

EVANGELISM

Four friends of a man who could not help himself

Mark 2:1-13



Compassion

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. What’s the craziest thing you ever did to try to give somebody the message of the Gospel?

2. Do you remember a time when you had a friend who was in that web - deception, fear, guilt, despair, pride - and you broke through enough to tell him or her about Christ?

Jot down a sentence or two about what happened, and we'll do some sharing of our experiences in this area.

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

It all begins with WHO

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. Write down the names of three people in your life whom you want to see become believers in Jesus Christ.

2. Write down three groups or locations that seem to you to be “prime targets” for the Gospel.

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Now that we know Who, it's time to work on **Where**
and **When**

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. Think about the people you want to evangelize.

Where are some places **you can go** to meet them?

Where are some places **you can invite them** that would be non-threatening and conducive to conversation?

2. **When** are some good times to approach them? To set up an appointment or conversation?

How about an **event** that you could attend together that would be enjoyable for them and show them your concern and friendship?

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

What is the message you want to deliver?

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. What is the message you desire them to know? Take a stab at expressing the gospel in your own words.

Rom 3:21-26

1 Cor 15:1-8

John 3:16

Eph 2:8-9

Acts 16:31

God loves us!!!

OUR
PROBLEM

All have sinned

GOD'S GIFT

Christ died
for our sins

Christ was raised
on the 3rd day

OUR
RESPONSE

Believe in the
Lord Jesus
Christ and you
will be saved!
You will receive
eternal life!

2. Think again about WHO you are evangelizing. How can you TRANSLATE the message of the gospel to get it across to them? Penetrate the veil that is preventing them from seeing who Christ really is.

Veils: lies, religion, guilt, fear, despair, doubt, being unloved, discouragement, jaded, cynicism, and so forth.

Speak of the good news of Jesus Christ in terms of something available that is already meaningful to them.

Start with what is familiar to them, and bring them to see what they could not see before about Jesus Christ.

Bible illustrations of “translating”

The woman at the well – John 4:1-42

The Pharisee and the publican – Luke 18:9-14

Sheep, a coin, and a lost son – Luke 15

The serpent and Nicodemus – John 3:1-21

The centurion – Matthew 8:5-13

Lazarus – John 11:1-12:11

The Ethiopian eunuch – Acts 8:26-40

Paul in Athens – Acts 17:16-34

The Philippian jailer – Acts 16:22-34

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

How to go about gaining a hearing for the gospel

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. Consider the following 4 evangelistic audiences in the New Testament:
 - a. The woman at the well (John 4:1-42)
 - b. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)
 - c. The Philippian jailer (Acts 16:22-34)
 - d. The men of Athens at the Aeropagus (Acts 17:16-34)

Were they all at the same place in their attitude toward the gospel? Why or why not?

2. Put them in order of how close they were to believing in Christ when the interaction began. From farthest away to closest:

3. Think of each as representing a stage in the process of a person coming to faith in Christ. How would you describe each stage in a few words?

4. Explain how you might go about witnessing to a person at each stage. Draw from the Bible passages and what the evangelist did in each case.

5. Read 1 Thes 2:1-12. this describes the ministry of Paul, Sylvanus, and Timothy to the Thessalonian people. Write down your observations about the nature of their witness.

6. Now, summarize their witness in two categories. Then categorize the statements in 1 Thess 2:1-12.

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What next?

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

It depends where they are at.

Negative about God

Positive about God/not sure who Christ is

Sure who Christ is/need reassurance to believe

Has become a believer

Eventually when you have a friend who becomes a believer,

Bring them to church!

Make yourself available to answer their questions

Orient them to basic Christianity

Introduce them to other people in the body (family)

Stay involved in their lives

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Putting it all together: your Personal Evangelism Plan

“I am overwhelmingly convinced that the gospel spreads most effectively across an existing network of trust relationships: friends, relatives, associates, neighbors.”

1. your Why
2. your Who
3. your Where and When
4. your What
5. your How
6. your What Next

FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Checking in

1. What insights did you gain about evangelism from participating in this series?
2. What aspect or aspects of evangelism would you like to learn more about?
3. What additional questions do you have about evangelism?

4. What actions do you plan to take in the next 1-2 months to put into practice what you learned about evangelism?

5. What other suggestions or observations do you have?