

WELCOME TO THE

SEED
PLANTING
TEAM

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JESUS TAUGHT

In Mark 4:2-9, Jesus gives us crystal clear perspective on being a seed planter — i.e., sharing our faith. In this simple parable, we are the farmer:

² *He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:*
³ *“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.* ⁴*As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.*
⁵ *Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.* ⁶*But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.* ⁷*Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.* ⁸*Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”* ⁹*Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”*

(New International Version)

In Jesus' parable, the farmer's responsibility was not to make the crop grow.

The responsibility was to scatter the seeds.

Have You Ever ...

- Wanted to share your faith but didn't really know how?
- Felt a bit guilty, frustrated, or sad for not sharing your faith?
- Thought, "I'm not confident sharing my Christian faith — but I should be"?
- Wanted an unthreatening way to share your Christian faith?

If so, you are like approximately 95 percent of adult Christians.

A while ago, I asked my former pastor, Dr. G. Richard Lobs III, retired pastor of six evangelical congregations, "What percentage of Christian adults are comfortable sharing their Christian faith?" His answer:

"My best guesstimate would be that approximately five percent of the adult Christians I've worked with over my 45 years of ministry were confident in sharing their Christian faith — 95 percent were not!"

About 95 percent of the Body of Christ is uncomfortable with sharing their personal faith in any way, with anyone, at any time! I have to admit, I'm part of the 95 percent. I've only shared my faith verbally a very few times in over 60 years of Christian life.

Some reasons why we Christians do not share our Christian faith:

We are uncomfortable with ...

- Rejection.
- Arguments.
- Difficult questions.
- Being seen as preachy.
- Being labeled "religious fanatics."
- Our lack of ability to communicate clearly.

I am in the 95 percent, but I have found a way of sharing my Christian faith with 100 percent confidence!

Together, we can help each person we know in the 95 percent group become 100 percent confident as a seed planter!

On the parking-garage level of our seven-story condominium building, beside the elevator, stands a small shelf known as the "free shelf." You can take or leave anything there — free. One day, I got the idea of leaving a book that explains the plan on salvation, so anyone could take it home free. I was planting a seed.

Soon, dozens of books were gone, one at a time — books containing the "plan of salvation" moving hand to hand, mind to mind, heart to heart, with God guiding. Before leaving each book, I prayed that a person seeking God for whatever reason (at this exact time in their life) would pick up the free book.

Not one person saw me leave the first 30 books. No one cared how I looked. No one asked me a single question. Leaving each and every book was exciting — and fulfilling. I had discovered a way of sharing God's plan on salvation (my faith) with total confidence.

A few evenings later, Cheryl and I were having dinner with our friends Doug and Christi Napier. I shared the fulfillment I experienced sharing my Christian faith in this very simple way. Christi has a problem with her vocal cords; she has had 68 surgeries on her vocal cords and still speaks in a whisper. She softly told us, "I leave Christian books as well. I leave them in the beauty salon, the doctor's office, or any place I happen to be. The person picking up the book assumes it was left by mistake — but it was left *on purpose!*"

Sharing your faith in this way does not require:

- A professional image.
- Physical fitness.
- Public speaking ability.
- Social confidence.
- A seminary degree.

LEAVE, GIVE, PRAY

LEAVE

When you leave such a book, you share your Christian faith (i.e., plant a seed) with any person who picks it up and reads it. The reader's response is between the reader and God.

Your pastor's best book may be a great book to leave.

Your all-time favorite book may be a great book to leave.

My book *DECade by Decade* might be a great book to leave.

GIVE

Perhaps you have been praying for a specific friend but haven't found the exact right time or just the right words for approaching them. Try giving them a book (plant a seed). When you give your friend a book that contains the plan of salvation, you share your faith (plant a seed) with your friend. Their response is between them and God.

PRAY

There has to be a season of gardening and planting before any harvest. Take a seed, plant it, and pray about the harvest for God's kingdom. Anyone who believes can plant a seed. Pray to God to send and grow His harvest.

Leave a book (plant a seed) anywhere:

- Free shelves.
- Gyms.
- Nursing homes.
- Professional offices (e.g., attorneys, dentists, doctors, psychologists).
- Park benches.
- Public transportation (airplanes/airports, buses, trains).
- Restaurants.
- Shops (e.g., barbershops, beauty salons, shoe repair shops).
- Stadiums.
- Waiting rooms.
- Anywhere in your world!

"Remember, eternity is not

A year,
10 years,
100 years."

Regardless of how you imagine heaven or hell, I think we agree that both heaven and hell are for eternity! Jesus came to provide a way for us to have a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. Through Him we receive the gifts of abundant life now and life with Him for all eternity.

GETTING STARTED

BUSINESS — *DECade by Decade* is a proven book to give anyone you are hoping to hire, a gift for anyone to whom you need to say, “Sorry, we can’t hire you at this time” or anyone on your current team, or as a thank you to anyone leaving the team. It’s a very affordable “leaving gift” if your potential client is ready to invest in your product or service — or not!

CHURCH — *DECade by Decade* is a perspective-giving book for a sermon or series of sermons. Include it in a gift bag for visitors, new members, or outreach programs. It can be used in Christian education classes — especially for men, women, and young professionals. It is also a counseling tool for those in major transition. It is an attractive book to leave anywhere and everywhere in your surrounding community; attach a sticker welcoming the reader to your church.

YOU — *DECade by Decade* is an enlightening book you can LEAVE (plant a seed) anywhere and everywhere you go. You can GIVE a book to anyone you would like to see in heaven! *DECade* is an inexpensive but significant birthday gift for any relative or friend. You can TELL any interested friends about the Seed Planting Team.

Only in heaven will we know the results of any one single seed we plant!

ORDERING

If you would like to give or leave copies of *DECADE by DECADE*, it is available at this bulk rate:

Website	Discount	Per <i>Decade</i> book
BobbBiehl.com	0%	\$20
SeedPlantingTeam.com	90%	\$2 (10 copies for \$20)

We are making each book available, in bulk, at print cost.

That's only **\$2** at SeedPlantingTeam.com!

Available free: This Welcome to the SEED PLANTING TEAM booklet

We will send them in shrink-wrapped packets (10 copies per packet). Let us know how many you need.

You can share these booklets with friends, new Christians, protégés, your Bible study group, men's group, women's group, or even your entire church, introducing others to seed planting.

Any one person you introduce to seed planting may let you leave a long-term legacy, seed planter to seed planter, that ripples through history until the Lord returns! Like Rev. Robert H. Schuller once said, "Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed!"

GIVE BOOKS

that let you share your faith with:

Grandparents.
Parents. Siblings.
Aunts. Uncles. Cousins.
Friends. Neighbors. Teachers.

Anyone in your world!

LEAVE BOOKS

that let you share your faith at:

Free shelves. Gyms. Nursing homes.
Park benches. Restaurants. Stadiums. Waiting rooms.
Professional offices (attorneys, dentists, doctors, psychologists).
Public transportation (airplanes/airports, buses, trains).
Shops (barbershops, beauty salons, shoe repair shops).

Anywhere in your world!

After leaving or giving just one book, you have joined the

SEED PLANTING TEAM



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