

05/01 – 05/02/2021

God Space, Part 1

Series: God Space

Speaker: Derek Levendusky

1 Peter 3:15

Title of the series is based on a book by author Doug Pollock.

Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

The gospel is the power of God. It’s what we need. If you want to change the world, start with your world.

Surveys have shown that only 10% have the gift of evangelism.

Create “God Space” in your life & relationships.

1 Peter 3:15 *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.”

This means you arrange your life around Him.

But to treat Him as Lord is to make Him the most important in your life: To make His heart your heart. His mission your mission.

God always chooses the weak and foolish things.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

God chose to use *us* as a means of reaching people.

Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses.”*

What is a witness? Someone who talks about what they’ve seen and heard.

97% of new believers come through a relationship they have with a Christian.

Engle’s Scale

+5 Stewardship

+4 Communion with God

+3 Conceptual and behavioral growth

+2 Incorporation into Body

+1 Post-decision evaluation

Conversion

- 1 Repentance and faith in Christ
- 2 Decision to act
- 3 Personal problem recognition
- 4 Positive attitude towards Gospel
- 5 Grasp implications of Gospel
- 6 Awareness of fundamentals of Gospel
- 7 Initial awareness of Gospel
- 8 Awareness of supreme being, no knowledge of Gospel

"But do this with gentleness and respect."

Nowhere in Scripture are we told to be rude or overbearing.

"We must learn the back door to people's hearts because the front door is heavily guarded." —anonymous evangelist

God Space is where...

...God is felt and encountered in tangible ways that address the longings and cries of the heart.

...gentleness and respect are present, judgment is absent, and divine dialogue flows naturally because trust has been established.

...the invisible principles of God's kingdom are made visible in ways people can see, touch, and feel.

...friends of sinners—in other words, our friends—dwell.

...the topic of God can be explored freely without agendas, biases, and personal convictions getting in the way.

...cynics, skeptics, scoffers, and spiritually curious people alike can raise their questions, share their doubts, voice their concerns, and even vent their anger toward God and the church.

...the "unworthy" feel safe enough to bring their real selves out into the light, and to journey, one step at a time, toward the magnetic pull they sense deep in their souls.

...spiritual curiosity is aroused, and the message of Christianity becomes plausible.

Spiritual Conversation Killers:

1. An Unbelieving Heart
2. Pre-Conversation History
3. Awkward Transitions
4. Our Language, Not Theirs
5. Disrespect
6. Agendas
7. Control
8. Judgment
9. Combativeness
10. "It's All About Me"

Application:

1. Make space
2. Find your spot
3. Be prepared
4. Be gentle