

GATHER TO SCATTER

EVANGELISM TRAINING

WEEK 3: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Matthew 4:19 ~ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Christians have a zeal for the lost and a desire that all would come to salvation (Psalm 40:3).
 - Yet many people find it difficult to start talking about the gospel (Acts 4:20).
 - Others don’t know how they will respond to objections or hard questions (Luke 6:3; 1 Pet 3:15).
 - Others just lack confidence (Acts 4:29).
- This monthly mini class will teach the foundation for evangelism and give you greater confidence to put it into practice (Philippians 4:9).
- The nature of the class will provide a Biblical foundation that shapes how and why we evangelize, provide opportunities to discuss real situations, and encourage us to share our faith with others.
- Fall Schedule:
 - September 8: The message of Evangelism and the reasons we don’t share our faith
 - October 6: The motivation of evangelism and various methods
 - November 3: The nuts and bolts of actually sharing our faith with others
 - December 1: The aim of our evangelism and our dependent prayer
 - January-May: Other themes related to evangelism coming out of our discussions

EVANGELISM ESSENTIALS

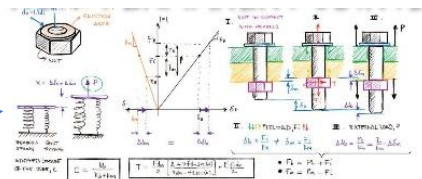
Definition: “Evangelism is **teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.**”¹

- God’s salvation comes through God’s Spirit when God’s people preach God’s Word.
- “The work of the Christian... is to confront every part of the thinking of the natural man with *biblical* authority, allowing the Holy Spirit to accomplish His results in the heart and mind.”²



When it comes to practically sharing the gospel,

you might hear one thing and think another



- **10 ways, 7 principles, 5 keys, 5-finger method, 4 P’s, 4 Questions, 3 circles, 2 ways to live...**
But it really is just you... teaching... the gospel... and persuading...

¹ J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism, 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 26.

² Rolland McCune, *Promise Unfulfilled: The Failed Strategy of Modern Evangelicalism* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador, 2004), 228.

INTRODUCTION: THE ONRAMP TO FAITHFUL WITNESSING

Matthew 5:13-16 ~ “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.

- Salt can only affect the meat if it is rubbed in, preserving/permeating (displayed message) POSITION.
- Light can only reach the darkness if it is projected forth (described message) PREACH.
- Put yourself in a **position** that you can **proclaim** the gospel

Pray for Opportunities, then Make Opportunities.

Consider people’s time, attention, interest, and needs. Look for opportunities where people have the time to talk, their attention is not elsewhere.

- A meal or breaktime at school or work, after the game.
- A family get-together while sitting around.
- A car ride or flight.
- Leisure time such as a baseball game, playground, park, hiking trip.
- Menial tasks side-by-side which invite conversations.
- Create an event like a block party or birthday party and invite people to hear your story!
- A phone call or a text to talk more later.
- An invitation to an event where the gospel will be preached... so that you can talk more after!

Direct introductions:

- “I’ve been meaning to ask you...” OR “Can I ask you a funny question?”
- “I was thinking about what you said the other day about ____ and I had a question about that...”
- “What do you think about ____ in the news yesterday?...”
- “Hey, I don’t know if you know this, but I have been a Christian since ____ and really care a lot about following God faithfully- I know you’ve talked about ____ as something that means a lot to you, and I can’t believe I’ve never told you why I’m a Christian.”
- “You know, yesterday I heard in the sermon an explanation about why forgiveness is so hard, and I was really blown away by the fact that I have been forgiven and so I should forgive others...”

Reactionary Introductions

Here are five categories people talk about that can bring about great talks about the Good News:³

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Security: God’s Aid for the Anxious | God’s sovereignty and providence |
| 2. Identify: God’s Solution for the Insecure | God’s stability in Christ’s righteousness |
| 3. Meaning: God’s Answer for the Academic | God’s explanation and solution for problems |
| 4. Suffering: God’s Help for the Hurting | God’s comfort, peace, and advocacy |
| 5. Satisfaction: God’s Food for the Famished | God’s provision to satisfy the soul |

³ Jimmy Needham, “Five Natural Ways to Get to the Gospel”, <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/five-natural-ways-to-get-to-the-gospel>

GOSPEL: THE MESSAGE THAT SAVES!

