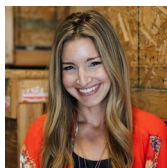




## WEEK 5

TOPIC: **EVANGELISM**

BY: **Mandi Schreurs**  
*Global Missions Minister*



**Why do we practice Lent?** We do Lent as a way to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It isn't commanded in scripture, but here at Eleven22, we do it because we believe it's beneficial at times to tell our flesh no, so we can tell Jesus yes.

.....

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

### **Evangelism. Evangelist. Witness.**

For so long these words made me defensive. I pictured people who tried to "push their religion" onto others or scare bystanders into heaven. As I came to know the Lord and grow in my relationship with Him, a shift started to happen. I saw people communicate the Gospel in such a way that I admired, with grace and authority that drew people in. I gradually went from wanting no association with "evangelists" to wishing I had this newly observed gift of communication. Yet in the comparison game I played, I was convinced I was not qualified for such opportunities. I was fearful I would butcher it and offend my audiences away from Christ. I was convinced I simply didn't have the "gift" of those who so clearly and gracefully articulated the faith we shared.

Then came the kicker when God opened my eyes to my self-obsession. I spent my time paralyzed by this fear of how I would be perceived by my audiences. I realized that the comparison I used to disqualify myself was rooted in insecurity, fear and obsession with outcome. I was more afraid of man's opinion than of whether I'd see them in heaven.

I began to ask the Lord who He would have me be. How did He design me and how would he have me share my faith?

### **Here's what I learned.**

God designed us for worship; He wired us to share with urgency the things we love. I'll tell you about my favorite restaurant because I yearn

*continued*

for you to share my experience. His desire was for me to lay down my fears and insecurities and out of passion for who He is and what He's done, steward my life to declare His goodness; to invite more people into His perfect love.

He helped me to see that while yes, some people are "gifted evangelists" called to preach to the masses, as Christians God has made each of us an ambassador, a minister of reconciliation with a mission to make Him known. Second Corinthians 5 explains that as a new creation, reconciled to God, we are now entrusted with His message of reconciliation. Our success is measured by our obedience as ambassadors, not by the response of our audience.

Our mission is not to convince anyone of a specific set of beliefs, nor is it in our power. But how can we honestly say we love someone and withhold the greatest rescue, the greatest love we've ever known? We are not salesmen seeking the most convincing sales pitch. We are worshippers designed to talk about what we love. Our obedience is to embody the message; the outcome is up to God.

---

## QUESTION

- 1. Who do you want to be as someone who shares their faith?**
- 2. What holds you back from sharing your faith?**

---

## FAMILY APPLICATION

*(An opportunity for you and your children to practice Lent together.)*

God specifically positioned you in the family you are in. Take time this week to share with one another what you have seen God do in your own life. Discuss as a family who you are specifically praying for and what it would look like to pursue that person in love, together. If you have fears or reservations, share those too. Pray for one another as you work through those fears and ask God to open up opportunities for your family to share in this mission.

