

# Evangelism (Outreach)

Evangelism is an important subset of ministry which focuses directly on bringing people into a relationship with God. Effective evangelism will be accompanied and backed up by all the other areas of Discipleship, but once those are in place evangelism itself can begin. This includes “telling people the Gospel” and a lot more. In an increasingly unchristian society, evangelism sometimes requires what some call “pre-evangelism” which make the Gospel understandable and reasonable to unbelievers. Evangelism requires a clear understanding of man’s need for salvation and how God offers salvation along with an ability to lovingly explain those truths to others. It also requires knowledge of how we know the Gospel is true and how it relates to other areas in case an unbeliever asks questions or objects.

## Assessment statements with related verses and questions for further study ◆

**a. I feel personal responsibility and a desire to give the good news of the gospel to those that God places in my life.....1 2 3 4 5**

Matt 28:19 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.."*

Who did Jesus say these words to?

Mark 12:31 *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Why is this the second greatest commandment next to loving God with our whole being?

**b. I am confident I can clearly explain and defend the gospel to unbelievers.....1 2 3 4 5**

1 Peter 3:15: *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*

How can we get ready to make a defense about the hope in us?

How are we to express that defense?

Colossians 4:3-4 *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

What does Paul ask prayer for?

If he asked for prayer for this, what about us?

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**c. I am open to going anywhere God calls me in whatever capacity to be a witness for Him.....1 2 3 4 5**

Jonah 1:1-3 *The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

When Jonah didn't like his assignment, what did he do?

What was he really fleeing from?

How did he fare?

**d. I am prepared to give good answers to those who ask me about my faith.....1 2 3 4 5**

1 Peter 3:15: *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.*

What is the "hope that is in you"?

Proverbs 15:23 *A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!*

What is true of a timely word?

**e. I am able to bring conversations naturally to the truths of scriptures or the saving work of Jesus with those who don't know Him..... 1 2 3 4 5**

Proverbs 22:17-18 *Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips.*

What is to be ready on our lips?

Col 4:6 *Let your speech be always full of grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

How often is our speech to be full of grace?

What does it mean to be "seasoned with salt?"

**f. I look for opportunities to love and get to know those who don't know Jesus.....1 2 3 4 5**

Colossians 4:5 *Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of every opportunity.*



How do we act wisely toward those who are not yet believers?

Acts 18: 4 *And he [Paul] was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.*

Is it ok to try and persuade people to come to Christ?

**g. I regularly pray for people in my life and others who don't know Christ.....1 2 3 4 5**

Matt 6:9-10 *Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

What is God's will for people who don't yet know Him?

1 Tim 2:1-4 *First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Who should be prayed for and why?

## Resources

Just a Walk Across The Room— Bill Hybels

Tactics in Defending the Faith (CD, MP3, or Cassette available at [www.str.org](http://www.str.org))—  
Gregory Koukl (A great introduction to having productive conversations with people who object to Christianity for various reasons)

Stranger on the Road to Emmaus—John R. Cross (This book gives a bird's eye view of scripture and focuses on clearly and accessibly explaining the way of salvation)

I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist—Norman Geisler (A good introduction defending Christianity to those that don't believe it is true)

The Gospel and Personal Evangelism—Mark Dever (Explains the fundamentals of witnessing to increase confidence and decrease intimidation about witnessing to unbelievers)

Questioning Evangelism—Randy Newman (Shows how Jesus used questioning in His interaction with others and how we can use the same method to improve our conversations)



## My Response...

What was the most meaningful statement of Scripture you read in the section on Evangelism?

Reword the statement in a prayer of response to God.

What does God want you to do in response to the study of Evangelism?

## My Plan...

1.

2.

## Concrete Steps ♦

- Invite an unsaved neighbor over for dinner.
- Identify (3-5) names of unsaved people and pray daily for their salvation.
- Take a situation from your day where you couldn't think of the right words to say and brainstorm (on paper or in thought) how you could have made the most of the opportunity. Pray for God's help to try again and put these into practice.

## General Practices ♦

**1. Be Ready to Care:** Be ready to care for the hungry or needy wherever you go. Carry gift certificates from your local grocery and department stores like Target or Wal-Mart to give on the spot to those who have need, without worrying about cash. Carry the numbers for local shelters and food services with you so you can help the homeless. Buy an extra hamburger or bagel and share it with someone who needs it.

**2. Community Compassion:** Look for opportunities to care for the needs of your community. There are many community programs that help share the love of Jesus through meeting the needs of others. Look for ways to take your faith outside the walls of your church.

**3. Deliver Food:** Set aside some time to volunteer at your local food bank with your family or small group. Make it a special day or evening out. Allow everyone to participate in the food delivery process. Go out for a meal or dessert afterwards and talk about how it felt to serve others. How was Jesus seen through your actions?

**4. What's Your Style:** You may feel pressure when it comes to sharing Christ because you think you have to "sell" someone on Jesus. Sharing Christ can happen in many different ways. Take some time to explore your style. Read some good books on evangelism and pre-evangelism (apologetics), or attend a class at church. You may be more comfortable speaking directly to people about Jesus; or maybe it is easier for you to let it come up naturally in a conversation. Find your style and begin to share your faith with others.

**5. Short-Term Mission:** Choose to go on a short-term mission trip. Through these mission trips you get a better understanding of other people's need for Jesus, and a better understanding of the heart of God. Check out the short-term missions opportunities that are available at your church.

**6. Count Conversations:** Often we can put too much pressure on ourselves to "convert" someone or have all the right answers. It is the Holy Spirit who converts, not us. All you have to do is talk about the Gospel (see Matthew 28:19, 20). Instead of counting the number of people you have led to Christ, start counting the number of conversations you have with others about Jesus. You may be shocked to find how easy it is to talk naturally about Jesus when you don't pressure yourself to convert them.

**7. Pray for Your Friends:** Make it a point to pray specifically for people you know who don't know Jesus. You may want to write their names on a bookmark in your Bible, or in a prayer journal. Set aside a regular time in your day to pray for them.