

School of Kingdom Advancement

READY TO EVANGELIZE

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ENGLISH



Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Matthew 10:8b Freely you have received; freely give.



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(Disclaimer: Examples have been adapted to Mozambican Culture.)

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UNDERSTANDING EVANGELISM

WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

Evangelism is when a Christian proclaims the message of salvation, repentance, and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. Evangelism gives the unbeliever a chance to be converted and saved. As an unbeliever hears the message and accepts Jesus as the Lord of their life, they can be confident that they will spend eternity with God in Heaven and not receive the punishment for their sins in Hell forever.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE TO EVANGELIZE?

Jesus tells us that we are all responsible to share the Gospel. Many people only rely on their pastor or the person in the church with the title of “Evangelist” to bring people to salvation. But for all the people in the world to hear the gospel and have the chance to be saved, all the people in the church need to be active with telling the lost about God. The people in the church should not only rely on the leaders in the church to evangelize.

We are shown what the purpose of the leaders in the church are in Ephesians 4:11-12. It says: And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. We are shown through this scripture that the main purpose of the leadership in the church is to equip all the other people in the church to do the work of the ministry. So, the evangelist in the church should be training all the other people in the church how to do the work of evangelism. Everyone that is a Christian needs to know how to share their faith with an unbeliever and be able to lead them to salvation in Jesus Christ. This needs to be the responsibility of all Christians, not just the ones with the title of “Evangelist.”

WHY SHOULD WE EVANGELIZE?

1. Evangelism fulfills God's will.

God created all people and greatly loves each one. God's desire is that every person would know Him and love Him. We are very valuable to God and He doesn't want any of us to perish and go to Hell. Instead, He wants us to be with Him and spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:16

God loved the world so much that He gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.

2. We are commanded to evangelize.

As followers of Christ, we are told that we need to be lights to the World. This means that in all we do we need to show and declare the truth of the Gospel in a way that leads people to know God. Also, before Jesus ascended back to Heaven, after His resurrection, He commanded all His followers to go into all the world and make disciples.

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Mark 16:15-16 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved."

3. Love for others should compel us to evangelize.

Evangelism without a love for people will not be very effective. When there are people in your life that aren't saved this should produce a great concern in you because if they are not forgiven, they will be punished for their sins and spend eternity separated from God in Hell. Jesus says in Matthew 22:39 "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If you love your own life so much that you would want to go to Heaven with God and be saved from Hell, then you should love others in the same way. You should have the same desire as God. He doesn't want any person to perish. He wants all people to have eternal life. If you struggle with sharing your faith and evangelizing, first ask God to increase your love for people. We need to live in a way that puts other people's needs before your own.

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

ESSENTIALS OF EVANGELISM

1. You must receive salvation yourself.

You need to be confident of your own salvation and faith before you try to convince someone else that they need to be saved and forgiven. Salvation is the greatest gift of God and He will give it freely to anyone. But you cannot give what you do not have for yourself. As you receive salvation, then you have the knowledge and experience to lead others to salvation.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

2. You need to be able to speak the Gospel message clearly.

To be able to speak about the good news of Jesus, you must know what you believe. The unfortunate fact is that many people claim to be Christians but when asked about simple truths about what they believe, they cannot give a biblical answer. If you are a true Christian, you will know what you believe and you will know how an individual receives salvation. When you understand these things then you must work on clearly speaking what you believe so that whenever you have the opportunity to tell a sinner about salvation in Jesus Christ you will be ready.

1 Peter 3:15 Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...

Practice speaking the salvation message in the church with all the members so that everyone in the church will be ready to speak with a non-Christian at any time.

3. Live a life of love

Our job with evangelism is to introduce people to God. *1 John 4:8 and 16 tells us that, "God is love."*

If you expect people to know your God and believe in Him then they must experience the love, goodness, and grace of God through us.

