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FOUR STEPS TO CONNECT YOUR FRIENDS TO JESUS

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What is evangelism?

Evangelism is the practice of helping people hear the gospel message of God's love and respond to follow Jesus because of that message. We may have a lot of feelings about evangelism. We might feel scared of offending or annoying people. We may think that evangelism should be left to the professionals or those who are gifted. But God intends that everyone who follows Jesus to become his witness or messenger of the gospel. Billy Graham may have had the opportunity to preach to millions but much of the work of evangelism was in the hands of men and women who invited their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to hear a gospel message. And much of the follow-up was done by those faithful and courageous men and women.

Every one of us has the opportunity to invite people to encounter God. We get to be participants in the mission of God. The ultimate goal of evangelism is not to see people converted, but the ultimate goal is to make disciples who make disciples (Matthew 28.19-20, 2 Timothy 2.2). We want men and women who are lifelong followers of Jesus. And that journey may begin with us.

What feelings do you have about evangelism?

How have you seen God work through ordinary men and women for his mission? What barriers do you have when thinking about doing evangelism?

God's Part

Evangelism has two parts – God's part and our part. For whatever reason, God has chosen us to be the means by which to build the church and call people to faith. God will do his part in opening spiritual eyes and calling people to repentance and transformation. Ultimately, someone needs to have an encounter with the living God and not just have their arguments won over. Like the father in Luke 15, God desires reconciliation and is on the lookout for his children who will come home. However, we also need to do our part to help people interpret God's work in their lives. We get to help people interpret where God is and how God is working in their lives.

How have you seen God encounter people?

In what ways are you praying for people to know God?

Six Essentials of God's Redemptive Work

God wants people to repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1.15)

God's redemptive act is for everyone (Acts 10.34-25)

The Holy Spirit does the transformative work (Romans 8.4) to draw people from darkness and into the light (Colossians 1.13-14)

God offers everyone an opportunity to be awakened and have a spiritual birth to know God (John 3.3)

God sent Jesus to the world to die for our sins. (John 3.16, 1 Peter 2.24)

God calls people to people. He calls, equips and sends his messengers through the Holy Spirit (John 20.21-23)



Build Trust

Trust is a critical first step to help people encounter Jesus. By building trust, we give people the opportunity to be more open to hear us and God's voice through us. Do what they Do. Get into their world. What do they enjoy doing? What do they enjoy talking about? It may not be a priority for you, but it is for them.

Invite

Listen well. By listening to their story, we have an opportunity to have them feel valued and known.

Preach Gospel In Romans 10, the Apostle Paul asks, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" As we build trust, we need to then take the important step to invite people to interact and encounter Jesus. A simple invitation can be: "Do you mind if I invite you to ... "

Invite them to ...

Church service Hear you share your testimony Small group

Study the Bible together

Conference

Hanging out

Outreach event

Invite

At some point, we need to explain to people what it means to follow and know Jesus. We can't assume that people know what it means to follow Jesus and trust him as Lord and Savior.



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Jesus, I confess my sin and know that only you can forgive me. Thank you for dying for me so that i can know you for all of eternity and not be separated from you. I trust you today as my Lord and my savior and commit to follow you and your ways as your disciple.

A PRAYER FOR A CONFESSING SINNER



When people hear the gospel message, they need to be followed up with. Follow-up allows us to have a better understanding for where people are and how we can better serve them in their next steps.

Follow-Up

Did they respond positively to the gospel message?

Yes

Help them Grow in their faith and Equip them for mission:

Foundations Class/Book 1-on-1 Discipleship Small Group Membership Class

No

Continue to build trust with them, pray for them, and pray that God would grow your trust and show you a new opportunity to invite them to connect with Jesus

Three Practices to increase your evangelistic effectiveness

Like all things, the more we give to the practice of evangelism, the more we evangelize and the more we make ourselves available, the more God will use us to reach people.



We need to soak everything we do in prayer. We need to pray for people to whom God is calling us, asking God to reveal himself to them in fresh ways. We also need to pray for boldness that we find opportunities to call them to faith.

Grow



The best baseball players strike out (or fail) 70% of the time. But they grow and perfect their craft. Lean in to learn more about how to compel people to engage spiritual matters. Read, study, practice, and resource yourself. Connect



Evangelism cannot be a solo act. We work together as a body. Keep looking for ways to connect people to one another so that the body of Christ might work together to help people grow in their faith.

APPENDIX

Pray

Who are you praying for in this season? Write their names below and use this to remind you to pray for them.



Listen & Engage

Take a moment and ask God to focus you on 2-5 people with whom you want to develop deeper trust.

Name

example: Jim, Neighbor

What longing, desires, and/or burdens do you hear them talk about?

Being a new dad, stress about work

In what ways can you enter their world?

Fishing, make a meal for his family

Write your Testimony

Your friend's first encounter with Jesus may be through you. Your story and how God has met you is a gift to your friends who are longing to know the God you know. Your testimony is a gift to your friend. Follow the B.E.S.T. outline (below) to draft your story to share it with your friends.

Before Jesus: How would you describe your life before you met Jesus?

Encountering God: How did God meet you?

Seeing the Light: How did you respond to God breaking through in your life?

Today with Jesus: How is your life different today because you are following Jesus?

Study the Bible with Non-Christians

One way you can invite your friends to encounter Jesus is to create a space for them to study the Bible for themselves. Gospel, Jesus-centered narratives are some of the easiest and best ways for people to learn about Jesus for themselves. Here's a sample Bible Study series you can use today with your friends.

Week 1: Jesus and the tax collector (Luke 5.27-32)
Week 2: Jesus and the sinful woman (Luke 7.36-50)
Week 3: Jesus and the crowd (Luke 9.10-17)
Week 4: Jesus and the prideful guests (Luke 14.7-14)
Week 5: Jesus and his followers (Luke 22.14-23)

- 1. Hook: Ask a question that helps them engage and think on a spiritual level.
- 2. Read the Passage.
- 3. Three Discussion Questions: 1. What stood out to you and why? 2. Who do you relate to and why? 3. What do you learn about Jesus?
- 4. Modernize the message: Discuss how this story connects to us today?
- 5. Testify: Share how this passage inspires your faith in Jesus.
- 6. Apply: What is one way you can both be challenged to apply the Word this week?

Tell the Gospel Story

The gospel story is beautiful and convicting. It's simple enough for a child to grasp but complex enough for theologians to explore. Preaching the gospel is giving people the opportunity to understand how and why God loves them and what it means for us to bear witness to this love.

Below are three ways you can share the gospel with your friends. Each has a different focus but they are all intended to illustrate what it means to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Big Story



https://tinyurl.com/bigstorydiagram

Reversing



https://tinyurl.com/reversingcorruption

Bridge Diagram



https://tinyurl.com/bridgediagram

Helping people grow in their faith

Jesus called us to go and make disciples, not just converts into the kingdom. In making disciples of Jesus, we need to demonstrate/model faithfulness, teach what it means to follow Jesus, and equip them to hear from God and obey his call on their lives.

Four Essential Disciplines for the Young Believer

Hear the Voice of God	Other Focused
Praying along God's will	Serving others
Being still and resting with God	Praying/interceding for others
being still and resting with God	Telling their story / Witnessing
Recognizing the different ways God speaks to us	Committing to community like a small group
Daily devotionals / Scripture Study	Habit of confessing sins to God and others
Learning to observe, interpret, and apply	Commit to purity
the word of God	Inner-healing prayer
Study Scripture	Self-Control