



“CHEERFULNESS AND GOOD HUMOR SHOULD BE CONSPICUOUS IN ALL OUR ATTEMPTS TO CATCH MEN FOR JESUS; WE CANNOT DRIVE THEM TO THE SAVIOR, BUT THEY MAY BE DRAWN.” – CHARLES H. SPURGEON

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.”

Foundations of Gospel Conversations

1) Jesus commanded His followers to share the Gospel: The Christian faith is a **missionary** faith – Matthew 28:19-20 *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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

2) The Gospel logic is consistent – Romans 10:11-15 *For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”*

Q: Where is the possibility of a breakdown?

A: If we stay silent.

3) The need is great but the workers are few – Matthew 9:37-38 *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.”*

Q: Why might this be the case?

A: What are your top 2 fears or questions about sharing your faith?

Questions

- How to start?
- When should you do it? I mean, should I just walk up to a friend and say, “Do you know Jesus?”
- How do I share my faith to those who have been hurt or disillusioned by the church?
- How to respond when someone doesn’t believe that there is a Hell?

Fears

- Rejection (repeated).
- Christianity seems to be on the wrong side of society (history).
- I am afraid of alienating family or friends.
- I don't want the person to think I'm weird.
- The person may think I am crazy or a fanatic that needs prayer.
- Being judged everyday with every situation on how I interact and solve conflicts once I share my faith & belief.
- Fear of not having all the answers.
- Being upstaged in Bible knowledge by a nonbeliever to the point where I cannot respond.
- Getting the facts and Gospel wrong.
- It immediately puts you under a spotlight and people try to find fault.
- Feeling "not good enough" to speak "convincingly" enough.
- Encountering those who vehemently disagree with the Bible and they make you second-guess your faith.
- I feel as though I'm not capable because I'm not a great speaker.

4) How to go about sharing the Gospel? – Next Steps in Gospel Conversations

- Realize it's not merely a matter of becoming an Evangelism Expert.

Five powerful partners for personal gospel conversations

1. The Holy Spirit
2. The Witness of the Believer
3. The Word of God
4. The Gospel
5. Prayer

- Approaches to share the Gospel:

- The FIRM Model

F-Family

I-Interests

R-Religious background

M-Message

- The FIRE Model

F-family

I-Interests

R-Religion background

E-Exploratory questions

- The CAST Model

Connection

Activities

Spiritual matters

Tell your story

- RAMP Approach (Apologetics)
- Resurrection
- Archaeology
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Spiritual discussion transition questions/statements

Spiritual discussion transition questions/statements

1. Conversation starter: "Are you from Palm Beach County?"
2. When you attend church, where do you go?
3. Would you consider yourself a spiritual person?
4. Do you ever think about religious/spiritual matters?
5. Who is Jesus to you?
6. Tell me about your religious background.
7. Tell me about your relationship with Jesus Christ.
8. I would like to discuss with you...
9. I would like to talk about...

- 3 Circles: Download 3 Circles App – Life on Mission.

- Way of the Master.

WDJD (What did Jesus do?).

1. **W**ould you consider yourself a good person?
2. **D**o you think you have kept the Ten Commandments?
3. If you were **J**udged by the Ten Commandments, would you be guilty or innocent?
4. **D**estiny: do you think you will go to heaven or hell based on that judgment?
5. Do you know what God did so that you don't have to go to hell?

- The Romans Road: Romans 3:23 ⇨ Romans 6:23 ⇨ Romans 5:8 ⇨ Romans 10:9-10; 13

- Evangelism Explosion: a. Grace, b. Man, c. God, b. Christ, d. Faith.¹

- Read through the Gospel of John together.
- Pray for the people you spend time with.
- **Relationship** vs. **Random** gospel conversations: Both can be effective!
- Share the Gospel according to your personality.
- Give someone a Grace Fellowship Invite Card.
- Check in @GF online via social media.
- Share a GF sermon online.
- Share a Bible verse online.

- 5K: *The 5 & 5 Principle* – Pray for 5 people who you’ve not yet shared the Gospel with and 5 people you’ve shared with who have not yet accepted the gospel.
- Write out a 3-minute version of your testimony: 1) My life before Christ, 2) How Christ changed my life, 3) My life since Christ changed me. Ask a friend if they’ll let you share your testimony.
- Invite someone to church and treat them to lunch afterwards.

Possible stages of response to the Gospel...

1. Ignorance Level—uninformed.
2. Indifference Level—unconcerned. Has heard but doesn’t care.
3. Hostility Level—bitter, angry.
4. Interest Level—concerned.
5. Conviction Level—heavy-hearted.
6. Conversion Level—ready.
7. Growing Level—following.²

Recommended reading

- *Way of the Master* by Ray Comfort
- *3 Circles* by Jimmy Scroggins
- *Evangelism Explosion* by D. James Kennedy
- *Evangelism (9Marks)* by J. Mack Stiles
- *Basic Christianity* by John Stott
- *The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel
- *The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel
- *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel
- *On Guard* by William Lane Craig

¹ *Evangelism Explosion International*, “Steps to Life,” <http://evangelismexplosion.org/resources/steps-to-life/>.

² Darrell W. Robinson, *People Sharing Jesus* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 109.