



ConnectChurch

Mid-Week Bible Study:

“Soul Winning”

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Series: “Making Disciples; Evangelism and Discipleship”

Five Steps to Evangelism:

Evangelism is one of the most challenging things for most Christians. Unfortunately, most of that anxiety is brought on by bad examples or misconceptions of what it is to be effective in spreading the Word.

Before we jump into the practical application of evangelism, let’s try to clarify what we’re trying to accomplish:

- We cannot save a single soul, only Jesus saves. **John 14:6 (NASB)** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”
- Our job is to get people in a position to receive the Word. **Romans 10:17 (NASB)** “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”
- Then we are to walk alongside them, in making disciples. **Matthew 28:19 (NASB)** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,”

So, what is the formula for evangelism. There are many, but here are the 5 Simple Steps to Evangelism:

1. Pray!

- Prayer is probably the most underestimated tool of evangelism. We forget, don’t we? We pray for those under the burden of sickness and need, but are we praying for those in the darkness of this world?

Add this simple prayer to strengthen your evangelism:

“Lord, I ask that you open the eyes and heart of [insert specific names], (**2 Corinthians 4:4**) that they would know the true and saving love Jesus Christ has for them, (**John 3:16**) that You, God, would give me the wisdom to reveal the Good News to them in a compelling and personal way (**James 1:5**), and that [insert specific names] would see your glory in me (**1 Peter 2:12**). In the Name of Jesus. Amen!”

- **2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)** “in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- **John 3:16 (NASB)** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
- **James 1:5 (NASB)** “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- **1 Peter 2:12 (NASB)** “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

2. Be Joyful and Peaceful

- Always lead with the sense of peace and joy my relationship with Jesus Christ has given me.

- When you see someone with the calm, peaceful assurance that God is in control, it stands out like a sore thumb. If you want to be an effective voice for God, be Joyful and Peaceful.
- Our faith in God should be a steadying force in your life. That steadiness, that air of peaceful confidence will strike non-believers as unique and enviable.

3. Serve Others

Nothing fosters goodwill and trust like service. Paul—knew this was the secret to winning hearts and minds. **(1 Corinthians 9:19) “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.”**

- Being a willing slave to others is not normal. People of the world are more likely to be self-interested and self-absorbed, but this is what can make you different and stand out for the Glory of God.
- This will cause some challenges, but it will also present tons of opportunities to share the Good News.

4. Be the Very Best

- This is attracting to non-believers: Be the very best at whatever you do!
2 Timothy 2:15 New American Standard Bible (NASB) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”
- **Always do your best and present your very best! 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB) “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”**
- **Matthew 3:16-17 (NASB) “After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”**
- If we are giving the glory to God, be bold enough and disciplined enough to ask God to make you excellent at whatever works you do **(James 1:17)**. This is guaranteed to gather you an eager audience wanting to know how you do it.
- **James 1:17 (NASB) 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or [a]shifting shadow.**

5. Listen Intently

- Listening has become an evangelical secret weapon.
- A lot of people are always turning, thinking, wandering off to the next thing. Many of us need to work on our listening skills, learning to better lock in on individuals when they are communicating with us.
- Some great opening conversations have been the kind that indicate the person is seeking to fill some missing part in their life. We know that vacancy is properly filled with a relationship with Jesus.

10 Ways to Evangelize; It's Easier Than You Think:

1. Pray for people by name

- Chances are, you already know people who haven't accepted Christ as Lord & Savior of their lives! In our prayer time, take their names to God. God **"at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think."** (Ephesians 3:20)
- Ask God for opportunities to share the Gospel with them and trust His timing as you build relationships with them in advance of those conversations.

2. Go out into the world

- Don't just hang out in the "Church Bubble." Like-minded friends are important to nourish our faith, but we can never forget our duty to invite others into the family. Jesus tells us His Great Commission: **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."** (Matthew 28:19)
- While it's certainly easier to spend time with other Christians, we are called to go out of our immediate circle and reach those who would never receive an invitation if we didn't reach out.

