

Sodbury Vale Benefice Lent Course 2015

“Stepping into Evangelism”

Session 1: Why is Evangelism God’s idea?

Worship:

- a. What do you think evangelism means?
- b. What is your idea of evangelism?
- c. Leslie Newbigin once said ‘*The test of our real belief is our readiness to share it with other people.*’ Do you think that is a healthy statement or an unhealthy one? What might it mean to share it?

Luke 5 17-20

One day Jesus was teaching the people. The Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there too. They had come from every town in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. The Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people. ¹⁸There was a man who was paralysed, and some other men were carrying him on a mat. They tried to bring him and put him down before Jesus. ¹⁹But there were so many people that they could not find a way to Jesus. So they went up on the roof and lowered the crippled man down through a hole in the ceiling. They lowered the mat into the room so that the crippled man was lying before Jesus. ²⁰When he saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend your sins are forgiven you.’

1. The man who could not walk had some friends. – What did they do with him when they couldn’t reach Jesus?
2. What do you think Jesus admired most about these men? What did Jesus call the man?
3. What motivated the friends to bring the man to Jesus?
eagerness; desire; love; passion; insistence or any other word?

Eagerness: Having or showing keen interest, intense desire, or impatient expectancy.

Desire: To wish or long for: want

Love: Feeling, showing or indicating love and affection.

Passion: Expressing; showing or marked by intense or strong feeling; Gives purpose, feeling

4. What did the man experience as a result of his friends’ actions?

Whose responsibility is it to bring people to be healed; to experience Jesus’ love?

Clergy; other members of the Church; certain people who speak easily and are confident;
everyone

Some say being a Christian ‘brings people to life in all its fullness’.... What do you think?

Would you like to bring that possibility of life to someone?

A Healthy Church yearns to extend the invitation so other people can experience the joy and life of Jesus for themselves.

Only One-Step

It only takes one-step
to walk in His shoes,
it only takes one heart
to spread the Good News.

It only takes one match,
to set a soul afire,
it only takes one flame
for your faith to inspire.

It only takes one voice,
to make up God's choir,
it only takes one mind
to become a Gospel crier.

It only takes one Christian
to make a real difference,
it only takes one believer
willing to go the distance.

It only takes one-step
planted on the Word
it only take one heart
for the truth to be heard. -

Deborah Ann Belka

LIFE, CAMERA, ACTION

Evangelism is God's idea, God's vision and God's purpose. And he invites you and I to join him in his mission. It is a massive privilege and as we step out in faith God goes before us. As individuals and as a church, when we share the Good News, God will give us all we need. If you think you can't do it, don't panic! God never calls the equipped, he always equips those he calls.

God has called and equipped you and I to take part in this exciting, life-giving, world changing mission.

Today may your prayer simply be: 'Lord here I am, send me.' And then be challenged to GO.

9.50 COMPLINE