



EVANGELISM WITH INTEGRITY

LEARNING GUIDE

How do we practice evangelism with spiritual integrity, out of our values and identity? We build spiritual intimacy with one another. We go to the deep places of life and explore how we find and struggle to find God there.

- Why Evangelism Matters
- What It's Not: Spiritual Malpractice
- What It Is: Spiritual Intimacy

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Week 1: Why You Think You Don't Like Evangelism

Dear Evangelist,

Congratulations and thank you for saying yes to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! You have been invited to Evangelism With Integrity, a program designed to help you re-imagine your evangelism practice and root it in our common values as Episcopalians.

This learning guide will give you guidance on next steps and additional resources for building your practice of evangelism inside and outside your congregation. Click on the [blue text](#) to access the videos and scriptures.

Video

The first concept we want to explore is [Why You Think You Don't Like Evangelism](#).

Scripture

We know we want to communicate a God of love by means of love. Where can we find guidance and support for this aim in scripture? Take a look at [How We Know Love](#).

Next Steps

This week, observe instances of spiritual violence or Christian malpractice around you. What common ingredients do you find in the coercive, exploitative “evangelism” practices you see on TV, on social media, or even in person? How do they fail to reflect the God of love as described in our text from 1 John?

Do something intentional this week to reflect God as Love in your life—serve or care for someone inside your congregation, and someone outside your congregation. Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

Loving God, embolden us to go wherever you call us, to greet whoever you send us, and to do whatever you ask of us, that we might know no fear except that reverence which leads to wisdom.
Amen.

Week 2: Questioning Evangelism

Dear Evangelist,

Welcome to Week 2 of exploring how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! How did your first week go? What did you notice and observe as you searched for ways to communicate love by means of love?

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Video

This week we continue to explore our redefinition of evangelism with [Questioning Evangelism](#).

Scripture

We know we want to practice evangelism out of our core spiritual values. Where can we find scripture articulating those values? Take a look at [New Blessings: The Beatitudes](#).

Next Steps

The word "integrity" is related to the word for "whole" or "wholeness"—an integer is a whole number. Spiritual integrity is less about moral correctness than it is about aligning our actions, our values, our spiritual practices, and our understanding of scripture and the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. Look for conflicts in integrity in your life and the life of your faith community this week. Are there places where what your actions and your beliefs do not line up? How does that feel compared to when they do line up, when you are acting out of wholeness or integrity?

This week, carry one of the Beatitudes with you through your daily life, whichever one of the eight speaks to your heart. Seek out and be in relationship with people experiencing that condition. Watch how people around you care for you when you are mourning or poor in spirit, or watch how the world changes around you when you seek to be a peacemaker or pure in heart. How do the Beatitudes contribute to your practice of spiritual integrity and intimacy? Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

Blessed Lord, we pray for strength and courage to care for one another with tenderness and joy. Equip us to be your hands and feet in the world. May we bring good news to all we meet this day, with our words and with our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week 3: The Motivation Trap

Dear Evangelist,

Welcome to Week 3 of exploring how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! What was your week of exploring spiritual integrity like? How did you notice the Beatitudes coming to life around you? How did that impact your understanding of what it means to be an evangelist?

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Video

The next evangelism dynamic to investigate is [The Motivation Trap](#).

Scripture

We all know what it is like to feel driven by anxiety over the health and future of our church. Did Jesus ever feel that way? Did he ever have to be awakened to how he needed a broader outlook? Read the story of [the Canaanite Woman](#) to see Jesus grapple with institutional self-interest.

Next Steps

In this story, Jesus began with a valid premise: he was sent to care for the lost sheep of the house of Israel. His gifts were meant to be given to his people—it makes sense. But the Canaanite Woman's faith called him to a much larger sense of his work, a realization that God's grace was meant for all people. If even Jesus had to be jolted out of institutional self-interest, it's no surprise that we need a wake-up call ourselves!

This week, notice when anxiety about the future of your faith community starts to creep into your thoughts and conversations. Stop right at that moment and pray to be opened to a larger sense of call. Talk with others in your faith community about what it feels like to name institutional self-interest and grapple with it openly. Notice also that Jesus was changed by someone else's faith. Look for faith in others this week, and let it change you. Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

Gracious God, give us the imagination to dream and catch glimpses of the life you intend for us to live. Show us how our individual lives are entwined with those around us, and help us to live so truly together that we embody your good news in this world. **Amen.**

Week 4: Evangelists Vs. Fear

Dear Evangelist,

Welcome to Week 4 of exploring how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! What did you notice this week as you built your practice of spiritual intimacy? What new discoveries about yourself and your neighbors did you make as you shared your spiritual journeys with each other?