3. Be Bold

- Introducing yourself to someone you don't know can be very different. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words you need. Have courage! It might be awkward at first, but souls are at stake!
 - **Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV) "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So, we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"**
 - **Romans 8:31 "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us"**

4. Extend Personal Invitations

- How many invitations do you have right now to attend some event? Chances are the events you attend are the ones where someone took the time to seek you out and invite you. Invite someone to an event with you! Your personal invitation might reach the person who needs a friend, or a special touch from God or a breakthrough or deliverance.

5. Meet people on their turf

- Find things that you and your friends or those that you are evangelizing to that you'll can do together, even if it isn't something you love doing. Sacrifice your own preference to do the things they love.
- As you spend time with others, doing things they love, you earn the right to be heard. People who we build relationships with on their turf will trust your recommendations about movies, books, restaurants, etc. They will also hear you about what is important in your life!

6. Share your story

- Your story is powerful and no one can share it better than you can! If you've never thought about it before, consider writing down how you came to know Jesus. How did you decide to follow Him? Scripture says **"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for your hope." (1 Peter 3:15)**
- No one can argue with what you've experienced, so always be ready to share when someone asks!

7. Practice hospitality wherever you are

- You can put others at ease with simple acts of kindness, like being the first to start a conversation or introducing a newcomer to everyone else in the group.
- Hospitality means generous and friendly treatment!

Colossians 3:12 "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and [a]patience; "

8. Share the gospel with a specific invitation

- Sharing the gospel is the heart of evangelization! There are a lot of ways to share the story of Jesus, but at its core, the gospel includes four main points:
 - a.) You were made for a relationship with God.
 - b.) Sin creates a separation between us and God.
 - c.) God became man in Jesus, and He died for our sins to restore our relationship with God.
 - d.) Every human person has the opportunity to have a relationship with God if they accept God's invitation!

Romans 10:9-10 King James Version (KJV)

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

9. Encounter Christ together (Disciple Them / Walk with them!)

- Your friend's commitment to making Christ the center of their life isn't a one-and-done deal. Now you can run together toward the goal: Continue to invite them to spend time with you and to come to know Jesus more deeply.

10. Teach others to do the same

- Teach others how to evangelize too, and do it together!
2 Timothy 2:2 "What you have heard from me...entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well"

How to do effective evangelism the way Jesus did:

- Evangelism is not about using specific techniques to use on people who are not saved; The best evangelism relies on building authentic relationships.
- **Huge Question:** How do we get authentically involved in the lives of unbelievers and not compromise our walk with God?
- To do evangelism Jesus' way, we need to radically identify with others and yet be radically different.
- What this woman needed to hear—and what all Christians need to hear—is that, to do evangelism Jesus' way, we need to radically identify with others and yet be radically different.
- Think of the stereotypes the world has of Christians: stand-offish and judgmental—the last person you'd ever invite to a party! Yet Jesus was delightful! He went to weddings and parties. Children adored him. The people of Jesus' day thought that holy men could only be found in the synagogues. But Jesus' work was mostly in the market place.
- We must take time to understand the doubts and spiritual questions our friends wrestle with. We aren't to shout the gospel at a safe and respectable distance and remain detached. Jesus shows us that we must open our lives in authentic loving ways to others. Jesus never treated people as merely evangelistic projects. He established real relationships with real people.
- **Huge Question:** Are you involved in authentic friendships, and sharing not only your faith but your life with at least one seeking person? Or do you spend most of your time as part of a "Holy Huddle"?

We must demonstrate a radical difference:

1. We must display Christ's love. One of the greatest detriments to outreach is when unbelievers can't see God's loving presence in us. We must look like the Christ we are proclaiming—both through acts of kindness on a personal level, and through our church communities. If people do not see practical evidence of the love of Christ, they will be reluctant to listen to the message we share. **1 John 3:18 (NASB) "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but indeed and in truth."**
2. We must declare God's truth. There is much talk today about our need to be cutting-edge and relevant. What is always cutting-edge and relevant is the Truth of God! **Ephesians 6:14 (NIV) "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,"**