

Theme:

Relational Evangelism

Title:

Lesson 1: Why You Run This Race

Introduction: RELAY: Relational Evangelism Lifestyle Approach for You is about you becoming more effective as a witness in sharing your love of Jesus with others. It's **R**elational because you share Jesus your way with family, friends, co-workers and others you meet. It's **E**vangelism because the 'good news' of the gospel of Jesus Christ is relevant today. It's relevant to every aspect of a persons' **L**ifestyle. The **A**pproach is all about you sharing the gospel the way God would have you to share it. And as **Y**ou share God's love and grace right where you are, you will see others experience the same life changing joy you have, knowing you have changed a life forever.

Desired Outcomes:

As believers on this journey we are in a great race to spread the gospel with those around us. In this lesson we will focus on internal motivations needed to run the race and share the gospel. Participants will examine and discover their purpose and design to effectively share the gospel with others.

Core Scripture:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Welcome:

For this message any fun and welcoming ice breaker could work.

If there are new members always be careful of not creating a space where new members feel exposed or uncomfortable

Word:

Apostle Paul was motivated to share the gospel with others. He traveled extensively across Asia Minor preaching and teaching the saving message of Jesus Christ. He desired to see as many people as possible come to know Christ as he did. How did Paul become so motivated? What propelled him to travel so extensively to share the gospel? We will discuss three internal motivations that compelled Paul.

A. Three major motivations for sharing your faith.

- I) **Appreciation** for Christ's sacrifice on the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:15 "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (NIV)
 - a) Paul never lost the wonder of Christs' sacrifice on the cross.
 - b) Paul understood that we have been bought with a price.
 - c) Gaining Christ surpasses things lost. Philippians 3:7-8

- II) Paul desired to live a **Responsible** life that was honoring to God.
 - a) Discipline: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
 - b) Accountable: 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

III) Have a deep **Concern** for those without Christ.

- a) Luke 19:10
- b) John 14:6

"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for." - Charles Spurgeon

The following could be relevant questions to ask:

- Ask if someone in the group will share how the "good news" of the gospel was shared with them?
- What can we do to show God our appreciation for the sacrifice Christ made on Calvary?
- How does your life bring honor to God?
- Why should we be concerned with the eternal fate of others?
- What are the personal benefits of sharing your faith with others?
- What do you think is the greatest need in relational evangelism?

"I was stunned and could hardly grasp what was going on. The immensity of it, I the condemned, am to live and someone else willingly and voluntarily offers his life for me...a stranger. Is this some dream? I was saved. And I owe to him the fact that I could tell you all this."

- Franciszek Gajowniczek (Auschwitz POW)

Thoughts to consider:

- Have you ever gotten lost while traveling or lost something very valuable and couldn't find it? How did you feel? What was the outcome?
- Consider how important your behavior is in relation to sharing your faith with others.

Worship:

Music of your choice.

Works: (These actions can be done during the lesson or given as an assignment)

1. Pray and ask God to open your eyes and heart to the lost. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to someone whose heart is ready for the gospel and share Jesus with them.
2. List three people you know who need Christ.
3. Pray for the people on your list using the H.E.A.R.T. acronym:
 - a. **H** is for a receptive **Hearts** - pray for them to have a hearts receptive to the gospel.
 - b. **E** - is for opened **Eyes** and **Ears** - pray for their spiritual Eyes and Ears to be open to the truth.
 - c. **A** is for a changed **Attitude** - that they may have the same attitude toward sin that God has.
 - d. **R** is for **Release** - pray they be Released from their sin and bondages.

e. **I** is for **Transform** - ask God to save them and Transform them by His power.