

09-26-2021

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Sermon Series: *I Am Community of Hope*

Week 4: *Won by One*

1. Icebreaker: Tell about a time when you tried to make or fix something without having the right tools. How did it go?

2. Read our memory verse for this sermon series, where Jesus gave all of us a mission – **Matthew 28:19-20**: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- In week 1, we looked at our church's mission to interest disinterested people in Jesus Christ and learned that the first step of evangelism isn't talking, but listening.
- In week 2, Pastor Dale helped us understand the importance of kindness in drawing people to God.
- In week 3, we focused on being willing to step out and take risks to get involved in what God cares about rather than staying comfortable and indifferent to his concerns in the world.
- This week we're teaching some practical tools to help you do evangelism.

A lot of Christians get nervous when they hear Jesus' commission to all of us in Matthew 28 to evangelize the world, especially people who don't have the spiritual gift of evangelism. Before this sermon series, how did you feel about the idea of being involved in evangelism?

3. If your feelings about evangelism have changed through this sermon series, share about that.

4. Read **1 Peter 3:15**: *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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.*

In this passage, Peter gives a three-part plan for evangelism:

(1) Live a "questionable" life.

5. What might cause someone who isn't yet a Christ-follower to ask a Christian about their faith?

6. Read **Matthew 5:14-16**: *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives*

light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

What does it mean to be “*the light of the world*”? Share some things you do to try to live this out.

(2) Be gentle and respectful.

7. Many New Testament passages about evangelism mention the importance of gentleness when sharing our faith. Why is gentleness so important in evangelism?

8. What are some ways to show respect for someone who doesn't believe what you believe about God, when you're having a faith conversation with them?

(3) Be prepared.

9. In John 9:25, a blind man was questioned about his experience with Jesus, but he had just barely met Jesus and didn't know much about him yet, so all he could do was tell his own experience: “*I was blind, but now I see!*” Why is this actually a good model to follow – to simply share your before and after experience with Jesus – just like this blind man did?

10. Using the “Before/After” model, have each person in your group share their faith story in just a few sentences.

11. Using the “Good News, Bad News, Good News” pattern, briefly explain what the gospel is.

12. Why is it important to start with good news when sharing the gospel?

13. Community of Hope wants to partner with you in your evangelism efforts. Consider the people you've listed on your “Won by One” card. What upcoming COH events could you potentially invite them to attend?

Keep on using this simple “[Won by One](#)” process – both as individuals and together as a group.

Ready for your next step? – If you would like to take a next step in your faith journey, such as trusting your life to Christ or getting baptized, text the word “Next” to 561-264-6079 and follow the steps there, and we'll contact you to help you do that.

News and Announcements:

- **New Here?** Let us know who you are by texting “connect” to 561-264-6079.
- **Connections Class - Sundays 10:15-11:30am starting October 3:** A 4-week class on how to live the Christian life. This is the best way to get more connected at Community of Hope, and we hope everyone who attends our church will take this class. You'll learn about our mission,

values, and statement of faith, and you'll have the opportunity to become a COH partner, if you wish, which opens more opportunities for leadership and service. The class will be offered in-person and also over Zoom for those who can't attend in-person. Register at: <https://communityofhope.church/connections>

- **Partnership Gathering** – Tuesday, October 5 at 7pm at our Loxahatchee Campus. This is an opportunity to hear what's going on behind the scenes at our church and to ask questions.
- **Lake Worth Campus Launch** – If you want to help launch our Lake Worth Campus, check out our calendar of outreach activities at <https://communityofhope.church/lakeworth>
- **Our Support Groups** are always available for anyone to join. If you or someone you know needs support to get through a challenging season like grief, divorce, mental illness, recovery, go to our groups page to register: <https://communityofhope.church/groups/> These groups are a great opportunity to connect someone you know to Jesus Christ. They are open to everyone, whether they're believers or not.
- **Our Skeptics group** is designed for people who aren't yet sure about Christianity to provide a safe place to discuss typical barriers to faith like, "Why is there suffering and pain in the world?", "What happens to people from other religions?" and "Does the Bible conflict with modern science?" Skeptics will meet Mondays at 7pm at the Copans' home in Wellington starting September 27. We'll meet outdoors on our patio to help everyone stay safe, and people are welcome to Zoom into the meetings as well. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend or loved one who doesn't believe or who doesn't have a church home. Sign up at <https://communityofhope.church/groups/>
- **COH Has Job Openings!** Learn more at <https://communityofhope.church/employment>
- **Thank you for your financial support**, which makes it possible for us to minister to you and to our community! Consider setting up automated giving to help you be consistent even when you're traveling. To give to Community of Hope go to <https://communityofhope.church/give>.