- In what area of the Gospel should you begin- Do I just start in Genesis 1??
- Well, that depends on the person in front of you a bit. If they are hung up on their understanding about who Jesus is, then you can start there, but go back to the fact that God became a man for a reason. And that reason is described in the Bible by the sin of each and every one of us and the solution through Jesus.
- But make every effort to describe God, man, sin, Jesus, forgiveness, faith/repentance, and eternal life.

“The good news is that the one and only God, who is holy, made us in his image to know him. But we sinned and cut ourselves off from him. In his great love, God became a man in Jesus, lived a perfect life, and died on the cross, thus fulfilling the law himself and taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all those who would ever turn and trust in him. He rose again from the dead, showing that God accepted Christ’s sacrifice and that God’s wrath against us has been exhausted. He now calls us to repent of our sins and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. If we repent of our sins and trust in Christ, we are born again into a new life, an eternal life with God.”⁴

Scripture’s Script?

- Jesus started with sin, moved to worship of God, then to the Messiah.
- Immediately the woman at the well pointed to Christ who exposes sin.
- Philip was asked the question about the sacrificial servant from Isaiah 53 so he started there
- Peter walked through the history of Israel trusting in God, looking forward to the Messiah, pointed back to Jesus and his resurrection.
- The rich young ruler asked about works-righteousness, the started with Jesus.
- Jonah focused on sin and the consequences God promises for sin.

Navigating a Conversation

As you pray your way through the conversation, focus on what Scripture says. **HELP THEM SEE:**

- their weight of sin and the glory of God, who is worthy of our worship.
- their separation from God, not their moral upright standing.
- that the gospel is basic yet contains deep truths we normally rebel against.
- that the gospel is costly in that we lose what we were seeking in life, but it is valuable in that we gain such a better life, and one that has eternal implications.
- not just that other people are sinners, but the implications of God’s Word for themselves.
- key words and phrases that they may not understand.
- this is not your message but God’s messenger. You are just the messenger!

⁴ Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007), 43.

- Other believers' lives and explanation of the gospel. Bring them alongside others too!
- Lastly, help them to see Christ, not your winning arguments or bold personality. They need to see you truly care about them.

Three Conversations⁵

- **MISS and Run:** Don't touch on the common elements of life and move on past any values, attitudes, and personal beliefs.
- **HIT and Run:** Nail them with the wrath of God and their need to repent without ever having shown them their own admission of sin! Don't argue where they aren't even pushing back!
- **Talk and Walk:** Talk WITH the person about their common interests, values, attitudes, and beliefs, WALKING through what the Bible says about God's plan or redemption.
 - This involves raising questions, making points, quoting Scripture, asking if they understand, leading them gradually toward the purpose of seeing their sin in light of God's holiness, then showing them God's peace offering, redemption, and gift of righteousness.
 - Here are some helpful tips from J. Mack Stiles:⁶

- Give yourself grace when you share your faith. You may say the wrong words, feel awkward, or miss an opening, but even your mistakes can help you become a better ambassador.
- Meet people where they are.
- Look for open doors. In a culture of evangelism, church members might get ideas from one another about new ways to meet non-Christians and create opportunities to share.
- Be compassionate—remember you are a sinner no better than anyone else except for the grace of God.
- Remember that we have the answers to life's biggest questions.
- Focus on people's separation from God, not on being moral.
- Plan out what you will say.
- It's good (not required) to ask permission to pray or share the gospel with someone.
- **ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS! BE A GOOD LISTENER!**
- If you anticipate a certain issue, read about it beforehand so that you will be able to understand the person's perspective.

⁵ Summarized by Will Metzger, *Tell The Truth* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 188.

⁶ Stiles, 104-105.