

## Evangelization

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### **Bible Study at a Glance:**

God calls us all to evangelize, especially lay people in our everyday circumstances. We evangelize not only because God asked us to, but because we are impelled to out of love for God and the desire to share that love with others.

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**Matthew 28:19-20:** *“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

(Explain to the Group) = You don't have to read this word for word, but this is the general idea of what to explain before moving on.

- **Q: These are questions to ask the whole group**
  - *A: Hopefully the group arrives at most of the answers on their own, but if they don't, redirect the discussion towards these answers, and be sure to tell the group the answers if no one quite got it.*

CCC/Verses and quotes to read out loud are in boxes.

**1 Peter 3:15b:** *“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope”*

**CCC 905:** *Lay people also fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, "that is, the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life." For lay people, "this evangelization ... acquires a specific property and peculiar efficacy because it is accomplished in the ordinary circumstances of the world."*

**CCC 1816:** *The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it: "All however must be prepared to confess Christ before men and to follow him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks."<sup>82</sup> Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation: "So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."*

**Vatican Decree: Ad Gentes, On the Missionary Activity of the Church, Chapter 1, Section 7:** *The members of the Church are impelled to carry on such missionary activity by reason of the love with which they love God and by which they desire to share with all men the spiritual goods of both its life and the life to come.*

- **Q: When you think of evangelization, what do you think of vs. what do you think God thinks evangelization is?**
  
- **Q: Looking at the quotes we read, who is supposed to be evangelizing?**
  - *A: Everyone, especially lay people*
  
- **Q: Again, looking at the quotes we read, why should we or would we evangelize?**
  - *A: Because God calls us all to, but most importantly, look at the Vatican Decree, Ad Gentes. That quote shows that we evangelize out of love. It flows from our love for God. It's like finding an amazing deal on something and you want to tell your friends so they can benefit from it. It's all because of love, love for God and love for our fellow man.*
  
- **Q: It is possible to win the argument but lose the soul. Have you seen that happen? Have you sometimes been guilty of it? How can we avoid that trap?**
  - *A: Evangelizing people is an act of love, sharing with them the treasure that we found in Jesus Christ. It is not about arguing people into the kingdom of God.*
  
- **Q: What might be some healthy examples of how we can be more evangelistic?**
  - *A: There can be countless examples offered. If you need to spur some discussion, here are some ideas:*
    - *Inviting someone to a church event that is neutral, like a picnic or a christmas concert.*
    - *Inviting someone to join you in a service activity like a soup kitchen.*
    - *Answering openly if someone asks you what you're doing on a particular day, and you happen to be doing something related to your faith. This allows people to know you are a christian.*
    - *Simply hanging out with a non-christian and allowing them to know you, and being genuinely interested in their lives. They will pick up on the fact that your faith is a priority in your life and might ask you about it.*
  
- **Q: Many people feel shy about evangelization or think it's for other people to do. Is God calling you to be more evangelistic? If so, how or with whom?**