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### GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made! We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome, family. We are so happy to have you here today. So, today may you know that you are more than enough. That God has given you everything you need to live the life He has called you to. And God does not even ask us to try harder. He just asks us to abide in Him and to allow His words to abide in us. And that's what you're doing this morning, you're here. So would you turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you, and say God loves you and so do I.

BS: So we are so, so glad you're here, no matter what your background is or even what your faith is. If you're not a Christian, we're still so glad that you're here today and we want you to know that God is smiling on you and He's on your side. So let's pray: Father, we thank you that you've called us into your house because you love us and you haven't given up on us. And Lord, we thank you that there is no mountain that we cannot move if we just have a little bit of faith. So we release that faith into our world today, and we come into this house with expectation and joy and excitement about what you're going to do in our hearts. All we need is one word from you, God, so we're listening. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

### SCRIPTURE – Matthew 28:16-20 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for Bobby's message, the words of our Lord found in Matthew 28:16: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Church, we get to bring divine hope to the world. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – with Phil Cooke and Jonathan Bock – Bobby Schuller (BS)

BS: What a joy to have Phil Cooke and Jonathan Bock in the house. I've known Phil for years. He's helped a number of media companies, and John Bock, as well, both of them have done great things. But I know Phil because he helped us get our TV back on track when we were going through some challenges. Guys, it's great to have you both here today.

PC: Thrilled, thrilled.

JB: Thank you. Thank you.

BS: You have your new book called *The Way Back: How Christians blew our credibility and how we can get it back*.

JB: It should be a thicker book.

BS: I know, yes. Volume one.

PC: Yes, volume one.

BS: Let's talk a little bit about this, because I agree with the premise of this book. Christians really have kind of blown it. Let's start there, I mean that's obviously why you wrote this book. Tell us a little bit about that.

JB: Well this book is perfect for anybody who's concerned about where culture is headed, and really the disconnect that we're starting to see between how Christians perceive ourselves, and how the world perceives us. So for example, the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, the list, you know the list. These are the things we're supposed to be known by.

BS: Exactly.

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- JB: Now let me ask you a question: which of those words would non Christians use to describe the Christian community?
- BS: It's a great question, exactly.
- JB: Yes. Yes. Well sadly the answer is none.
- BS: Well yes, I didn't need to answer it because it's rhetorical, it's so obvious.
- PC: True, true.
- BS: So there's this gap; it's not what we Christians say about ourselves that you're addressing, as much as this can I call it a PR problem? That the broader scope of believers, I think sometimes Christians, first of all, get all lumped into one pile, because we know that we're different depending on our traditions, but others don't know that.
- PC: True.
- BS: Whose fault is it that?
- PC: Well that's a great question. Well we're media producers and marketing people, so we thought it's a marketing problem. We're not branded well; we're not telling our story well. And that's part of it, but the more we got into it, the more we studied, the more we realized that the sales force - that's the problem. It's not a marketing problem, it's a sales force problem, meaning it's just us. We're not committed to the life we're called to live.
- BS: Why do you say sales force? What does that mean?
- PC: Well that's a great question. We're selling the greatest project ever. We're selling Christianity. We're selling the gospel. And we should be out there sharing that with people, talking about it, serving people, and yet we're not doing it. The statistics indicate we're just not doing a very good job.
- BS: So when the world talks about Christians, especially when it talks about evangelicals, you don't hear the words you mentioned. You hear words like bigoted, judgmental..
- PC: Hypocrite.
- BS: Close minded, narrow minded, racist, yes, hypocrite. So do you think those terms are deserved? I'm just trying to get you in trouble, I don't now.
- JB: Well we started out from a place of this is a PR problem, right? And the more we looked into the statistics of it, we realized that it's really on us. And so for example, 80% of the country claims to be a Christian. Only 20% are showing up on a weekly basis, right? Of people who go to church, 40% of them never even open a bible. That's a Lifeway Research statistic. That's atrocious. Right? And so you start to look at those things like hypocritical, those kind of things, and you realize that's true. This is us. We have become the fat guy in the gym who's lecturing other people about good health.
- PC: Yes, that's true. Yes.
- BS: That's a good line.
- PC: Well you know working out is hard, wearing yoga pants is easy. Too many Christians are wearing yoga pants and it's not pretty. That's where we found ourselves, so.. just saying, just saying.
- BS: Cool. Okay, aside from the fact of like the character has to be important, right?
- JB: Right.
- BS: We need to be loving people, peaceful people, joyful people, like the fruit of the spirit, as you mentioned, but from a messaging or a PR standpoint, what can I do as.. I mean, if I'm a normal guy at a job, what can the average person do to help?
- PC: Everybody listening to this, or watching this program or this service understands that Christianity is disappearing in the culture, and we're concerned about it. What we haven't realized is that anger strategies don't help. Getting mad doesn't help. Criticism doesn't help. Getting involved in boycotts, and you don't say Merry Christmas, fine, we won't buy your coffee. That's not helping.
- BS: Yes.
- PC: That's not helping. Being a servant, living the life God's called us to is the way to shift that. Jesus spoke in the New Testament and astonished people. We need to get back to that again.
- BS: That's good. That's a good word. So you think that the way back is doable, then. You think we can get there.
- JB: A hundred percent. I mean we have a great model in the early church. When the early church started when Jesus left the Mount of Olives and left the disciples standing there, they had no money, no education, no plan, no bible, no nothing. They had nothing. And yet in 200 years, they totally transformed culture. Totally transformed culture.

