2018 GFM National Staff Conference: pre-conference learning

1. Read all of Ephesians slowly, preferably in one sitting.
   1. Where do you notice a lack of peace or *shalom[[1]](#footnote-1)* in the university?
   2. In view of the whole letter, what do you think Paul means by “the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15)?
   3. In light of this gospel of peace, pray for the *shalom* of the people, ideas, and/or structures you named above.
2. Read [Chapter 1 (pp. 11-33) of Gordon Smith’s *The Voice of Jesus*](https://gfm.intervarsity.org/sites/gfm/files/resource/file/Chap.1%20%20Voice%20of%20Jesus.pdf)*.*
   1. Smith emphasizes the practice of discerning the voice of Jesus through the “inner witness” of the Holy Spirit. How does discernment relate to our GFM commitment to evangelism[[2]](#footnote-2)?
   2. What question(s) or insights arose from the reading related to your current life or ministry context?
3. Watch “[The Adjacent Possible](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORKXR3R59ac&index=5&list=PLeP3EwLytbF1IRqpaytEiPJE5gQ1JIqml),” a talk presented by Linson Daniel (Regional Director, Red River) at InterVarsity’s Ambition 18 conference (Session 5; you can skip ahead to start the YouTube video at the 4:40 mark and end early at 42:20). As you listen, is there a new campus, or a new “corner” of campus, where you long to see the Holy Spirit move? What might be the “adjacent possible” for you, your team, or your student/faculty leaders?
4. Assess your learning needs and resources that you bring into this conference.
   1. What do you, your team, and/or your students/faculty need to be more ready with the gospel of peace?
   2. What skills/practices related to prayer and evangelism do you want to develop?
   3. What best practices related to prayer and evangelism could you share with others?

Optional (but recommended!):

1. **Listen to the conference worship Spotify playlist**. Our worship leader, Emily Crider, has prepared a Spotify playlist so that we can familiarize ourselves with the songs we’ll be singing. [Access it through this link](https://open.spotify.com/user/1259888915/playlist/4pLUh86G89a4in0liu3uz9?si=u9RVDm5zQbecV0IX2CQWOA) or simply search on Spotify for “GFM Mundelein Worship by Emily Ballbach Crider.”
2. **[Consider signing up to host a meal or meetup](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48a4ab29aafe3-hosting)**

1. Our 2015 GFM National Staff Conference theme was “Living Toward *Shalom*.” Often translated as peace, *shalom* has a much deeper meaning than simply a lack of conflict. It points to the wholeness, harmony, and flourishing God originally intended for all of creation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Evangelism is communicating the good news of Jesus Christ and inviting response” (evangelism.intervarsity.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)