



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Sharing Your Faith

**How to Tell Others About Jesus with Truth, Love, Courage,
and Grace**

The Short Answer

Sharing faith means pointing people toward Jesus with truth, love, humility, and trust in God.

Opening Memory Anchor

Sharing faith means pointing people toward Jesus with truth, love, humility, and trust in God.

Part One

1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SHARE YOUR FAITH? Sharing your faith means communicating something about your Christian belief, hope, experience, or relationship with Jesus. Sometimes that happens through a direct gospel conversation. Sometimes someone asks why you believe what you believe. Sometimes you explain Scripture. Sometimes you tell your story. Sometimes you answer a difficult question. Sometimes you invite someone to church or Bible study. Sometimes you simply begin a conversation that continues later. Evangelism does not require every conversation to look the same. But Christian evangelism ultimately points beyond the Christian toward Christ.

2. SHARING YOUR FAITH AND SHARING THE GOSPEL ARE RELATED - BUT NOT IDENTICAL A Christian might say, “Prayer helped me through a difficult season,” “God gave me peace when I was grieving,” or “My relationship with Jesus changed the way I understand forgiveness.” Those are meaningful expressions of Christian faith. But they do not necessarily explain the gospel. Someone can hear about the difference Christianity has made in your life without understanding who Jesus is, humanity's problem with sin, why Jesus died, that He rose from the dead, or what Christians mean by grace, repentance, and faith.

Sharing your experience can open a door. Sharing the gospel explains the good news.

Use Your Experience To Point Toward Christ.

3. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8.

Read Romans 3:21-26.

Read Romans 5:6-11.

Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

A simple gospel framework is:

God Created.

Humanity Sinned.

Jesus Came.

Jesus Died.

Jesus Rose.

God Calls People To Repent And Believe.

Christ Saves.

The gospel addresses humanity's deepest problem: sin and separation from God. Salvation is by grace through faith, not something people can earn.

4. THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT JESUS Christian evangelism is not primarily: “Come to my church,” “Become more religious,” “Adopt my politics,” “Live by my moral standards,” or “Become like me.”

Read Acts 4:8-12. Read 2 Corinthians 4:5.

Paul says Christians do not proclaim themselves. They proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. The center of Christianity is Jesus.

5. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS SHARE THEIR FAITH?

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

Read Acts 1:8.

Read Romans 1:16.

Christians share their faith because:

Jesus Commands It.

The Gospel Is Good News.

People Matter To God.

Christ Deserves To Be Known.

Love Does Not Keep Good News Silent.

6. DO I HAVE TO BE AN EVANGELIST? Not every Christian has the same spiritual gift or ministry role. **READ EPHESIANS 4:11.**

But sharing Christ is not limited to people with a particular evangelistic gift. **READ 1 PETER 3:15.** **READ COLOSSIANS 4:5-6.** **READ ACTS 8:1-4.** Some believers may be especially gifted in evangelism. Every Christian can be prepared to speak about Christ.

A Gift Does Not Cancel A Christian Responsibility.

7. WHAT IF I FEEL UNPREPARED? Many Christians worry: “What if they reject me?” “What if I say something wrong?” “What if they ask something I cannot answer?” “What if I don't know enough?”

Read 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

Courage does not mean never feeling afraid. It means faithfully doing what is right even when fear is present.

Read John 9:24-25.

The man Jesus healed could not answer every question, but he could tell what he knew. Keep learning. Prepare. Practice. But do not wait until you can answer every possible objection before speaking about Christ.

You Do Not Have To Answer Every Question To Faithfully Point Someone To Jesus.

8. WHAT IF SOMEONE ASKS SOMETHING I CANNOT ANSWER? Say: “I don't know.” You might add: “That's a good question. I'd like to look into it.” Do not invent an answer. Do not pretend certainty. Honesty builds credibility. A Christian who admits not knowing something has not failed at evangelism.

9. YOUR TESTIMONY

Read Acts 22:1-21.

Read Acts 26:1-29.

Paul tells his story while pointing beyond himself toward Christ. A simple testimony can include:

BEFORE - What was life or your understanding of God like? HOW - How did you come to understand and trust Christ?

AFTER - What has Christ changed, and how is He continuing to change you? Your story matters. But your testimony is not the gospel itself.

Use Your Story To Point Toward His Story.

