



The mission of Royal Redeemer is to “**help people exchange everyday life for contagious Christian community.**” But this raises some important questions for you to ask: What does that look like? And how can I be a part of it?

As we begin this 6-week study, “**365+ONE: Where’s the URGENCY?**”, we’ll be challenged not only to hear Jesus’ calling to take the message of God’s love into our communities and around the world 365 days a year, but that it also starts with just ONE. Through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us, our prayer is that God will use us to impact the lives of those around us, not just today, but for all eternity.

May God stir within us a new sense of urgency for those who are far from Him and lost without His love, grace, and forgiveness in their lives. May **365+ONE** be more than just another sermon series, but a new way of life for us.

Small Group Study

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week 1: *Why Become a Contagious Christian?*

Introduction:

As mentioned, the mission of Royal Redeemer is to “*help people exchange everyday life for contagious Christian community.*” As we have been living through the greatest and far-reaching pandemic of our lifetime, “contagious” is a frightening word. Though it has been at the forefront of our thoughts for the past couple of years, this word can also be a powerful word used in the positive.

If our Royal Redeemer family is going to be a place of contagious Christian community, we must each begin to live a life that exemplifies a contagious Christian. Now the reason most of us struggle to be contagious Christians is that fear, uncertainty, and self-centered living get in the way of what God is trying to do *through* us. This is a matter of motive and must be overcome by developing God’s heart for the lost.

Intro Questions:

- What comes to mind when you think of the word, “evangelism”?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, how motivated are you to share the Gospel with those who don’t know Jesus?

Watch Video:

- What has been your response as you have heard pastors and teachers challenge you to share your faith with others?
- Would it be easier for you to have “faith” conversations with a family member who has walked away from the Church, a coworker going through a challenging time, or a stranger you encounter while traveling? Explain.
- Have you ever truly recognized the urgency at hand when we are talking about eternity? Why is it easier to think and talk about heaven than it is to consider the reality of hell?

Scripture Lesson: Read Luke 15

Scripture Questions:

- What does each of these parables have in common?
- In the first two parables, how does each person respond when the object goes missing?
- How does each person respond when the object is found?
- What is the father’s attitude throughout the parable of the lost son?
- What do these parables say about God’s attitude towards those who are lost?

Reflection Questions:

- Who are some people around you that have need for a contagious Christian in their life? This could be a family member, classmate, friend, coworker, or next-door neighbor, just to name a few.
- What holds you back from sharing the love of God with the people you just thought of? What costs might you have to pay? Relate this to the cost paid by the characters in the Luke 15 parables.
- What are the benefits of living as a contagious Christian? Do these benefits outweigh the costs?

Activity: To begin **365+ONE**, you first need to identify who your **ONE** is.

- Who is someone that you already have a relationship with that does not have a relationship with Jesus or connected to His Church?
- Begin the habit of daily praying for your **ONE**. Pray that your relationship would grow into a beautiful friendship. Pray that the Holy Spirit would begin to work on and soften his/her heart. Pray for opportunities to have faith conversations and share what God has done in your life.

Guiding Thoughts:

- To become contagious Christians, we need to have the proper motivation. Sharing the Gospel because it is “the right thing to do” or because we would otherwise feel guilty is improper motivation. We need first and foremost, to have God’s heart.
- When you really value something and it is lost, you *naturally* want to search for it. Our goal throughout this study is to develop God’s heart for the lost, those who are far from Him and not connected to His Church.

week 2: *Salt and Light*

Introduction: Jesus gives us a clear picture of what it means to be contagious Christians through the images of “salt” and “light”.

Intro Questions:

- When you hear the word “salt,” what food instantly comes to your mind?
- On a scale from 1 to 10, how scared of the dark were you as a child? Share a story from your childhood about this fear.

Scripture Lesson: Read Matthew 5:13-16

Scripture Questions:

- What are the functions of salt? What does Jesus mean when he says we are the salt of the earth?
- As the light of the world, how do you sometimes hide under a bowl? What are some ways that God has created you to shine (see Eph. 2:10)? What gifts, talents, and passions has He given you?

Watch Video:

- Does $HP + CP + CC = MI$ accurately describe your life right now? Which part of the equation do you consider yourself strongest? Weakest?
- Describe a person who has High Potency and Close Proximity, but no Clear Communication.
- Describe a person who has High Potency and Clear Communication, but no Close Proximity.
- Describe a person who has Clear Communication and Close Proximity, but no High Potency.
- Why do you think this three-pronged approach is effective in fulfilling God’s desire to reach those who are far from Him?

