



*Just Getting Started* | Eric Parks | 4.29.18

LG Weekly

## START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be...**

## SHARE

Welcome to our teaching series, Just Getting Started.

On the cross Jesus boldly proclaimed, "It is finished." As followers of Jesus, the work of the cross is complete, our sins forgiven and we have become new creations. As a result of the perfect work of Jesus, now we can boldly believe what the apostle Paul says when he writes, "the old is gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The work on the cross is finished but God is just getting started with us.

Hebrews 10:14 tells us, "For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Even though we have been made perfect, day by day the gospel continues to make us more holy. God is working in and through us, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Theologically this is

called progressive sanctification, where we are becoming more like Jesus throughout our lives as disciples of Christ. So, don't be discouraged with the ups and downs of life--God is not giving up on us. He is a faithful Father who promises that He will finish what He has started (Philippians 1:6).

God develops our faith, purifies our motives and shapes our gifts for His glory. He is just getting started with that anger issue, addiction problem, impatience, envy, pride, or lust. You can name a struggle but God has given you a different name...son and daughter. The story is far from over and God desires more than anything for you to experience freedom in the finished work of the cross. He is just getting started.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20

### **Read Ephesians 6:19-20**

In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Ephesus from Rome. As Paul is preparing to close out his letter, he takes time to ask for prayer. He was asking specifically for boldness as he continued the work of the gospel in Rome. Paul's goal was not personal comfort, but effective work through him by the Holy spirit, to proclaim the gospel with courageous boldness.

This weekend, Eric shared the beautiful stories of what is happening in and through the country of India as the gospel is being proclaimed with courageous boldness. Jesus said it was going to cost us everything to be His disciple (Luke 14:33). As Eric shared, because of the gospel transformation in these people's lives in India, they are confident and are all in. They are willing to give up EVERYTHING for the sake of the gospel. This is the courageous boldness that the Apostle Paul was praying for and asking his people to intercede for. The boldness to proclaim the finished work of Jesus and courageously go and love people in the margins and beyond.

In Matthew, Jesus was sending His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called out to do the same. To go to those who are in the margins and love them because of the good news of the gospel and the hope that only He brings.

Truth is, we all know someone in the margins. Whether it be in the margins of society, in the margins of our workplace, our schools, or neighborhood. We all know someone. The question now is, who is that someone in your everyday life? Start praying for them. And as you pray, ask too, for this courageous boldness to share this life changing, amazing grace that has transformed your own life. He is with us. He goes before us, and we can trust in this with great confidence.

He is just getting started.

GROW

### **Read Acts 4:13**

Have you ever shied away from talking to someone about Jesus because you were afraid you wouldn't have all the answers? Particularly with someone you knew to be quite educated and opinionated. I think many of us have been there--I certainly have.

One of the wonderful things about being a disciple of Christ is that you don't have to have all the answers. You merely have to be willing. To be bold. To be a person who pursues Christ. It was these traits Peter and John portrayed that people took notice of, not their education.

Matthew Henry makes this observation about Acts 4:13,

“They were idiots (so the word signifies): they looked upon them with as much contempt as if they had been mere naturals, and expected no more from them, which made them wonder to see what freedom they took. We are told what made their wonder in a great measure to cease: they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.”

Knowing that power and insight comes from Christ relieves the pressure you put on yourself to have all the answers. It's the Holy Spirit who will guide you in how to respond in those moments. Peter and John stood out because God was with them--not because of their years of education. God calls you to sit at His feet, learn, and be willing to share what you're

learning with others. If you do happen to find yourself in a situation where you don't know the answer, you can always let the person know you'll go find out and get back to them!

**Have you been nervous to talk about the Word of God with a co-worker or old high school friend or a family member? What has been holding you back or created a nervousness about sharing?**

**Who is one person you can share your faith with this week?**

M O V E

**Read Luke 10:25-37**

One of the best examples we have for being a witness and caring for others is found in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Christ shares that multiple people who were perceived to be righteous and religious passed by a man in need. It wasn't until a Samaritan walked by-- someone who was viewed as a heretic and outsider by the Jews--did someone stop and help the man in need.

Jesus is calling every single one of us to be this kind of person. To be someone who will stop and serve those in need even when it isn't convenient. It's being Pastor Ron in India, who brings the homeless into his house and cares for them.

It's time to step outside of your comfort zone and start taking bold risks for other people. It won't always be convenient or easy but compassion isn't supposed to be. In fact, the word compassion means "to suffer with." It's time to move beyond what's safe and start getting into the trenches so that others will come to know and experience the overwhelming grace and love of Christ.

**Boldly take a risk on someone today and help make heaven more crowded!**

**Who is someone you can serve this weekend and how can you take a risk to be there for them in a real and tangible way?**

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. Ask God to reveal that “someone” in your life and that He will place within you the courageous boldness to proclaim the gospel as you go. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women’s groups to share more freely.

TO GO

“We need to pledge ourselves anew to the cause of Christ. We must capture the spirit of the early church. Wherever the early Christians went, they made a triumphant witness for Christ. Whether on the village streets or in the city jails, they daringly proclaimed the good news of the gospel.”

Martin Luther King,  
Jr.

