

EVANGELISM TECHNIQUES

I. WHY EVANGELIZE?

A. Fundamental mission of the church.

Many churches misled in that they believe our main purpose is to glorify and worship God. The truth is that the most glory is given to God when a sinner repents. ICor 5:19- our ministry is to reconcile the world to Christ. In Christ's absence, this mission is carried on by the body. Realizing the Bible tells us that our days are numbered, we are commanded not to wait until a person asks, but to go out and share with the world.

B. Out of love

It is important that you realize that being a Christian is the greatest thing in the world. If you do not believe that yourself, you will find little success in your efforts to share it with other people. Not only is the Lord something to believe, but something to receive (John 1:12) We witness out of love for others and out of love for Christ.

C. The Spirit Saves

Realizing that it is God's Spirit convicts and saves, not us. Our adequacy is from Him. Also if they reject the message, they have rejected Christ, not you.

II. THE MESSAGE OF GRACE

A. The gospel message is salvation by faith and this personal aspect must be understood. Let the sharing always center on grace, Christ's free gift and how they can receive it.

B. Difference between religion and personal relationship. It is important to witness with contemporary language, not theological terms (like redeemed and propitiation). ICor 2:1-5)

C. Meet people where they are. Don't lay spiritual expectations on the unbeliever. First concern is their salvation. However, in learning the context of their life, you can share spiritual truths where relevant (love-truth concept is good for followup).

III. AVOID

A. Refutation and argument- let them express their views, don't put them down. Bring the back to the Bible or to them .

B. Avoid shame/defensiveness on your part (Rom 1:16, ICor 1:18).

C. Never condemn or be self-righteous. Communicate Love. Avoid the fear of hell approach. Do not approach from judgement but from love and grace.

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B. Avoid shame/defensiveness on your part (Rom 1:16, 100:148).

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## TRUE CONVICTION OF SIN- LEADING TO SALVATION

1. Awareness of a wrong relationship with God-not just with self or others, or a general sense of need, but a specific need of reconciliation with God.
2. Conviction of sins- a true moral sense of wrongness for particular thoughts or actions.
3. Conviction of sinfulness-a sense of helplessness to do right and consequent need for an alternative in Christ.

God works as He wills to bring someone to Himself. The amount of truth God will use to regenerate a person is something we cannot dictate. Yet, it is truth God always uses, it is never our tool in evangelism that works. All success is God's alone.

## APPROACHES TO EVANGELISM

### I. PREACHING

Obviously, this is one of the God-ordained means of evangelism (Rom 10:14-15). There must always be a focus on the message- the Word. There are many advantages in preaching, the teacher can go right to the heart and be very personal, yet minimize personal offense. A key is getting the hearer to think, react and apply truth. A teacher need not always say "we", but should speak directly to his hearers bringing the Word of God to the individual.

### II. LITERATURE

We often meet people who will read but not talk. By giving them a book we reinforce what we have said in person. If they are willing to read, they are probably interested in the truth. There may be many reasons for carrying on a conversation with you or going to a meeting with you-but studying in private indicates real interest. Choose a book wisely-one that is appropriate to the interests and needs of the person. More christians will use books in evangelism if they read more themselves. The most effective way to use books is to say "Here's a book that really helped me; I'd like to know what you think of it." Your excitement about the book will create an interest in them. Tapes are also effective in this way.

### III. CORPORATE (BODY) WITNESS

When Christians as a group get together, there is power. The Scriptures say that others shall know we are Christ's disciples by the love we display for each other. We should welcome unbelievers to fellowship, retreats and social events, where we speak not just in words, but live concipts. Our relationships are equivalent for the truth we wish to convey. Nonbelievers can shrug off one Christian "kook", but to write off a whole group of sincere Christians would take some thought.

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#### IV. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD

We need to enter the world just as Jesus did when he helped people in spite of cultural or social barriers. Our witness a salt and light (Mt 5:13-16) cannot be done if we expect those in need to come to us to hear the truth. We need to be going to their ground and become involved not just to witness but also to become involved where people hurt because of the need for Jesus Christ. Involvement in doing the truth is part of the truth and our finite compassion opens the door for an explanation of the infinite compassion of Christ.

#### V. PERSONAL

Your own experience. Sharing personal experience is called relational evangelism and is proven to be the most fruitful. (Jn 1:36-37, Jn 1:41, Jn 1:45, Mt 11:19, Mt 9:10) Identification with the non-christian is good I Cor 9:19-23. Having freedom and unlimited opportunities with good friends. Be careful though not to compromise and be caught back up in the world. However, don't let your relationship be totally conditional upon their conversion.

Put together a list of unbelievers which the cell group can be praying for each week and also set goals to reach out to.

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ASSIGNMENT WEEK THREE

Explain that next week we will be looking at some questions that they are often asked while witnessing. Draw up a list\* of these questions and assign one question to each girl and see if she can come up with the Biblical answer to the question. Again, encourage them to ask an older believer the question or suggest a few books which will help them out; i.e. Know Why You Believe by Paul Little or Answers to Tough Questions by Josh McDowell.

Give them an extra week to read their book, therefore it will be due in two weeks.

Remind them to review their memory verses.

\*POSSIBLE LIST OF QUESTIONS:

Why is there evil and suffering in the world?  
How do you know the Bible is true? Isn't it full of contradictions?  
Aren't all religions just about the same only with different names for God? Other people are so sincere in their faith, like the Jew, how can they go to hell?  
What about the heathen in Africa who has never heard about Jesus or seen a Bible?  
Do I have to change?  
Don't I have to get my life together first?  
What about evolution? (the intellectual argument from science)  
How can a loving God send people to hell?  
You can interpret the Bible any way you want to.

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