

The Gap Series
“Tell”

For the week beginning 1.30.12

Can you think of the most contemporary way for the average “Joe” to share something with a ton of people all at one time? Years ago, the first thought that would likely pop into our mind would be radio, newspaper or, if you were the “Joe” who had tons of cash, perhaps television. But, who has that kind of cash stashed away (well, perhaps the Financial Peace University graduates)?

No, this electronic communication vehicle allows you to reach out and touch upwards of 150, 300, and even 3,000 (if you are Kyle Gray) close friends, acquaintances, and admirers who will likely listen to your daily ramblings. All you have to do is write a post and click to send. You guessed it, Facebook! Check out these fun Facebook facts:

1. There are more than 800 million active users.
2. More than 50% of active users log on to Facebook in any given day (even at work!).
3. An average user has 130 friends (... obviously not Kyle Gray).
4. An average user is connected to 80 community pages, groups and events.
5. More than 350 million users access Facebook through their mobile phone.

You probably know by now where we are going. Here’s the deal; If you are looking for a way to tell the world about Christ, Facebook is a great way to do it. CedarCreek figured that out with its 6,815 followers. Think we’ll meet our vision with that many followers? We think so! Combine that with our use of technology like the iCampus and iChat, and you can see how we can truly live out our mission and vision here and abroad. Our vision is to be a contemporary church for the unchurched and spiritually restless, starting in Perrysburg and reaching out to the Greater Toledo area, helping people to love Jesus, serve others, and tell the **world** about Christ, and then multiplying our efforts through new church plants.

Of course, we realize that we cannot fulfill Christ’s mission as individuals. Jesus himself organized the Church to represent his hands, feet, and presence to the world. That’s why we desire to become a Biblically functioning community furthering his kingdom in obedience to the Great Commission. Because Jesus came to seek and save the lost, we feel compelled to do the same. Through all of the ministries and sub-ministries of our church, we desire people not only to meet Christ, but also, over time, to grow in their faith so that they live obediently to his commands and become conformed to his character.

That is our vision! Can you see this unfolding? Are you on board? While we are not requiring that you sign-up as a Facebook user we truly would like you to live out the Great Commission, telling people about Christ *everywhere*! This Bible study will provide some Biblically helpful tips to carry out our vision. You’ll also have the opportunity to complete the “Tell” portion of Missional Membership on page 6-9, complete the personal response questions, and take that final step to commit to becoming a Missional Member. Be sure to tell others what you learn.

Tell It!

Who: Those who don’t know Christ

What: That everyone needs him

When: At every opportunity

Where: Everywhere

How: Facebook? Invite card ...etc.

Next: Teach and train them!

IN THIS WEEK’S STUDY WE’LL FILL IN THE GAP ON HOW TO LIVE A FULL LIFE BY TELLING THE WORLD ABOUT CHRIST!

MONDAY — Do You Really Know Him?

Big Point: *Our duty is to wholeheartedly fall in love with Christ and to share everything we know about him with others.*

Earlier we spoke about the average “Joe” telling the world about Christ. Well, you can’t get more average than author James Bryan Smith when he was in high school. In his book, “Good and Beautiful God.” Smith talks about his early days coming from a Christmas-and-Easter only Methodist family. At that time he liked sports, pretty girls and Jesus—in that order. He shared how average he was academically, graduating three hundredth out of six hundred. But something marvelous happened when Smith entered college—Jesus began moving up the “priority” list and he decided to transfer to a Christian college. As Christ became a priority, Smith began encountering mentors and fell deeply in love with the God that Jesus knows. He writes about mentors like Richard J. Foster, author of the most significant Christian book “Celebration of Discipline;” Henri Nouwen, a great spiritual writer; Richard Mullens, songwriter and recording artist of “Awesome God” and “Step by Step.” Eventually, Smith and Foster launched a spiritual renewal ministry called *Renevare* and began traveling around the world telling people how to live a deeper, more balanced life with God. Through Smith’s travels, he met Dr. Dallas Willard, author of the book “Divine Conspiracy” and philosophy professor at University of Southern California. Smith spent over seven hundred hours listening to Willard teach about God, the Kingdom of God, the Bible, the spiritual disciplines and how they apply to life in general. That’s a lot of hours.

Eventually, Smith created a curriculum that teaches people around the country to live as Jesus taught us to live and that genuine transformation into the character of Christ really is possible. Are you interested in living this way? The more you learn about God, the more genuine you are in sharing about Him. Well, we have **GREAT NEWS**, James Bryan Smith is coming to CedarCreek church on March 1st and 2nd to conduct the Apprenticeship Conference—learn more below!

READ and THINK ... Find the Answers in the Bible

1. Have you ever blotted out something that stained a piece of clothing? It’s as if the stain was never there. Christ does the same for us as outlined in the scripture below. Describe in your own words what is happening here:

2 Corinthians 5:19 (New Living Translation)

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Answer:

2. Matthew 28:19 describes how we can best symbolize our submission to Christ and our willingness to live God’s way, and how we can identify ourselves with God’s covenant. Write out what that symbol is and what command the scripture tells us to do.

Matthew 28:19 (New Living Translation)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Answer:

3. One of the most popular quoted scriptures has to be John 3:16. Have you ever truly examined this type of love and what eternal life means in this passage? If you read closely, you'll see love that equals a high degree of self-sacrifice. Describe the sacrifice outlined in this scripture and what eternal life means to you:

John 3:16 (New Living Translation)

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Answer:

LIVE...What will you do now?

Have you ever considered it your life's work to learn about Christ? If not, why not?

Have you ever counted the hours that you have learned about Christ? Some can point to hours spent in a Life Group or in their own personal study. But most can likely point solely to the weekend message. Sadly, that's just not enough. Try to review the past twenty years of your life and jot down the hours that you have spent learning about Christ. Hours:

- During the day:
- During the week:
- During the month:
- Average yearly hours:

Let's start doing the work that Christ asks us to do. Be his apprentice, disciple others. Ready? Write out how you will start the process. Here, we'll

help you take one step. Read the above box quote and signup for the Apprentice Conference. Go to cedarcreek.tv under the get connected tab to learn more.

The Apprentice Conference

When:

Thu, March 1st (6:30-9p) - \$10

Fri, March 2nd (8:30-3p) - \$10

\$20.00 for both—lunch Friday.

Where:

Perrysburg Campus

For Who:

Everyone who wants to learn to be Christ's Apprentice!

How to Sign-up:

Complete the weekend message insert and drop off at the Welcome Center or at www.cedarcreek.tv under the get connected tab.

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

Ask God to make you a sponge, soaking up every morsel of His Word so that you know everything about Him and can become His Apprentice, His disciple, telling everyone about the Christ.