

A person is shown from the back, wearing a green t-shirt and blue jeans. They are holding a black Bible with "HOLY BIBLE" printed on the cover. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky with a grid-like pattern in the foreground. The overall tone is serious and spiritual.

ENCOUNTER

get out there!

**HOW WE WITNESS
FOR CHRIST**



HARVEST
BIBLE CHAPEL

GET OUT THERE!

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with Boldness

Encounter 4 – How We Witness for Christ

Just before he was lifted up to heaven, Jesus left us with one single thing on our “To-Do” list: “*Go and make disciples*” (Matt. 28:19). But of all the things we do as Christ followers and as a church, this one may be the most forgotten ... or maybe neglected. It is time to change that. It’s time for us to recapture the priority and the urgency of the gospel. If you’re reading this now, you probably already know that.

So, welcome to Encounter 4. The purpose of these sessions is to equip you to carry out Jesus’ commandment to *get out there* and “make disciples of all nations” (Matt. 28:19). While many of us have a desire to do so, we often fall short in our effectiveness because we either lack the compassion, the confidence, the skill or the boldness to reach out to people.

Jesus came to redeem a people for himself – a people who would spend their lives living for the praise of his glory. When we do that, we fulfill his purpose for us (1 Peter 2:8-9). God is glorified and his purpose fulfilled when people repent of their sin and put their trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. This class is designed to help you bring people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. In this class, we will motivate you to become passionate about proclaiming the good news of the gospel. We will show you how to share the gospel the way that Jesus did by bypassing the intellect (the seat of skepticism) and appealing directly to the conscience, showing people their plight before God and announcing the good news of the Saviour.

God’s heart is that all people would turn to him and be saved (1 Tim. 2:4). To that end he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19) and expects us to be about his work. As we do so, we bring him glory and our lives are filled with joy.

Let us then glorify God by exalting the name of Jesus Christ among all people. That task is what this course is about – exalting the name of Jesus Christ among all people. Dr. Robert Saucy, an author and church theologian, says, “We are not left in the world to bide our time until the rapture, we are not left here simply to become more Christ-like in our personal sanctification. That could take place in an instant with the appearing of Christ. We are left here to be witnesses of Christ, to radiate the glory of God in him to the ends of the earth.” Our desire is that through these sessions you will learn how to exalt the name of Christ among the people you meet and allow God to use you to bring many to salvation.

Copyright 2008, Harvest Bible Chapel

Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Bible (ESV), reproduced by permission of Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, Wheaton, IL, USA

Session One: Reaching Out – Why Share the Gospel?

Series Overview:

Session One: **Reaching Out** – Why Share the Gospel?
Paul – Out There in Philippi (Acts 16:11-34)

Session Two: **The Right Message** – How to Share the Gospel
Philip – Presenting the Good News (Acts 8:26-40)

Session Three: **Telling Your Story** – The Power of Vulnerability
Paul – Before Agrippa (Acts 26:1-30)

Session Four: **Getting Out There** – Watching God Work
Paul – Connecting in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

Session One: Reaching Out – Why Share the Gospel?

In evangelism, the issue of motivation is crucial. Why would I want to share the gospel? Check the items that you think are valid reasons:

- People are missing a spiritual component to their lives.
- People need Christ in order to be happier.
- The world would be a better place if everyone went to church.
- I want people to love and obey God.
- People need to repent and stop sinning.
- Without Christ, people are facing everlasting torment in hell.
- I would like everyone to be a Christian, like me.
- Sharing the gospel glorifies God.

My motivation for sharing the gospel is driven by what I believe about God, heaven, hell and a person's eternal destiny. Paul said in Phil 1:15 that some preached the gospel from impure motives, but that nevertheless he rejoiced because Christ was being proclaimed. If our motives are pure, we will present the gospel out of a sincere love for people and a desire to glorify God.

Since we are convinced that what the Bible says is true, we understand that all of mankind is in big trouble. One day every human being will stand before God and give an account of everything said and done in this life (Rom 14:12). The results of that judgment will determine whether they spend eternity in heaven or hell (Rev. 20:12).

As we look at this first passage in Acts from the life of the Apostle Paul, we will be focusing in on the question of motivation. We will seek to answer the question: **Why share the gospel?**

Paul – Out There in Philippi – Acts 16:11-34

Acts 16:11-34 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice."²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

I have to get out there and share the message of Jesus Christ because:

1. My chief purpose in life is to serve Christ by making disciples (Acts 26:11-12).

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

2. My heart is for people and I must make the most of every opportunity (Acts 26:13-15).

1 Corinthians 1:17 *For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*

- a. Jesus' ministry was seeking and saving people, who were without God and without hope in the world.

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

Matthew 9:36-38 *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Luke 4:18-19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

- b. God's heart in sending his Son is that all people be saved and come to a personal knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

- c. Jesus came to give life and give it abundantly to those who were estranged from God and spiritually dead.

John 10:10 ¹⁰ *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

- d. Jesus came to redeem a people for himself who would then live for the praise of his glory.

Titus 2:13-14 *...Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

3. I know that people need this message (Acts 26:16-17).

Human beings are the crown jewel of God's creation. We are created in his image and designed for intimate communion with him. Each person is created, known and loved by God and no one is God forsaken. Yet, every person is under God's righteous judgment and condemnation on account of their sin and, without Christ, faces eternal death and torment in hell. (Rom. 14:10; Rev. 20:15; 21:8)

God's Word tells us that all of mankind in its natural state is:

a. Alienated from God

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

Matthew 7:22-23 *On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

Ultimately sin is a violation of God himself. Adam and Eve turned their backs on God, rebelled against his command and went and hid in the bushes. The rest of us have been born in sin. And each of us has broken God's law and God's heart and so personally appropriated sin for ourselves. Because God is righteous, just and holy, he cannot and will not dismiss sin but has reserved a day of judgment on which he will call all to stand before him and give account.

