

# GATHER TO SCATTER

# EVANGELISM TRAINING

## WEEK 4: THE AIM OF EVANGELISM AND DEPENDENT PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

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**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

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**Definition:** Essentially evangelism is explaining the gospel so that God would save sinners.

- God the Father has chosen the means: believers communicate His Word so that God the Spirit would convict the hearts of sinners to find their salvation in God the Son.
  - “Evangelism is **teaching** the **gospel** with the **aim to persuade**.”<sup>1</sup>
  - Evangelism includes the biblical explanation of God, sin, Jesus, salvation, and faith and repentance. 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.”<sup>2</sup>

So let’s break it down into basic parts. Prayer, Introduction, Gospel, Plea, and Response.

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

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

## THE AIM OF EVANGELISM

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- We have a specific aim. There is a destination. Every gospel conversation needs direction.
- The reason is this: “Our aim springs from understanding that everyone we talk to is headed to one of two ends: eternal life or eternal punishment.”<sup>3</sup>
- People need more than *just* the information. But they *do* need to be taught well what the gospel is.
  - The Gospel is God’s Word explained clearly to show God’s character, man’s sinful heart and the willful rebellion against God, Jesus’ perfect life and death and resurrection to satisfy God’s justice and ransom sinners, and the response required by sinners to repent and believe in Jesus alone for salvation.
  - The facts tell us what they need to understand; explaining, expanding, and answering questions.
  - The aim tells us where they will end up!
- The aim is often misdirected:
  - We are not looking to change a person’s political perspective.
  - We are not hoping that the person will stop smoking or stop using bad language.
  - We are not urging the person to live a better life.
  - We are not trying to get people to understand our viewpoint on supralapsarianism.
- The aim is this: **People need to be moved from darkness to light**; Spiritual death to life; Despair to hope; Hell to Heaven; Bondage to freedom; Sin to Righteousness in Christ.
- This aim helps us to keep from getting over-emotional on some issues and keeps us on track.

**Luke 19:10** ~ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

**1 Timothy 2:3-5** ~ ...God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,

## THE AIM TO PERSUADE

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- The aim is to persuade people to understand their standing before God that they would repent and believe.

**2 Corinthians 5:11, 14-15** ~ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, **we persuade men**... <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; <sup>15</sup>and He died for all, so that **they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.**

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<sup>3</sup> Stiles, 34-35.

## **Faith: Confidence in the Lord**

- Faith is “man’s response to God characterized by a totally dependent entrustment and demonstrated through persistent commitment to obedience.”<sup>4</sup>
- Faith “...is the human response to the work of God in the heart.” It is therefore “the channel through which God saves us (Eph 2:8-9) and is the instrumental means whereby Christ and his righteousness are appropriated.”<sup>5</sup>

**Romans 3:21-25** ~ But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

## **Repentance: Change of Mind**

- “Repentance is a **change of mind** away from sin toward God.”<sup>6</sup>
- “Repentance is a heartfelt **sorrow for sin**, a **renouncing** of it, and a sincere commitment to **forsake** it and **walk in obedience** to Christ.”<sup>7</sup>
- Both a responsibility of man (Lk 13:3; Acts 2:38)
- ...and an act of God (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25)

**1 Thessalonians 1:9** ~ ...how you **turned to God from idols** to serve a living and true God

## **Conversion: Change of Life**

- “Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.”<sup>8</sup>
- Repentance is a change in one’s mind. Conversion is a change in direction.

**1 Peter 2:25** ~ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

- “Repentance and faith are both equally part of conversion. Therefore, both are necessary components of initial salvation as well as progressive sanctification in a believer’s life. A life of repentance and faith is to be the new norm for the believer.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> George Zemek, TES, Th 2 Syllabus.

<sup>5</sup> Trevor Craigen, TMS, Th 3 Syllabus.

<sup>6</sup> Rolland McCune, *A Systematic Theology*, 3:62.

<sup>7</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 713.

<sup>8</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 709.

<sup>9</sup> Justin McKitterick, class notes for Theology 2, spring 2024.

## Responses<sup>10</sup>

- Hear Jesus's Word!

**John 5:24-25** ~ “Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

- Confess sin, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ!

**Romans 10:9-11** ~ that if you **confess** with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and **believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**John 1:12** ~ But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even to those who believe in His name*,

- Repent of sin, turning to God!

**Matthew 4:17** ~ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Acts 2:38** ~ Peter *said* to them, “**Repent**, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Follow Christ!

**John 8:12** ~ “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

- Deny Self!

**Luke 9:23-24** ~ And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

## DEPENDENT PRAYER

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January 5...

<sup>10</sup> Chart taken from Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*, 203.

Chart 3. The Goal in Witnessing Affects the Methods

Me-Centered Goals	God-Centered Goals
Decisions, mental assent, immediate responses by repeating a prayer	Disciples, conversion of the whole person, conscience moves them to call on God for mercy in their own words
Get them to agree mentally with certain facts or laws	Responsibly teach the gospel clearly, forcefully, patiently
Show as many advantages as possible	Balance the benefits of the gospel with the sacrificial demands of the gospel
Get them to pray a standardized prayer with you	Allow time for prayer in their own words—alone, or as you listen
Trigger their residual powers for freely choosing God	Face them with the impossibility of saving themselves or exercising faith on their own
Use an outward physical sign to confirm spiritual reality—signing a card, raising a hand, going forward, repeating a prayer	Emphasize baptism, partaking of the Lord's Supper to proclaim his death, changing sinful ways of life
Challenge their will with adventure, entice their emotions with excitement	Present truth to the mind, call on the will to obey, expect heartfelt emotions to follow
Give immediate assurance—don't allow them to doubt their own sincerity	Let the Holy Spirit give assurance via subjective inner witness and objective biblical evidence of changed life