

## Creating a Culture of Evangelism

Groups Gather Night: Spring 2021

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### Why Evangelism?

**1. Evangelism is the command of our Lord (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).**

- God's commands are not burdensome. We delight to do God's will.

**2. Evangelism is the appointed means of salvation (Rom. 10:14-17).**

- Hammer/nail. God has appointed means to an end. He uses people to accomplish his plan.

**3. Evangelism is the real business of life.**

- The central drama of the universe is that Christ died to save sinners.
- *“Christian people; your one business in life is to lead men to believe in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and every other thing should be made subservient to this one object; if you can but get them saved, everything else will come right in due time.”* —C. H. Spurgeon

**4. Evangelism is the catalyst for deep, Christian joy.**

- True joy does not reach its climax in private communion with God, but in evangelizing the lost.

### 10 Things People Need for Effective Evangelism<sup>1</sup>

**1. People need the gospel in their hearts.**

- *Gospel* means “good news.” Used 130x in Bible, 109 of which appear in NT.
- What is the gospel? A man and a message (Mark 10:29 NIV - “For me and the gospel”).
- Jesus is the gospel.
  - Sinless life (imputed righteousness), substitutionary death (atonement), bodily resurrection (validation of claims and giving of new life).

**2. People need the preparation of their souls.**

- Prayer prepares our soul for evangelism, aligning our will with God's and allowing us to share in the burden of lost souls.
- *A public figure once said: “People sin all of the time according to my religion. I don't care.”*
- Jesus prayed for those who *had* believed (John 17:9) and those who *would* believe (17:20).
- We will never prioritize praying for the lost in particular without first creating a pattern for prayer in general.

**3. People need a model in their midst.**

- If leadership does not share the gospel, the congregation won't share the gospel. We must be zealous for evangelism.

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<sup>1</sup> These points were adopted from an evangelism training for pastors led by Scott Ridout, President of Converge, in 2017.

- My desire for our Group leaders is that we would be captivated by the gospel and trained in evangelism. Rather than telling our group members, “You should evangelize,” we can say “Join me in evangelizing.”
- Do you have a place where you can model evangelism for your group members?

**4. People need faces in their heads.**

- Evangelism doesn’t work without a face in your head.
- Names and burdens - names of people or burdens for particular worldviews and demographics.
- Create a “circle of concern” and pray, study, engage that circle for evangelism. *Visiting a local mosque in 2019.*

**5. People need a plan in their minds.**

- Always remember that planning is a poor substitute for praying. *JWs knocking on door.*
- Ask 3 questions deep.
- Name, Home, Church, Jesus.

**6. People need words in their mouths.**

- Tell them what to say!
- Develop a “Spiritual Conversation Starter” that is not offensive and tailored to your personality.

**7. People need tools in their hands.**

- The best tool for evangelism is the one you will actually use.
- We cannot know the gospel without Scripture. Start with Scripture.
- *What are your favorite verses? Share.*
- I have people I disciple memorize Eph. 2:1-10.

**8. People need a partner by their side.**

- Evangelism is hard work and discouraging work. (1 Cor. 3 - planting, watering)
- Every believer needs a Paul for instruction and a Barnabas for encouragement.
- In your Group encourage and pray for one another in the area of evangelism.

**9. People need impact on their inner circles.**

- The people that are most likely to share their faith are the ones who are new to the faith.
- Philip and Nathaniel (John 1:45-46) – “Come and see.”
- Think about your Group—aren’t you encouraged to evangelize when another member shares their experience?

**10. People need celebration in their ears.**

- What gets celebrated gets repeated.
- More joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than the 99 righteous (Luke 15:7).

**Close:** Choose 3 of these ideas to focus on personally and in your leadership context.  
Evangelism Week in Groups.