10. YOUR TESTIMONY DOES NOT NEED TO BE DRAMATIC Some Christians have dramatic conversion stories. Others grew up hearing about Jesus and gradually came to understand the gospel personally. One testimony is not more legitimate because it contains more tragedy, rebellion,

addiction, or dramatic change. The power of a testimony is not how shocking the “before” story was. The power is the Savior.

11. LISTEN WELL AND ASK GOOD QUESTIONS

Read James 1:19.

Ask questions such as: “Do you have any spiritual beliefs?” “What do you think about Jesus?” “What has shaped what you believe?” “What do you think Christianity teaches?” Then listen. A statement such as “I don't believe in God” could mean several different things. A useful question is: “Would you mind telling me more about what you mean?”

People Are People, Not Evangelism Assignments.

12. LOVE THE PERSON EVEN IF THEY NEVER BELIEVE

Read Matthew 22:34-40.

Christian love cannot be conditional upon conversion. A person should never discover that a Christian friendship existed only as an evangelistic strategy. Continue being kind. Continue listening. Continue caring. Continue treating the person with dignity. Conversion is not the price someone pays to remain your friend.

13. DEFEND TRUTH WITHOUT BECOMING QUARRELSOME READ 2 TIMOTHY 2:23-26. READ 1 PETER 3:15-16.

Christians may explain, reason, answer objections, correct misunderstandings, and defend the faith. But winning an argument while humiliating a person is not a spiritual victory.

14. EVANGELISM AND APOLOGETICS

EVANGELISM communicates the gospel. APOLOGETICS gives reasons for Christian belief and responds to objections. They overlap but are not identical. Apologetics may help answer difficult questions, but eventually the conversation should return to Jesus.

A Person Can Win An Argument About God Without Trusting God.

15. WHAT IF SOMEONE HAS BEEN HURT BY CHRISTIANS? Listen carefully. Do not immediately defend the church. Do not minimize abuse, manipulation, hypocrisy, betrayal, sexual misconduct, financial exploitation, authoritarian leadership, racism, or other legitimate harm. Sometimes the appropriate response is: “What happened to you was wrong.” Help the person distinguish JESUS from PEOPLE WHO MISREPRESENTED JESUS. If someone discloses abuse or trauma, the immediate need may be safety, compassionate listening, or appropriate professional, legal, or pastoral help rather than completing a gospel

presentation. A vulnerable disclosure should never be treated merely as an evangelistic opening.

16. WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIAN HYPOCRISY? Sometimes Christians are hypocritical. Christianity does not teach that Christians become instantly sinless. It teaches that sinners need a Savior. That does not excuse hypocrisy. It makes repentance necessary. Acknowledge genuine failure. Then return to Jesus. The truth of Christianity depends upon Christ, not Christians perfectly representing Him.

17. WHAT IF SOMEONE ALREADY CALLS THEMSELVES A CHRISTIAN? Do not assume that a Christian label automatically means someone clearly understands the gospel. But do not assume the opposite either. Ask respectful questions: “What does being a Christian mean to you?” “What do you believe about Jesus?” “How would you describe the gospel?” Listen. Clarify. Point to Christ.

18. WHAT ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS OR “THAT’S TRUE FOR YOU”? Religions may share certain ethical teachings, but they make different claims about God, humanity, sin, salvation, Jesus, death, and eternity. Contradictory claims cannot all be true in the same sense.

Read John 14:6.

Read Acts 4:12.

Christianity also makes claims about reality. “Jesus rose from the dead” is not merely a personal preference. It is a historical claim.

Truth Matters. People Deserve Love And Dignity.

19. DO MY ACTIONS MATTER? Absolutely. READ MATTHEW 5:13-16. READ 1 PETER 2:11-12.

Kindness matters. Integrity matters. Generosity matters. Forgiveness matters. Humility matters. But actions alone may not explain why Jesus died and rose again.

Live Consistently. And When Appropriate: Speak.

20. SHARING CHRIST AT WORK, WITH FAMILY, AND WITH FRIENDS Christians can live and speak faithfully while respecting boundaries. At work, be honest, work well, respect policies, and do not use authority over employees or subordinates to create religious pressure. With family and friends, pray, live faithfully, apologize when necessary, answer questions, look for natural opportunities, and respect boundaries. Wisdom asks: Is this conversation appropriate? Is the other

person interested? Am I respecting their freedom? Am I using authority or relationship to create pressure?

21. WHAT IF SOMEONE SAYS NO? Respect the answer. READ MARK 10:17-27. The rich man walked away. Jesus loved him, told him the truth, and allowed him to leave. Christians should not manufacture conversion through pressure. A person's "no" today may not be their final answer forever. Continue loving them.

