



SPIRITUAL HABITS

SERMON: THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF EVANGELISM

PREACHER: SAWYER STRICKLAND | DURATION: 60 MINUTES

LEADER PREP

READ BEFORE GROUP

THE BIG IDEA:

Because we have been rescued by the gospel, we are called to intentionally and urgently share that good news with others as a way of life.

THE GOAL:

To move people from fear, passivity, or guilt about evangelism into a renewed awe of the gospel that naturally overflows into prayerful, courageous witness.

POTENTIAL "WRONG TURNS":

- **Fear-Based Motivation:** Avoid turning this into a guilt session about not sharing faith enough. The sermon grounds evangelism in remembering the gospel first.
- **Technique Over Transformation:** The goal is not to master a script, but to cultivate a heart shaped by grace.
- **Political/Cultural Arguments:** When discussing "itching ears" and culture calling good evil (2 Timothy 4; Isaiah 5:20), keep the focus on biblical faithfulness, not political commentary.
- **Salvation Mechanics Debates:** If discussion drifts into deep theological debates about judgment or exclusivity, gently redirect to the urgency and beauty of the gospel as presented in the sermon.

THE HOOK

10 MINUTES

ICEBREAKER:

What's something you were once extremely excited about and couldn't stop talking about—even if other people didn't seem as excited as you were?
(Examples: a new hobby, a restaurant, a fitness routine, a show, a product, etc.)

CONNECTION:

The sermon suggested that we naturally talk about what we love. Tonight we're talking about evangelism—not as a program, but as overflow. What if sharing Jesus worked more like sharing something you genuinely love?

THE BOOK | TEXT

15 MINUTES

READ: 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8

QUESTIONS:

- In verses 1–2, how does Paul describe the seriousness of Timothy’s charge, and what reasons does he give for the urgency?
 - What words or phrases in the text make this feel weighty or time-sensitive?
- In verses 3–4, how does Paul describe the cultural climate Timothy will face?
 - What stands out to you about the phrase “itching ears” and what it reveals about human nature?
- In verse 5, what specific commands does Paul give Timothy about how to live and minister?
 - Which of these commands feels most challenging in our current moment, and why?
- In verses 6–8, how does Paul describe his own life and ministry?
 - What does his perspective on death and reward reveal about what he valued most?

THE LOOK | SERMON

15 MINUTES

A QUOTE TO DISCUSS:

“Rescued people rescue people.”

A SERMON POINT TO KEY IN ON:

“The gospel is of first importance.”

THE TOOK | APPLICATION

15 MINUTES

HEAD:

How would your life and conversations change if you truly believed that sharing the gospel is participating in a rescue mission you’ve personally benefited from—not performing for God or proving yourself?

HEART:

When you think about initiating a gospel conversation, what fear or hesitation rises up in you, and what does that reveal about what you’re trusting in that moment?

HANDS:

- Who is one specific person God may be placing on your heart right now, and what is one intentional step you will take this week to move toward them spiritually?