

One by one

Worship & Study

April 18 – May 23, 2021

PART ONE: EVERY SOUL IS UNIQUE



Acts 4:8-12 (Sunday's sermon text)

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is

“ ‘the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.’

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

1. What thought from the text or sermon was your favorite? Most challenging? If you were going to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?
2. In Acts 4:12, Peter said: “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Agree or Disagree (and why?):

What Peter said in this section wouldn't “work” very well today in sharing our faith.

Luke 24:36-49 (Sunday's Gospel reading)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

1. Peace. Without Jesus, we either have no peace or we find peace in fleeting things. Finish this sentence! Jesus' disciples (including you and me) have peace because:
2. In what ways does Jesus show that he has won the victory over death by the redemption of our BODIES? As "witnesses" of these truths, how does that impact our message to others?
3. In Luke 24:47, Jesus said that his message "will be preached in his name to all nations." Then, Jesus tells his disciples: "you are witnesses." Jesus sends his disciples (including you and me) out to the roughly 8 billion people of our world. We are not planning a mission trip to Senegal for next week, but God has blessed us with people needing Jesus right here. Tell the story of one person with whom our church family or you have shared or can share peace in Jesus.

VIDEO 1 (7 MINUTES)

Every soul is an individual with their own past, their own questions, their own concerns. Only by listening carefully and caring deeply about that soul will we be able to connect with them and connect them with the gospel.

1. What are some things we might learn from the way Pastor Rosenau interacted with the three newcomers on his first Sunday?
2. Joann said she would not be back the next week because she didn't have the courage. What does this tell us about the challenge of an unchurched person walking into a church?
3. Joann said she did not believe there was a heaven. What would likely have happened if Pastor Rosenau had immediately corrected her?
4. Her husband, Dick, didn't believe there was a God and said that men wrote the Bible, not God. How did Pastor Rosenau's reply demonstrate both humility and confidence?
5. After Joann died, why could Pastor Rosenau's wife say that what they had sacrificed for him to become a pastor would have been worth it if it was just for Joann?

Apply: Think of a person you know who is unchurched. What do you know about the person's past experience (especially their experience with Christianity) that is particular to them? If you don't know, think of how you might learn more about them. Share your thoughts.

Prayer

PART TWO: EVERY BELIEVER IS PERSONALLY PREPARED TO BE A WITNESS



Acts 4:23-33 (Sunday's sermon text)

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

" 'Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up
and the rulers band together
against the Lord
and against his anointed one.'

²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

1. What comments or questions from the text or sermon do you have? If you were to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?
2. Peter and John reported all that the leaders had said to them – their condemnation of Jesus and his followers, and their threats against them. God was in control and working powerfully. They boldly prayed to God and prayed that God would give them boldness when they spoke God's Word. What did the believers view as their role in God's work?

3. The Lord answered their prayer by filling them with the Holy Spirit and enabling them to speak the Word boldly. We have the Word and the Spirit. We are prepared to witness. What is your role in God's work?
4. Today, the political battlelines have been drawn and each group is recruiting God for their own cause. In what ways does this text show that God has a vastly different agenda than "the kings of this earth"? What does this say about our role in God's work?

John 10:11-18 (Sunday's Gospel reading)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

1. Jesus uses many different loving pictures of his care and relationship to us. Your Good Shepherd knows you. And, you know your Good Shepherd. What does Jesus promise to do as our Good Shepherd?
2. What kind of examples from your life can you give of how Jesus is your Good Shepherd?
3. In John 10:16, Jesus tells us that there are other sheep that are not yet in Jesus' fold, not yet believers. Our Good Shepherd uses his sheep (believers like you and me) to share his Word, his voice, with them. List "sheep not of this pen" (unchurched and dechurched people) that you can pray for.
4. What are 2 situations when you might have the opportunity to tell them about our Good Shepherd?

VIDEO 2 (15 MINUTES)

God has guided your life in a unique way. One of the reasons he has brought you to where you are is so that he might use you as his witness to reach souls with the gospel.

1. What are some ways God prepared Pastor Rosenau to be a pastor when he was...?
 - a) A mortician
 - b) A detective

2. What were some things Pastor Rosenau and his wife sacrificed for him to serve as a detective?

3. List at least three ways the Lord influenced Pastor Rosenau to eventually become a pastor.

Apply: You are a unique saint. What are some ways God has shaped your life to prepare you to share your faith (personality traits, past experiences, unchurched people with whom you have come into contact, etc.)? Share at least two.

Prayer

PART THREE:

GOD PROVIDES COURAGE TO DO WHAT IS UNCOMFORTABLE AND INCONVENIENT



Acts 8:26-40 (Sunday's Sermon Text)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

1. What thought from the text or sermon was your favorite? Most challenging? If you were to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?

2. This week's theme is: "God provides courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient." An angel of the Lord gave Philip a task. While the command was clear, it still took courage from Philip to do what he did. In what ways do you see Philip's courage?

3. God gives us the task of sharing our Christian faith with others. While the command is clear, it still takes courage to do what God commands. In what ways / for what reasons, do we need courage in sharing our faith?

