

THE EVANGELIST

Gifted for Invitation

WATCH THE EVANGELIST VIDEO

Found online at centralwesleyan.org/groupmaterials

INTRODUCTION

Philip is the prototype for an evangelist in the Bible.

John 1:43-46

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

According to this passage, Philip has been following Jesus for less than a day when he turns around and invites Nathanael to come follow Jesus too. Author Alan Hirsch describes an evangelist as more of a recruiter than a salesperson. Contrary to some stereotypes, evangelists aren't manipulative personalities who hard-sell the gospel. They are more like party-planners who want everyone they meet to attend their big event.

THIS WEEK WE LOOK AT THE ROLE OF EVANGELIST



The Evangelist keeps the proclamation of the good news at the core of the church's message and cultivates an attractive community, all the while broadcasting vision through storytelling. Evangelism is communicating truth so hearts and cultures receive it. As a storyteller, the evangelist is the all-important recruiter to the cause, a naturally infectious person who is able to inspire people to participate in what God is doing in and through the church. The Evangelist helps us move toward a redeemed community, a growing movement in Christ, a thriving society founded upon restored relation to God, and a grace economy built on sharing.

Jesus proclaimed Good News for the poor, forgiveness for all sinners, and salvation for the lost—inviting creation into a relationship with Him. Signs and wonders confirmed His witness. He opened the doors to all those previously excluded through religion and politics. The masses experienced Him as genuine Good News. Ultimately, He paid for this redemption with the sacrifice of His life. *He is the greatest Evangelist ever.*

Callings of an Evangelist might include recruiters, storytellers, communicators, apologists, and entrepreneurs. Examples of Evangelists in life or myth include Jesus, Philip, George Whitefield, Rick Warren, Billy Graham, Zig Ziglar, Oprah Winfrey, Princess Leia (Star Wars).

WEEK 4

ROLE CALL

We're glad to have you join us this week as we discuss the role of Evangelist. Let's start by answering any one of the following questions:

- Name a few evangelists you respect, enjoy, or appreciate.
- What are the qualities of a good storyteller?
- Name some good storytellers you don't necessarily consider evangelists.

ROLE PLAY

Tell Us a Story

No additional material needed

In groups of three or four people, have one person respond to *one* of the following prompts:

- Tell your group a story about how you responded when someone asked you a question about Jesus
- Tell a story about a time you asked someone a question about Jesus and how they responded.

ROLE OUT

There is no pressure to answer every question.

1. What stands out to you the most from this week's sermon?
2. Read Acts 8:26-40.
 - The Holy Spirit prompted Philip to interact with the Ethiopian eunuch.
 - Did Philip take time to consider whether he 'wanted' to engage the eunuch in conversation? How is his response different from Jonah's response to God when God sent Jonah to Nineveh in Jonah 1:1-3?
 - What was Philip's opening question to the eunuch?
 - How was the eunuch vulnerable and open toward Philip?
 - How did Philip respond as an evangelist in this narrative?
3. Has there been a time in your life when the Holy Spirit prompted you to act in a way that was out of the ordinary? What did that look like? How did you respond? What was the end result?
4. Read Acts 8:4-8. The church in Jerusalem had just scattered after Stephen's stoning. How did Philip live out his role when he arrived in Samaria?
5. An evangelist is naturally engaging. What qualities or strengths do you appreciate in evangelists you respect?

WEEK 4

ROLE ON

Pray for people who need Christ.

Have the leader pray for someone they know who needs Christ, with the person immediately to their left picking up that prayer and adding a person they know as well.

Example: Leader prays for Evan. Person to his left prays for Evan and adds Joan. Then the next person to their left prays for Joan and adds Sam, etc., ending the prayer time with the leader by praying for whomever the final person initiated prayer for.

KEEP IT ROLE-ING

On Sunday you recieved a Corner Card during the service (if you need one, they are available at the Information Desk in the lobby).

The Corner Card provides you with a space to pray into the lives of five people who you have a close relationship with. This week, write down the names of people on the card and pray for, invest in, invite to your group, and or lead as an example of Jesus.