

WHEN GOD SAYS GO ...

***“I’m the
cousin...”***

...I'm also the cousin...



The unbelief is unbelievable

In 2015, Pew Research said:

- Number of Christians down sharply since 2007 – crossing denominations, age, race and region
- Not confined to the coasts, cities, young or other liberal and more secular groups
- Decline taking place in every region of the country, including the Bible Belt

The unbelief is unbelievable

- Barna says “post-Christians” on the rise (2015)
- “Post-Christian” is Barna’s term for someone who is either not a Christian or whose daily practices would suggest they are living outside the faith. Obviously, only God knows someone heart; so these are only indicators.

The unbelief is unbelievable

- The percentage of Americans who qualify as “post-Christian” rose by 7 percentage points in just two years, from 37% in 2013 to 44% in 2015.
- Across the United States, cities in every state are becoming more post-Christian—some at a faster rate than others. (Barna 2015)

The unbelief is unbelievable

- Nearly 25% of those raised as Christians have left the faith (Pew 2015)
- 34% percent of younger adults no longer identify as Christian – up from 25% just eight years ago (Pew 2015)
- **Only 30% of ALL Americans** believe that whether one achieves eternal life is determined by what a person believes...(Pew 2015)
 - 30% say eternal life depends on one's actions
 - 10% say eternal life lies in a combination of belief and actions
 - 30% say something else is the key to eternal life/don't know what leads to eternal life/don't believe in eternal life

The unbelief is unbelievable

- Of Tallahassee's 181,376 citizens:
 - 46% say eternal life depends on good works
 - 44% are not born-again
 - 9%-15% regularly attend an evangelical church on Sundays

Every other person you encounter today will not be going to Heaven!

**...so, which
cousin are you
going to be?**

What will it take to lead this study?

- Pray and commit
- Read the book
- Find a foundational scripture
- Engage in repetition...repeatedly
- Share the bad news too
- Don't make people feel dumb

Four elements of the Gospel

- God is our **creator**...He is holy and righteous
- **Sin** entered the world, leading to isolation, loss of freedom and death
- But then God sent **Jesus**
- Our eternity is based on our **repentance and belief** in Him

God is our Creator

- Revel in the masterpiece that is creation
- Make sure folks understand all that God is
- Don't miss the righteousness part
(Christian author Jack Zavada:
"Righteousness is the state of moral perfection required by God to enter Heaven.")
- Wallow in the despair that comes with knowing who God is, knowing who we are and knowing there is truly no hope (unless we have Jesus.)

Sin entered the world

- God cannot even look at me because of my sin
- Acknowledge it is sobering and hard
- Remember what Gilbert says, *"This is the Bible's sobering verdict on us. There is not one of us righteous, not even one. And because of that, one day every mouth will be silenced, every wagging tongue stopped, and the whole world will be held accountable to God. But..."*

...God sent Jesus

- Learn how to say, spell and define "propitiation"
- Explain who Jesus was and is:
 - *He was tempted*
 - *He sympathizes with the human condition*
 - *He is the Lamb of God (what in the world does that mean?)*
 - *He is God with skin on*
- Do not downplay the crucifixion
- Rejoice in the resurrection

Repent and believe

- Get very clear on what the scripture says
- Transition from self-reliance to Jesus-reliance
- Remind folks that we will still sin...but will no longer be at peace with it
- Excite people about the new fruit they will bear (ugh...a Sunday School term!)
- Do not pass out a get out of jail free card

Living the Gospel

- Spend lots of time on Paul
- Takes yourselves back to Acts 2
- Leave the church...and Jesus!
- And for added fun, take a trip to Nineveh

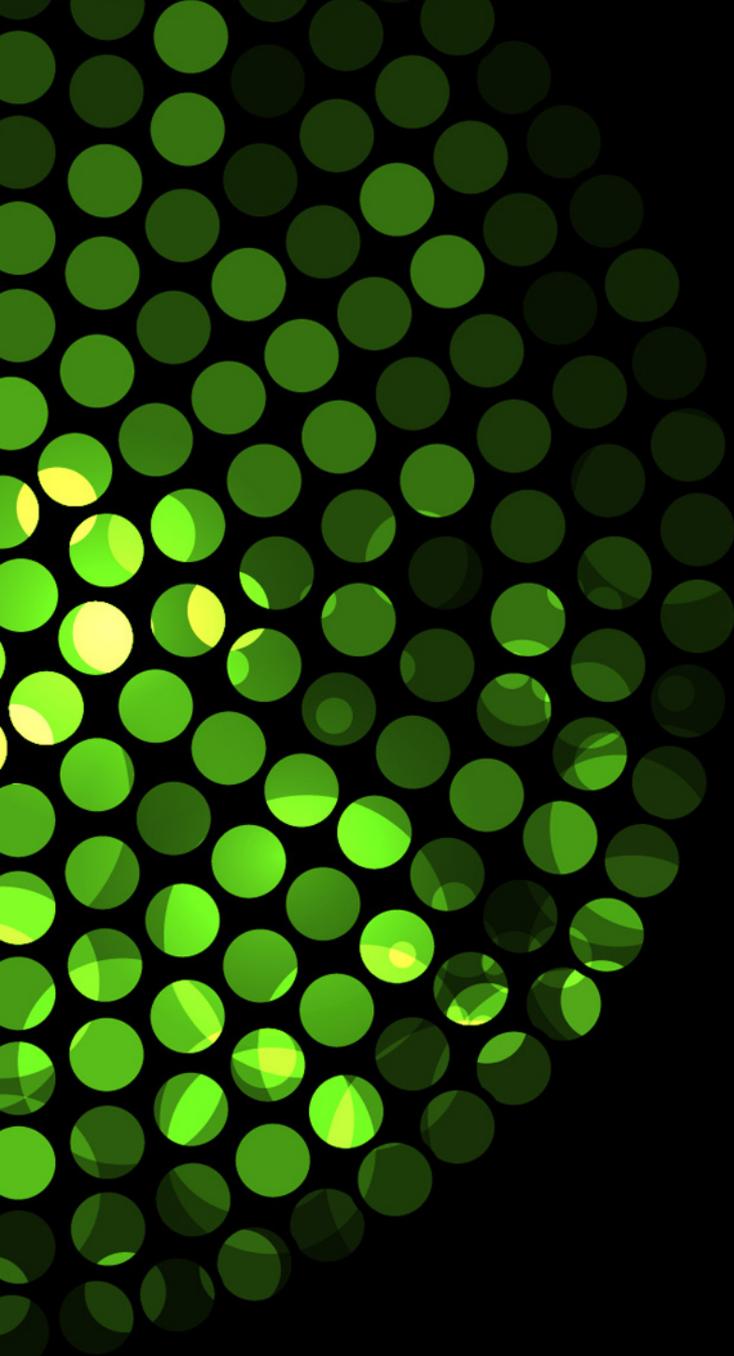
“Saul of Tsarsus never went to Vacation Bible School. The next Billy Graham may be passed out in some frat house right now.”

He said, “Do not under estimate the power of the Gospel to transform lives right where THEY are. We cannot fear our mission field.”

[Dr. Russell Moore]

...but maybe we do!

Survey Says....!



WHEN GOD SAYS GO ...