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And so the model is there for us. We need to be radically committed, we need to be radically humble, and we need to astonish people. We need to do things and start to do things again that make people go who are these people? These are incredible people.

BS: That's great. Pastor Jim Kok actually gave me an essay back in the day that showed that the early church basically undid the Roman Empire through care and compassion.

PC: Exactly.

BS: That in the Roman.. yes go ahead..

PC: Exactly.. well they did so many things that astonished the Romans, that it forced them to re-think who these Christians are and who is this God we serve? So in the book, we asked what are the things today we could do that would so astonish this culture it would force them to re-think who we are and who is this God we serve.

JB: For example, the foster care issue in this country. There's 450,000 kids in foster care right now, and that's the size of Salt Lake City. That sounds awful. What can we possibly do about it? Sounds too much for us alone, except when you realize that there's 350,000 churches in this country, and if we each took, as a church, one family and the rest of us supported that, we could wipe out the foster care program in this entire country within a year.

BS: That's amazing, wow. What an amazing thought.

PC: That would be great.

BS: Yes, that's great. Well, Phil Cooke and Jonathan Bock are the guys that media ministries go to today to get advice on how to do media ministry better and it's so great to have you guys here.

PC: Thrilled to be here.

JB: Thank you.

BS: Thank you guys so much.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Friends, would you hold your hands like this, and we're going to proclaim this good news together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world. Thanks, you can have a seat.

### MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "How to Share Your Faith"

Well today we're talking about the importance of sharing your faith, and with the recent passing of Billy Graham it's just so interesting that this topic lands on the day that it does. The importance of sharing our faith, and what we believe, with our neighbor. And as we've been in this series, we've talked about the many things that Christians do, but I think very often I haven't done a good enough job of reminding this church that the best way we grow, the best way that we solve our PR problem that Phil and Jonathan we're talking about in their book, is by having everyday good people like you sharing your faith, and being public about the fact that you love the Lord.

We have too many mean people, judgmental people and angry people who are very public about the fact that they're Christians, and not enough very good hospitable, loving, kind hearted peaceful, joyful people that are public about the fact that they are also Christians. And that is probably at the heart of this great PR issue that they were talking about. And we can solve that problem as a church, amen? We can solve that in Orange County, and we can do it around the world.

