

Evangelism Training – 1/27/19

If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies, and if they perish, let them perish with our arms around their knees imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let no one go there unwarned or un-prayed for.

—*Charles Spurgeon*

Prayer

Matthew 5:14-16 - Don't be a basket Christian!

We are meant to be lights, shining forth the love of God

Is your light shining, or are you hiding it? Many Christians, out of fear, hide their light.

Some say we can simply live a life that demonstrates God's love, and that is enough. But what is the greatest demonstration of His love? The Gospel!

The Gospel is a message that must be spoken. Certainly, we must show love to others by the good that we do but doing good while keeping God's greatest good secret does not show love.

This is meant to be a challenge to you, but it is also meant to be an encouragement.

I want to give you tools to help you share your faith effectively. But first, let me tell you a bit of my story.

My evangelism testimony

If I can do this, anybody can!

A bit about me and my ministry

I'm not trying to make street missionaries

I'm trying to give you tools to reach those around you

The basic message is the same. Only the approach is different

Why is this important?

A command from God

Mark 16:15-16 - And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

A gift of obedience to God

A joy and a privilege

Yes, it is difficult, and yes, it is absolutely worth the struggle!

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Basic Outline

Foundational Ideas

Discuss the Approach – Our Behavior in evangelism

Basic Gospel Presentation

Closing Thoughts

Foundational Ideas

What does it mean to be successful in evangelism?

The greatest conflict will NOT be with the enemy, though that battle is real. The greatest battle will be with your own flesh!

Salvation is a supernatural work of God, and so is evangelism

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation

Unbelief is not primarily an intellectual problem, it's a moral problem. Men are in rebellion against God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins, by nature children of wrath

Romans 1 - Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.

The GOSPEL is the power of God unto salvation. God's Spirit makes the change. Preach it as clearly and faithfully as possible. Leave the rest up to God.

The Approach

Sharing the gospel isn't a presentation, it's a conversation. Be friendly, be personable and be genuine. Just be yourself!

1 Peter 3:15 – Always be ready to give an answer, **yet with gentleness and respect** - People are much more likely to listen if you are polite and respectful.

You don't have to share everything you know. Don't try to say too much. Use wisdom and take your time

Don't use Church language - Use normal language. Don't try to be a preacher. Be you. Share what you know.

Focus on God – How what HE did has changed you

Be in prayer and be in the word. Evangelism is spiritual warfare, and these are the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. Don't go into battle unarmed!

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You Have to Know It to Share It

Many of you know what it means to be saved, to be born again. But many of you don't know how to communicate that truth. Many Christians don't

I'm going to walk through a basic Gospel presentation, explaining each step as I go

This does not need to be followed perfectly and in order

Like a puzzle, all the pieces are needed, but may not come together in the same order every time

It is a basic framework, a skeleton to hang the meat of the Gospel on. Listen and adjust as needed

I've used this many hundreds of times on the street. It is Biblical, and it is effective.

The basic order is as follows:

Transition from the Natural to the Spiritual - Where to start

Sin and the Law – How we explain the problem

Judgment and Hell – Talk about justice and our punishment

The Cross and the Resurrection – God's great gift

Repentance and Faith - What Biblical salvation looks like

Transition from the Natural to the Spiritual

How do you start the conversation? There are many ways.

This takes courage! It can be difficult. It may make you uncomfortable and may make them uncomfortable. That's OK. God's glory, and their souls, are worth it!

Hand someone a tract –

“A gift for you”

“Something to read when you get a chance”

“I found this interesting. Could I get your opinion on it?”

“It's about God, and the problem we have with Him.

“Do you believe in God? What do you think He's like?”

This direct approach can be difficult, but very effective.

Find an introduction that works for you.

Spiritual subjects also come up frequently. Learn to listen for them. They are a great way to start a conversation. Pray God gives you the courage when opportunity comes.

When the opening comes, ***ask questions and let the other person talk.***

“What do you mean by that?”

“How did you come to that conclusion?”

Ask questions that will keep them talking.

Remember, Jesus asked a LOT of questions.

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Bring Conviction - Sin and Law – Show them the problem

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

“Do you think there is such a thing as right and wrong?”

“Do you think you are a good person?”

“By what standard?”

“Where does the idea of good come from?”

Show sin as personal - They need to see it as THEIR problem!

Use the Law to bring the knowledge of sin.

THIS IS A KEY ISSUE!

Galatians 3:24 – the law was put in charge (or was a schoolmaster) to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

Romans 7:7 – If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

See also:

Romans 3:19-20

This is NOT about law-keeping or about earning salvation. It's about recognizing our problem.