22. CHRISTIAN WITNESS RESPECTS FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE Christians are called to proclaim, persuade, reason, answer, and invite. They are never authorized to force belief. Respecting someone's freedom to reject the gospel does not mean believing all beliefs are equally true. It means the gospel is offered through faithful witness rather than compulsion.

Christian Witness Respects The Conscience Of The Listener.

23. WHAT IF SOMEONE WANTS TO FOLLOW JESUS? Explain the gospel clearly. Explain repentance and faith.

Read Mark 1:14-15.

Read Romans 10:9-13.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

There is no magical prayer formula that saves someone. Jesus saves. Help the person begin reading Scripture, praying, connecting with a healthy local church, being baptized, and growing as a disciple. Evangelism aims toward discipleship, not merely a decision moment.

24. PRACTICAL WAYS TO BEGIN

Pray For Someone. Listen.

Ask Questions.

Prepare Your Testimony.

Learn A Simple Gospel Explanation.

Read The Bible With Someone.

Pray With Someone.

Invite Them To Another Conversation, Church, Or Bible Study.

Follow Up Without Pressure.

Introversion does not disqualify you. Imperfect speaking does not disqualify you. You do not need another person's personality. Begin faithfully with the opportunities God places before you.

Beginner Memory Anchor

Share Christ Clearly.

Love People Genuinely.

Respect The Conscience.

Leave The Results With God.

Beginner Review

1. The word “gospel” means _____ news.
2. Christian evangelism ultimately points people toward _____.
3. Sharing Christian experience and sharing the _____ are related but not identical.
4. Salvation is by _____ through faith.
5. Christians do not need to know the answer to every _____ before sharing their faith.
6. A testimony should point beyond the Christian toward _____.
7. Evangelism involves speaking and _____.
8. Christians should give answers with gentleness and _____.
9. Christian witness respects the listener's _____.
10. Christians faithfully witness and trust _____ with the results.

Beginner Review Answers

1. good

2. Jesus

3. gospel

4. grace

5. question

6. Christ

7. listening

8. respect

9. conscience

10. God

Part Two

Want To Go Deeper?

The Biblical Mission

25. THE GREAT COMMISSION

Read Matthew 28:16-20.

The Great Commission begins with Christ's authority. Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations. That includes going, baptizing, and teaching people to obey what He commanded. Evangelism is therefore part of a larger discipleship mission. The goal is not merely GET A DECISION. The goal is MAKE DISCIPLES.

26. “You Will Be My Witnesses”

Read Acts 1:6-8.

Jesus tells His followers they will receive power from the Holy Spirit and become His witnesses. Acts traces the gospel outward: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Christian witness is empowered by the Holy Spirit and centered upon Jesus.

27. APOSTOLIC WITNESS AND CHRISTIAN WITNESS TODAY The apostles had a unique role as eyewitnesses to the risen Christ. **READ ACTS 1:21-22.** Christians today do not possess that same firsthand historical experience. But Christians bear witness to the apostolic gospel

preserved in Scripture and can testify to God's work in their own lives. Christian testimony today does not replace apostolic testimony. It points toward the Christ proclaimed by the apostles.

28. HEARING THE GOSPEL AND REPRESENTING THE KING

Read Romans 10:9-17. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

Faith comes through hearing the message about Christ. Paul also describes the ministry of reconciliation and the role of ambassadors. An ambassador does not invent the message. An ambassador represents another. People need to hear the gospel. And Christians do not have authority to redesign it.

The Message Belongs To The King.

Understanding The Gospel

29. THE BIG BIBLICAL STORY The gospel belongs within the larger biblical story:

CREATION - God made humanity in His image. FALL - Humanity rebelled against God.

PROMISE - God unfolded His plan of redemption.

ISRAEL - God worked through His covenant people and promised a Savior.

JESUS - The Son of God entered human history.

CROSS - Jesus died for sinners.

RESURRECTION - Jesus conquered death.

CHURCH - The gospel goes to the nations.

RETURN - Jesus will return.

NEW CREATION - God will make all things new. The gospel is larger than "how to go to heaven." It belongs within God's entire work of redemption.

30. SIN, THE CROSS, AND RESURRECTION

Read Romans 3:9-26.

Read Isaiah 53. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20.