And so the way that we do that is we stop being scared about the fact that people may judge us for being believers, or that people might reject us or think we're like all those other judgmental, bitter people who also claim to be Christians. We got to just let that go, right? So today we're going to talk about sharing our faith.

Now there is this joke and it goes something like this: how do you know someone is in Cross fit? They tell you. And that's actually an old joke. And it goes to other groups, too. How do you know somebody's vegan? They tell you. How do you know somebody went to Harvard? They tell you. We all know they tell you.

And the reason I begin here is that the joke is that there are certain pastimes, disciplines, studies, groups, that people are so proud of. They're so excited about, they're so in to. They've given up so much for that they can't help but talk about it all the time with their friends. Even when it gets annoying, they struggle to not talk about how great it is to eat vegan donuts. How awesome it is to do clean and jerks and burpies. Or how great it was to go to Harvard, or whatever.

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Listen, when something is making a difference in your life, you talk about it. Why don't we talk about our faith? If we really love what God has done in our lives. If you love this place, if you love being at church and I know you do, because you're here. You chose to be here. You gave up your day off to get up and come to church and to gather here. This obviously means something to you. If it means something to us, we ought to share our faith with our neighbor. And when we do, we make a big difference because we are offering words of life in a world that is offering words of death.

So when we talk about what it means to share our faith, to be everyday evangelists, what I'm not talking about is like ramming religion down people's throats. I'm not talking even about converting, although that happens. I'm talking about teaching, guiding, mentoring, having conversations with others, and at the very least, being public about the fact that you love the Lord. Jesus says anyone who acknowledges me before men, I'll acknowledge before my Father, but anybody who denies me before men I'll deny before my Father. I don't want to get up to heaven and find out that I lived a really good secret Christian life. That when people wondered if I was a Christian, I was bashful or shied away from it. I think if you're a hospitable, loving, joyful, peaceful person, you ought to be very open about your faith because we need more good people that are public about what God has done for them.

So we want to become the kinds of people who are not ramming religion down people's throats, we're not pushy, we're not annoying, but we want to be the kind of people who are public, and we know what to do if somebody says 'I want to know more about your faith.' So I'm going to talk about that today.

Originally we were not called Christians, did you know that? I actually really like the name Christian. The term started in Antioch in the early church, and it's commonly believed that the word Christian was invented by Armenians. If you're Armenian, you know this, but if you're not, you don't. Most Armenian names end with the inian last bit, right? It ends with I-A-N. And that means you are the son of. So the popular Armenian name Petrosian means the son of Petros. It was this term that was invented by the Armenians, Christian which means what? The son of Christ.

And it was in particular a sir name, so it wasn't just saying that Christians were children of Christ, or sons and daughters of Christ, but even it was meant to denote that we're what? A family. That we share a Christian name. We share a last name. It was a wonderful gift the Armenians gave us.

This idea that being Christian means you're a son of Christ, and you're a part of a spiritual family no matter if you're Greek or Jew or Gentile or whatever. And it was this invitation that was happening in Antioch.

But the original name for Christians was not Christian, it was originally called "the way." The way. Very often I don't know if we as Christians think about Christianity as a way – a way of living. Back then they had this document before the Bible was written called the Didache that looked very much like the Sermon on the Mount. The Didache means the teaching or the training. And it was how you would train a new believer. You love your enemies, you pray for those who persecute you, you live generously, leadership is coming from a place of serving others. You care for children, you care for old people, you care for orphans and widows. And although that sounds common to us who have grown up in a sort of post Christian culture, that was radical back then.

In a Roman world where might was right, and it was all about only the biggest, the strongest, the toughest, the richest survived, and children with illnesses were killed, and old people were cast out, and sick people were killed and cast out. I mean Christianity did an amazing thing by being the way and teaching the way, so that when someone was baptized and converted, they weren't just saved, they actually were invited into a new kind of character, to be fruitful, godly people.

