

## Lessons in Evangelism: Introduction

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Evangelism training is vital to the body of Christ because God commands every Christian to be faithful to the privilege and responsibility of sharing the Gospel.

### Content of the Lessons

- Lesson Two: Turning a Conversation to the Gospel
- Lesson Three: Sharing the Gospel
- Lesson Four: What About Those Who Do Not Believe in?
- Lesson Five: Overcoming Fear in Evangelism, and Final Encouragement

### Encouragement in Watching the Lessons

- The lessons are designed to be watched in order.
- Pray after each lesson that God will help you to be faithful to the privilege and responsibility of sharing the Gospel.
- Tony's hope and prayer is that you will apply this teaching in your everyday lives for the glory of God.
- Lesson two will teach how you can simply, gently, and respectfully turn a conversation to the Gospel.

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Revised 2015, 2018*

## Lessons in Evangelism: How to Turn a Conversation to the Gospel

### Springboards

- Springboards help us turn a conversation to the Gospel.
- Jesus used water with the woman at the well in John chapter 4.
- Phillip used a question with the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts chapter 8.
- Paul used an altar to an unknown God in Acts chapter 17.

### Natural Springboards

Natural springboards include things that other people or we ourselves bring up in a conversation and/or the circumstances of the conversation.

#### Examples of Natural Springboards

- Tragic events, close calls with death, or death in general.
- When people ask you to pray for them.
- When people share their struggles.
- When people say they cannot find fulfillment or that something is missing.
- When people are wearing crosses or have religious tattoos.
- When people have religious decorations in a home, car, or other.
- Conversations about God, religion, church, spiritual things, nature, books, music, sports, movies, etc...

Natural springboards are everywhere. We need to pray, be creative, and be alert.

Natural springboards can often be very helpful in turning a conversation to the Gospel. However, they are not always necessary.

You can simply use these three springboard questions to turn a conversation to the Gospel:

- Can I ask you a question?
- How do you think a person gets to heaven?
- Can I share with you what the Bible teaches?

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## Broken Springboards

- Do you believe in Jesus?
- Are you a Christian?
- Are you born again?
- Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Have you confessed your sins to God?
- Have you asked Jesus into your heart?

These kinds of questions are not good questions to ask because people can simply answer yes and not have a clue what you are asking. In addition, people can pour many different meanings into these kinds of questions and their own answers.

## The Three Springboard Questions

- Can I ask you a question?
- How do you think a person gets to heaven?
- Can I share with you what the Bible teaches?

If you use these three questions in a humble, gentle, and respectful way, you will see how effective they are.

The second question will provide insight into what the person is trusting in for salvation.

After asking the second question:

- Sincerely listen.
- Show an interest in the person.
- Do not pounce on their answer, debate them, or try to correct them.
- After listening, simply ask if you can share what the Bible teaches.

Helps for using the Three Springboard Questions:

- Start by simply asking: “Can I ask you a question?” And if they say yes, okay, sure, I don’t care, anything but no, then ask...
- “How do you think a person gets to heaven?” Then listen, listen, listen!!!
- Then ask, “Can I share with you what the Bible teaches?”
- Then if the person gives you permission, simply share the Gospel

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## Role Play - Tony and Dave

Testimony from using the three questions:

"I just used the springboard questions to share the Gospel with someone at the office. It was so easy, and she was so grateful. Thank you so much for equipping us to share the Gospel faithfully!"

I hope and pray that you are encouraged to take this very simple, gentle, and respectful approach to turn a conversation to the Gospel.

Lesson three focuses on how to share the Gospel.

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## Lessons in Evangelism: How to Share the Gospel

Evangelism is not:

- Inviting people to church.
- Talking about church.
- Talking about morality.
- Talking about God in general.

Evangelism is simply proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the person and work of Christ.

### The Gospel

- Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- He died on the cross for the sins of the world.
- He was raised from the dead.
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and Romans 1:1-4 define the Gospel as the person and work of Christ.