To have a life of love toward all people you need to possess the mind of Christ. This means that you need to view people the way that God does. The Bible tells us how God views people and His desires for them.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is patient toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

John 3:16 "God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."

When you love people like God does you will greatly desire that they receive salvation so that they will not perish in hell. The message of God's salvation through Jesus is so important. Without God's people sharing the message the rest of the world perishes. We need to love people so much that nothing can stop us from telling people about Jesus. If you lack love and concern for others then ask God right now to begin to increase your love for all people. Ask Him to help you love them like He loves them.

4. Everything centers on Jesus

Evangelism that doesn't speak about Jesus is not evangelism at all. There is only one way to be forgiven of sins and to receive eternal life and that is through Jesus.

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

A questions that every person needs to answer is: How do I receive eternal life?

All Christians should know the answer to this question. Unfortunately, many don't. They will give many other answers like:

To receive eternal life you must:

- Believe in God
- Go to church
- Do good things and be a good person
- Pray
- Read the Bible

All of these things are good and should be a part of a Christian's life but none of them have the power to give a person eternal life or to bring you into a relationship with God. In order to enter heaven and be with God we must be righteous and holy.

- **A.** Sin cannot enter heaven. 1 Cor. 15:50 Now this I say, Brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and corruption cannot inherit incorruption

- **B.** All people have sinned. Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- **C.** The punishment of sin is death. Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death. The meaning of death in this verse actually means to be separated from God in hell forever. This is what the Bible calls “the second death.”
- **D.** Jesus took our punishment for us by dying on the cross so that we can be righteous and enter heaven and have eternal life with God. 2 Cor 5:21 For God made Jesus, who never sinned, to be sin for us, that we can become the righteousness of God through Jesus.
- **E.** To receive salvation and eternal life, we must simply have faith in Jesus and believe that he has saved us from our sins and make him the Lord of our life. He is the only one that has taken the punishment for your sins by dying on the cross. He is the only one that can forgive our sins and make us holy so that we can enter into eternal life with Him.

Romans 10:9-13 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

It is impossible to evangelize without showing people that having faith in Jesus is the ONLY solution for being forgiven of your sins so that we can enter eternal life. If we desire to see people saved, we must teach them who Jesus is and why they need to know him.

TWO MAIN WAYS TO EVANGELIZE

In this section you will learn about two ways to share your faith. This training is not to teach a certain program or specific method. This training is to help you live a lifestyle of love toward other people and to teach you how to speak your faith. Once you understand these concepts you can apply them in your everyday life along with any organized outreach or evangelism program within the church.

- 1. Evangelize with your words**
- 2. Evangelize with your actions**

EVANGELIZE WITH YOUR WORDS

We lead the lost to Jesus through what we say.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

This scripture teaches that people cannot believe in Jesus if they have not heard about Him, and people will not learn about Jesus unless the believers go out and tell them. Those things that you speak must be clearly from the Word of God so that those that hear can have faith in the right thing. All Christians should be trained to clearly speak the gospel message of Jesus Christ so that when the lost hear the message they can believe in the truth of God.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with all meekness and fear.

All Christians need to be able to tell others how to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!

Speaking the gospel message of salvation:

When sharing the message of salvation, I believe that it's important to begin by telling the listener about God's plan and purpose for creating them. This will help them to understand their need for a savior. Many times, when people share the gospel, they just start talking about how Jesus died for everyone's sins and how people need to accept Jesus so that they can be forgiven. When you evangelize in this way, you leave many questions for the listener like: Why did God create us if we were just going to fail? What is sin and where did it come from? Why is sin bad, and why is faith in Jesus the only thing that can forgive sin. But as you will see, when you start by talking about God's purpose in creating humanity and then explain sin and forgiveness through Jesus, the gospel that you deliver to the listener will be clear.

The message for salvation contains three main points. As you cover these three main points with an unbeliever, you can be confident that when you are done the message will have been clear and the unbeliever can make their decision as to whether they want to accept Jesus as their Lord or not.