1 John 1:8 *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

1 John 3:4 *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*

Romans 14:10-12 *For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess¹ to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

b. Living In darkness

John 3:20 *For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

Colossians 1:13 *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.*

What is your natural inclination when you do something wrong and hurt someone? Where does this come from? How is it overcome?

c. Deceived by and in bondage to sin

Romans 7:11 *For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.*

John 8:34 *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."*

d. Spiritually Dead

Ephesians 2:1-2 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.*

e. Blinded by Satan

2 Corinthians 4:4 *The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

f. Under condemnation of judgment

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 *When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*

g. Facing eternal punishment in hell

Matthew 25:46 - 26:1 *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

Revelation 20:15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

h. Helpless to remedy the situation

Romans 5:6 *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

i. Hostile to the truth

Acts 16:22-23 *The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.*

Acts 14:19 *But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.*

It is difficult to convince people of the truth of all of the above through an intellectual argument. People will tend to argue at every point. Rather, in speaking to people, we should do what Jesus did, *appeal to the conscience*, which God has put in each person to bring about conviction of sin. (Mark 10:18; John 4:9-18)

In the next session, we will look at this in much more detail and give you a specific formula to help people see their condition clearly.

4. I want to see God save people (Acts 16:26-34).

Acts 16:30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 8:35-36 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

I must learn to

- a. See people as precious – develop a genuine interest in people.
- b. Engage them in conversations.
- c. Ask great questions that move them to see their condition and their need of the Saviour.

THINK ABOUT IT !

1. If you knew that someone was asleep, trapped in a burning building, in danger of dying an agonizing death, what would you do?

2. Would you be afraid of offending them, by waking them up?

3. What about people without Christ? How is their fate similar? _____

4. What is your responsibility? _____

Session Two: The Right Message – How to Share the Gospel

Philip and the Ethiopian – Sharing the Message (Acts 8:26-40)

Acts 8:26-40 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

I can be used by God to bring people to Christ when:

- I am led by the Holy Spirit (8:26-29).
- I ask probing questions that lead to conviction (8:30).
- I explain the good news of Jesus (8:35).
- I encourage commitment (8:36-38).

1. Happiness or Righteousness?

- a. Some evangelistic methods focus on promising to improve a person's happiness. (God has a wonderful plan for your life.) The difficulty with this is that many people are currently very happy with their life, because everything is going well. This then leads us into the false assumption that we need to defer presenting the gospel until they have some sort of crisis. We can even find ourselves praying that a person's world will fall apart, so that we can present the gospel.

- b. Jesus never did that. He encountered rich and poor alike and loved each one. He always challenged them with respect to *righteousness*. (Mark 10:18; John 4:16; Matt 23:33) Righteousness has to do with our standing before a Holy God. One of the functions of God's law (the Ten Commandments) is to bring about in the unbeliever a conviction of sin (Rom 3:19).
- c. Only when a person is under conviction of sin is the gospel good news. Those who see themselves as righteous (the self-righteous) will reject the gospel for they see no need for a Saviour. Therefore, as we share the gospel, we must do so in a way that brings about a conviction of sin. This is easy to do if you know how.

2. How are people saved? (Theology of Conversion)

- a. There must be a conviction of sin. A person must come to understand that they are:
 - i. Guilty before God (Is. 59:2, Matt. 7:23)
 - ii. Under condemnation of judgment (2 Thess. 1:7-9)
 - iii. Helpless to remedy the situation (Rom. 5:6)
 - iv. Facing eternal punishment (Matt. 25:46)

Conviction of sin prepares the heart for the good news of the Saviour.

Full and complete knowledge of sin and gratitude for salvation only comes from seeing Christ, the perfect sinless Son of God crucified for me. (As only the cure fully discloses the nature of the disease.) The bad news of sin and judgment must *always* be presented along with the good news of the Saviour's finished work.

- b. They must then be born again.

3. Being Born Again (Born from Above)

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

John 3:5-7 *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"*

- a. Note that in John 3:3, Jesus states that unless a person experiences this new birth, they cannot even see the kingdom of God.

- b. The Greek word for “again” is *anōthen*, which means:
- i. Of place: from above, from top to bottom
 - ii. Of past time: from the beginning
 - iii. Of future time: anew, again

The implication is that this is a radically different sort of birth, not of the flesh (as Nicodemus supposes) but a birth of Spirit from above.

- c. Clearly God is the author of salvation, and produces new life in those in whom he chooses to reveal himself.

John 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

- d. The process of being born from above is called *regeneration*, a supernatural act of God by which he imparts new life in us and we are born “of God”.

John 1:12-13 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Note that no one can will himself or another to be saved. It is a gift of God. We should pray continually asking God to impart that new life in others.

- e. Essential to responding in saving faith, is repentance.

Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

True repentance must involve the:

Mind: I acknowledge that God is righteous and I have violated him. (Ps. 51:4; 2 Sam 12:13)

Heart: I am deeply remorseful for having offended him, i.e. “cut to the heart”. (Ps. 51:2; 2 Cor. 7:9-10)

Will: I forsake my life of sin and, motivated by gratitude, live henceforth to please him. I make restitution, as much as I am able, to those I have wronged. (Luke 19:7)

- f. Conversion takes place when a person willingly responds to the gospel call and places their trust in Jesus Christ alone to save them from the righteous judgment, condemnation and wrath of God.

John 3:18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

4. Our Role:

Our job is to stir up in people a conviction of sin and then proclaim the gospel and leave the task of effectual calling and regeneration in God's hands. Because we know that it is God who does it, we can have confidence that our work will bear fruit.

Romans 1:15-16 *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

5. The Goal: The salvation of the person.

To be saved people must:

- a. Be awakened to their plight – they are spiritually dead, under condemnation, and face the certainty of hell.
- b. Acknowledge their sin and righteous condemnation by a holy and just God (John 3:18).
- c. Repent of their sin and renounce it (Acts 2:38) (mind, heart, will).
- d. Accept the good news that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and paid the penalty for their sins, rising from the dead and now reigning as Lord and Saviour (1 Cor. 15:3).
- e. Personally put on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, trusting in him alone for salvation (Acts 16:30; Rom 10:9).
- f. Bear fruit as evidence of new life (Gal. 5:22).

6. What do people need to hear?

- a. Beware the wrong message
 - i. God has a wonderful plan for your life.
 - ii. God wants to prosper you and will supply you with good things.
 - iii. You just need a spiritual tune-up. (We are all just a little sick.)
 - iv. Jesus will make your life better. (Often in coming to Christ, it may get worse.)
 - v. You can add Jesus to whatever you believe now.

b. The Right Message:

- i. Again, the issue is not happiness but righteousness. Our eternal destiny depends not on our happiness in this life but on our standing before a holy and righteous God.
- ii. Man is in sin, under condemnation, separated from God, facing eternal torment. (SIN = rebellion, indifference, ungodliness)

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*

1 John 3:4 *Sin is lawlessness.*

- iii. All human efforts to solve the human predicament are doomed... and are merely evidence of spiritual pride and make light of God's holiness. Doing good deeds cannot atone for our sin and rebellion against God. The relationship has been broken.

Isaiah 64:6 *We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

Romans 3:20 *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*

- iv. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for sin. In him, our sins are atoned for and we are reconciled to God. His perfect obedience on our behalf restores God's favour to us and makes us his children.

John 1:29 *Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

Galatians 4:4-5 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

- v. Knowing this (intellectually) does you no good. Even the demons believe (James 2:19).

A person must trust Jesus Christ alone for salvation – put him on!

Romans 13:14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

1 John 5:11-12 *And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Romans 10:9-10 *Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

7. How to Witness for Christ

The most important part of any gospel presentation is bringing the person to a conviction of their personal sin, their plight before God and their eternal condemnation.

"*The Way of the Master*"¹ is a method of sharing that is modeled after the way that Jesus himself approached people. (Samaritan woman – John 4:7-18, rich man – Matt. 19:16-22)

This method uses a series of questions to bypass the intellect (the seat of argument), and appeals directly to the conscience (the seat of conviction).

There are five general steps: These must be done with great humility and genuine love for the person, without any hint of condescension.

- a. Make a connection discussing everyday things.
- b. Move the discussion to things of God.
- c. Ask a series of probing questions that will appeal to the conscience to show that the person is guilty before God and facing eternity in hell.
- d. Introduce Christ as the Saviour who paid the penalty for their sin.
- e. Invite a response to turn away from sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour. (Introduce the Holy Spirit who will give them a new nature.)

The Way of the Master uses the acronym **WDJD CcRAFT**

WDJD = What did Jesus do

- | | |
|----------|--|
| W | Would you consider yourself a good person? |
| D | Do you think you've kept the Ten Commandments? Can I ask you some questions to see if that is true? Have you ever told a lie? |
| J | Judgment – If God were to judge you by the commandments, would you be innocent or guilty? |
| D | Destiny – If God were to judge you, what would be your eternal destiny? Heaven or hell? |
| C | Concern – Does that concern you? |
| c | Cross – Jesus died for your sins. |
| R | Repent – You must turn from sin, asking God to forgive you. |
| A | And |
| F | Faith – You need to believe that Jesus died for you. |
| T | Trust – Put your trust in Jesus for salvation (like a parachute which must be put on to save you), and God will fill you with his Holy Spirit, giving you a new heart and a new desire to live for him. |

¹ Way of the Master Basic Training DVD Series and Study Guide, Kirk Cameron & Ray Comfort, Genesis Publishing, Bartsville, OK, 2006

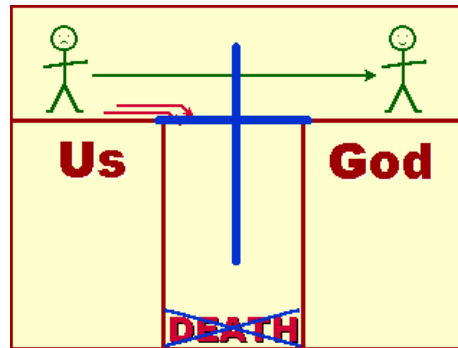
Other Ways of Sharing the Gospel

ABCs of Conversion

A person must be brought to a place where they are confronted by God's law and see themselves as guilty and under condemnation and under sentence of eternal death. Only then can you:

- A** – Admit you are a sinner and justly condemned. Repent and turn from sin.
- B** – Believe that Jesus is God, that he died and fully paid the penalty for your sins, rose again and now reigns over all.
- C** – Confess your allegiance to him, surrendering yourself to him as Saviour and Lord, accepting cleansing and new life in his name. (You are now clothed with his righteousness.)