After asking the three springboard questions and receiving the green light to share what the bible teaches, it is time to share the Gospel!

### Gospel Outline:

- The Problem – Sin.
- The Solution – Jesus is fully God and fully man. He died on the cross for the sins of the world and was raised from the dead.
- The Response – Repentance and trust in Christ.

Remember, every time we share the Gospel, God is glorified and we can trust him with the results. You can do this! God will help you to share the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, as you trust him!

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## Negative Response to the Gospel

If we have shared the Gospel and the person is not ready to repent and trust in Jesus, we must remember that we have been successful. The results are always in God's hands.

What do we do if the person is not ready to repent and trust in Jesus?

- We continue to pray for them.
- Love them.
- Serve them.
- Remain alert.
- Wait for other opportunities to share the Gospel with them.
- We can ask them if they are willing to get together and go through the Gospel of John together.

## Positive Response to the Gospel

If a person responds in repentance and faith, then we need to start a relational discipleship process with them.

What would this look like?

- We spend time together.
- We study the word and pray together.
- We live as an example before them.
- We introduce them to other solid Christians.
- We bring them to church with us, encourage them to be baptized, and try to get them in a small group.
- We begin the discipleship/equipping process.
- We simply live life together!

In lesson four, we will look at how to share the Gospel with people who say they do not believe in heaven, or God or...

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## Lessons in Evangelism: What About Those Who Don't Believe?

### What do you believe? Approach

If a person answers the question, "How do you think a person gets to heaven" with, I do not believe in heaven, or God, etc.... you could start out by asking in a gentle, respectful, sincere, and humble way:

- "Would you please share with me what you do believe? Or "I would really be interested in hearing what you believe?"
- Then listen and show an interest in the person.
- You may ask other questions to get clarification on what they believe.
- After listening, you can simply say, "Thank you for sharing what you believe."
- Then, instead of trying to correct them and going down 100 different rabbit trails, you can simply ask, "Can I share with you what I believe?"
- If they say yes, then you share the Gospel with them using the problem, solution, and response outline.

Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

### If there were a God? Approach

If a person answers the question, "How do you think a person gets to heaven" with I do not believe in heaven, or God, or...

- Simply say, "I understand that you do not believe. However, if there were a God, if there were a heaven, how do you think a person could get there?"
- Then listen to their answer.
- After they share, you can simply ask if it would be okay for you to share what you believe.
- If they say yes, then share the problem, solution, and response outline.

We have to remember Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

The power is in the Gospel. The power comes when the Holy Spirit works in a person's heart. He can overcome any objection. We must get the Gospel to people and then let God do his work.

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## Majority Opinion Approach

If the person answers the question with, “I do not believe in heaven, or God, or...,” you could say:

- “Throughout the history of the world, the majority of people have believed in a God, or gods, or some sort of afterlife. ”
- “Now, I am not saying that just because the majority has believed this that it makes it true. However, if it were true, how do you think a person could get to heaven?”
- Then listen
- Then ask if you can share what you believe
- Then share the problem, solution, and response outline

## Encouragement

In most conversations with proclaiming atheists, I have still had the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Remember, the power of God for salvation is in the Gospel. It is not in you or me. Our first priority is to share the Gospel with people. If we start by trying to answer or debate objections, we will most likely never get to the Gospel.

After we share the Gospel, we can go back and try to answer any objections people have.

Please do not let the possible objections that people might bring up discourage you from evangelism.

If we are loving, gentle, humble, and creative in our approach, there are usually ways to evangelize people regardless of what they believe.

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## Not Sure How to Answer

If people bring up objections that you do not know how to answer, just be honest and tell them you do not know the answer. Try to set up a time to get back with them.

Jesus knew the answer to **every** possible objection that could be raised. Yet, many people still rejected him. That should encourage us. God does not expect you or me to be an expert omniscient witness. He calls us to be faithful in sharing the Gospel.