The three main points are:

- 1. Purpose**
- 2. Problem**
- 3. Solution**

Purpose

God's purpose for people is love. God's greatest purpose for creating people is that He desires to share love and relationship with humanity.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them

God made us in His image. If we know what God's image is, then we can understand the purpose that He created us.

In 1 John 4:8 and 16 the Bible says that **God is Love**.

These scriptures show that God's image is love. We are made in the same image. He created us so that we could love Him and other people and have meaningful relationships. He wants to know us and love us, and he wants us to know him and love him also. He wants to share with us the beauty and greatness of eternal life.

Love cannot be forced. Therefore, God gives people a choice to love Him. This choice is called free will. Even the very first people, Adam and Eve, had the choice to love and trust God or follow their own way. God put them in a beautiful, perfect garden where they spent time with God every day. But for love to exist between humans and God, God had to give them the opportunity to choose. So, God put a tree in the garden and told Adam and Eve not to eat from it. *Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

But the devil came to Eve and tempted her to disobey God. Then she gave the fruit to Adam, and he also disobeyed. When they did this, it showed that they didn't trust God but instead, wanted to follow after their own desires more. This act of disobedience brought a great problem for all people.

Problem

The problem is sin. Sin separates us from God and destroys our purpose. Sin removes us from our relationship with God and takes away our opportunity to have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

This scripture shows us that if we are corrupted by sin we cannot come into God's kingdom. To have eternal life and enter heaven we must be holy and righteous. The problem is that all people have sinned. Just like Adam and Eve had a consequence for sin, all people that came after them also have a consequence. The consequence is death. This type of death that is talked about in the Bible is everlasting punishment and separation from God in hell.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death.

Because we have all sinned, we all deserve the penalty of death for our actions. Just as a thief that is guilty of robbery will receive a punishment for his actions with the police, every person guilty of any sin will receive the punishment for their actions.

This makes God very sad because He didn't create people to be separated from Him and to receive the punishment of hell. Even when all the people sinned, He still loved them very much, and made a solution for the problem of sin. This is good news!

Solution

The **solution** to solve the problem of sin is **Jesus!**

God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us so much that even though we deserve death He brought another solution. This solution came at a high price for Him, which shows us just how great His love is for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The only way for a person to pay the penalty for their sin is to be separated from God forever in hell. But God knew that He could send His Son Jesus, who is holy and not guilty of any sin, to the world to be a sacrifice for all people. Only a man that had no sin could pay the penalty for a sinner. If Jesus was guilty of any sin, then He would have been responsible to suffer the consequence of His own sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He (God) made Him (Jesus), who never sinned, to be sin for us, so that we may become the righteousness of God in Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross He died as a sacrifice for our sin. As He was sacrificed, all the sin and guilt of the whole world was placed on Him, and he paid the penalty for all sin.

Hebrews 10:12 But this Man (Jesus), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

How to Receive the Gift of Salvation

After you have spoken the gospel by explaining God's purpose for life, humanity's problem of sin, and that Jesus provided the solution by sacrificing Himself to forgive our sin, it is now necessary to tell those listening how to receive salvation and forgiveness for sins.

Even though Christ's sacrifice paid for all sin to be forgiven, this doesn't mean that everyone is automatically forgiven and saved. Salvation and forgiveness of sins is available to everyone, but not everyone will be saved and forgiven. God doesn't force people to receive salvation. Each person must choose for themselves to receive God's gift. Remember, God has given people free will. He will not force you to accept Him, follow Him, or receive from Him. You must choose to love Him, follow Him, and make Him the Lord of your life.

How does a person receive salvation? There are two things that a person needs to understand so that they can receive salvation. They need to confess their faith in Jesus Christ and repent of their sins.

1. **Have Faith** – Salvation comes through faith. Just believe in Jesus and what He has done for you!

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Salvation does not come through works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. **Repent** – Repentance is so important, but it is something that many people neglect to talk about and preach. Many people will just tell a new convert that they need to ask God for forgiveness, but this is not what the Bible says. The Bible does say multiple times to repent! We must preach repentance.

