

Sunday Bible Class - March & April 2021 -

PART ONE: EVERY SOUL IS UNIQUE



VIDEO 1 (7 MINUTES)

Every soul is an individual with their own past, their own questions, their own concerns. Only by listening carefully and caring deeply about that soul will we be able to connect with them and connect them with the gospel.

1. What are some things we might learn from the way Pastor Rosenau interacted with the three newcomers on his first Sunday?
2. Joann said she would not be back the next week because she didn't have the courage. What does this tell us about the challenge of an unchurched person walking into a church?
3. Joann said she did not believe there was a heaven. What would likely have happened if Pastor Rosenau had immediately corrected her?
4. Her husband, Dick, didn't believe there was a God and said that men wrote the Bible, not God. How did Pastor Rosenau's reply demonstrate both humility and confidence?



5. After Joann died, why could Pastor Rosenau's wife say that what they had sacrificed for him to become a pastor would have been worth it if it was just for Joann?

Apply: Think of a person you know who is unchurched. What do you know about the person's past experience (especially their experience with Christianity) that is particular to them? If you don't know, think of how you might learn more about them. Share your thoughts.

**PART TWO:
EVERY BELIEVER IS PERSONALLY
PREPARED TO BE A WITNESS**



VIDEO 2 (15 MINUTES)

God has guided your life in a unique way. One of the reasons he has brought you to where you are is so that he might use you as his witness to reach souls with the gospel.

1. What are some ways God prepared Pastor Rosenau to be a pastor when he was...?

A mortician

A detective

2. What were some things Pastor Rosenau and his wife sacrificed for him to serve as a detective?
3. List at least three ways the Lord influenced Pastor Rosenau to eventually become a pastor.

Apply: You are a unique saint. What are some ways God has shaped your life to prepare you to share your faith (personality traits, past experiences, unchurched people with whom you have come into contact, etc.)? Share at least two.

**PART THREE:
GOD PROVIDES COURAGE TO DO WHAT IS
UNCOMFORTABLE AND INCONVENIENT**



VIDEO 3 (7 MINUTES)

Jesus never said being his witness would be comfortable or convenient. But he did promise to give Christians the courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

1. What question did the Chief ask Pastor Rosenau when they were in the duck blind that makes it clear that Pastor Rosenau had let his light shine while serving as a detective?

Share some ways you and other Christians can let their light shine while living in twenty-first-century America.

2. When Pastor Rosenau told the chief that, "...the important thing for guys like us is to know that Jesus is our Savior" and the chief replied, "You have no idea who I really am." What do you suppose he meant?
3. How did Pastor Rosenau demonstrate true love the day after the chief called him?
4. How else did God use Pastor Rosenau's visit to the chief to reach souls?

Apply: Share a time when you were uncomfortable or inconvenienced sharing your faith. If you are willing, share a time when your discomfort or inconvenience kept you from sharing your faith.

**PART FOUR:
A ONE BY ONE APPROACH
TO GROWING A CHURCH**



It is tempting to think that the church must grow by bunches, that large efforts to lots of people is the key. The truth is that God often grows his Church bit by bit, one soul at a time.

EXAMPLE #1 - VIDEO 4A (12 MINUTES)

During his vicar year, Pastor Rosenau and his congregation prayed that God would fill their building with people. Then, they enacted a simple plan to reach the lost.

1. When Pastor Rosenau began his vicar year at the mission church, what were some things that would have seemed to limit the success the church could have reaching the lost?
2. Although he didn't have any real knowledge of how to do evangelism, what did Pastor Rosenau tell his people he had plenty of?
3. What did Pastor Rosenau promise his people he would do whenever they put him into contact with someone?
4. Although he said he had plenty of courage, what did Pastor Rosenau discover as he sat in his car before going out to knock on doors?
5. What two things did Pastor Rosenau tell people they could expect when he invited them to church?
6. Almost everyone has something or somethings that they don't like about their church. This can keep us from inviting others. Instead of focusing on those things, what ought we focus on that will encourage us to invite others?

EXAMPLE #2 – VIDEO 4B (5 MINUTES)

Assigned to his first church, Pastor Rosenau enacted the same simple approach he had used when he served as a vicar.

1. Rather than a program, what tool did Pastor Rosenau say God would use to grow the church?
2. What tactic would God use? How would God spread that Word?
3. How many Bibles had the congregation given away as a result of their Christmas booth?
4. How many people had become active in the church as a result of the Christmas booth?
5. What was Pastor Rosenau's alternate idea?
6. Identify the basic evangelism plan at Pastor Rosenau's church.

7. What do people who knew nothing about WELS say about it after becoming active in Pastor Rosenau's church? Why?

**PART FIVE:
THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE PASTOR**



VIDEO 5 (13 MINUTES)

1. What two simple things does Pastor Rosenau tell people he meets and invites to church?
2. Doing those two things not only makes the people he invites more comfortable when they visit, what added benefit for outreach is there for his church members?
3. What impact do you think it has on someone who has visited when they receive a handwritten card and/or a phone call from Pastor Rosenau the following week?
4. Pastor Rosenau encourages his members to invite friends not only to worship but also to Bible classes. What assurances does he give so that people can know they don't need to be afraid of being embarrassed if they come to Bible class?
5. How does Pastor Rosenau remind himself to make visits and hold himself accountable for making visits?

Apply: Do you think non-WELS people who visited your church would say that WELS is the best church body they have ever been a part of? If so, why? If not, why not? If not, what could you do to help create a congregation where people would say this?

**PART SIX:
THE STARFISH STORY,
HARD WORK, & A SIMPLE PLAN**



VIDEO 6A (5 MINUTES)

1. Jot down the point of the starfish story in your own words. Share when you are done.
2. You cannot save every soul. But think of one soul who is unchurched with whom you could share your faith.

VIDEO 6B (8 MINUTES)

3. What are some benefits of a pastor sharing outreach stories with his members?
4. What question does Pastor Rosenau encourage his members to ask people they meet?
5. What makes this question so effective?
6. Envision what it would look like if everyone in your congregation worked as hard to spread the gospel as Pastor Rosenau used to work as a homicide detective. Discuss what you envision. Be as specific as possible. What would you see? What would you hear? What would you feel?

7. In what specific way does Pastor Rosenau greet worshippers on Sunday mornings? Why does he do it this way? What pitfalls is he trying to avoid?

8. Pastor Rosenau says that having too many people greet visitors would be “weird.” What do you think he meant? Why is this important to avoid?

Apply: Evaluate your congregation’s Sunday morning experience, especially for guests. What could be improved? Make a list and discuss how each item might be addressed.