Bridge Illustration: ²



Key Scriptures:

Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23-24; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9; Romans 10:13; John 5:24; John 14:16-17

The Four Spiritual Laws:

- a. God loves you and created you to know him personally (John 3:16; John 17:3).
- b. Man is sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know him personally or experience his love (Rom 3:23, 6:23).
- c. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through him alone we can know God personally and experience God's love (Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; John 14:6).
- d. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, then we can know God personally and experience his love (John 1:12; 3:1-8).

² <http://findinggrace.com/gospel/bridge.htm>

8. Dealing With Objections

a. I don't believe in God.

- i. Just because you don't believe in something doesn't make it disappear. If I say I don't believe in traffic, and cross the busy highway anyway, will that save me from being hit by a car?
- ii. If I see a painting, I don't doubt that there is a painter. If I look at a building, I admit that there must be a builder. Looking at creation, it follows that there is a creator. This all couldn't have happened by random chance. Intelligent design demands a designer.
- iii. Even if there is an outside chance, say only 10% that there is a God, wouldn't it be foolish to live your whole life in complete denial of that possibility. What if there is? And what if he is trying to reveal himself to you to save you from an awful fate. It is no accident that I am here talking to you. Shouldn't you at least consider the possibility, and the implications if it is true?

b. It is too narrow minded to believe that Christianity is the only way.

It is a common myth that there are many ways to God. People throughout history have chosen to believe things that are comforting to them. Just because they believe them does not make them true. Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me." (John 14:6) Ultimately, everyone has to make a decision about Jesus. Either he was a lunatic or he was who he claimed to be (God incarnate). If he was a lunatic, then he would have died and been buried and his followers dispersed. But, we know he was raised from the dead and there were over 500 witnesses to that (1 Cor. 15:6). His followers were tortured and killed and refused to renounce their conviction that he was God. The evidence overwhelmingly points to him being who he said he was. No one else has ever risen from the dead. And he said that there is only one way to God. Personally, it makes more sense to me that if God wanted to save mankind, he would engineer one specific way to do so. It does not make sense that men would be allowed to engineer their own ways to God. That does not solve man's basic problem, which is sin. Only Jesus Christ can do so for he himself gave himself up as an offering for sin. He is the only way.

c. The Bible is not the Word of God, but just one tribe's mythology written by men to control others.

- i. The Bible is unique. It has been studied by countless thousands of people throughout the ages, because it is a living document. As people read the Bible, their lives are changed, for through it God reveals himself to man. It has been written by 40 authors separated by hundreds and thousands of years yet there is an incredible unity because the writers were each inspired by God. This is what the Bible claims for itself (2 Peter 1:21).

- ii. If you look just at the prophecies that relate to Jesus Christ (38 major ones), the statistical probability that they would all come true in the life of one person is one in 10^{43} . That is like filling the state of Texas with silver dollars one mile high with one gold coin somewhere in them all, and you picking the gold one on the first pick.
 - iii. Suppose that there is an outside chance that the Bible *is* the Word of God. Wouldn't it make sense to at least check it out? Why not just assume that it is true, and see where it leads you? You can always change your mind about it.
 - iv. In any case, God had given us a conscience irrespective of the Bible. Let's say that you were born in an age before the Bible was written. Would you consider yourself to be a good person?
- d. What about lost tribes in Africa – will they go to hell because they have never heard?
- i. A person does not go to hell for failure to hear the gospel. They go to hell because of their rejection of God (sin). For creation itself declares the glory of God yet people reject him and violate their own God given conscience in breaking his heart by sinning against his law, which is written on their hearts (Rom. 2:15).

***Romans 1:19-22** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools.*
 - ii. Though all have sinned and are condemned by their own actions to condemnation, God's heart is that all be saved and so he has commanded those who are in Christ to share the gospel which is the motivation behind all evangelism and the reason that I am speaking to you. God wants you to be saved.
- e. My God is a loving God who is more sympathetic and will not send me to hell.
- i. You are guilty of making God into what you would like him to be. Creating a God to suit yourself is idolatry and is a violation of the first commandment (Ex. 20:3).
 - ii. God is both loving and just (Ex. 34:7). For God to be fair, he must punish sin. If you were to stand before a judge in court and admitted you were guilty of a crime, but asked the judge to just let it slide, because you believe that he is sympathetic and a good person, how would he react? Any judge

worth his salt would punish you for the sake of justice, precisely because he is a good judge. Only a corrupt judge would “let it slide” by showing favouritism or by taking a bribe.

- iii. This is why God must punish sin, to maintain his justice, but also why he himself took your own penalty, by dying in your place. In this way his justice is satisfied and his love made manifest. All you have to do is embrace it in faith.
- f. If God exists and is good, why is there such suffering in the world?
- i. God did not design suffering when he created the world. It was created perfectly and free of any pain and suffering. However, that state was contingent on Adam and Eve’s complete trust in God and his commandments. When Adam and Eve, sinned, they introduced sin into the human experience and brought about the spoiling of creation.
 - ii. All suffering, pain and death is the result of our common rebellion against God. This suffering is designed to awaken in us a thirst for God and his righteousness. Jesus Christ came into the world to provide us with a way to conquer suffering by virtue of our union with him. He suffered and died so that one day we might be completely healed and delivered from death and suffering. As we turn from our sins and embrace him, we do not cease to struggle in this life, but we have the assurance that one day, we will be delivered finally from this body and that all creation will be renewed and set free from its bondage to death and suffering.
 - iii. Jesus Christ’s suffering is redemptive. Ours is not. However, if we suffer for the sake of his name and the gospel, we have the promise of great reward in heaven (Matt. 5:11-12).
- g. I’m not that sinful. I am basically a good person and don’t need redeeming.

