

*“Questioning Evangelism”**

Sharing Your Faith without Fear

explore! ~ April/May, 2006

Session 5 - Sharing the Gospel

Round-table.

- Introduce yourself to those at your table.
- Discuss: What would you say are the main elements of the gospel, as you would tell them to a non-Christian?

Bible Study

- Read Acts 8:26-40
- What does this episode in the life of Philip teach us about evangelism?
 - The importance of staying open to divine appointments.
 - God makes no distinctions; He desires that all be saved.
 - The need to follow the Spirit’s prompting.
 - Ask questions.
 - Use the Word of God.
 - The focus is on Jesus, not a moral lifestyle.
 - The new believer should be connected to a church.

We are called and expected to be witnesses for Christ.

- We cannot convert, but we can witness.
- Mark 16:15 - “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”
- You don’t have to be gifted in evangelism. You don’t have to speak well. You don’t have to know all the answers to people’s questions. But you do have to speak and tell people about Jesus and what He means to you. It is to be a natural part of your daily life. And with God’s help you CAN do this!

How to share Christ with others.

A. Pre-evangelism

* The title and much of the content of this course come from the book by Randy Newman, *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People’s Hearts the Way Jesus Did* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2004). Some material for Session 5 is taken from *Share Jesus without Fear* by William Fay & Ralph Hodge (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 1997).

1. As you begin your day, PRAY for opportunities to speak to someone about Christ. Throughout the day, be alert for ways God is answering that prayer.
2. SEE PEOPLE as Jesus sees them. As you brush shoulders with them, look at each one as a person created in God's image, with a heart that aches for relationship with God, and who will spend eternity in one of two places. Believe that God may be trying to reach that person through you.
3. Throughout your day, simply try to BE DIFFERENT. Be "salty" (Matt. 5:13). **2 Corinthians 2:14** - "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him."
 - i. Smile and be friendly to people.
 - ii. Do kind things for people.
 - iii. Let people break in front of you in traffic.
 - iv. Thank people.
 - v. Compliment people.
 - vi. Work hard and with integrity. Be a good employer or employee.
 - vii. Don't complain or use bad language. But don't be a Pharisee about it either!
 - viii. St. Francis of Assisi - "Preach the gospel everyday; if necessary, use words."
4. GO TO PLACES unbelievers go.
5. Build RELATIONSHIPS with neighbors, co-workers, fellow students.
6. Develop Christ-like CHARACTER. Strive to be someone God can use. Be quick to repent throughout the day. Stay in a dependent posture before God. Have a time in His Word every day. In short, "Come near to God and He will come near to you" (James 4:8).
7. INVITE people to church.

B. Evangelism

1. A simple overview: "SALT"
 - i. SAY something.
 - ii. ASK questions.
 - iii. LISTEN.
 - iv. TURN the conversation to a spiritual thought.
2. Example in an airplane:
 - i. "Hi, how are you? I'm Mike."
 - ii. "Been following the NBA playoffs?"
 - iii. "Isn't it amazing the money those guys make?!"
 - iv. "I don't know about you, but I've met a lot of people who seem to have it all, but they're still unhappy."

- v. "I used to try to find happiness in working hard and being successful, until I realized how empty those things are without God."
- vi. "What about you, do you have any kind of spiritual belief?"

3. Example with a neighbor:

- i. "Good morning. I saw you at the Homeowner's Association meeting last night." (It was a meeting about break-ins in the neighborhood.)
- ii. "What did you think?"
- iii. "Yes, the break-ins and vandalism around here are disturbing."
- iv. "What do you suppose is the real problem behind these break-ins?"

4. SOME QUESTIONS that will help you find out where someone is spiritually.

- i. "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?"
- ii. "To you, who is Jesus?" (Reminds me of Jesus' question to the disciples in Matt. 16 - "Who do you say I am?")
- iii. "Do you believe there is a heaven and a hell?"
- iv. "If you died right now, where would you go?"
- v. What do you think is the underlying problem in the world today?"

5. THREE WAYS to tell someone about Jesus.

- i. Explain what God did in your life.
 - a. "Before I had a relationship with God..."
 - b. "Then God stepped into my life."
 - c. "Now that I have a relationship with God..."
 - d. "What about you? Have you ever thought about going to the next level with God?"
- ii. Summarize the good news (Creation/Fall/Redemption).
 - a. Creation
 - 1) God created us with a basic need for relationship with Him. (Psalm 42:1-2)
 - 2) God loves us so much He wants to meet that need. (Jeremiah 31:3)
 - b. Fall
 - 1) All human beings are sinners. (Romans 3:23)
 - 2) God is just, and so must punish sin. (Romans 6:23a)
 - c. Redemption
 - 1) God sent His Son Jesus, to die in our place on the cross and take the punishment we deserved. (Romans 5:8)

2) By trusting in what Jesus did on the cross, we can have the relationship with God that we crave. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

iii. Draw the “Bridge” illustration (see powerpoint)

6. Watch your terminology.
 - i. “saved”
 - ii. “born again”
 - iii. “invite Jesus into your heart”
 - iv. “repent”

C. Follow-through

1. “Would you like to begin a relationship with God?”
2. “You must do three things: A - B - C.”
 - i. A = **admit** that you have sinned and need God to forgive you
 - ii. B = **believe** that Jesus Christ died and rose again for you
 - iii. C = **commit** your life to Jesus by following after Him and putting Him first place in your life
3. Prayer: “Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you. I want forgiveness for all my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again for me. Father, I give you my life to do with as you wish. I want Jesus Christ to be first place in my life. I will follow you all the rest of my days on earth. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”
4. Get your friend a Bible and ask him or her to read one of the gospels, a chapter a day.
5. Meet again in a week.
6. Invite him or her to church, small group, church event, etc.

D. If your friend says, “No” or “I’m not ready yet”

1. Ask “Why?”
2. Address questions and objections the best you can.
3. Offer to research and return with an answer.
4. Respect the person’s need to think it over.
5. But don’t let him off the hook. Offer to meet again in a week.
6. Pray every day for your friend.

Once again, pray for your list of non-Christians you know whom you would like to see come into the family of God.

Say to God, “Here I am, Lord, use me.”