The meaning of repentance is to recognize that you have done wrong, chose to turn from the wrong behavior and obey God. Repentance is to choose to surrender to God's way and change. Repentance is allowing Jesus to be Lord of your life and lead you. Repentance is the action and proof of a new believer's faith. Faith must have action, or it is not faith. A person that says they believe in Jesus and have faith in Him, but they don't change the actions of their life to love and obey Him, is a liar and has no faith.

James 2:17 faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Let us see from scripture the importance of repentance.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Luke 13:3 But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Mark 1:4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As you can see from the many scriptures above, the act of faith that is expressed through true repentance is necessary for the forgiveness of sins. Your sins must be forgiven for you to receive eternal life and be saved, and forgiveness is not given without repentance.

Repentance is required!

It is Now Time For a Choice

Once you have presented the gospel to a person, or a group of people, you can now offer them the opportunity to receive Jesus, repent of their sins, and be saved. This could be done by simply asking them: “would you like to be forgiven of your sins and start a relationship with God today? Would you like to have eternal life and know that you will go to heaven?” If they say yes, then it is good if you can help them to pray so that they can receive salvation. This can be a simple prayer where they express their faith in Jesus and repent of their sins. Just have the person repeat the parts of the prayer after you. As a person prays and confesses Jesus and truly repents, they are immediately forgiven and have received salvation. They can now be sure that they will go to heaven and be with God forever.

Speaking What You Have Learned

You have learned many components of how to speak the gospel and how to help someone know how to receive salvation. Let’s review some of the most important components.

- Speak the gospel by talking about the purpose, problem, and solution.
- Tell them how to receive salvation. They receive by having faith and repenting.
- Ask if they would like to choose to follow Jesus and receive salvation.
- Pray with them.

An example of what it might sound like to speak the gospel using what you have learned above is this:

Begin with asking the unbeliever some questions.

“What do you think the purpose of your life is?”

(Listen to the person’s answer. Once the person answers the question ask the next question.)

“Would you mind if I share with you what I believe our purpose is?”

(The person will usually allow you to share your thoughts. As they do, this gives you the perfect opportunity to share the gospel of salvation starting with **God’s purpose** for them.)

“I believe that to understand our **purpose** we need to know what we were created for. The Bible says in Genesis that God created us in His image. And later in the Bible in the book of 1 John, God’s Word tells us that God is love. God’s image is love, and we were created in His image. God’s purpose was to create people that could love Him and be loved by Him. He wanted people to be in a relationship with Him so that He could share His heart and creation with us.

Love cannot exist without a choice, so God also gave us free will. It is our choice to love God. He doesn't force us to love Him. But from the very beginning people have chosen not to trust and love God. Instead, people have followed their own desires and the desires of the evil one. This has created a large **problem**.

When people don't obey God and don't live in the purpose they were made for, sin comes to their lives. To be in a relationship with God and to go to Heaven when we die, we need to be holy and without sin. God is holy and heaven is perfect, so sinful people can't be with God in heaven. The Bible says in Romans that everybody has sinned and fallen short of God's glory. It also says in Romans that the penalty for sin is death. This type of death is being separated from God forever in hell. This is a huge problem!

God loves us so much that He didn't give up on us and He provided a solution. The Bible says in John that God loves the world so much that He gave His only Son (Jesus), so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but they would have everlasting life. Jesus was born and lived on Earth as a man but he didn't sin. Jesus taught many good things and performed many miracles. There were people that didn't accept His message and put Him to death on a cross. As He died though, He was able to pay our penalty of death for our sins. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians that even though Jesus never sinned, when He died, He took our sin and made us righteous just like Him. As He takes our sin away, He gives us back our purpose. He brings us into relationship and love with God. He gives us everlasting life.