The standard for deciding whether or not I am sinful is not my own feelings about myself, but God’s holiness and righteousness as reflected in his perfect law. If you ask someone who lives with you, they will see all sorts of things in you that are sinful and selfish, that you yourself might be blind to. In the same way, we can see things in others that they might not see about themselves. The true standard is God himself. He is perfectly and completely righteous and pure, holy and just. Jesus said, “Which of you convicts me of sin?” (John 8:46) He was the only perfect sinless human being and is the standard by which we will all be measured. The Bible says that there is not one person living who is righteous (Rom. 3:10). If you think that you are good, then you are actually “self-righteous” and full of pride, which God condemns. If you look deep into your own heart, you will be convicted of your own sinfulness. You need to humble yourself and acknowledge this before God, which is called repentance.

h. What about scientific evolution proving creation wrong?

Evolution as a theory has come increasingly under fire from scientists from many disciplines. First, evolution, in terms of one species becoming another, has never been shown to occur. The DNA information lodged in every cell is a complete blueprint of the entire organism and being digital information, cannot change from one species to another. In addition, evolution is based on natural selection, whereby certain organs (like the eye) evolve over millions of years. However, the eye can only be an advantage to an animal, if it is complete and fully functioning. Intermediate stages of development would be of no advantage for survival and so that animal would not be more likely to survive. In addition, evolutionists have long sought fossil records that support intermediate stages of development. Again, no such intermediate stages have ever been found and evolutionists continue to be baffled by the “gaps” in the fossil record. These gaps are there because animals do not change from one species to another. Like begets like and everything reproduces after its kind, just as the Bible claims (Gen. 1:21). Finally, scientists continue to be amazed at the complex information stored in even a one-celled organism. Every organism has within its DNA a complete blueprint of what that organism is to be. Where did this complex information come from? The obvious answer is that intelligent design demands a designer. Just as a painting cannot exist without there being a painter, and a building cannot exist without a builder, creation cannot exist without a Creator. This is the testimony of the Bible, which simply says: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)

Session Three: Telling Your Story – The Power of Vulnerability

Perhaps the best way to share the good news about Jesus Christ is simply to tell your own story. No one can dispute the change that Christ has made in your life.

Your Story – The Impact of the Cross in Your Life

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

The cross of Christ is the most revolutionary thing ever to appear among men.

The cross of old Roman times knew no compromise; it never made concessions. It won all its arguments by killing its opponent and silencing him for good. It spared not Christ, but slew him the same as the rest. He was alive when they hung him on the cross and completely dead when they took him down six hours later...

The cross effects its ends by destroying one established pattern, the victim's, and creating another pattern, its own. Thus it always has its way.

A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*

- Every follower of Jesus Christ has been co-crucified with Christ. As a follower, your crucifixion was the end of your former pattern of life and the beginning of a new one. The old nature in you has been slain and the life you now live you live in the Spirit, for him alone.
- The story of how this happened is your conversion story. In sharing it, you are sharing the gospel and testifying to the risen Christ through the life you now live.
- If you do not have such a story, you have not yet died to yourself, but are only kidding yourself. (If so, fall on the rock that is Christ, be broken and accept the gospel.)

Burn Those Sermons – William Booth

In the early days of the (Salvation) Army, William Booth was conducting a meeting in Whitechapel with a congregation of 1,200 people. Normally his speaking was dynamic; he could hold a crowd spellbound. But on this particular night the number of godless people was higher than usual; some were quite violent and he was making no impression.

Among his supporters was a gipsy hawker who had been converted a few weeks earlier. He was called to the platform to tell of the change in his life.

As soon as he began to speak silence reigned. He was well known, not as a preacher but for his wayward living. His words were bungling—but they rang true. The attention of the crowd was recaptured.

'Willie,' said the Founder to Bramwell when the meeting was over, 'I shall have to burn all those old sermons of mine, and go in for the gipsy's.'

William Booth's sermons had been the means of leading many people into a knowledge of God's salvation, but if the testimony method was more powerful, then testimony had to be given a greater place in his meetings. With this occasion in mind, he later wrote that 'ordinary workingmen in their corduroys and bowler hats could command attention from their own class which was refused pointblank to me with my theological terms and superior knowledge.'

When the Edinburgh Castle preaching station was opened in Stepney, Mrs. Eliza Collingridge, a Christian Mission bible-woman, was there. Little is known about the ceremony beyond the fact that she gave her testimony. God used her words and John Gore was converted. Thirteen years later, with Edward Saunders, he started Army work in Australia.

Richard Slater, the 'father of Salvation Army music', was won for God after hearing the faltering testimony of a servant girl.

William Booth never debunked preaching: he believed in giving everything its right time and place. In 1890, he wrote: 'What is the use of preaching the gospel to men whose whole attention is concentrated upon a mad, desperate struggle to keep themselves alive?...The first thing to do is to get him at least a footing on firm ground, and give him room to live. Then...you will have a better opportunity to find a way to his heart, if he comes to know that it was you who pulled him out of the horrible pit and the miry clay in which he was sinking to perdition.'