And so when we talk about what it means to share our faith, I don't mean standing on a corner holding a sign saying "you're going to hell" with your bullhorn at the Orange County fairgrounds. I'm talking about having real friendships with people who aren't Christians for no other reason than to be hospitable, to be kind, and to grow in friendship with them even though they don't share your faith. And in doing that, showing people that there really are believers that aren't perfect, but are maybe doing something right.

I think very often that guy with the bullhorn, by the way, the reason he's doing that is because he sees Paul doing that in the Bible. If you read Acts and you read other stories about Paul and some of the disciples, you will see them standing on street corners, shouting the gospel at people. And you think okay, its super weird but I guess if I want to preach the gospel that's what I have to do.

But what we forget is back then people liked that. There was no television, there was no radio, and there was no newspaper, especially in the Greek cities, people would do that all the time.

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There was a group called the sophists, who were people that would be paid to just teach publicly. They would get up and they would just start preaching and talking about stoicism or something. There were public dramas that would happen all the time, where people would put on dramas in the streets. Usually they'd do them in theaters but they would happen in public places. And the town crier would do this at least three times a day where he'd get up – 'hear ye, hear ye – Cesar has been killed by Brutus!' Or whatever. And it was normal. That's how people received news, and that's how people received entertainment. It was the television of their day.

So when Paul got into that public space where ideas were communicated, he was doing something that people liked. It was interesting to them, and it was culturally normal to communicate ideas from the street. It was their television. Paul was the world's first televangelist. Think about it.

The important thing that we denote from Paul and how to communicate the gospel is to find.. it's an irony because by doing that today, you're weird and you're super weird if you do that, and stop doing that if you do that. The best way to communicate the gospel is to go to where ideas are exchanged. Where is that today? It's television, it's the Internet, its podcasts, its Instagram, Twitter.

My point is this – you go to where people are exchanging ideas: schools, universities, and places where people gather and that's where you share your ideas where people want to hear what you have to say. Can I get an amen?

So sharing our faith is something that's important for us to do, and it's something that we ought to be good at. And it's something that we have to be careful about the way in which we do it. Of course Jesus tells us lots of times, and so does Paul and he models it, the importance of sharing our faith, but it's actually, you know in Matthew, the last thing, the last command that Jesus gives to His disciples. We're going to read this together.

This is the great commission. Matthew chapter 28:18. He says "Then Jesus came to them and said 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore'" – everyone say therefore so this is important because all of that authority in heaven on earth that was given to Jesus in your baptism was given to you. Believe it.

"Therefore go and make disciples." That word "make" is not in the text, it just says disciple. "Of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you, and surely I am with you always to the end of the age."

So I feel bad for anyone who is translating this part of the Bible because it sounds awkward, if you were to translate it literally from the Greek, but it looks good in Greek. But that first word "go" is actually not a command, it's actually a participle. You guys remember what participles are from elementary school? Anything that ends in an i-n-g. So it should say going, but that would read weird. So a better way to translate it is not go, like the command is not to go, but rather its saying as you go. As you're on your way. The command is then as you go, disciple. So that word "to make" it's not in there, so you don't make disciples, it just says disciple. So as you go, disciple.

And then its more participles – baptizing, teaching. So the idea is, when we read this text, we read it like mobilize a bunch of missionaries and send them all over the world preaching, and I certainly believe that's a good thing. I think that's something churches should do, and I think it's useful, but that's not exactly what Jesus is saying here. Rather, He's saying to all of us, as you go. As you leave this church. As you get in your car. As you go to work tomorrow. As you go home to your children and to your family. As you go to Starbucks. Wherever it is that you go, disciple. Be a disciple and make disciples. And make it an important part of what you do. That teaching, discipling, caring, mentoring, it's an important part of what you do.

See to me, as I read "as you go" instead of "go", I see a much more relational message from Jesus. That this is an ongoing thing that you do day to day with the people that you do life with, and that's the best way to make new believers. The adults that I have met that have become Christians didn't respond to bullhorn guy at Orange County fairgrounds, right? They responded to.. they're like a friend of mine, a colleague of mine, somebody I work with, right? My neighbor. I've been friends with him for years and we've been talking, and finally I went to church with them, and then I got baptized, and you hear it's a journey, right? It's a relationship that becomes a journey.

