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# EQUIP

**Next steps? – Small Group Session Four  
Week beginning 5th March**



# But how can we speak?

In this part of Equip we have been asking 'what is the church?' We have looked at the universal church that is being built in the heavens. We have seen the way the church is built is as people proclaim God's word in the power of the Spirit, sometimes persevering in the face of opposition.

Finally, we have seen that we all have a role to play in this work of proclamation. "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..." (Colossians 3:16) In our last session, we considered a culture change in our church that we might more become a community who love to speak God's word of grace to one another, encouraging one another to live fully for Him.

In our last session, we thought (mostly) about how we speak God's word to one another in the church community. In this session, we are going to review that teaching and then turn our attention more directly to how we might proclaim Jesus to those who do not know Christ.

Speaking truth to one another in the church is hard for a whole host of reasons, for example: We don't see each other very often. We might not know each other very well. Life is very busy and we feel like we have little time. No one wants to be judgmental, so we are nervous about teaching or admonishing our friends in church.

Of course if we find it hard to teach truth to one another in the church, how much harder is it to proclaim Christ to those who do not know Him. We need help. So, at the very start of the session, why not spend some time praying? Pray that God would be powerfully at work by His Spirit through His word and pray that you would teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.

"... we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well."

1 Thessalonians 1:8

# Spirit given boldness

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## 1 Review your week

In our last session we were encouraged to speak the truth of God's word with boldness to one another in love. We considered a culture change in our church where we might do this more and more.

Have you been able to put any of your resolutions into practice? Try to think of moments when you were able to do that, even if to you they seem small or insignificant. Give thanks for your successes together.

What made it hard in the last week to speak God's word to others? Is there anything you might be able to do to overcome those obstacles? Build a list of those things, so that you might pray for one another.

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## 2 Proclamation to those who don't know Jesus

If speaking truth to fellow Christians is hard, we know how much harder we find sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16. In this passage, Paul speaks about his ministry when he brought the gospel to the Thessalonians. Paul's apostolic ministry is unique, but this passage has many things to teach us. Explore the way Paul proclaimed the gospel. What does it have to teach us. This exercise might take 20 mins.

To help draw your conversation together, maybe all share one main thing you want to hold on to from Paul's example.

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## 3 Sharing Jesus together

One of the striking things about those verses in Thessalonians is how Paul did not proclaim Jesus on his own, but with others. Sharing Jesus is not something we do individually, but as a church.

With Easter approaching, is there something you might be able to do as a small group (or we might do together as a church) that would help those you know take a next step in hearing the good news of Jesus? What would you need to do to make those things happen?

Time to pray. Give thanks for the ways you have been able to speak truth to others this week. Pray that you would have more opportunity to do that amongst your church friends this week. Finally, pray about the ideas you had to share Jesus with those who don't know him yet.

