

Church Evangelism Training

Prayer

About me and OAC

Invitation to find out more

Going to share the basics of evangelism

Evangelism Testimony

Intro Bullet Points – tell you what I’m going to tell you

Many of you know the Gospel. But knowing it and presenting it are two different things

These ideas have been learned and developed from years of street ministry. And they work!

Most verses and examples here I use regularly on the street

Questions are welcome afterward

TWO KEY POINTS

Salvation is a supernatural work of God, and so is evangelism. Much more than something you are doing.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses

The GOSPEL is the power of God unto salvation. (Romans 1:16) Preach it as clearly and faithfully as possible. Leave the rest up to God.

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

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!

Unbelief is not primarily an intellectual problem, it’s a moral problem. Men are in willful 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.

Intellectual arguments DO have their place!

God was not obligated to give us evidence, but He chose to. We have an amazing wealth of evidence.

God uses apologetics and good arguments in changing hearts, but it is ultimately the Spirit that changes hearts. Ezekiel 36

Know when to let the conversation go.

God is mighty to save! (Isaiah 63)

What defines success in evangelism? ***Faithfulness!***

THE APPROACH – **What you should and shouldn’t do**
Sharing the gospel isn’t a sales pitch, it’s a conversation.

Be friendly, be personable and be genuine. You don’t need lots of time, or to earn the right to share the gospel. We are commanded to share the gospel, and you can start a friendship in a matter of minutes

1 Peter 3:15 – Always be ready to give an answer, ***yet with gentleness and respect***

The fact that the gospel is an offense does NOT give us the right to be (unnecessarily) offensive.

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You don't earn the right to do something God has commanded. You DO need to honor Him in how you share it. Use wisdom in timing and subject matter

Don't use Christian clichés.

Like many groups, Christians have their own lingo. **Avoid using it!**

Use normal, everyday language so you have a common point of reference.

Washed in the blood of the Lamb

God has a wonderful plan - Very true. The wonderful plan He had for the apostles involved 11 out of 12 being martyred for their faith.

Talk to a person, not their group – A group affiliation can be a good information source, but ask for more info.

Ask a lot of questions and let the other person talk.

Really listen. The more information you have, the more smoothly the conversation will run, the more comfortable the other person will be. Jesus asked a LOT of questions.

Gospel tracts - Never leave home without them! Good, striking tracts are an instant conversation starter. Pick tracts with good information and that fit you well. The right tract will allow you to start a witnessing encounter much more comfortably and naturally.

When preaching and private talk are not available, you need to have a tract ready . . . Get good striking tracts, or none at all. But a touching gospel tract may be the seed of eternal life. Therefore, do not go out without your tracts.

—Charles Spurgeon

Using your personal testimony

Can be good to help connect, but not just how God made my life better. Not just what works for you. The gospel is true regardless of whether your life gets better. Basis in truth, not experience.

Testify to what God has done in your life, not what you did with God's help. Make your discussions of sin and grace self-reflective

You Have to Know It to Share It

Three minutes to live - a quick gospel that covers all the basics

A good practice method to make sure all your building blocks stay in place.

Natural to the Spiritual - Where to start

Sin and the Law - Explain the problem

Judgment and Hell - God's justice and our punishment

The Cross and the Resurrection – God's great gift

Repentance and Faith - What Biblical salvation looks like

NATURAL TO SPIRITUAL

Not as hard as you think, but does take boldness

Spiritual subjects come up all the time. Learn to listen for them.

For instance:

You only live once

It's better than the alternative (death)

What do you think happens next? Do you ever think about it?

Do you have any spiritual beliefs about that?

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If there was a heaven, what do you think the standards would be to get there?

There is nothing wrong with being direct!

Decomartmentalize – Be the Christian you all the time!

Sin and Law

Start with this important, Biblical truth:

We, by nature, have a problem with God. We are law-breakers.

God's Law in NOT arbitrary - They are based on His character and nature, and on who He created us to be.

What does God say He is like?

God is good and loving, but also holy, and just, and thus He must punish sin (Exodus 34:4-7)

**A God of Love and Mercy AND
A God of Justice and Wrath**

What does He say we are like?

We are, by nature, wicked and rebellious. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

We need to show the sinner this!

Use the Law to bring the knowledge of sin

Demonstrate to the sinner that we are what the Bible says we are. **That's what the law is for!**

Mirror analogy

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

Romans 3:19-20 - Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

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."

Don't be afraid to talk about sin, and to make people feel guilty! Guilt is not always a bad thing. They will feel guilty because they ARE guilty!

Gospel means good news, but the good news won't make sense to someone who doesn't understand the bad news. We have broken God's law, and are guilty before Him.

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.

The Good Person Test – Ray Comfort

Would you consider yourself to be a good person?

Go through the law - the 10 Commandments.

Have you ever told a lie?

Have you ever stolen anything? Even something small?

Have you ever lusted (committed adultery in your heart)?

Have you hated someone (committed murder)?

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

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

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Don't condemn them, let their own words condemn them!
They are being judged by God's word, not us.