4. God worked miraculously to connect Philip with the Ethiopian. Yet, Philip witnessed to the Ethiopian with the exact same resources God gives us to witness to others. What resources are used? In what ways does this give us courage to witness?

John 15:1-8 (Sunday's Gospel Reading)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

1. This week's theme is: "God provides courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient." Share some times in your life when you've felt it was uncomfortable or inconvenient to witness to your faith! Why were you uncomfortable? Why was it inconvenient? (*this is a primer for question 2!*)

2. Complete these sentences:
 - a. I have and grow in this courage by (*use John 15:1-8*):

 - b. Finish this sentence! Because I'm connected to Jesus, some of the uncomfortable and inconvenient work God gives to me that I can do is:

VIDEO 3 (7 MINUTES)

Jesus never said being his witness would be comfortable or convenient. But he did promise to give Christians the courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

1. What question did the Chief ask Pastor Rosenau when they were in the duck blind that makes it clear that Pastor Rosenau had let his light shine while serving as a detective?
2. Share some ways you and other Christians can let their light shine while living in twenty-first-century America.
3. When Pastor Rosenau told the chief that, "...the important thing for guys like us is to
4. know that Jesus is our Savior" and the chief replied, "You have no idea who I really am." What do you suppose he meant?
5. How did Pastor Rosenau demonstrate true love the day after the chief called him?
6. How else did God use Pastor Rosenau's visit to the chief to reach souls?

Apply:

- a) Share a time when you were uncomfortable or inconvenienced sharing your faith.
- b) If you are willing, share a time when your discomfort or inconvenience kept you from sharing your faith.
- c) What are some things you can use from this lesson to empower you to witness when you feel uncomfortable and inconvenienced?

Prayer

PART FOUR: A ONE BY ONE APPROACH TO GROWING A CHURCH



Acts 11:19-26 (Sunday's Sermon Text)

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

1. What comments or questions from the text or sermon do you have? If you were to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?

2. A persecution against Christians broke out after Stephen was martyred. The Christians scattered, shared their faith wherever they went, and "a great number of people believed." Each week pastor speaks LORDs blessings on us. We scatter to our homes and lives.
 - a. What people do you meet during the days between the Sundays that no other or few other Christians meet during the week?

 - b. Add these people to your personal prayer list. Be on alert to see opportunities to share Jesus with them.

John 15:9-17 (Sunday's Gospel Reading)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.”

1. Jesus loved his disciples. How did Jesus show this love to them?
2. As you consider the world’s definition of love, how can Christians distinguish themselves by the way in which they show love?
3. Jesus’ disciples were appointed to go and bear fruit (good works) that will last. Jesus sends you out to bear fruit that will last. What are some examples of fruit that will last?

It is tempting to think that the church must grow by bunches, that large efforts to lots of people is the key. The truth is that God often grows his Church bit by bit, one soul at a time.

EXAMPLE #1 - VIDEO 4A (12 MINUTES)

During his vicar year, Pastor Rosenau and his congregation prayed that God would fill their building with people. Then, they enacted a simple plan to reach the lost.

1. When Pastor Rosenau began his vicar year at the mission church, what were some things that would have seemed to limit the success the church could have reaching the lost?
2. Although he didn't have any real knowledge of how to do evangelism, what did Pastor Rosenau tell his people he had plenty of?
3. What did Pastor Rosenau promise his people he would do whenever they put him into contact with someone?
4. Although he said he had plenty of courage, what did Pastor Rosenau discover as he sat in his car before going out to knock on doors?
5. What two things did Pastor Rosenau tell people they could expect when he invited them to church?
6. Almost everyone has something or somethings that they don't like about their church. This can keep us from inviting others. Instead of focusing on those things, what ought we focus on that will encourage us to invite others?

EXAMPLE #2 – VIDEO 4B (5 MINUTES)

Assigned to his first church, Pastor Rosenau enacted the same simple approach he had used when he served as a vicar.

1. Rather than a program, what tool did Pastor Rosenau say God would use to grow the church?
2. What tactic would God use? How would God spread that Word?
3. How many Bibles had the congregation given away as a result of their Christmas booth?
4. How many people had become active in the church as a result of the Christmas booth?
5. What was Pastor Rosenau's alternate idea?
6. Identify the basic evangelism plan at Pastor Rosenau's church.
7. What do people who knew nothing about WELS say about it after becoming active in Pastor Rosenau's church? Why?

Apply: You are inviting someone to attend our church. You have to choose two reasons why they should join us. What would they be?

Prayer

PART FIVE: THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE PASTOR



Acts 1:15-26 (Sunday's Sermon Text)

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, “Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.”

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.

¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ “For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms:

“ ‘May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,’

and,

“ ‘May another take his place of leadership.’

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

1. What thought from the text or sermon was your favorite? If you were to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?
2. Matthias was chosen to be added to the 11 to replace Judas Iscariot, betrayer of Jesus. The office and role of the Apostles was very important.
 - a. In what ways are the office and role of pastors important?
 - b. In what ways are the status and roles of each Christian important and treasured?