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Video

We're taking on the work of angels with [Do Not Be Afraid: Evangelists Vs. Fear](#).

Scripture

What does it look like to take on reducing fear as a spiritual discipline in everyday life? How did Jesus communicate the message, "Be not afraid,"? Read the story of [Jesus Walking on Water](#) to find out.

Next Steps

The disciples naturally were afraid in this story, both because of the storm and because they thought they saw a ghost on the water. That reflects both fear of danger and fear of the unknown. How do you observe fear of danger and fear of the unknown affecting you and those around you? How do those fears limit our practice of spiritual intimacy?

This week, consciously search for opportunities to reduce fear in yourself and others. When you observe yourself or someone else acting out of fear, or failing to act, ask how together you could bring God's love and reassurance into the situation. What does it take to fix your eyes on Jesus and step out of the boat, as Peter did? What individual and community spiritual practices can help you and your neighbors build courage? Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

You alone lift us up and make straight our path before us, O Lord. In our going out and coming in, deliver us from fear, that we may, by your Spirit's power, let down our defenses in love.

Amen.

Week 5: Depth Leads to Invitation

Dear Evangelist,

Welcome to Week 5 of exploring how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! What did you notice this week as you worked to observe and reduce fear in yourself and others? How did it feel to take on the core identity of an evangelist, someone who finds ways to hear and say every day, “Fear not!”?

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Video

We’re getting into the brass tacks of an everyday evangelism practice with [Depth Leads to Invitation](#).

Scripture

How do we build spiritual intimacy? What evidence can we find of it in scripture? How did Jesus share spiritual intimacy with those around him? Read the story of the [Road to Emmaus](#) to find out.

Next Steps

What ingredients of spiritual intimacy did you see in this story? How was Jesus present to his disciples, sharing their journey and meeting them where they were? Notice Jesus asking them questions, hearing their stories, and sharing in table fellowship with them.

This week, consciously search for opportunities to participate in spiritual intimacy with others. Take the risk of going deeper than small talk. Ask someone inside and someone outside your congregation the following question: “What’s been on your mind lately?” Come alongside them as they respond, and in your heart as you listen, invite God’s presence into that conversation. Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

Loving God, your good news brings healing to our bodies, minds, and spirits. Teach us the necessity and power of asking questions and listening well, that we may thrive as living members of your Body, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week 6: Evangelists Are Born In Crisis

Dear Evangelist,

Welcome to Week 6 of exploring how to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! What did you notice this week as you continued to build your practice of spiritual intimacy with others? How did your relationship with God and with your neighbors grow as you went deeper together?

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Video

Our final evangelism is frontier is exploring how [Evangelists Are Born In Crisis](#).

Scripture

Why do we work so hard to learn to become evangelists? Why does discovering the Good News of Jesus Christ together matter so much, even and especially right now? What is it like to stick together as spiritual pilgrims through hard times as well as good? Read Paul's description of the [Community of Ambassadors for Christ](#) to find out.

Next Steps

There are people in the world around you who have no idea what it is like to experience the life-changing love of God. They have never known the transcendent grace of God in worship or nature or relationship or prayer. They feel like they are all alone in the world, that God has abandoned them, if God ever existed in the first place.

This week, look for people and places who feel alone and without God. Search for ways to serve and care for your neighbors there, and receive the care of others where you feel alone and frightened. Search also for the richness of life in Christ, and find an action to take this week that amplifies Christ's work in your community. Report back your experiences and observations on social media with the hashtags [#evangelismwithintegrity](#) and [#diomo](#).

Prayer

Gracious God, give us true words to pray for one another. Burden our hearts with shared sorrows, and delight our spirits with mutual joy. May your Spirit provoke in us words and deeds of good news, and give us grace to be present to those moments when your love is real enough to taste. **Amen.**

Adapting To Your Context

How can these concepts be taught and applied in your faith community? What gifts of your congregation can be brought to life in a faithful practice of evangelism as a core spiritual discipline?

Take what works for you and practice evangelism boldly – you may find new wells of spiritual courage and creativity springing up everywhere you look!