Without understanding sin, the cross makes little sense. The message is not "YOU are a sinner, unlike me." It is "ALL have sinned, and sinners need Christ." The New Testament describes Christ's death through themes such as sacrifice, substitution, redemption, reconciliation, victory, and justification. Keep the center clear: JESUS DIED FOR SINS. Christianity stands or

falls with the resurrection: CHRIST DIED. CHRIST WAS BURIED.

Christ Rose.

31. REPENTANCE, FAITH, GRACE, AND DISCIPLESHIP

Read Mark 1:14-15.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

REPENTANCE involves turning toward God and away from sin. FAITH involves trusting Christ. Neither earns salvation. Christians sometimes debate how repentance, faith, obedience, lordship, and discipleship should be explained. Scripture holds grace and discipleship together:

Salvation Is Not Earned By Following Jesus.

Those Saved By Jesus Are Called To Follow Him.

How To Think About Evangelism

32. JESUS DID NOT USE THE SAME SCRIPT WITH EVERYONE Compare NICODEMUS - JOHN 3; THE SAMARITAN WOMAN - JOHN 4; THE RICH YOUNG

RULER - MARK 10:17-27; and ZACCHAEUS - LUKE 19:1-10. Jesus speaks truth consistently but addresses people personally. Frameworks can help. People are not formulas.

33. PAUL CHANGED HIS STARTING POINT - NOT THE GOSPEL Compare Acts 13 and Acts 17. In the synagogue, Paul begins within Israel's Scriptures. In Athens, he begins within his listeners' religious and cultural context. He adapts his starting point. He does not change the gospel.

34. CONTEXTUALIZATION WITHOUT COMPROMISE

CONTEXTUALIZATION means communicating biblical truth in ways people can understand within their setting.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

Paul crosses cultural barriers and gives up personal freedoms for gospel mission. But method is not message.

Change The Explanation When Needed.

Do Not Change The Truth.

The Holy Spirit, Prayer, And God'S Work

35. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN EVANGELISM

Read John 16:7-15.

Read Acts 1:8. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

Christians speak. The Holy Spirit works. This guards against PASSIVITY - “God works, so Christians do not need to speak” - and

MANIPULATION - “Everything depends upon getting the person to respond.” Faithful witness depends upon God while obeying God's command to speak.

36. PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

Read Colossians 4:2-6.

Paul asks believers to pray that God would open a door for the message. Pray for opportunities, courage, clarity, wisdom, and the person hearing. Prayer and evangelism belong together.

37. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY Christians disagree about exactly how God's sovereignty and human response relate in salvation. Reformed and Arminian traditions, among others, explain aspects of election, grace, human will, and conversion differently. Those debates matter. But Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is God's gracious work and Christians are commanded to proclaim the gospel. Whatever systematic framework a Christian adopts:

God Saves.

Christians Witness.

38. CAN I CONVERT SOMEONE? No. Christians can explain, reason, answer, invite, persuade, pray, love, and serve. But Christians cannot regenerate another person's heart.

Read John 3:1-8. Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-7.

Paul plants. Apollos waters. God gives growth.

Faithfulness Is Your Responsibility.

The Results Belong To God.

Common Difficult Questions

39. COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY “WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE THE BIBLE?” A full answer belongs in a study on Scripture and apologetics, but Christians can point toward historical claims, manuscript evidence, Scripture's coherent redemptive story, Jesus, and especially the resurrection. **“HAS SCIENCE DISPROVED GOD?”** Science studies the natural world. Questions about God also involve philosophy, history, metaphysics, and theology. Christians disagree about some issues of origins and should not make one interpretation of every scientific question a prerequisite for considering Jesus. **“WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?”** This is both intellectual and deeply personal. Do not lecture someone who is grieving. Scripture acknowledges a fallen world, God's presence in suffering through Christ, and final restoration. **READ ROMANS 8:18-39 and REVELATION 21:1-5.** **“WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD?”** Christians differ over some details. Scripture clearly teaches that God is just and also emphasizes human accountability and the urgency of gospel proclamation. **READ GENESIS 18:25, ROMANS 1:18-23, and ROMANS 10:13-17.** **“AREN'T CHRISTIANS ARROGANT FOR SAYING JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY?”** Jesus and the apostles make exclusive claims. **READ JOHN 14:6 and ACTS 4:12.** But grace gives Christians no basis for personal superiority.

Exclusive Christ. Unmerited Grace. No Room For Boasting.

You do not need to answer every question in one conversation. Invite honest investigation.

