



*Abiding Word Lutheran Church  
October 10, 2009*

## **AGENDA**

- |             |                                                                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:15   | Welcome and devotion                                                        |
| 9:15-9:25   | Homework review                                                             |
|             | - Has anyone tried sharing their faith with someone? Share your experience. |
|             | - Any questions or comments on the material we discussed last time          |
| 9:25-10:45  | How to handle objections                                                    |
| 10:45-11:00 | Homework and closing prayer                                                 |



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## **Session Five**

# **What if They Object to the Message?**

We've talked about:

- why we should share our faith
- putting the meaning of our faith into words
- identifying our personal mission field, those with whom we can share our faith
- the law and gospel message we need to share (God's Great Exchange)
- communication techniques and pitfalls to remember
- how to address our personal fears of witnessing
- how to get into the conversation itself.

But what if they give some push back and don't immediately welcome the gospel message with the same enthusiasm that we feel in our heart?

1. What is the objective of getting into spiritual conversations and sharing our faith?
2. It helps to understand the thought process of the person we want to share our faith with. Sometimes they will raise objections to the message we bring or even push back on the whole idea of a spiritual discussion. Why do you think this is?

We have some examples of objections from Scripture. What was the objection and why might they have said these things in the following situations?

- John 1:45-46

- John 10:19-21

- Luke 16:1-2,14-15

What is our natural tendency when someone raises an objection? Does going with our natural tendency help or hinder achievement of our witnessing objective?

3. How did Paul and even Jesus use human reason to make points when talking about our Savior or his attributes?

- Matt 6:25-30

- Matt 12:9-12

- Acts 17:22-27

However we are also given other passages about the use of logic when it comes to evangelism. What do we learn from these passages?

- 1 Cor 1:17-18, 1 Cor 2:4-5

- 1 Cor 3:7

We are called to be witnesses, to share the message and address concerns. We are also told to let the Spirit convince them of the truth rather than to act as lawyers or salesmen.

4. If someone raises an objection, what do you think are some of the ways we should and shouldn't approach the situation?
  
5. We can follow a basic process in addressing objections. This includes:
  - a. Acknowledge their objection as a real concern
  - b. Listen to their thoughts and seek to understand their perspective
  - c. Attempt to build on their logic or a key phrase to turn the discussion in a different direction, to show a flaw or suggest an alternative conclusion, inviting them to take an open-minded look at what the Bible says about the topic
  - d. If the topic is really a minor point, attempt to put it aside in favor of the law/gospel message that is essential to faith. Without faith, some religious issues can't be understood properly
  - e. If you don't know how to respond, tell them you will think about it. Use this as an opportunity to bring up the conversation and reinforce your message in the future. Transition to something you are certain about, the message of law and gospel.
  
6. Break into 3 groups and take 20 minutes to discuss three of the following common objections. Be ready to share your discussion with the whole group.
  - Decide how you would respond to the objection
  - Decide how you might transition to the biblical perspective
  - Take note of specific questions you'd like to discuss with the bigger group

### **Group 1**

A. Isn't it narrow minded to think that Christians are right and everybody else is wrong?

B. I just don't believe there is a god.

C. I think all religions teach the same things about God, just use different names for him.

**Group 2**

D. I just don't want to talk about religion.

E. Religion is nothing more than a bunch of outdated rules.

F. How do you know the teachings of Jesus are true?

**Group 3**

G. I can't believe in a God that lets such terrible things happen to innocent people.

H. I don't want to go to church to hear how bad I am. I want to feel good about myself.

I. Sunday is the only day I get to sleep in and spend time with my kids.

## **FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7:**

1. Continue with your daily personal Bible study. Is it a habit yet? Are you finding it's making a difference in your life and your desire to share the message of God's grace?
2. By now you should be ready to talk to at least one of the people you identified several months ago. Are you praying for the person to have an open mind and heart? Are you praying for the opportunity? Don't forget to ask God for the words and guidance. Try transitioning into a spiritual conversation next time you talk with the person.
3. Next month we will talk about what we at Abiding Word might consider to make us a more outreach focused church and how we can make sure we reach out to all of those who show interest in our congregation. Be thinking of some of the practical things we could be doing. Read Pastor Paul Kelm's article "Equipping the Believers for Evangelism" in preparation for next month's discussion.