

# sermon study summary

November 11 / 12, 2023

## Global Missions Weekend

Speaker: Shaila Visser, Leader of Alpha Canada

Every Christian wants the world to know Jesus because only He brings meaning and hope to our world! Nicky Gumbel said, in March 2020, that we are in a period of the greatest evangelistic opportunities of our times. In the past year and a half our world has undergone significant changes: we have many challenging issues, and are searching for purpose, hope and meaning; however, many people wonder where we can find this.

God opens our hearts and minds to Himself, and we want to share 'The Good News' with everyone inviting them to participate and share in our joy and relationship with Jesus. Keep in mind what Darrell Johnson, pastor/theologian, says: "**Evangelism is joining a conversation that the Holy Spirit is having with another person**". Jesus left this earth so that God's Spirit could indwell everyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The Spirit is active in the lives of those we love or have been praying for, and continually points us to God. God chooses to use us as His witnesses, and we obey joyfully!

Our task is to observe the people around us and listen to the Spirit's direction. God removes our fears, enables us to say or do the right thing, and His timing is perfect. We live in a period which has amazing opportunities for us to spread the Gospel message to people of all generations. Everybody has questions! Recurring questions are: "Is Christianity good? Is it true?" We can answer, unequivocally, that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and our Bible, are good and true! Research carried out in the Gen Z and Open Generation categories showed that 45% had neither a positive nor a negative view of Jesus; they simply didn't know what to think. Many young people have unanswered spiritual questions, especially those born between 2010 and 2024, and they are spiritually hungry for answers although uncertain as to where to find them. Pray for them.

Jesus' example is the foundation to sharing our faith, especially with the younger generations! Jesus: (a) constantly prayed and communicated with the Father; (b) paid attention to everyone and everything around Him; (c) was an excellent listener; (d) sought out people like you and me, the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, etc.; and (e) invited others to come and see (which is core to any outreach and mission goals); we should strive to emulate Him! These generations need you to listen to them, ask good questions, and be interested in them and their lives. Your ability to listen and pay attention shows them that Jesus is good.

God is at work in our cities and invites us to participate in producing a plentiful harvest in Canada. In order to become effective witnesses for Jesus, our first goal must be to become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him explicitly in all His instructions and guidance, because He will provide us with wisdom and discernment about our next steps. We must aspire to become 'people of hope' because the Lord is moving in our nation!

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to the next person He wants us to approach and then call or text them, encouraging or inviting them to one of our services, a Come and See encounter, an Alpha course, or some other Ministry where they would come to God and fulfil their role as followers of Christ. Let's pray, daily, saying, 'Come Holy Spirit'!

# sermon study guide

## IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What is a passion for you? How often do you talk about it to others?
2. Does our spiritually illiterate world make you more inclined to share Jesus or remain silent? Tell of a time when a spiritual conversation came up that seemed effortless.

## UP – PURSUE GOD

Read John 15:26-16:15.

3. Note the truths that Jesus a) teaches about relationship with Him, the Spirit or the Father and, b) implies about an integral partnership between us and the Spirit.
4. From these verses, detail what the Spirit's work is and what our work is. Why are both necessary? Why doesn't God just do it on His own?

## OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Evangelism has been said to be "joining a conversation that the Holy Spirit is already having with someone." Why do we have such trouble thinking that God is at work in this or that person? How can we partner with Jesus?
6. Discuss how we may cultivate a lifestyle of having "eyes that see and ears that hear" what Holy Spirit is doing around us.

### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

***Jesus loved people by praying for them, paying attention to, and listening to them, seeking, and inviting them. Which of these is a strength of yours? Which is a weakness? Pray that you may exemplify these loving traits of Jesus.***

## THE WORD

### John 15:26-16:15 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup> "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

<sup>16</sup> <sup>1</sup> "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' <sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup> But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

<sup>12</sup> "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

This week's writers: Asha Phillips, Elsa Henderson, Gene and Karen Gibbs and Jorel Quemuel