Cyril Barnes *"Words of William Booth"*

Telling Your Story – Acts 26:1-30

Acts 26:1-30 So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

² "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ "My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. ⁵ They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹ "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹² "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵ And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles- to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

¹⁹ "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴ And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." ²⁵ But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe." ²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" ²⁹ And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am- except for these chains." ³⁰ Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

When I humble myself and tell my conversion story, people listen and their hearts are softened to the gospel.

- “LOST” — My life before Christ BC (before Christ)
(Acts 26:4-11)
- “CRISIS” — My turning to Christ C (crisis – Christ)
(Acts 26:12-18)
- “LIFE” — My life in Christ IC (in Christ)
(Acts 26:19-23)
- “MISSION” — My witness of Christ
(Acts 26:22-29)

As I tell my story, I must also proclaim the gospel and issue a personal appeal.

- “JOY” — My impact for Christ
(Acts 26: 30-32)

I leave the results in God’s hands.

As you prepare yourself to reach out to others, you’ll need:

1. A growing relationship with God.

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.*

2. A willingness to be God’s servant in the life of another, recognizing that it will cost you.

Acts 5:40-42 *And when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

3. A conviction to speak boldly for Christ using the Word of God.

Ephesians 6:18-20 *To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

4. A personal testimony of a changed life.

John 9:24-25 *So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

Your Story – His Glory: (John 9: 25)

BC

- **Before:** What were my fears, goals, values, relationships?



- **Crisis:** How did I become aware of my sin and the truth of the gospel? How did I respond?

IC

- **In:** What kinds of changes have taken place in my life regarding fears, goals, values, relationships?

Your story needs to be:

Concise: Keep it short – two or three minutes – you do not need to go into every gory detail of your life in sin.

Christ-Exalting: The whole point is to testify to what Jesus has done for you and what he wants to do in the heart of the listener.

Current: It is important to include your current experience of God's grace in your life and the joy and freedom that you have in Christ. This means that you need to be in a good place in your relationship with God.

Telling Your Story: (Jesus and the woman at the well – John 4:7-42)

1. Starting Conversations

- a. Develop a genuine interest in people. See them as precious and special. Pray for strangers.
- b. Initiate conversations by relating to people in the natural realm. (Current events, children, weather, etc..)

2. Transition Questions or Statements

- a. Swing the conversation to the moral realm. (Do you know of any good churches? Do you have a Christian background? Would you consider yourself to be a good person? Have you ever lied?)
- b. Move into the human predicament (guilty before God).

3. Tell your own story.

- a. Before Christ, how you came to him, your life after Christ.
- b. Present Christ as the sacrifice for sin.

4. Leave with an exhortation

Urge the person to consider their situation before God and get alone with God and ask him to forgive their sin and become their Saviour.

Communication Principles

- Make love your motive – genuinely love the person.
Make eye contact – speak to their soul.
- Watch your tone of voice. Be kind and gentle like a compassionate doctor.
Don't lecture or argue.
- Be urgent. (This is a desperate plea for the person to get real and get right with God.) - 150,000 people die each hour
- Count *conversations* not *conversions* (let God do the convicting and regeneration).
- If you are rebuffed...reaffirm your love for them. Let the person know that you have done your best to keep them from spending eternity in hell. From now on, they can never claim that they did not hear the gospel.

After Sharing Your Story

- Share your contact information, or give them some literature.
- Invite them to church to come and see. (Use invite cards or point them to website)
- Pray for them.
- Follow up with them if you can.

A Conviction to Boldness (Acts 4:19-20)

Acts 4:19-20 *But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, ²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."*

Boldness is not audacity or rudeness, but simply a firm and formidable conviction of the truth of the gospel and an unshakeable desire to share it with others out of sincere love for them and reverence for God.

TELLING YOUR STORY

MY LIFE BEFORE CHRIST: Where were you spiritually before receiving Christ? How did that affect you, your feelings, attitudes, actions and relationships?

MY LIFE IN CRISIS: How did you become aware of your sin and your need for Christ? Specifically, how did you receive Christ? What were the circumstances that led you to become a Christ-follower?



MY LIFE IN CHRIST: How did your life change after you turned from sin and trusted Christ? What have you experienced since becoming a Christ-follower? How are you growing in Christ-likeness today?

Session Four: Getting Out There - Watching God Work

Jude 1:20-23 *But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*

I will want to reach out to those around me and see God work when I have:

1. A profound gratitude for what Christ has done for me.
2. A genuine compassion for people as for those trapped in a burning building.
3. A desire to do whatever I can to bring them to Christ motivated by genuine love.
4. A proven approach that gives me the confidence that I need.
5. The humility that allows me to tell my story and be vulnerable with others.
6. The boldness to speak up and leave the results with God.

