

Evangelism

Ascent

Winter Session, Lesson 7

Introduction

Review last week

This week: **Evangelism: what is the gospel, how do we spread it?**

Introduction: Two ways to approach the issue

Addition

Multiplication

The Music of the Gospel: Transformed Lives

Passive display of transformation

Ephesians 5:18 "Don't be drunk with wine, be filled with the Spirit"

Galatians 5:16 "Walk by the Spirit..."

1 Peter 1:15-16 "You shall be holy, for I am holy"

Active display of transformation Matthew 5:16

Servant Evangelism

The Lyrics of the Gospel: the good news of Jesus, put into words

Conversation starters

The content of the gospel conversation

GOD - His goal

US - Our rebellion

GOD - His solution

US - Our response

Example of a gospel conversation

Garden

God created the universe to show His greatness, and mankind played a central role in that plan.

Story - A painting reveals truth about its object AND the painter

Fall

Human pride led to rebellion and broken relationship with God, as sin made mankind the object of God's justifiable wrath.

Story - A math problem: 1 sin/day for 70 years = 25,550 sins

Cross

Through Jesus Christ, God expressed His love for mankind and satisfied His wrath against sin, accomplishing a rescue mission to restore mankind to its intended purpose.

Story - A compassionate judge

Response

By changing our minds about our sinful pride and choosing to become followers of Christ, we are restored to a right relationship with God and our role in His plan.

Story - A clearing in the forest

Traps to avoid

1. The sinless/wrathless gospel: "You're OK, God loves you as you are, He's lonely"
2. The cross-less gospel: "Jesus is a great example to follow"
3. The repentance-free gospel: "You are almost good enough, He gets you there."
4. The commitment-free gospel: "Just pray this prayer, accept Jesus, walk this aisle"
5. The man-centered gospel: "Jesus will make your life so much better."

Digging Deeper:

"What is the gospel?" <http://www.harvest.org/knowgod/new-believer/foundations-for-living/gospel.html>

"Share the gospel" <https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel.html>

Next Week: Missions #1

Starting Spiritually-Oriented Conversations

The effectiveness of these questions will depend on your own comfort level, and the kind of relationship you have with your conversation partner. They are meant to prompt your thinking, and to make you creative and bolder as you introduce spiritual issues into your conversations. Use the ones that best fit you and your relationship with your friend.

What's your religious background?

What are the positives and negatives of your past religious experience?

How involved are you now compared to the past? What changed?

What's your impression of people you know to be Christians?

What's your impression of well-known Christian leaders today?

Are there some that you think Jesus would be proud of, and are there some you think he would be embarrassed by?

If you could ask God any question and he HAD to answer it, what would you ask?

When you hear the word "God," what comes to your mind?

When you hear the word "Jesus," what comes to your mind?

If God asked you what you would want Him to change in this world, what would it be?

I heard this song the other day that just grabbed me – would you like to hear it?

Do you ever wonder what happens to us after we die?

What do you know about Easter/Christmas? Would you be interested in hearing how it all started?

How would you describe your spiritual life right now, more like noon or like midnight?

What are you doing these days to maintain or improve your spiritual health?

Was there a time in your life when you felt really close to God?

When was that?

What do you think brought it about?

And where are you now in comparison to that?

Assuming that God exists, how do you think He would feel about you?

Would you be interested in finding out?

If you'd ever like to know the difference between religion & Christianity, let me know, I'd love to talk about it with you.

Suppose you die today and stand in front of God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you say?

Has anyone ever taken the time to explain to you how it is possible to have a relationship with God? May I?

Have you ever wondered why the anniversary of Christ's death is called "Good Friday?"