Activity: The next time you are enjoying a meal with your family or a Christian friend, take note of the saltshaker on the table, and have a conversation with them about how you can encourage each other to be salt and light. Then, talk specifically about how you can build your relationship with your **ONE** you are praying for.

Guiding Thoughts:

- High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Communication = Maximum Impact
- Salt preserves, brings out the flavor in foods, and it makes us thirsty. As Christians, we are called to be agents of redemption by standing for righteousness and making people thirsty for the gospel.
- People rarely ask why we live the “salt” life...we must share the “light” of the gospel (see Rom. 10:14).

week 3: *High Potency*

Introduction: The first element of contagious Christianity is High Potency. The three key components of High Potency are authenticity, compassion, and sacrifice. We will look at how each of these gives us a more credible witness and opens people's hearts to the Gospel.

Intro Questions:

- Have you ever been stranded along the side the road? Share your experience.
- When you hear the word "authentic," what comes to your mind for you?

Scripture Lesson: Read Luke 10:25-37

Scripture Questions:

- Why do you think the Levite and the priest passed by the beaten traveler without helping?
- What do you think went through the mind of the robbed and beaten (Jewish) man when he found out that a Samaritan rescued him?
- To answer the expert of the law's question, who is your neighbor? Was this the answer he wanted to hear?
- If the beaten traveler later appeared in the synagogue of the passer-by priest, how do you think he would respond to the priest's teachings?

Watch Video:

- On a scale from 1 (a stone-cold heart) to 10 (Mother Teresa), how compassionate are you? Draw a "compassion scale" and put an "X" where you fall.
- What prevents you from being more compassionate? Do you have the time for compassion? Maybe your lifestyle makes you look more like the Levite or priest than the Good Samaritan.
- Describe a time when someone made a sacrifice for you. How did it impact you?
- What types of sacrifices may be necessary to increase your potency? What has prevented you from making these sacrifices? Be specific.

Activity: Which area of high potency do you struggle most with? What is one thing you can do this week to boost your authenticity, compassion, or sacrifice factor? Decide what that one thing is and do it!

Guiding Thoughts:

- Authenticity, compassion, and sacrifice are central to high potency.
- A lifestyle inconsistent with our message can hinder our witness, while a lifestyle marked by servanthood and love can make our witness more credible.

week 4: *Close Proximity*

Introduction: Even the most highly potent person makes little impact for the Kingdom if he doesn't get out of the saltshaker eventually! This week we will investigate why close proximity is so important, and how to make it work.

Intro Questions:

- Have you ever been close to someone considered famous? Share your experience.
- What do you think it would have been like to be chosen as one of Jesus' 12 disciples and do life with this amazing Rabbi?

Scripture Lesson: Read Luke 5:27-31

Scripture Questions:

- Why do you think Levi invited the "tax collectors and others" to his house to join in the banquet with Jesus?
- Did the Pharisees frequently rub shoulders with "sinners"? What was their opinion of Jesus for doing so?
- How does Jesus' response show that His goals are different than those of the Pharisees?

Watch Video:

- Jesus taught to the masses along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and He took time to sit down next to the woman at the well. What other stories come to mind when you think of Jesus and the close proximity concept? Why was this important to Him?
- How does the idea of "no ulterior motive, only ultimate goal" affect your thoughts on building friendships to share Christ?
- Bring to mind your **ONE** that you have been praying for these past several weeks. How can you increase your proximity? Which of your regular activities can you use to intentionally build these relationships?

Activity: Make a plan and invite your **ONE** to join you for dinner or some other activity this week. Intentionally spending time and building your relationship with no ulterior motive is key, even as you have the ultimate goal in mind and a growing urgency for their eternity.

Guiding Thoughts:

- No ulterior motive, only ultimate goal
- Barbecue-first principle

week 5: *Clear Communication*

Introduction: The last element of contagious Christianity is clear communication of the Gospel. This one is often seen as the scariest! However, if we live highly potent lives in close proximity to non-Christians, clear communication will come more naturally and more frequently!

Intro Questions:

- Would you rather watch a movie that has poor audio quality but a good video image, or one that has good audio but poor video? Explain and possibly share an experience.
- Have you ever experienced a teacher or speaker that when finished you had no idea what they just tried to say? Share your experiences.

