

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

One of life's great thrills is to share the Gospel and guide people to become disciples of Christ.

Effective Communication of the Gospel

Evangelism should be natural

Some people think you need the gift of evangelism to be an effective communicator of the faith, but Once you understand your style of evangelism, you will be more effective doing the "work of an evangelist." Your style may vary from that of someone else, but the responsibility to share our faith rests with each of us. Some people use a confrontational style, some intellectual, some relational. But whatever your style, remember to be natural and to be yourself.

Evangelism is relational

Begin by developing friendships with people far from God. Most of us need to develop relationships with people prior to sharing the Gospel with them. Again, the Becoming a Contagious Christian material will provide you with ways to develop authentic relationships with lost friends and acquaintances.

Evangelism can be verbal

St. Francis said "preach the Gospel at all times, use words if necessary". Sometimes they are. We share Christ in a conversation where the Gospel is communicated either through our personal testimony, or sharing of Scripture.

Evangelism is team-oriented

All evangelism must include the step of bringing someone to seeker events and gatherings. Churches should mobilize all of the resources at their disposal to create attractive, targeted events for seekers. You need not share your faith alone. Use the resources of your church to help people hear the Gospel in a variety of forms and presentations.

Characteristics of a Christ-Centered

Evangelistic Conversation: John 4

1.v1-8 Jesus is culturally relevant.

a. Speak their language.

b. Find a felt need. This woman was lonely and ashamed of her past life. 2. vv. 9-10: Jesus causes curiosity on the part of the listener.

2. vv. 9-10: Jesus causes curiosity on the part of the listener.

a. Ask good questions, listen, don't just talk, get the other person thinking and talking.

b. Jesus asked, "What do you think living water is?" Don't always be the one talking. Seekers are "turned off" by

teachers who have all the answers; listen to them and give them an opportunity to talk about their concerns.

3. vv. 11-12: Jesus creates interest by offering solutions to peoples' deepest needs. (in this case, water). Jesus finds common ground in the area of need (water) and builds a bridge. Bridge-building is key to the development of

any trusting relationship.

4. vv. 13-15: Jesus offers to meet a person's need. Jesus turns the discussion toward Himself as the solution to our spiritual problem (sin). But the woman wants the solution without seeing the real problem-sin. She is still focused on her felt need.

5. vv. 16-18: Jesus' conversation leads to a personal conviction of sin. God through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus led this woman to a point of confrontation with her sin. The sin question is often a sticking point, but if trust and openness exist, the issue can be raised.

6. vv. 19-26: Jesus desires people to become followers, not "religious" people

a. They might ask, "Will I have to give up drinking?" Moral conduct follow changed heart. This woman at the well tried to talk "religion," while Jesus focused on the relationship between God and people.

b. The focus is on being a true worshiper of God-in a relationship with Him, not following a set of rules.

c. When Jesus reveals himself as the true Messiah and Savior, the woman follows Him.

Important Verses for Evangelism

God desires a personal relationship with you

"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty'" (John 6:35).

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him" (John 7:38).

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10: 10).

Sin keeps us from a personal relationship with God

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"(Rom 6:23)