40. OTHER RELIGIONS AND WORLDVIEWS When speaking with Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, agnostics, people who describe themselves as “spiritual,” or people with other beliefs:

Ask Questions. Listen.

Define Terms.

Do Not Assume.

Religious and philosophical traditions contain internal diversity. Learn enough to represent someone's beliefs accurately. Then explain Christianity faithfully. Respect does not require pretending contradictory claims are compatible. A useful question remains: “What do you think about Jesus?”

Ethical Evangelism

41. PERSUASION IS NOT COERCION

Read Acts 17:2-4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11.

Christians may reason and persuade. Persuasion appeals to truth. Coercion attempts to force a response through inappropriate pressure. Evangelism becomes unhealthy when Christians rely upon emotional manipulation, public embarrassment, social pressure, financial incentives, authority relationships, repeated unwanted contact, or fear tactics detached from careful biblical teaching.

The Gospel Can Be Offered Urgently Without Being Offered Coercively.

42. CHILDREN, VULNERABLE PEOPLE, AND POWER DIFFERENCES

Read Mark 10:13-16.

Children can genuinely trust Christ. But children are especially vulnerable to pressure. Explain simply. Answer questions. Do not manipulate fear or pressure a child into repeating words they do not understand. Extra wisdom is also required where one person has authority over another: employer and employee, teacher and student, counselor and client, doctor and patient, caregiver and vulnerable adult, leader and subordinate. Christian witness should never exploit dependency or authority.

43. MONEY, AID, JUDGMENT, AND FALSE PROMISES Christian ministries may serve through food, shelter, medicine, education, or disaster relief. That care should not become: **“Agree with Christianity or lose the help.”** Likewise, judgment is biblical and should not be hidden. But it should be explained truthfully rather than sensationalized or used to traumatize people into conversion. And Christians should never promise: **“Come to Jesus and your marriage will be fixed,” “You will become financially successful,” “Your illness will be healed,” or “Your life will become easy.”** Jesus offers something greater than a trouble-free life: **RECONCILIATION WITH GOD. Tell the truth.**

44. THE “SINNER'S PRAYER,” DECISIONS, AND NUMBERS

A prayer may help someone express repentance and faith. But Scripture does not teach that repeating a particular formula automatically saves someone. A prayer does not save. Jesus saves. Likewise, hands raised, cards completed, prayers repeated, baptisms, or reported responses do not give human beings perfect knowledge of someone's heart. Do not exaggerate results. Do not create false assurance from a momentary response.

Faithfulness Matters More Than Impressive Statistics.

Evangelism In Ordinary Life

45. WORD AND DEED BELONG TOGETHER

Read Luke 5:27-32. Read 1 Peter 4:8-10.

Hospitality, generosity, friendship, mercy, and service can create beautiful contexts for gospel witness. Christians should serve people whether or not they ever become Christians. But acts of mercy alone may not explain Jesus' death and resurrection. Do not reduce evangelism to social action. Do not reduce witness to words without love.

Word And Deed Belong Together.

46. ONLINE EVANGELISM AND WHEN TO STOP Christians can share Scripture, answer questions, recommend resources, and discuss faith online. But social media often rewards outrage, speed, humiliation, and performance. Before posting, ask: Is it true? Is it gracious? Am I representing someone fairly? Am I trying to help someone understand Jesus or simply win publicly? Not every argument should continue indefinitely. **READ TITUS 3:9-11.** Sometimes wisdom says: "I don't think this conversation is helping either of us." Stopping an argument is not abandoning the gospel.

47. WHEN SOMEONE IS INTERESTED BUT NOT READY Do not rush them. Offer another conversation. Read a Gospel together. Recommend a Bible. Invite them to church. Answer another question. Pray for them. Some conversions appear sudden. Others follow months or years of questions, reading, relationships, and reflection. God is not limited by your timeline.

48. THE LOCAL CHURCH, BAPTISM, AND DISCIPLESHIP

Read Acts 2:42-47.

Read Matthew 28:18-20.

A healthy church provides teaching, community, worship, baptism, Communion, discipleship, accountability, service, and relationships. Jesus commands Christians to make disciples, not merely collect converts. A new Christian needs continued growth. Evangelism belongs within the larger mission and life of Christ's church.

Cross-Cultural And Costly Witness

49. DO NOT CONFUSE CHRISTIANITY WITH YOUR CULTURE Mission across cultures requires humility. Do not confuse CHRISTIANITY with YOUR CULTURE. Following Jesus does not require adopting another Christian's clothing, politics, music, food, social customs, or cultural preferences. The gospel can take root in every culture while confronting

sinful elements within every culture. That includes the missionary's culture.