Scripture Lesson: Read Romans 10:12-15, 1 Peter 3:13-17, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Scripture Questions:

- What do these passages say about the importance of preaching (or sharing) the Gospel?
- According to the 1 Peter passage, how should we share this good news? (vs. 15)

Watch Video:

- Do you have many spiritual conversations with your friends? If so, how do they usually begin? If not, what is holding you back from initiating them?
- What do you think about the prompting questions for spiritual conversations mentioned in the video? How likely would you be in using them?
 - “How are you doing...really?”
 - “Where are you heading in your spiritual journey?” OR
 - “If you’d ever like to know the difference between religion and Christianity, let me know. I’d be happy to talk to you about it.”
- Brainstorm several more questions that you could use to begin such conversations.

Challenge:

In 2 minutes or less, explain what it means to become a Christian to someone in the group.

Was it hard? Easy? Did you find yourself going longer than 2 minutes? Without much forethought, explaining what it means to become a Christian can be a difficult task! There are many ways of explaining the Gospel, but a simple outline goes as such:

1. God—He is loving, holy, and just.
2. Us—we were made by God, and we were good! Unfortunately, we abused our freedom and rebelled against God, becoming evil. Because God is holy, we cannot experience God’s presence (the Holy Spirit, and Heaven) in our evil state. Because He is just, He cannot simply “do away” with our evil.
3. Jesus—because God is loving, He sent His Son to suffer the penalty we deserved through death on the cross. Because Jesus was resurrected and was given new life, we also have the possibility to experience new life!
4. You—can begin a **relationship** with God by acknowledging your sinfulness, asking God for forgiveness, and committing to follow Jesus! This new life includes eternity with God in the future, but also fulfillment through the presence of the Holy Spirit now!

While it is important to know a basic outline of the Gospel, the most effective way to present the Gospel is through **your story**. The best way to explain the difference Jesus can make in a person’s life is to share the difference He has and is making in *your* life.

Activity: Write out your story and look for an opportunity to share it.

Guiding Thoughts:

- Without clear communication of the Gospel, the world will not know to put its faith in Jesus.
- Spiritual conversations provide opportunities to share the Gospel. Your story is one of the most effective ways to share this good news.

week 6: *Maximum Impact*

Introduction: We have reached our destination: maximum impact, life change, world change. Conversion is at the heart of maximum impact, so it is important that we are ready and available to walk our friends through conversion when they are ready to follow Jesus.

Intro Questions:

- Have you ever received a new gift or product and had no idea how to use it? Share your experiences.
- Who has come along side of you on your journey of faith? How has this been a blessing to you?

Scripture Lesson: Read Luke 23:39-43, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 15:8-10

Scripture Questions:

- According to these Scriptures, what are the basic requirements for salvation?
- What were the characteristics of the conversion of the thief on the cross? Does this conversion seem to have elements missing, or does it seem different from a “traditional” conversion?
- Why is there such great celebration among the angels? If we recognized a greater sense of urgency for those who are far from God, would that also increase our celebration as one receives Jesus as Lord and Savior? Explain.

Watch Video:

- What has challenged you most during this study of **365+ONE**?
- How has your relationship grown with your **ONE** since you have been more intentional with time and in prayer?

Now What?

When your friend has reached the point where he/she is ready to follow Jesus, here are a few things to keep in mind as you pray together:

1. Forget about word formulas: Magic words don't save—a genuine confession from the heart that Jesus is Lord, repentance for a life of sin, and a cry for God's grace are what save.
2. You pray first: thank God for bringing you friend to this point in his/her spiritual journey.
3. Turn it over to your friend: encourage your friend to speak from the heart to God about their need for forgiveness and desire to receive God's grace and follow Jesus.

Next Steps:

After your friend has become a Christian here are a few things to keep in mind to help them grow stronger spiritually every day: (see Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

1. **Affirm:** Reiterate the importance of the step your friend made to follow Jesus.
2. **Paint a realistic picture:** Explain that there will be ups and downs in their relationship with Christ, and that sin still needs to be eradicated for the relationship to grow stronger.
3. **Talk about prayer and Scripture study:** Talk to your friend about the importance of daily prayer and time in the Bible. Share resources or practices that have helped you on your journey.
4. **Talk about the importance of community:** Stress the importance of living in community with other Christians and the importance of church involvement. Invite them to your Small Group and to come with you to church the following Sunday. Offer to pick them up or sit with them when they arrive.

Activity: Continue doing HP + CP + CC to achieve maximum impact!

Guiding Thoughts:

1. Conversion, new faith, is at the heart of maximum impact. We must be ready to welcome our friends into the Kingdom and celebrate as the angels do.
2. Our work does not end when a friend becomes a Christian. Doing life together will bring joy and fulfillment to both of you.