

Series: Going Public with Your Faith (Part 4)

# Engage People

Dr. Les Hughes

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**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:15:16

<sup>15</sup>But in your hearts set apart 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, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

## Group Session

### Opening Questions

Have you ever heard a great presentation of the gospel? What made it great?  
Have you ever had the honor of leading someone to Christ?  
What did you use to share?

### Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the Scripture passage above (1 Pet. 3:15-16). What truths do we gain from this passage before we ask some targeted questions?
2. Pastor Les shared five behaviors that believers should practice as we engage people. The first is to **set aside Jesus as Lord of my life**. Here are some questions regarding this truth:
  - a. What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus as Lord? What does Lord mean?
  - b. If God commands us to be a witness, can we neglect this and still call Jesus Lord?
3. What does it mean to follow Christ? (Let the group answer, then make sure the following have been included.)
  - a. Confess our sins to God.
  - b. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins.
  - c. Ask God to save us through Christ.
  - d. Give up my will for my life (repentance)
  - e. Make my relationship with Christ first priority.
  - f. Die to self and live for Christ.
4. The second behavior is to **always be prepared**. What things can we do to always be prepared to share the gospel?

The focus passage talks about the hope that you have. Do we look like we have enough hope in our lives that someone might notice our life is different and ask? If no, what needs to change?

5. The third behavior is to ***choose our moments wisely***. What things can we do to test someone's "spiritual temperature" or readiness to hear the gospel? Can you think of some good probing questions or comments?
6. The fourth behavior is to ***tell my story***. Take some time and ask some group members to tell their spiritual story.
7. The fifth behavior is to ***make certain my walk matches my talk***. This is likely one of the primary obstacles to the gospel today. How can we make sure our walk and talk match up?
8. Practice sharing the bridge illustration based on Romans 6:23. For an outline, see WestwoodGroups.com, click on the book cover, and then on the Bridge Illustration.

### **Closing Challenge**

Pray that God begins to open up conversations for you to share naturally with others. Pray for wisdom to know when to speak and when to listen.

### **Other Passages Referenced**

#### 1 Peter 3:15-16

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#### Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup>"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

#### Rom 10:9-10

<sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

#### Gal 2:20a

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### Ephesians 5:15-16

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil.

#### James 1:19

But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

#### Prov. 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

#### Philippians 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.