The law is like a mirror.

Speak to the conscience

Romans 2:15 - They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.

Goal is to show them the reality of their own sin and guilt. Don't be afraid to talk about sin.

They will feel guilty because they ARE guilty! If they don't see the disease, they won't desire the cure.

Go through the law – the 10 Commandments

Be specific, personal and **self-reflective**. We are equally guilty of breaking His law, so this needs to be done with a healthy dose of humility!

Have you ever told a lie?

Have you ever stolen anything?

Have you ever lusted (committed adultery)?

Have you hated someone (committed murder?)

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Had you had a false idea of God/made a god to suit yourself (committed idolatry)?

Have you used God's name carelessly, or in place of a curse word (blasphemy)?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Revelation 21:8 are also good lists. See also:

Deuteronomy 5:11

1 John 3:15

Matthew 5:27-28

We want them to see the truth of sin and relate it to themselves!

Judgment and Hell

Show Hell as reasonable

"If God were to judge by that standard (His law), would you be innocent or guilty?"

'If God were to judge by that standard, would you go to heaven or hell?'

Hard drive illustration

God as not only a loving father, but a just judge. He must punish sin.

Exodus 34

Talk about God's Holiness, which makes Justice necessary

Courtroom illustration one – If a judge lets a rapist and murderer go, is he a good judge?

"Hell is right punishment for our open rebellion against the creator and king of the universe!"

"We are all guilty. We all deserve hell. Does that concern you?"

Matthew 16:26 - For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Eyeball illustration

There should be soberness, a sense of urgency

Talk about hell and judgment. Do not avoid making the person fearful.

Fear, like guilt and pain, is a God-supplied warning system to show us something wrong.

Fear is not the ultimate goal but can and should be an appropriate motivator.

Matthew 10:28 - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. See also:

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Proverbs 9:10

Revelation 14:10-11

Hebrews 10:26-31

This is hard truth. That's ok. Never hide or gloss over difficult truths

Cross and Resurrection

Present the solution in light of the goodness of God

The Good News - Salvation Explained

“God is not only a just judge, but a loving father. He demonstrated His love not by choosing to ignore our sins (which would make him unjust) but by Jesus Christ, God the Son, paying the penalty for those sins in His own blood.”

“The cross is the ultimate demonstration of God’s justice and hatred of sin, and at the same time the ultimate demonstration of his love and mercy.”

John 3:16-18 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8-9 - but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Ephesians 2 - Bad News to Good News

THE CROSS – a legal transaction. Represent fine for our sin paid in Christ’s blood.

Isaiah 53

Colossians 2:13-14 - canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands....nailing it to the cross.

John 19:30 - When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The word tetelestai (it is finished) can also mean the debt is paid.

See also:

Hebrews 1:3 vs. Philippians 2:6-8

John 8:24

John 14:6

“Jesus rose on the third day, proving His power over death, and proving who He was!”

Don’t forget the resurrection! It represents God’s seal of approval on the work of the Son!

“He now sits at the right hand of God as our advocate, our lawyer for the Day of Judgment.”

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Courtroom illustration two.

1 Timothy 2:5 - One God, one mediator.

Call Them to Repentance

The Biblical description of salvation.

Repentance – Turning from your sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 – For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret

Acts 3:19 – Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out

“This is NOT just trying to do better. It is a change of direction, and a change of allegiance, from following sin and self to trusting in God’s work through Jesus Christ.”

Faith – Trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.
Put the full weight of your trust on Him.

Acts 20:20-21 –repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation is a supernatural act of God. God gives us a new heart and new desires, giving us the ability to obey Him.

Ask them:

“Have you done that?”

“Is there any sin you love so much you are willing to die for it?”

Ask if you can pray for them

Invite them to further discussion, if appropriate

If someone wants to pray for salvation, encourage them to pray, and then pray for them. Some may need help, so review the basics of the Gospel with them first, to make sure they understand. But encourage THEM to call out to God for salvation.

Psalm 51 – A great model of Biblical repentance

Stress the importance of a saving relationship with God

John 3:3 - Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." See also:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ezekiel 36:25-27

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Closing Notes:

This is a lot of information. It will take practice to master, like any skill. It is worth it. Remember, God's Spirit will help you. So start practicing today!

Preach this to yourself too! These truths are life-transforming, and we need to hear them as well.

2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)

How many have you led to Christ? All of them. Lead them to the foot of the cross and leave them in the hands of a sovereign God.

Matthew 4:19 - And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Closing prayer and questions

PLEASE CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

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