

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

For many believers, evangelism is something we know we should do, but we're uncomfortable with it. The reason is because we think we're supposed to be salespersons, and if we don't "close the deal" which leads to a conversion, we have not succeeded. The correct model is seen in Andrew. Andrew simply introduced people to Jesus and invited them to make the same discovery about Him that he had made.

► **When have you been convinced by a great sales pitch to buy something you didn't necessarily need?**

INTRO

Many times, Christians see ourselves as salespeople with the goal of getting people to pull the trigger and "buy" into the message we're selling. However, evangelism isn't nearly as much about closing the deal as it is about simply inviting people to meet Jesus. Andrew provides a great picture of healthy, relational evangelism. Virtually every time we see him in the Gospels, he is introducing someone to Jesus. Andrew knew that the true power of evangelism was not in a pushy sales pitch, but simply in providing an introduction to Jesus. Jesus is more than capable of doing the rest.

JOHN 1:35-42

In Scripture, we read over and over again of the suffering of God's people. In Jesus' time, the Jewish people lived under Roman oppression. But God had promised to send the Messiah to rescue them. Andrew, like all Jews, expected a powerful political leader God would raise up to overthrow Roman rule (much like Moses did in Egypt). But God's plans were much better! The Chosen One wouldn't deliver the people in a political sense—He would rescue them from the spiritual brokenness that plagues all people. When Andrew met Jesus and realized who He was, he couldn't help but share. We are called to do the same thing—invite people to meet Jesus. Because we want others to experience blessings found only in Jesus. Because we understand, through us, Jesus will draw people to Himself.

► **What can we learn from the examples of John the Baptist and Andrew in this passage?**

JOHN 12:20-22

Because of the way He taught and served people, Jesus had gathered a large following. During Passover week, before Jesus would be crucified, Jewish people from all over gathered in Jerusalem, and among them were God-fearing Gentiles who had come to worship. Whether or not they'd heard of Him before, when they arrived, there was a buzz about Jesus and these Gentiles wanted to meet Him. They approached Philip, maybe because he had a Greek name, and requested an introduction. It's interesting that, rather than bring them to Jesus, Philip went to Andrew. Andrew certainly wasn't shy about introducing people, and maybe the disciples knew him this way. Many times, we are just too busy or too worried about keeping comfortable. But wouldn't it be amazing to be known like Andrew—known for being the one who introduces others to Jesus!

► **How much do we have to know about Jesus before we can talk about Him with someone else?**

JOHN 12:23-26

When Andrew identified people who were interested in meeting Jesus, he took them straight to Jesus where they would hear the hard and beautiful truth about following Him.

- **Self denial:** To produce fruit, a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die. Jesus died in order to give others life, and He calls us to follow Him in denying ourselves.
- **Eternal Life:** Whatever we give up to follow Jesus pales in comparison to the eternal blessings we receive.
- **Relationship:** Genuine faith means, perhaps best of all, we will be with Jesus forever!

Andrew understood all these things, and he was so thrilled about following Jesus, he couldn't help but share with others. Has Jesus impacted you this way? If so, He's calling us to simply invite others to meet the One who gave His life for us.

► **What would you tell someone about the challenges and benefits of following Jesus?**



LIVE IT OUT

▶ CHRIST

Witnessing is simply sharing about our experiences with Jesus and inviting others to see for themselves. Further, it's the natural expression of those who just can't keep God and His goodness to ourselves.

▶ **Do you share your faith because it's the natural overflow of your love for Jesus, as well as a love for people you want to know Him? Why or why not?**

▶ **What can you do to nurture the kind of passion for Jesus that would result in this type of witness?**

▶ COMMUNITY

In any given week, we find ourselves spending time with our families, friends, others at school we may not know as well, and even around strangers at restaurants or the mall.

▶ **Do you think it's easier to share Jesus with strangers or with the people closest to you? Explain.**

▶ **Who do you think God is calling you to reach this week?**

▶ CULTURE

When your friends are super excited about something, whether it's a new movie or they were just asked out by the boy of their dreams, you know about it. Why? Because they can't help but talk about it! This is true about countless things in our culture. It seems every day, new topics are trending and everyone's talking about it.

What are the top trending topics right now?

Why are people so excited to share these?

How can you share about Jesus so that others know you're as excited (hopefully much more) about Him as your new smartphone?



BIBLE READING PLAN

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DAY 1
JOHN 1:35-51

DAY 2
JOHN 11:1-16

DAY 3
JOHN 11:17-37

DAY 4
JOHN 11:38-57

DAY 5
JOHN 12:1-11

DAY 6
JOHN 12:12-26

DAY 7
JOHN 12:27-50