And so we ought to be the kinds of people that don't preach necessarily, and shove things down people's throat, but rather invite people into that relational journey and discussion with us. Giving them an opportunity, amen?

Sharing your faith is good for you. It's good for you. God blesses it. There are so many bizarre weird ministries that I hate, to be honest with you. I never talk about it. And I look and I go how is that ministry doing so well?

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And very often, I wonder if it's because some of those same ministries, although they're weird in their messages that they preach, they're very good about sharing the gospel. I just think that there's grace for churches that do that.

God blesses people who share their faith. I remember when I was a teenager, I had this sort of radical encounter with Christ, and I was like 15. And I was really trying to live a life for God. I had just started at this new school in Broken Arrow, and I met these two girls and we'd become friends, and she invited me to her birthday party that night. So I thought oh, that'll be cool. I'll get to know some people in my new town in Oklahoma.

So my step dad Ron, drove me over to this house, and he drove away and I'm walking up to the house, and the first guy I meet offers me drugs. And I'm like oh.. I'm like I'm supposed to be a Christian. And in youth group for those days, and even today hopefully, it's like you don't do drugs. Don't be around people who do drugs; you live a good Christian life, be straight laced. And so I was like I can't go in there, and it was like the Holy Spirit came upon, it was like 'I want you here.'

So I walked into this party, and it wasn't like cool, high school party. It was like kinda gross, there was a lot of drugs, it was dark, it was weird, and there were a bunch of people there, and I was feeling uncomfortable, but I was also believing that according to His providence, God had me there for a reason.

And somehow being there, I began a conversation with a young girl.. there was this thing in the 90's called Goth. I don't know if you know what it is.

So I'm talking to this girl, and she has this like super abusive boyfriend, and she's using drugs, and she's cutting herself, and not actually at the party, but I can tell that she's in a place where she wants something new in her life. And I just started talking with her for about an hour, and ended up sharing my faith with her and prayed with her right there to become a believer. And she started coming to my youth group. The short version of the story is later she ended up becoming a Baptist youth pastor, which is really cool, and really like cool things happened in her life. But that lit a fire under me. I was like I need to share my faith with people who are hurting, and so I just started doing this. And my first thought at school was I'm going to share my faith with some of the cool kids, like the influential kids. And gosh, were they mean. They did not want to hear the gospel. So I was like all right.

So I had this kid who was a drug dealer in our school, he started following me around, and he became a believer, just through our friendship. I actually wanted him to go away, he was kind of bugging me. And ended up becoming a good friend. And what I realized is like no, I'm going to go after these kinds of kids. I'm going to go after the bad kids. And you know what I found out very quickly – that all the bad kids were the nicest kids in our school. That all the kids who looked like they were the bad kids – yes they did drugs, and yes they drank, but they were super nice. And I actually found that many of them were where they were because they had a tough exterior, but they were tender hearted. They were sensitive to the hurting of other people, and although they would be snarky with me sometimes, they were never mean. And I found out very quickly many of these people, as I became friends with them, that many of them came to faith and became some of my closest friends. And I started to realize why Jesus is a friend of sinners. We're all sinners, but the ones that know it somehow have a tenderness about them. And that's been, I mean I'm going off track here, but that's always been my heart ever since high school is to just go after the bad kids because they're not bad, and the good kids actually are bad.

So I recognized that God's heart burns for everyone, but in particular, I have seen that Jesus is and was a friend of sinners, and that we too, as believers, should be friends of sinners. If you've had drug issues or alcohol issues in the past, you probably shouldn't be rubbing elbows, but for everyone else, we should have friends in our lives that are not Christians, that are not believers, that we become friends with and care for, and even are public about our faith, and live in that sort of happy medium of agreeing to disagree.

