

LEADERTREKS **SERMON SERIES****MARK OF A DISCIPLE**

Disciples of Christ share the Gospel with other people.

SCRIPTURE

2 PETER 3:8–13

SERMON OVERVIEW

Today we are starting the first lesson in our Enlisted series and focusing on the importance of sharing the Gospel. Each day is a gift from God, but we don't know how many of those gifts we get. As believers, we should have a sense of urgency about telling others about Jesus and make the most of our time.

OPENING**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-
-

GAME AND ICE BREAKER QUESTION

- We recommend **What do You Know?** or another screen game from **Deep Discipleship Games**.
- What's a talent you have that not many people know?

MESSAGE

Use the following teaching points and suggested illustrations as a starting point to build your message.

READ 2 PETER 3:9**POINT 1: God wants everyone to know him**

When we take a look at how broken our culture and world is, we may wonder why Christ doesn't come back and fix everything. Why does he wait? The Lord is being patient so more people will have time to meet and know him.

ILLUSTRATION: Tell a **personal story** about your favorite meal at your favorite restaurant. Talk about loving the food so much, you don't want one single bite to be wasted or thrown away.

God's love for his people is far greater than any other love we know—including your love for [favorite food at favorite restaurant]—and his desire is for every person who has and will ever live to know him (1 Tim. 2:3–4).

READ 2 PETER 3:10

POINT 2: A day of judgment is coming

We may not like to talk about it or even think about it, but there are eternal consequences to the choices we make. Jesus will come and rescue those who know and love him. But those who don't know the Lord will be separated from him forever (Matt. 25:41; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:11–15). This should create a sense of urgency in us that motivates us to tell our friends about who Jesus is.

This verse ends by stating that all the works we do, all our actions done while on this earth, “will be exposed.” A day is coming when everything will be exposed and brought into the light of truth. What feelings does that thought bring about for you? Again, there should be a sense of urgency this verse creates in us, not only to share the good news of Jesus with others but also to follow in the ways of Christ, to obey God's Word, and to do what is right.

Because a day of judgment is coming, we want to do all we can to be ready for it.

READ 2 PETER 3:8, 11-13

POINT 3: We must make the most of our time

Because there is a day of judgment coming, and we don't know how much time we have until that day, we must make the most of the time we have.

ILLUSTRATION: Tell a **personal story** about a time you had too much to do and not enough time to do it. Talk about the pace you moved at, the way you felt, and the way you prioritized the list of things that needed to be done.

While we don't know when Jesus will come back, we do know how to be ready for his return. If there are people we care about who don't know Jesus, we should open our mouths and tell them about Christ.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Use this prompt to wrap up your message and leave your students with a challenge to apply.

- Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus?
- What can you do this week to start a conversation about Jesus with someone who doesn't know him?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Pick a few questions from below to discuss. Close with prayer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When was a time your patience was really tested?
- How do you respond when you have a lot to do but little time to do it?
- Who helped you understand the Gospel?
- What feelings do you have as you read the words in this passage?
- According to the passage, how should Christ-followers live?
- How does this passage motivate you to tell your friends or family about Jesus?
- Who in your life might be ready to hear the Gospel?
- How would you describe repentance to that person?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Think of your friends, relatives, acquaintances, neighbors, coworkers, and peers at school. Who does not know Jesus personally yet? What can you do this week to share the Gospel with one of those people?

PRAYER

Close by praying or invite someone to pray for your group.

Use this space to keep track of any prayer requests.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.

Any reference within this piece to Internet addresses of websites not under the administration of LeaderTreks is not to be taken as an endorsement of these websites by LeaderTreks; neither does LeaderTreks vouch for their content.