The Bible says that all we need to do to receive salvation and eternal life is to confess our faith in Jesus with our mouth and believe in our hearts that Jesus died and rose again to forgive our sin. For a person to receive salvations, they must do two things: #1 Have faith in Jesus by believing that He died for your sins, resurrected, and is alive today, and #2 repent. This means to turn from your sins and follow Jesus.

Would you like to be forgiven of your sins today and start a relationship with God? Would you like to have eternal life and know that you will go to heaven?"

Repeat this prayer after me:

*Father God, thank You for loving me.
Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus.
Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross to pay for my sin.
I believe that You rose from the dead three days later.
I believe that You are alive today.
I confess that I am a sinner.
But today I choose to turn from all my sins. I repent!
Jesus, forgive me. Save me now.
I choose to obey You and make You the Lord of my life.
In Jesus' name, Amen*

Review: Always remember the three main points.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. God's purpose for people is love. | Purpose - Love |
| 2. The problem that separated us from God's love is sin. | Problem - Sin |
| 3. The solution for sin is Jesus. | Solution - Jesus |

Evangelize with your Actions

The foundation of Evangelism is Love

1 John 4:8 God is love.

We are supposed to represent God to the people around us. If you want people to know who God is then you must represent Him well. You can show people what God is like by acting like Him. Because God is love, we should also act with love toward all people so that they can understand God. We can't just talk about the love of God, we must also show it through our actions.

2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us...

Evangelism is an act of love. Evangelism that does not function in love will have little power and not last long.

A man asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:36-39

If we love God with all our hearts, we will desire the things that He desires.

2 Peter 3:9 God is not willing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God's desire is that no person should perish and go to hell. This is His greatest desire and the reason that Jesus came and died for us on the cross. If we love God and begin to care about the things that He cares for, we will share His great desire for seeing people receive salvation. Also, if we love other people as we love ourselves then this will also compel us to evangelize. Do you want to be punished for your sin and go to hell? Do you want to be separated from God forever? Nobody would want that. By receiving salvation, it shows that we care for our own life. If you care for your own life enough to receive forgiveness and salvation for yourself, then you should love other people in the same way and tell them the gospel so that they might become saved also.

Your Actions Must Support What You Say

Some people just talk a lot about their religion but don't live a good example of what they talk about. Other people try to live as a good example of a Christian, but do not speak their faith.

Both of these types of people are going to have a difficult time converting a sinner. The unbelieving people in the world need to hear the gospel in words and see the power and love of God in our actions. **Effective evangelism must have a clear message of Jesus and the actions to back up the message.** If you preach to people about love but they don't see you acting in love, they will not accept your message. If they hear you talking about God's power to set them free from sin or addictions but then they see you sinning and struggling with addiction, they won't accept your message. As we preach to people about God's love, salvation, power, and healing, we need to be examples of these things by the way that we live.

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Your deeds are what gives truth to your words. Not only should you tell people about Jesus, but you should show them also through your actions.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

If we want people to be saved and love God, then we should imitate God so that people can see an example of what God is like through us. We do this by displaying His fruit. His fruit is His character.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Put the needs of others before your own

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

What does this verse have to do with evangelism? The answer is a lot!

In a world where people struggle and fight to survive it is very tempting to only focus on your own needs or the needs of the people closest to you. The Bible teaches us to focus on God and the needs of others before our own. He promises that as we trust Him in this that He will take care of our needs also.

Matthew 6:23 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

It doesn't matter the type of person, whether good or bad, rich or poor, old or young, as Jesus put his comforts and desires aside to come and save people, there will be times that we need to put our comforts, desires, and plans aside so that we can show people God's love and hopefully have an opportunity to speak the gospel to them. It is all evangelism.

