

*The Gospel is the most wonderful news the world has ever known. We should be so grateful to God for His grace that we each seek to be used by Him to bring many to faith in Christ. So, how best to do that? We believe the most loving and effective evangelism today often occurs in small ways – that is, when we each seek to share Christ by taking an active interest in the lives of our friends, neighbors, and co-workers.*

### ***So what can we do to help spread the Gospel to folks in Blacksburg and the surrounding area?***

**1) Pray** – First and foremost, be active in prayer for God to spread His kingdom (see Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4). You should do this regularly in private devotions and family worship, preferably daily. Secondly, you could join a small group or prayer meeting, remembering to pray for specific people you know in the privacy of these groups.

**2) Live a life of holiness and service** – Peter tells us to “*sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and respect*” (I Peter 3:15). The context of this verse is godly living in the midst of hardship. Notice that before someone will ask you to give a reason for your hope, they have to notice that something is different about your character. This difference comes from your first having set apart Christ as your Lord in a way that makes an impression on those around you. And when they see you serving them in need with no strings attached, they will know that your motives for sharing the Gospel with them later is love, not manipulation.

**3) Be an active part of the church** – In Acts, we read that as the church became involved in one another’s lives and took care of each other, the result was further numerical growth (Acts 2:47, 6:7). To be blunt, God has no reason to send us more people if we are not already caring for those in our church and beyond. Make certain that you are using your spiritual gifts that God has given you in service to your brothers and sisters at GCPC.

**4) Take care of your family** – One of the ways God promises to grow His church is through the promises He makes to our children (Acts 2:39). There is no point in spending all our time at work or in church activities if we are neglecting the spiritual welfare of our own children. Paul tells fathers to “*raise their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord*” (Ephesians 6:4), reinforcing the teaching of Deuteronomy 6:1-9 that God gives to parents the primary responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus Christ each and every day.

**5) Listen for opportunities** – As you pray and live a godly life, God will likely bring you opportunities to speak about Christ to others. Colossians 4:5-6 tells us, “*Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you should know how you should respond to each person.*” This requires wisdom, timing, and knowledge. Take advantage of the various training opportunities at GCPC to learn how to be a good witness.

**6) Invite** – God does not give all of us the same gifts of evangelism, but we can all invite the unchurched and “under-churched” people we know to Sunday worship at GCPC. If we see God at work and the Gospel being presented in our church, why not invite folks to come be part of it? For those not yet ready to attend Sunday worship, pay attention to the various outreach and fellowship events GCPC holds every year and try to invite folks to those as appropriate. These include our Summer Bible Camp, RUF events, Youth Group, Men’s and Women’s gatherings, and other fellowship events.

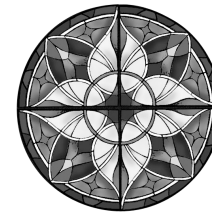
**7) Join one of our Outreach Teams** – GCPC has several teams involved in evangelism, usually on a monthly basis. These include a Prison ministry team, a Warm Hearth retirement home team, and an Evangelism Explosion team, which presents the gospel door to door. In addition, we endeavor to send one or more missions teams out each year. Past destinations include Belize, India, a Native American reservation, London, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Ukraine, and West Virginia.

8) **Host an Outreach Bible Study** – Finally, prayerfully consider hosting a Bible Study for your colleagues at work or for friends in your neighborhood. These are usually simple six-week studies on the person of Jesus which we can train you to lead yourself in your home or office. Alternatively, it may be possible for one of our elders to come lead one if that would be more fitting. These are excellent opportunities to expose the Gospel to people who are not yet ready to come to church and are a great way for any member of GCPC personally to help spread the Gospel through hospitality and love.

*For Personal Evaluation and Review:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pray
- \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Living & Service
- \_\_\_\_\_ Church
- \_\_\_\_\_ Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal Witness
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invite
- \_\_\_\_\_ Join a Team
- \_\_\_\_\_ Outreach Bible Study

# Personal Evangelism *at* Grace Covenant *Presbyterian* *Church*



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