I think you are going to be very surprised by how many people will allow you to share the Gospel with them if you take this humble, gentle, and respectful approach.

If we love people, serve them and live a godly life, many objections, most of which are simply smokescreens, will never be brought up.

The greatest apologetic for the faith is love and a consistent godly, yet not holier-than-thou, life.

The most powerful weapons we have are prayer, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit!

## Three Things to Remember

- All people know there is a God (Romans 1:20).
- God has set eternity in the hearts of all men (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
- The reason people reject or suppress the truth is because they love their wickedness (Romans 1:18). They do not want to repent.

Every human knows there is a God, and there is something beyond this life. However, they suppress the truth because they want to be their own God. We must get the Gospel to people. For the Gospel is the power for salvation.

Once again, we cannot let the possible objections that people might bring up discourage us from sharing the Gospel.

In lesson five, I will give some additional help for overcoming the fear of evangelism and encouragement.

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## Lessons in Evangelism: Overcoming Fear in Evangelism

### Overcoming Fear

- We all struggle with fear in evangelism.
- The apostle Paul struggled with fear in evangelism (Read Ephesians 6:19-20).
- Romans 8:38-39.
- 1 John 4:18.
- If we fear our great, holy, loving, gracious, and merciful God, rather than fearing people, we will not fear sharing the Gospel.

### Opportunities for Evangelism

Opportunities for evangelism besides regular conversations in your everyday life:

- Have neighbors, coworkers, or other people over for dinner, coffee, or dessert to get to know them and share the Gospel with them. Hospitality is often a key to evangelism.
- Personally invite people to your home to go through the Gospel of John or Gospel of Mark together.
- Have exchange students stay with you.
- Serve in foster care or adopting children.
- Visit people in nursing homes. Serve in jail or prison ministry. Serve at a homeless shelter, pro-life center, food pantry, or other type of ministry where you are encouraged to evangelize.
- Be creative. There are a thousand different ways to be faithful in sharing the Gospel with people. For example, my Hispanic friend and I have been sharing the Gospel with people outside of local Hispanic grocery stores.
- Go on an evangelism mission trip with OMS. You can find information on their website. I have been to Colombia and Ecuador, and it has been incredible every time.

### The Three Springboard Questions:

- Can I ask you a question?
- How do you think a person can get to heaven?
- Can I share with you what the Bible teaches?

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### Gospel outline:

- Problem – Sin.
- Solution - Jesus is fully God and fully Man. He died on a cross for the sin of the world and he was raised from the dead.
- Response - Repent and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### Encouragement

- You can do this! Everyone can share this simple message of hope!
- Practice the questions and the Gospel outline with someone.
- Pray and have other people pray for you.
- Ask people the questions.
- Share the Gospel.
- Trust God with the results.

### 5-P Book

- Part 1 Priority – Helps to build a biblical foundation for making evangelism a priority in our lives.
- Part 2 Prayer – Teaches the importance of prayer and how to pray concerning evangelism.
- Part 3 People – Helps us develop relationships with people and serve people with our time, talents, treasures, spiritual gifts, and life experiences.
- Part 4 Proclamation – Is where most of the teaching in these lessons comes from.
- Part 5 Perseverance – Teaches the importance of receiving encouragement from God through the Scriptures and encouraging one another to help us persevere in evangelism.

Priority, prayer, people and perseverance are vital to and connected to evangelism. The 5-P book will help you in these areas. You can purchase a copy on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/5-P-Evangelism-Loving-God-Neighbor/dp/1477430628>

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## Conclusion

- I want to thank OMS and all of you for this opportunity to help equip God's people in sharing the Gospel.
- May evangelism become a regular, consistent part of your everyday lives for the glory of God as you share his glorious Gospel!
- May we all remember Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

## Prayer Suggestions

- Daily thanking God for his attributes, the Gospel, and the promises you have in Christ.
- Overcoming the fear of man.
- Asking people the questions.
- Sharing the Gospel.
- Trusting God with the results of your sharing the Gospel.

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