again to life. Your death means my life! Help me have the courage to share how your story intersects with mine, and to recognize when you prompt me to do so. Amen.