The Example of Paul - Provoked in Athens (Acts 17:16-34)

Acts 17:16-34 *Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"- because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.*

²² *So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for*

"In him we live and move and have our being;"

as even some of your own poets have said, "' For we are indeed his offspring.' ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

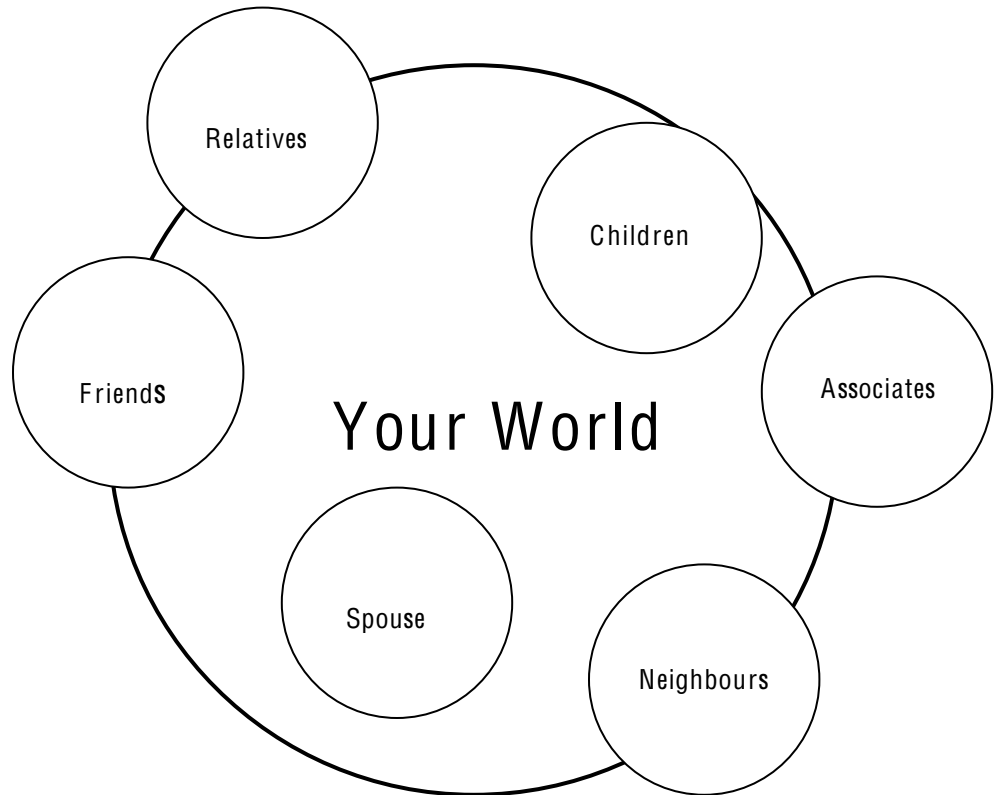
³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

I see God work as I:

1. Cast off my complacency (Acts 17:16-21)

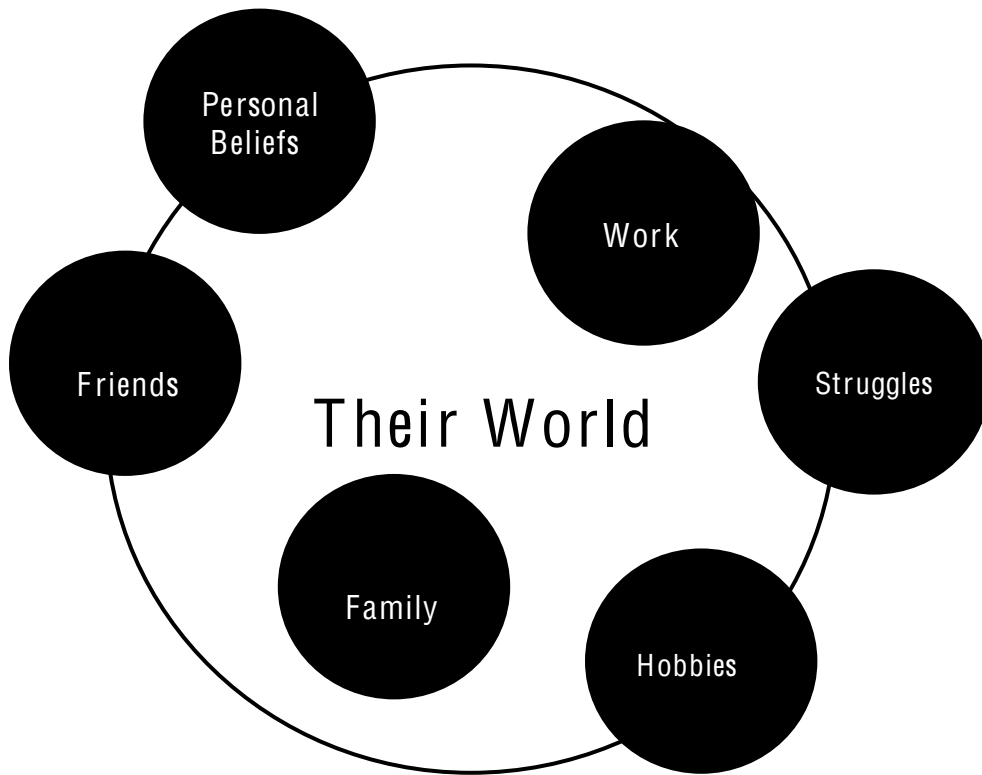
Am I troubled by what I see around me, or am I content to just blend in with the crowds?

Who is in my world?



I reach out to those around me as I:

2. Make a connection (Acts 17: 22-13)



1 Corinthians 9:20-23 *To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.*

As you develop relationships with people, remember:

- a. No contact, no impact.
- b. Non-believers are not the enemy, but rather, victims of the enemy.
- c. Do not expect regenerate behaviour from unregenerate people.
- d. Establish a common interest by asking good questions.
- e. Count conversations not conversions
- f. Conversations begin at the common interest level and can be moved to the belief level with good questions like:

Do you have a Christian background?

Would you consider yourself to be a good person?

