



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## My Relationship with the World

Week 4  
4 of 4

January 31, 2016

Icebreaker: If you could teach one thing to your children, what would it be?

Key Verse: *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12*

Christians have the most important news in the world. The phrase “good news” is almost a cliché within the Christian life, but those words are a literal translation of the word *gospel*, which is stated so well in Acts 4:12. There is absolutely no other way to know God than through a relationship with Jesus Christ. When we believe in Him, we find eternal life.

Why, then, are we not as active at sharing the gospel as we would like to be? Sometimes it’s as simple as forgetting to develop relationships with people who are outside the church. Understandably, our deepest bonds come from inside the church, but the gospel never moves forward if we do not develop relationships with people who do not know Jesus.

Lost people matter to God, so they should matter to us. Through the great commission, God gave all Christians a responsibility to be on mission for Jesus. And Jesus’ mission was to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). If we really believe there is salvation in no other name, we will be relentless to give ourselves to seeking those people who are most important to Jesus. Jesus loves the lost, so we seek the lost.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight’s message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said . . .

- We must understand our responsibility
- Pray
- And do good works

What are the implications of the statement that salvation is found in no other name than Jesus for people who do not believe in Jesus?

What responsibility do you have to people who do not believe the gospel?

What does it look like to regularly pray for those in your life who do not know Jesus?

What does a lifestyle that is consistent with the gospel look like? How do our actions have the opportunity to lead us closer to or away from Jesus?

### LOOK IT OVER >>>

Think of three people you know who do not know God as Savior? How could you share the gospel with them this week?

Do you have many friends who are not Christians? How might making friends with people who do not know Christ be a good first step to investing in them?

How do you develop relationships with non-believers where they know they are valued and important to you and not just a project to convert?

Do you know the gospel well enough to share it with someone else? Practice what you would say if someone asked you about the gospel on an elevator ride.

What is your own story of coming to faith and being saved? How could God use your story to influence someone else?

## NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Pray that God would use you to share the gospel with people who do not believe it. Admit the times where you have failed to share this message and ask for strength, guidance, and wisdom for whom to share with and when to share. Ask God to give you grace with your unbelieving friends. Pray that they would see your life, wonder what is different about you, and place their hope in Jesus.
2. Connect with one or two people in the group and share with them the names of friends or family members who do not believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Commit to one another to try to speak the gospel to these people over the next week, and encourage one another as you attempt to share.

## EVALUATION/ACTION I intentionally share Christ with people who do not know Him.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- Ezekiel 3:18
- John 6:44
- Matthew 5:16
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Romans 10:9-10

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)*