

# Going Deeper (Participant Resources)

**Focus:** Sharing Our Faith **Key Takeaway:** I will speak. I share my faith with confidence.

## Week 1: The Heart (Overcoming Fear)

### For Further Reflection

- **Luther's Small Catechism Connection:** In the **Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer** ("Thy Kingdom Come"), we pray that "our Father in heaven would give us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives."
  - *Reflection:* We aren't just praying for ourselves. We are praying that the Kingdom would come *to others* so they might believe. Sharing our faith starts with wanting what God wants.
- **Other Scripture to Read:** 1 Peter 3:15 (Always being prepared to make a defense... with gentleness and respect).
- **Thought for the Week:** We share our faith because the Shepherd misses His lost sheep. It starts with God's love for them, not our sales pitch.

## Week 2: The Ear (Listening Skills)

### For Further Reflection

- **Luther's Small Catechism Connection:** The **Eighth Commandment** ("You shall not give false testimony") is explained as: "We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and **explain everything in the kindest way.**"
  - *Reflection:* You cannot "explain everything in the kindest way" if you don't listen to understand the person's story first. Listening is an act of love.
- **Other Scripture to Read:** Proverbs 18:13 (If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame).
- **Thought for the Week:** The best witnesses are the best listeners. Before you try to share your faith, try to share your attention.

## Week 3: The Mouth (Sharing Your Story)

### For Further Reflection

- **Luther's Small Catechism Connection:** The **Apostles' Creed** is the summary of the faith we share. When we tell our story, we are ultimately pointing to the God who created, redeemed, and sanctified us.

- *Reflection:* Your story is just the "local evidence" of the Creed. You are saying, "This is how the God of the Bible showed up in my specific life."
- **Other Scripture to Read:** Psalm 66:16 (Come and hear... and I will tell what he has done for my soul).
- **Thought for the Week:** You don't need a theology degree. You just need to say, "I was struggling with X, and Jesus gave me hope through Y." That is sharing your faith.

## **Week 4: The Hand (Invitation & Trust)**

### **For Further Reflection**

- **Luther's Small Catechism Connection:** In the **Meaning of the Third Article**, Luther famously writes: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel..."
  - *Reflection:* This is the ultimate stress-reliever! You cannot convert anyone by your reason or strength. Only the Holy Spirit creates faith. Your job is just to extend the invitation; God does the heavy lifting.
- **Other Scripture to Read:** 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth).
- **Thought for the Week:** We plant the seed and extend the simple invitation ("Come and see"). We can relax and trust God with the results.