I think it is so important that we become the kinds of people that share our faith. If you've never shared your faith with anybody, you're missing out on one of the most joyful life giving things about being Christian. Friends, we have the words of life. We have the words of life. In a world that is dying and hurting, there are so many people that can only be touched by only you. And if you share your faith in a way that is kind and loving and empathetic and relational, I promise you you're going to change the world for eternity.

So, this is the most important point I'm making today, and if you hear nothing else, hear this: if you think sharing my faith would be awkward, you're perfect. See that's the problem. We have a bunch of people sharing their faith that don't think it's awkward and they're making it super awkward.

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And if you say I'm not going to do that, that would be weird or that would be awkward, you're the perfect person to share your faith because you're not going to be shoving pearl.. what is this expression.. pearls down.. pearls before swine - thank you. Not shoving pearls down swine's throats, is what I was originally going to say, but that's not what I would have said.

If you think well that would be awkward, you're the perfect person to share your faith because you're sensitive to social norms, you're sensitive to people's needs, you're sensitive to boundaries, you're probably emotionally stable, and it's good that people like that are sharing their faith. In fact if you're the other way where it's like not weird for you at all, and you're totally into it, it's time to dial it back. You dial it back. Everybody else, like if it's like oh that would be kind of weird, then you're the perfect person to do it because you're not going to push too hard. You're going to be a relational person who communicates your faith. Anybody who's been pushed too hard, can I get an amen? Amen. So if it feels awkward and you don't think that's for you, you're the perfect person to do it.

So here's how we do it, all right? It's super easy. How do I share my faith the right way?

Number one, and I've already said this, it's all about relationships. It's all about being in journey over months and even years with people as they wrestle with their own doubts, questions, demons, whatever. That you are alongside them through the highs and lows. That you're a true friend to people who don't know faith.

Don't become friends with people with an agenda, just be friends with people who are not believers as a means of loving others. Just by having a friend, very often they may have some of these questions. I remember back in the day when we were doing our smaller church here, we used to cook pancakes for homeless children in Santa Ana at Isaiah House on Saturday's. We had the Saturday morning shift. We had to be there at five in the morning, and I had a friend who was a diehard atheist, would not come to church, but I could convince him to go flip pancakes for homeless kids. In fact even handed it off to him as the atheist, so here's this atheist guy leading all the people from the church, flipping pancakes for homeless children. And just by doing that, by being around other believers who love our homeless neighbors and just love others in general, he was able to see the true fruit of the spirit of the Holy Spirit, right? And after about a year, he said I believe and I want to be baptized. See that's the right way that it happens – through friendship, through relationships, not through debate as much as empathy, listening and friendship.

Okay number two, and this is so good. Share your story. Your testimony. And maybe even practice sharing it. There may come a day where some of your friends who aren't believers are like you know, I might be interested in this. And share your story about what happened to you when you became a believer. Or if you grew up a Christian, talk about how good it was growing up a Christian. Or if you grew up a Christian in a bad way, but then found it in a good way, that's an amazing testimony. Like if you grew up in a super legalistic, horrible church, and thought God was this way, and then had a radical transformation, that's an amazing testimony because that's most people's experience.

And finally, this one's super easy, and it's also self serving, but I don't care: invite people to church. Look you obviously like being at church, maybe not all of you, but most of you like being at church. And if you like it here and it means something to you, invite your friends. There's a study that said 90% of people will go to church if a friend invited them. In fact most people who go to church only go because a friend invited them. Most people aren't just going to wake up one day and magically go to church. Have you ever been to a church by yourself for the first time? It's awkward. And some of you maybe are here today for the first time and we're glad you're here. We're trying to make it not awkward for you. But it's so much easier when you have a friend to sit by, who can introduce you to others. And if you're watching on television, invite your friends to church, if you go to a church, or invite your friends to watch Hour of Power. I think sharing these ideas and these materials is normal, it's invited and it's a good thing to do. Amen?