Ephesians 4:7-16

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

1. When Jesus ascended (40 days after his resurrection from the dead), he “gave gifts to his people (4:8).” Ephesians 4:11 lists some of those gifts as “apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.”
 - a. What negative effects does God intend these “gifts” to keep away from His Church?
 - b. What positive effects does God intend these “gifts” to have on His Church?
 - c. How might that look in our church family?
2. In Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul lists how we (all Christians) are blessed (Paul mentions a few). The pastor’s role is important. For the blessing and benefit of all believers and of the unchurched and dechurched, Paul tells all Christians (pastors and non-pastors) to “speak the truth in love.” What blessings does God give to our church family when we “speak the truth in love”? (Examples?)
3. What blessings does God give to the unchurched and dechurched in our community when we “speak the truth in love”? (Examples?)

VIDEO 5 (13 MINUTES)

1. What two simple things does Pastor Rosenau tell people he meets and invites to church?
2. Doing those two things not only makes the people he invites more comfortable when they visit, what added benefit for outreach is there for his church members?
3. What impact do you think it has on someone who has visited when they receive a handwritten card and/or a phone call from Pastor Rosenau the following week?
4. Pastor Rosenau encourages his members to invite friends not only to worship but also to Bible classes. What assurances does he give so that people can know they don't need to be afraid of being embarrassed if they come to Bible class?
5. How does Pastor Rosenau remind himself to make visits and hold himself accountable for making visits?

Apply: Do you think non-WELS people who visited your church would say that WELS is the best church body they have ever been a part of? If so, why? If not, why not? If not, what could you do to help create a congregation where people would say this?

Prayer

**PART SIX:
THE WORK:
OUR WORK AND THE SPIRIT'S WORK**



Acts 2:1-21 (Sunday's Sermon Text)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved."

1. What comments or questions from the text or sermon do you have? If you were to use this text to witness to someone, what are some key things you would highlight?

2. Pentecost (50 days after Jesus' resurrection from the dead) is a powerful display of the Holy Spirit... Tongues of fire, the sound of violent wind, speaking in tongues, a powerful sermon by Peter, and 3,000 believe and are baptized! Imagine if you were 1 of the 3,000 who were baptized that day. What a difference that day, that sermon, this Jesus, and the Spirit made! In Acts 2:21 Peter said: "everyone (every single one) who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Each individual was important. The same is true today. Often, we are impressed by large crowds and big numbers. However, the large crowds are nothing more than a collective group of individuals. If every member came to church and/or invited a friend, our current schedule and facilities would not be able to accommodate everyone.
 - a. What dangers may result from focusing on the large crowds rather than the one soul?

 - b. How do we keep our focus and zeal for each and every individual soul?

John 14:25-27 (Sunday's Gospel Reading)

[Jesus said]: "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

1. Jesus has given us his Word (John 14:25) and the Holy Spirit (14:26) and his peace (14:27). Complete this sentence... I need this and I need to remember this when I share my faith because:

2. "My peace I give to you. (John 14:27)"
 - a. In what ways is the peace Jesus gives unlike the peace that this world gives?

 - b. How is the peace Jesus gives a blessing to you?

 - c. It can be a joy to share the peace Jesus gives with someone who doesn't have that peace. Why?

The Starfish Story: VIDEO 6A (5 MINUTES)

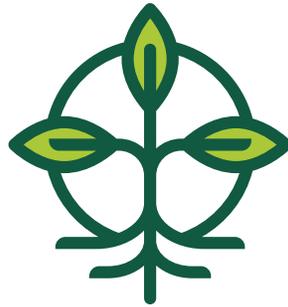
1. Jot down the point of the starfish story in your own words. Share when you are done.
2. You cannot save every soul. But think of one soul who is unchurched with whom you could share your faith.

Hard Work & a Simple Plan: VIDEO 6B (8 MINUTES)

3. What are some benefits of a pastor sharing outreach stories with his members?
4. What question does Pastor Rosenau encourage his members to ask people they meet?
5. What makes this question so effective?
6. Envision what it would look like if everyone in your congregation worked as hard to spread the gospel as Pastor Rosenau used to work as a homicide detective. Discuss what you envision. Be as specific as possible. What would you see? What would you hear? What would you feel?
7. In what specific way does Pastor Rosenau greet worshipers on Sunday mornings? Why does he do it this way? What pitfalls is he trying to avoid?
8. Pastor Rosenau says that having too many people greet visitors would be “weird.” What do you think he meant? Why is this important to avoid?

Apply: Evaluate your congregation’s Sunday morning experience, especially for guests. What could be improved? Make a list and discuss how each item might be addressed.

Prayer



Resurrection & Life LUTHERAN

Resurrection & Life Lutheran

Rochester, MN 55901
507-282-8280 and rlrochester.org

Resurrection Campus

4520 19th Ave NW

Life Campus

4500 60th Ave NW

Pastors

Dean Gunn (vacancy) 507-250-2281

gunnshot@kmtel.com

Stephen J. Meyer 507-254-9205

pastormeyer@rlrochester.org

Contributing to this study:

Study Guide from WELS Congregational Services. Pastor Joseph Koelpin and Stephen Meyer.

All Bible quotations:

New International Version (NIV): Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](http://www.biblica.com)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.