

## **Five Foundational Facts**

1. Human beings are created in the image of God.
2. God is already present and working in each person's life. John Wesley called it "prevenient grace" or the "grace that goes before." Whatever you call it, the Spirit of God is at work in all human beings, no matter what their religion, no matter what their morality or lack of it, no matter what they have done or haven't done. He's encouraging them to ask questions about God.
3. The best things about each person are blessings from God.
4. The worst things about each person are future arenas for God's redemption.
5. People are hungry for encouragement and love and need help noticing the presence of [Jesus] in their lives.

Citation: Nudge: Awakening Each Other to the God Who's Already There by Leonard Sweet (Kindle version)

## **Paul to Corinthian Church 01**

2 Corinthians 2:12-17 NIV

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

## **Paul to Corinthian Church 02**

2 Corinthians 3:1-6 NIV

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

## **Jesus said**

Acts 1:8 NIV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## **Sermon in a Sentence:**

Evangelism is more than declaring a detailed message; it is becoming a living message of God's love to others.

## **YOU ARE A WITNESS**

You not only can be a witness – YOU ARE A WITNESS. God works through your words and actions to nudge and to draw the people around you to Jesus. This is the story of the early church.

## **A New Point of View**

For many Christians the word “evangelism” carries a massive mound of emotions. It prompts feelings like guilt, fear, domination, irritation, exasperation, hostility, grief and loss. We've been taught to approach sharing the news about Jesus as something we do to others. But letting others know about God's life changing love is something the Holy Spirit does through us. Jesus told us we would be his witnesses. When God's Spirit lives in us we are his message of love to everyone we meet.

## **Found People find people.**

Our message is simple: Jesus, the Lamb of God, died on the cross to take away both guilt and shame. His blood was spilled as a sacrifice for sin— and that takes away our guilt. He poured out pure, unconditional love on the cross— and that removes our shame. Through grace, God makes wrong things right, restoring the created order. Jesus steps personally into our space and invites us to swap stories. The adventure really begins when we trade our story for his. Our mission is undeniable: Redeemed people are sent on a redemption mission. Evangelism is simply how followers of Jesus interact with the world. It's not a program or a project; it's a life. Since I've been blessed, I will be a blessing. Since I have been healed, I will bring healing. Since I have been saved, I will serve.

Citation: PURPLE FISH: A HEART FOR SHARING JESUS, Mark O. Wilson, © 2014 by Mark O. Wilson Published by Wesleyan Publishing House Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

## **Four Kinds of Nudges**

- Acts of kindness (like caring for the victims of a plague abandoned by their loved ones)
- Truly listening (the 21st century's cup of cold water)
- Asking questions and learning (seek first to understand rather than to understand)
- Sharing your story of Jesus (What was your life like before Jesus? How did you start your relationship with Jesus? What did you do? What is your life like now?)

## **What about you?**

Who are your cruddy buddies? Who are the bad people you want to nudge toward Jesus? Are they members of your family? Is it your neighbor, a coworker or the waitress at your favorite place to eat? Who does God love enough through you that you'd leave your comfort zone to nudge them toward Jesus? Will you join me in praying that God uses our actions and love to love the bad people in our community?