

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

August 17-23, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea:

Evangelism begins with an intimate relationship with Jesus, which aligns our hearts with God's desire for all to be saved.

Scripture and Study:

KEY TEXT: John 17:3, 2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4, Ezekiel 18:23 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

"Evangelism" can sometimes be a scary word! Maybe it brings to mind a guy standing on a street corner with a megaphone yelling at people. Or a huge stadium packed with people being told that they need to give their lives to Jesus. Or having someone randomly walk up to you and ask if you want to go to Heaven or hell. Yet the word "evangelism" simply means "the act of proclaiming Good News."

God's heart beats for a world that He loves so completely. He desires that all would come to know Him; that no one would live separated from His love and presences. We were created to walk with Him and to know Him fully, and as He has brought us to Himself, through the love, sacrifice and resurrection power of Jesus, we are able to live as we were created to live. Our greatest calling is to know Jesus intimately, and out of that calling flows our mission - to make Him known to a world in need.

Evangelism begins with truly knowing Jesus - knowing that is only found in a place of deep, personal encounter, rooted in prayer, Scripture and obedience. As we spend time with Jesus, our hearts align with His: we truly know Jesus, His priorities become ours, and His love compels us to share the Good News.

N.T. Wright wrote, "The cross is the surest, truest and deepest window on the very heart and character of the living and loving God." Through this lens, we see God's heart for the lost and our role in His mission. Evangelism begins in the "secret place" of intimacy with Christ, overflows into love for others, and bears fruit that changes eternity. Because the love of Jesus has encountered us fully, it is impossible for us to keep His goodness to ourselves. As Menno Simons wrote, "We consider those who are so estranged from Christ and eternal life...Therefore, we preach as much as possible."

Discussion Questions:

- How does an intimate relationship with Jesus shape our desire to share His love with others?
- Remember a time when you shared the Gospel or saw someone come to faith. How did it reflect God's heart for the lost?
- What are some practical steps you can take to abide in Christ and allow Him to share His heart with you for the world around us?

Apply It:

- Reflect: Journal about a moment when you felt closest to Jesus or saw His love impact someone's life. How can that inspire you to know Him more deeply?
- Pray: Thank God for His heart for the lost. Ask Him to deepen your intimacy with Jesus and give you boldness to share His love.
- Act: This week, choose one person to pray for. Ask Jesus to show you how He sees that person, how He feels for them. If God gives you an opportunity, as them how you can pray for them.