

## Through Gates of Splendor

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Matthew 9:35-38; John 4:35-36

#### Discussion Questions

1. Who reached out to share the gospel with you? Share with the group.
2. Our mission as a church is to evangelize and disciple. During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ showed us His perspective about reaching out to the spiritually lost. Read Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom and authenticated it through miracles, like healing every disease among the people (v. 35). His primary purpose was to teach the people about the kingdom of God. The miracles were to show people that what He said was true. From this passage we see Jesus demonstrating the truths about evangelism. First, he was moved with compassion for them (v. 36). What was the reason for His compassion? Why did Jesus compare them to sheep having no shepherd? Discuss why compassion for the lost should be your motivation in sharing the gospel. How do you feel about your loved ones, friends or other associates who are without the Lord? Do you see them as someone heading to hell? Is the potential embarrassment in sharing and being rejected greater than your compassion?
3. Secondly, Jesus saw that the laborers were few (v. 37). People are ready to hear the gospel, but few believers are sharing it with them. The world is in spiritual crises and hopelessness and people need to hear the message of hope in Jesus Christ. Are you proclaiming the gospel by the way you live your life? Discuss how your Christian testimony as a student, employer/employee, and/or as a family member can be a channel of how people will hear the gospel.
4. GCCP has about 1,400 adult gospel laborers to reach out to the lost each week. Discuss how our labor force looks like. As a member of the church or as someone who regularly attends church, how are you conducting your life as an evangelical testimony to the world? As you go to different municipalities and regions or even travel abroad, do you witness for Jesus?

How are you witnessing for Christ in your spheres of influence? Do you invite people to worship, or to church events/activities that will give them a chance to hear the Word of God?

5. Thirdly, Jesus saw the condition of the mission field (John 4:35-36). He pointed out to His disciples that the people are ready for harvest. People are hungry for the truth. They are just waiting for someone to share it with them, and if we don't do anything, nothing will happen. Discuss how you can reach out to those who are ready to receive the Good News. Do you turn your conversations with a non-Christian friend to spiritual matters? Have you ever explained to someone why you go to church? Have you enlightened someone why you do what you do as a Christian?
6. The fourth truth in evangelism is that it is a worthwhile cause (v. 4:36). Sharing the gospel has an eternal value. What are the things in your life that you find worth doing? Do you think it's worth sharing the gospel through the way you live so that your loved one or friend will not go to hell? What habits or lifestyle choices would you be willing to give up in order for you to be a better testimony to others? What are the things you need to learn in order to be an effective witness for Him? Aside from your life testimony, do you need to learn how to witness using or quoting the Word of God? What kind of evangelism style suits your personality and can make you an effective witness?

### Walk

The walk of evangelism is a walk of splendor. It is a worthwhile cause. As you go in and out of church, do you invite others to come with you? Evangelism doesn't come out as an accident, it is intentional. Have you intentionally brought someone to the Lord recently? Why or why not? What possible plans can you make to be an effective witness for Him? As God uses people to do evangelism, would you be willing to be His compassionate laborer?

### Worship & Prayer

*Father, I will never forget that day someone told me about how You gave Your Son to die in my place because You love me. I am grateful for that believer's compassion in seeing me as someone who needed a Savior, for being intentional in doing his job to share the Gospel with me, and for pointing me towards other believers who showed me what it was like to live for You. I desire to to the same, and so I ask for an opportunity, Lord, to be able to share Your Good News to \_\_\_\_\_. I know that the time is now; I pray that You would give me the ability, courage, and strength, O Lord, and the sensitivity and wisdom to know how to do it. In Jesus' name, Amen.*