**September 14 Sermon - Pastor John Warnock
Say It and Display It**

**Focus Passage: Luke 9:2; Matthew 5:16; John 13:35; Romans 10:9–10**

### **Icebreaker Question:** If evangelism is like an airplane with two wings (words and deeds), which “wing” do you naturally lean toward and why?

### **Transition Statement:** In our icebreakers, we saw how both words and actions can make an impression. Pastor John reminded us that evangelism was never meant to be one without the other. Just like a plane needs both wings to fly, followers of Jesus must share the Gospel with words and with deeds. Jesus Himself modeled this. He proclaimed the Kingdom of God and healed the sick (Luke 9:2). Let’s dive deeper into how we can “say it and display it” in our daily lives so that the people around us both hear and see the Good News.

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. Read Luke 9:2. Why do you think Jesus paired proclaiming the Kingdom with healing the sick?**

**Leader Guide:**  Jesus sent His disciples to do both: to speak and to serve. Pastor John explained that the gospel is not philosophy alone: it’s good news lived out. Healing showed the compassion of God while proclaiming the truth of God. Encourage your group to see that our message is most credible when mercy and truth walk hand in hand.

### **2. Matthew 5:16 says our good deeds should shine so that people “praise your Father in heaven.” How have you seen good works open the door to gospel conversations?**

**Leader Guide:**  Good works by themselves aren’t the gospel, but they validate it. Pastor John reminded us of the early church during plagues, when Christians cared for the sick and the church grew. Acts of compassion today, helping a neighbor, serving the poor, or forgiving an enemy point people upward. Discuss practical examples in your group.

### **3. Pastor John mentioned that many people say, “I like Jesus, but I don’t like Christians.” Why do you think that perception exists, and how can we live differently? (John 13:35)**

**Leader Guide:** Jesus said love for one another would prove discipleship. Unfortunately, hypocrisy or harshness can obscure that witness. Pastor John challenged us to admit where we’ve failed and let God’s Spirit change us.

### **4. James 2:17 says, “faith without works is dead.” How do our works demonstrate whether our faith is alive or stagnant?**

**Leader Guide:** Good deeds don’t save us, but they show our salvation. A living faith bears fruit in patience, kindness, mercy, and justice (1 Corinthians 13). Encourage your group to think about how obedience and compassion reveal the authenticity of their walk with Christ.

### **5. Romans 10:9–10 makes clear that salvation comes through confession and belief. Why is it important that we *say* the Gospel and not just display it?**

**Leader Guide:** Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). Pastor John stressed that deeds alone can’t communicate the full story of salvation. People must hear the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection. This question helps the group wrestle with boldness in speaking the truth in love.

### **6. Pastor John described Dogwood’s “Invest and Invite” strategy: building genuine friendships and inviting people to Jesus. How could you begin doing this with someone in your life right now?**

**Leader Guide:** Investing means caring with no strings attached; inviting means eventually sharing Jesus and welcoming others into the community of faith. Pastor John encouraged starting with 2–3 people you already know. Lead the group to brainstorm names, pray for opportunities, and share stories of progress.

### **7. Acts 1:8 promises the Holy Spirit will give us power to be witnesses. What gives you confidence that God equips you for both words and deeds?**

**Leader Guide:** The Spirit provides courage, the right words, and the ability to meet real needs. Pastor John reminded us that we’re not alone. God works through us. Close by encouraging the group to depend on prayer, Scripture, and the Spirit’s leading in both their words and actions.