I reach out to those around me as I:

3. Present the truth (Acts 17:24-31)

- a. God exists. (You can't have a creation without a creator.) (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1)
- b. You can't make him according to your own image. (Ex. 20:4)
- c. He gives life and breath to all and we owe him our existence and our gratitude. (Acts 17:26)
- d. Every person has spurned him and is guilty and condemned before him. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; Is. 59:2)
- e. He has come to us in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, as testified by his resurrection and ascension. He has offered himself as the substitute for our sins. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (John 1:29; Acts 17:30)
- f. God calls all to repent and believe the gospel, placing their trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. (Acts 17:30)

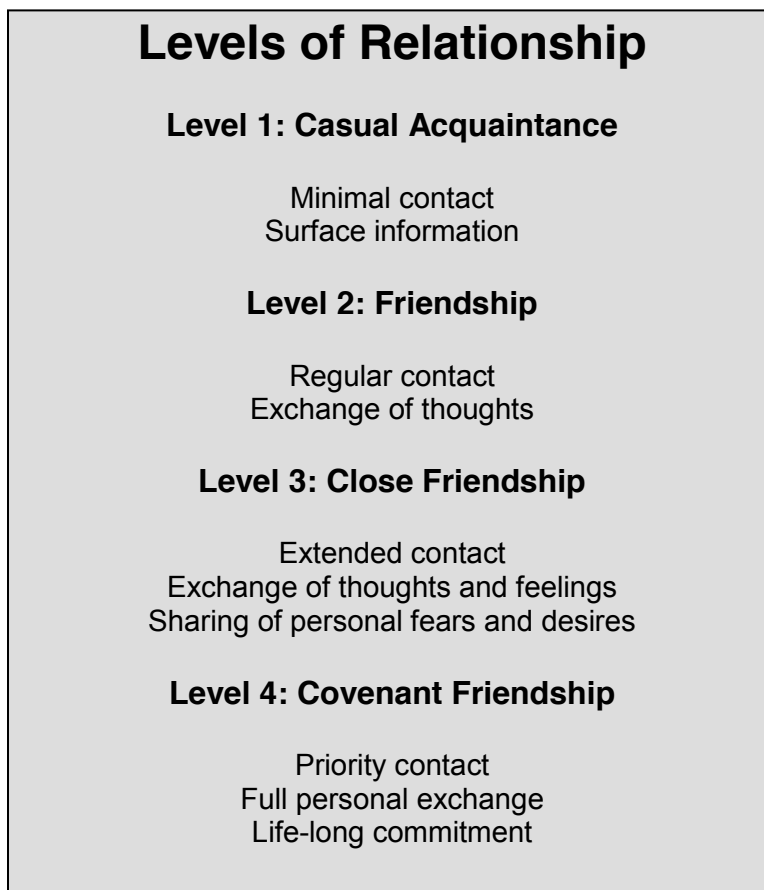
I reach out to those around me as I:

4. Call for a commitment (Acts 17:30)

- a. I must sense when the Holy Spirit is working.
- b. I ask: "Are you ready to turn from sin and make a commitment to Jesus Christ?"
- c. I allow them to pray, responding to God openly.
- d. I follow up by:
 - i. Keeping in touch and praying for them
 - ii. Inviting them to church
 - iii. Setting up a mentor
 - iv. Getting them into a small group

Will you become a true friend ? (Matt 5:13-16; 25:31-40; John 3 :11-16; John 13:35; 1 John 3:16)

- a. Praying with people
- b. Acts of kindness
- c. Acknowledging and respecting differences
- d. Loving people – The three levels of love
 - Embracing their need (giving)
 - Embracing their suffering (sharing)
 - Embracing their shame (identifying)



Many people assume that they cannot witness to people until they take their relationship to a higher level. The premise of such “friendship evangelism” is that you need to build a relationship before you can talk about spiritual things. But, sometimes it may take you years to build such a relationship. Meanwhile, if the person dies, they are lost eternally. Too often, we use the excuse of “building a relationship” to postpone sharing the gospel.

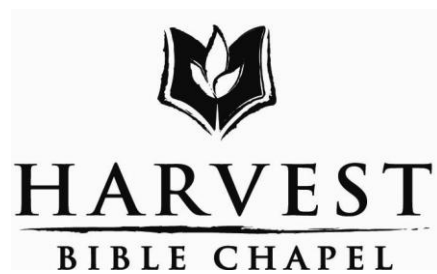
In actual fact, you can build a relationship with someone in just a few minutes, if you truly love them and are concerned for their eternal welfare. In fact, in some ways it is easier to share the gospel with strangers because you are starting with a clean slate. With friends and family members that you have known for years, you will have to explain why you are suddenly acting so uncharacteristically. Don’t be afraid to tell them that God has given you a newfound sense of urgency. The risk is greater, for you may in fact lose a friendship or a relationship.

Why should you be willing to take such a risk? Jot down the reasons in the space below:

Where do I go from here? Unless you make some personal resolutions about how your approach to the people around you will change, you are unlikely to do anything differently. Before God, take some time to reflect upon what you have heard and learned in this series. Make some resolutions to put this into practice. Write them down.

And now..... **GET OUT THERE!**

“Go therefore and make disciples...” (Matt. 28:19a)



Office

560 Bryne Drive Unit 3
Barrie ON L4N 9P6
705.739.8613

Worship

Timothy Christian School
750 Essa Road, Barrie
9:00 AM and 11:15 AM

www.harvestbarrie.ca