Be self-reflective - we are equally guilty, so this needs to be done with a healthy dose of humility!

What God's Justice Looks Like - Judgment and Hell

This is a very difficult doctrine to talk about, and it should be. If it doesn't bother you, there is something wrong. If God were to judge by that standard (His law), would you be innocent or guilty? **Guilty.**

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

Some will say heaven! It's OK, God knows my heart.
Yes, He does, and that's not a good thing!

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Hard drive illustration

God is a good judge. He must punish sin. He is perfect and holy.

Courtroom illustration one - If a judge lets a rapist and murderer go free he is not a good judge. God is a perfect judge and must punish ALL sin (moral crimes).

We all deserve hell. Ask "Does that concern you?"

Do you love your life?

Matthew 16:26 - For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Eyeball illustration

What Hell is Really Like

Hell is Not a place of unbridled sin, ruled by the devil and his angels. In fact, it was made for his punishment.

Revelation 14:10-11- he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.

Revelation 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

Talk about hell and judgment. Do not avoid making the person fearful. Fear, like guilt and pain, is a God-supplied warning system to wake us up and make us pay attention. Fear is not the ultimate goal, but is and should be an appropriate motivator.

Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

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.

Separated from God? - True to some extent. We will be separated from all His goodness, grace and mercy, and subject to all His anger and wrath. Apart from the regenerating work of the Spirit, and an understanding of God's holiness and wrath, sinners WANT to be separated from God!

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A Frightening Passage

Hebrews 10:26-31 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Cross and Resurrection

The Good News

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 them in His own blood.

Explain that 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.

Think about how amazing that is!

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.

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

THE CROSS - a legal transaction. The fine for our sin paid in Christ's blood. Isaiah 53

Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, 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. Was used on business documents and receipts in New Testament times.

Jesus the God-man, who is of infinite value, lived the perfect life and willingly died the perfect death, providing the perfect sacrifice, for our sins.

Emphasize the Depth of Sin and the Nature of Christ!

Hebrews 1 vs Philippians 2

The Exclusivity of Christ and the Cross - Only Jesus is truly God, and only He paid the full price for sin, so only He can save. Only HE solved our fundamental problem!

The exclusivity of Christianity is not based on sincerity, **but on truth!**

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John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:24 -I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

Jesus proved His claim when He rose on the 3rd day. He now sits at the right hand of God as our advocate, our lawyer for the Day of Judgment.

Courtroom illustration two - \$1,000,000 for your debt to society. Fine paid for you by another. You are still guilty, but justice has been satisfied, so you can go free.

The cross of Christ is the greatest gift, and the greatest example of love and mercy, that mankind will ever know.

Repentance and Faith

What I would NOT recommend you do

The Sinners Prayer - Viewed almost like a magic spell that guarantees salvation, but those who share it often leave out essential aspects of the gospel message, particularly sin and repentance.

If the Holy Spirit is at work in them, they won't need your help, or a prepackaged prayer, to pour out their hearts to God!

Asking Jesus into your heart - Nowhere in scripture
Make Jesus your savior and Lord

Telling them to accept Jesus – This is the wrong way around. WE need to be accepted by HIM!

Stick with the Biblical terminology/concepts -
Repentance and Faith!

Repentance - Turning from sin. Not moral perfection, but a change in direction.

More than simple sorrow for your sins against God. A change of allegiance

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

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

Acts 20:20-21 - did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

This entails knowledge of the facts, accent to those facts, and active trust placed in what Christ did.

Parachute illustration

The New Birth – A mind and heart changed by God

John 3:3 - Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Reminds us again that salvation is a supernatural act of God. God gives us a new heart and new desires, giving us the ability to obey Him, though we will never be completely free from sin this side of eternity.

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2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

How God described the new birth in talking to Israel
Ezekiel 36:25-27 - I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Psalms 51 - If they need a model prayer

Encourage them to pray, reviewing the truth of the Gospel in the process, and then pray for them

A Call to Repentance

Finally, my friends, I want to end this morning as I would in a witnessing encounter and make it personal. Have YOU done that? Have you repented and put your trust in Christ alone?

There is an Urgency to this, whether you are receiving or sharing the Gospel.

About 150,000 people die every day, most at times and in circumstances they don't expect.

Every second two people die. One of these seconds will be yours.

None of us is promised a tomorrow (Verse)

Every sin WILL be perfectly paid for. But who will pay?

There are two possibilities. If you repent and trust Christ, His sacrifice will be the atonement for your sins. Or you can deny Him, and reject Him, and pay for those sins yourself.

Is there any sin you love so much you are willing to die for it? To spend an eternity in hell for?

If you don't know Him, is there anything keeping you from trusting in Christ now?

While God has graciously given you time, repent and trust in Christ

Someday, by the grace of God, I will stand in heaven, though I don't deserve it. When I get there, I want to see you there too! (This is a good time to re-emphasize the basics of the gospel).

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to me after the service. I'll take as much time as you need.

For those who do know Jesus, a closing thought from Charles Spurgeon:

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for."

Closing Prayer