

SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS

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HOW DO WE GO ABOUT SHARING THE GOSPEL IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

Sometimes it's hard to start a spiritual conversation. Here is some encouragement from the Bible on this topic!

“ Every person is a **spiritual being** because we are made in the image of God and therefore have a longing and ability to relate to God. (Genesis 1)

God is **actively at work** to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)

God is reconciling the world to himself and using you and me as **His ambassadors** to make his appeal (2 Corinthians 5:19-20a)

Let's approach every encounter with another person with curiosity and see every conversation as an **opportunity** to engage in spiritual conversation. You never know how God can use your conversation to plant some seeds of the gospel or to stir up some new thoughts.

Here are some tools and tips that can help you.

FINDING SPIRITUAL SOFT SPOTS

A **"spiritual soft spot"** is simply an area in people's lives that makes them open to seek Jesus and respond to the gospel. Because God created us as both spiritual and physical beings, we all have a longing for spiritual wholeness, which ultimately traces back to our lost connection with God. Many people may be out of touch with this, but we can be confident that they will experience this in some way in their lives. Usually it has to do with some area of **vulnerability, anxiety, brokenness, or even high hopes.**

TIPS:

CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

- A person may appear to be totally uninterested in spiritual matters, or say that they haven't thought about such topics. But we know that **everyone is on a spiritual journey**, so don't be quick to categorize that person as "not interested" and assume there is nothing to talk about. Try to engage further, help them think about spiritual topics, and even express some deeper thoughts about life.


POSTURE OF SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND

- Cultivate a **desire to understand** what they have experienced in their life, and how that might lead them to being spiritually open. Ask: "What was it like for you to go through that experience?" Note: This doesn't require you to have any common ground with them.

GOSPEL PRESENTATION: "BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION"

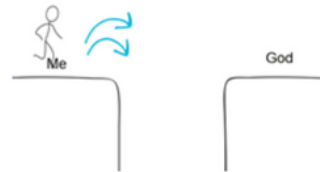
There are many simple gospel sharing tools, just as the G.O.S.P.E.L acronym, Romans Road, etc. The key is to **pick one, and practice!**

The Bridge Illustration Tool from the Navigators is one way to share the gospel. Use a pen and paper (or napkin) to write out the Bridge Illustration in the following steps:

WHAT TO SAY	WHAT TO WRITE
"One of the passages in the Bible that really captures the essence of the gospel is from Romans 6:23 "	<i>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23</i>
"The gospel message starts with the fact that God created us to have a loving relationship with Him."	<i>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23</i> Me God
"However, we have all rebelled and disobeyed God, which is the essence of sin. This sin broke our relationship with God and caused a vast chasm to separate us from God."	<i>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23</i> 

"Most of us, **knowing** that there is a **gap** between us and God, try to **bridge** this gap by doing **all kinds** of things we think are **good**. But the **Bible** tells us that **no amount** of **good** we do can **earn** us **forgiveness** and a **reconciled relationship** with God."

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23



"**Romans 6:23** says, "For the **wages** of **sin** is **death**." The **penalty** we **owe** for sin is **death**, which is not only a **physical** one, but also a **spiritual death**. This **spiritual death** is an **eternal separation** from God, which the Bible calls, '**Hell**.'"

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23



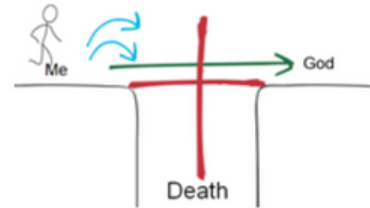
"At this point, the **picture** depicting our **predicament** looks pretty **hopeless**, but the **good news** is God **loved** us so much that He **sent** His one and only Son Jesus Christ as a gift for humanity. Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins, so that we may be forgiven and reconciled to God. His sacrifice on the cross created a bridge for us back to God, and consequently we are given eternal life as a gift."