Practical examples of how to put the needs of others before your own might be:

- If food is served, don't push to the front of the line and take more food than you should. Instead, maybe allow someone else to go in front of you, and as you are waiting try to find an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.
- If it has rained and your house needs repair, but you also see that one of your neighbors needs help to fix their house, help them fix theirs first and while you're working look for an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.
- You are going to the well for water and as you return God draws your attention to someone sitting in their yard. You set your water down and sit with them and get to know them. Maybe you find some areas that you pray for them. As time goes on you may return to their house and build the friendship and even help in other areas that you can see. During this time, you can be looking for an opportunity to tell them about Jesus.
- If you see someone that has gotten their car stuck, go and help them without expecting anything in return. Take the opportunity, if possible, to tell them about Jesus.
- If you know of someone that doesn't have enough food in their house give them some of your without expecting to receive any back. Ask the Lord to use the opportunity for you to show His love and tell them about Jesus.

The ways to show God's love are endless, you just need to look for them. Many times, people don't see the love of God in us because we are focused more on our lives than on being a blessing to others. As we focus on being a blessing to other you will witness God opening many opportunities for you to evangelize and lead people into a relationship with Jesus. People will be much more willing to listen to your message if they can see how you love them and represent Jesus in all that you do.

THINGS TO AVOID WHILE EVANGELIZING

Evangelism is not about arguing.

A very common situation that happens when people are evangelizing is that when the unbeliever asks difficult questions or shows that they do not agree with the gospel, the person evangelizing becomes offended or frustrated because the unbeliever is not accepting their message. Then the believer and the unbeliever begin to argue and try to prove the other person wrong. This is not a good way to evangelize. People are not converted to Jesus by argument. People are converted to Jesus by hearing a well-spoken gospel and seeing the power of Jesus displayed in the Christian's life. Not everyone will accept your message of salvation. Even when a person doesn't accept what you tell them, continue to act with the love and peace of God.

2 Timothy 2:23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition.

2 Timothy 2:14 Warn them before God against arguing about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

Sometimes people may ask something that you don't know. Instead of arguing with them, be humble. Tell them, "That's a good question and I don't know the answer. Let me see if I can find the answer, and if it's alright with you I will return to tell you." Humility will always benefit you more than being arrogant and continuing in an argument. Even when people disagree with you, continue to treat them with the character of God.

Evangelism is Not About Just Having a Big Program

Most of the time when people think about evangelism they think about a church outreach, or crusade, or Jesus Film, or program, or event that is created by the church leader for the purpose of winning the lost to Christ. All of these programs are very good. We should use many different tools to present the gospel. But, what happens is that most of the Christians in the church will only participate in evangelism if the church leader creates a program for them to be involved in. Most churches may only try to evangelize one or two times a year. Some do not evangelize at all. Many churches are just waiting for their pastor, a district leader, or a missionary to come and do a program for them. This shouldn't be. Every believer should look for opportunities to evangelize to the people that they are around every day.

There should be more evangelism that happens in each believer's day to day life than from a program that the church puts together. More individuals should come to salvation through one-on-one relationships with believers than come to salvations through programs or church services. If every person in the church shared the message of salvation with the people around them instead of waiting for the church to make a new program, many people would be saved and churches would be full. Evangelism through relationships will be more productive than evangelism through programs.

Evangelism is not about personal titles and church names.

We should never use our titles or position in leadership to pressure people into receiving us or listening to us. For an unbeliever it doesn't matter what your title is or what church you go to. Do not try to draw their attention to these things. You are there to love that person through your actions and words and to introduce them to Jesus. Be humble. Lift up Christ to them. Show them His love and power. It is not important to lift yourself up.

1 Peter 5:2-3 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly. Don't act as lords over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock.

Also, to the unbeliever the name of your church should not be important. A person is not saved by being converted to a specific church or attending a certain church. A person is saved when they repent of their sins and make Jesus the Lord of their life. As you evangelize, tell them about Jesus first. After you have told them about Jesus then invite them to church if you feel it is appropriate, so they can continue to learn more about God. People must be converted to Jesus, not converted to a church.

Evangelism is not about judging and condemning those that don't believe.