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23



"This is the **essential gospel** depicted in this **picture**, and it's the **central** message of the **entire Bible**. God **wants** us to **get this**, but it's **not enough** for us just to **know** about what God has **done**, or **even** to **agree** with it. We have to **act** on it by **moving** over to God's side **through** accepting "**Christ Jesus**" as our **Lord** and **Savior**. We do this by **humbly admitting** to God that we have **sinned** against him, and that we need his **forgiveness** and **leadership**."

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23



TALKING ABOUT SIN

Sin is not an easy topic to bring up. One way to talk about sin is through **everyday examples**. Pay attention to the conversation, and you will find that people often vent or rant about things that are wrong with the world or in their own lives. **If they can identify the ways they are experiencing the effects and consequences of sin**, then there can be an **opportunity** to start a gospel conversation.

Sin can be an unfamiliar topic for most people. Try to help them grasp it through concepts like transgression, iniquity and shortcoming.

- **Transgression:** To cross a boundary into the forbidden; it's active disobedience against God's authority and command; desire to do whatever we want.
- **Iniquity:** To twist, distort, or pervert something. It refers to actions that are twisted, a perversion or distortion of what is good and right.
- **Shortcoming:** To miss the mark. It's a failure to live the way we ought to live, or failure to do what we know is right, otherwise known as sin of omission.

“AEIOU” APPROACH TO TALKING ABOUT SIN

We can use a memorable acrostic “AEIOU” to help us bring up the topic of sin

- Ask open-ended questions to hear them out
- Empathize with how they are feeling
- Identify the symptoms of sin
- Opinion ask for their opinion
- Understanding of the Biblical understanding of sin

Combine the 2 tools:

EVERYDAY EXAMPLE:

Your friend tells you she had a tough weekend because her sister is having a lot of fights in her marriage. She says that they seem to be headed to a divorce, and she is really upset with her brother-in-law, who she perceives as the cause of the marital problems.

A - Ask

How long have they been married? How does your family feel about it?

E - Empathize

I'm sorry to hear your sister is having such a hard time right now. I can understand how upset you must be...

I - Identify the symptoms of sin

Sin as “transgression”, “iniquity”, or “shortcoming?”

Isn't it so tragic how people enter into marriage fully intending to love this person and be committed to them, but we all fall short?

O - Opinion

What do you think?

U -Understanding

You know one way the Bible describes sin is in this same way – failing to do what we know is right. By doing this, we are failing to live the way God meant for us to live. God created us for loving relationships, but by failing to live up to our commitments, the Bible says this is rejecting His ways and the way He wants us to live. Actually, this is why God sent Jesus to the world, to address our problem of sin.

*When we share the **biblical understanding of sin**, at minimum we need to state that **sin is ultimately rejecting God**.

Our goal should be to not just end on explaining the definition of sin, but explaining that God wants to address this problem of sin through sending Jesus.

HELPFUL METAPHORS FOR SIN

1. Sin as a spiritual DISEASE that leads to death.

“ Mark 2:17
And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Jeremiah 17:9
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can **understand it?**

2. Sin as SLAVERY we need to be freed from.

“ John 8:34
Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

TALKING ABOUT THE CROSS

The 3 most important things we need to be able to explain to people are about **His incarnation** (Christmas), **the cross**, and **his resurrection**.

Think about the most meaningful way for you to explain the cross. Two good questions to think about are:

1. Why is the cross of Jesus significant to you?
2. What has the cross of Jesus done for you?

Are you able to answer these questions clearly without confusing or losing someone in conversation?

“ Colossians 4:5-6

5 Walk in **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the **best use** of the time. 6 Let your speech always be **gracious, seasoned with salt**, so that you may **know how you ought to answer** each person.

Romans 3:22-25 (NLT)

22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 **For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God freely and graciously declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25** For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. ..

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Lastly, gospel conversations are part of the larger **spiritual battle!** That means we need to bathe these conversations in prayer. **Pray for openness in our hearers, boldness and wisdom for ourselves, and that our conversations will aid others in their spiritual journey.**

“ **Ephesians 6:18-20**

18 **praying** at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that **words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,**

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may **declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.**

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