Evangelism is not an opportunity for a believer to point out all the bad things in an unbeliever's life. It is our job to show them that the solution for their sin is salvation through Jesus. If you see that the person you are sharing the gospel with has major areas of sin in their life, do not condemn them for it. Even Jesus didn't condemn the unbelieving.

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The only times that we see Jesus bringing a judgement against anyone was with people that were already religious but continued sinning.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.

This verse shows that we need to keep the believers accountable for any sinful behavior, but it is not our responsibility to judge the people that are not believers. God will judge them.

Your purpose in evangelism is to share with the person the message of salvation and the love of God.

Your job is to give them an opportunity to repent of their sin so that they can be forgiven and saved. Only after a person is saved should you focus on discipling the new believer and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict them of the changes they need to make in their life.

HONOR TOWARD PEOPLE

When you evangelize always honor the people you are ministering to. Most of the time, evangelism will happen when you are out of the home or church. So remember that you will probably be on someone else's property, or in someone's business. Even when you are just ministering on the street, you are taking someone's time. Honor their property. Honor their businesses. Honor their time. Even honor them if they disagree with you or have a different belief. Be loving, and gentle, and humble in all circumstances.

Remember that sharing the gospel outside of the church is different than a church service. Many times, churches can get very energetic with loud expressions of faith as they pray, or sing, or preach. But when you evangelize, most of the time you are with people that aren't used to church. They might not receive from you well if they feel you are acting superior to them. When you share about Jesus, talk to them like you would a friend. Don't preach at them. When you pray for them, pray with the love of God. It is faith that brings answers to prayers, not how loud you pray.

Finally, be patient with them. Evangelism isn't about rejecting the person that you shared the gospel with if they don't receive your message right away. Sometimes, especially with friends and family, they will be won for Christ through much time. They may receive salvation as they watch and see how you honor them and are patient with them, and they see a good example in you. Sometimes this takes months or years. In all things, honor people and show them the love of God.

FRUIT OF EVANGELISM

If each Christian was equipped and active in evangelism, the church would grow rapidly. As it is now, most Christians do not share their faith. Most of the church relies on the pastors and leaders to evangelize or create a program for evangelism. If we continue only relying on the main leaders in the church to evangelize than we will see a very small and slow increase to the church. But, if we all walk in obedience to God and share the gospel and show the love of God in our actions, we will see a much greater and faster increase of souls in the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Remember that Jesus commanded us all to be a light. This means we should all share the good news of the gospel and do good works.

Evangelism programs and outreaches are good. These ministries should be within our churches. But they should never be a substitute for each believer sharing their faith to the people they encounter every day. You don't need a church program to share your faith.

Think with me for a moment. Imagine a church of fifty people. If this church did an outreach and five people were saved and added to the church, this would be good. Maybe the church does three outreaches in a year and at each five people are added to the church. Now the church has grown in one year from 50 to 65. Now think about what would happen if each people in the church shared their faith to the unbelievers in their life. Let's just say that each person was only able to bring one person to salvation in a year and the new believer was added to the church. This would mean that the church just grew from 50 people to 100 people in one year. This is a much greater growth rate.

Face to face evangelism that is done in love through relationships will produce a greater harvest of souls and create stronger disciples. We need to train the entire church to love people and share their faith. The fruit of this will be obvious: People will be added to the Kingdom of God, the churches will grow and be healthy, and as the churches grow, more churches can be planted.

ENDING THOUGHTS

People are very valuable to God. They are so valuable that it was worth it to Him to come in the form of a man and save us by dying on the cross. My prayer is that we will all strive to value every person just as Jesus does. My prayer is that we would strive to love people like Jesus does. And my prayer is that every Christian would use that love to share the gospel and see the lost saved. Let love be the power of God that compels you to lead sinners to salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

Love fuels evangelism.

Salvation in Jesus Christ is the message of evangelism.

Be blessed as share the message of Jesus in love.

This book is available to download at: www.aygministries.org/resources