50. LEARN BEFORE YOU SPEAK Cross-cultural witness requires learning. Ask how a culture understands family, honor, shame, guilt, authority, community, religion, death, and spiritual realities. Culture should help shape how truth is communicated. It should not determine whether biblical truth remains true.

51. PERSECUTION AND COSTLY WITNESS

Read Acts 4:13-31. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-12.

For many Christians, sharing Christ has carried serious consequences. Christian witness may cost reputation, relationships, employment, freedom, or even life. This should keep comfortable Christians from treating ordinary awkwardness as persecution. And it should remind believers that courage has always mattered in Christian mission.

Failure, Hurt, And Honest Witness

52. EVANGELISM AFTER PERSONAL OR CHURCH FAILURE If your behavior has damaged your witness: **REPENT. APOLOGIZE. DO NOT PRETEND.** A sincere statement may be: “What I did was wrong. It did not reflect Jesus faithfully. I am sorry.” When Christian leaders fail publicly, do not minimize wrongdoing, do not cover up sin, care about victims, support accountability, and distinguish the failure of Christians from the character of Christ.

Jesus Is Not Vindicated By Covering Up Sin.

He is honored when His people walk in truth.

53. WHEN SOMEONE IS ANGRY AT GOD Do not assume anger means a person wants an argument. Sometimes anger is grief, betrayal, loss, abuse, unanswered prayer, death, or disappointment. Listen. The Psalms contain lament. Job asks difficult questions. Jesus weeps. Christian witness does not require giving a quick answer to every wound.

Practical Witness

54. PREPARE A SIMPLE GOSPEL EXPLANATION Practice explaining the gospel without unnecessary jargon. For example: God created people to know Him, but humanity has rebelled against Him through sin. Sin separates people from God, and nobody can repair that separation by becoming good enough. God loved sinners and sent Jesus Christ, His

Son. Jesus lived without sin, died for sins, and rose from the dead. God offers forgiveness and new life through Christ. He calls people to repent and trust Jesus rather than themselves for salvation. Then ask: “Does that make sense?” “What questions does that raise for you?” A gospel explanation should open conversation, not shut it down.

55. READ SCRIPTURE, PRAY, AND INVITE One simple invitation is: “Would you like to read one of the Gospels together?” Read a manageable section and ask: What stands out? What does this show about Jesus? What questions do you have? When someone shares a need, it may also be appropriate to ask: “Would it be okay if I prayed for you?” Respect the answer. Invitations can include church, Bible study, another conversation, or reading Scripture together.

Invite. Do Not Pressure.

56. BUILD A SIMPLE EVANGELISM RHYTHM PRAY for specific people. NOTICE opportunities. LISTEN carefully. ASK meaningful questions. SHARE naturally.

OPEN SCRIPTURE. INVITE when appropriate.

FOLLOW UP without pressure.

TRUST GOD. Evangelism becomes less intimidating when it becomes part of ordinary Christian life rather than an occasional high-pressure event.

Pastoral Safeguards

57. THE GOSPEL IS NOT A PRODUCT Sales methods often seek to overcome objections and close a transaction. That framework can distort evangelism.

The Gospel Is Not A Product.

The Listener Is Not A Prospect.

Conversion Is Not A Sale.

The Christian Is Not The Closer.

The Christian Is A Witness.

Christians persuade because truth matters. But people must never be reduced to outcomes.

58. URGENCY WITHOUT PANIC READ 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-2.

Eternity matters. That creates real urgency. But urgency should not become panic. Christians do not need to force the entire gospel into every brief interaction out of fear that God cannot provide another opportunity. Be attentive. Be courageous. Be faithful. Trust God's providence.

59. DO NOT HIDE THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Read Luke 9:23-26.

Jesus calls disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Him. Evangelism should not present Jesus merely as an accessory who improves an otherwise unchanged life.

Grace Is Free.

Following Jesus Is Costly.

Salvation cannot be purchased. But Christ calls those He saves into a new allegiance.

60. KEEP JESUS AT THE CENTER Evangelistic conversations can drift into politics, church scandals, evolution, denominations, sexual ethics, historical controversies, end-times theories, or culture wars. Some of these questions matter. But do not let every secondary issue permanently displace Jesus. At some point ask: “Can I tell you why Jesus is the reason Christianity matters to me?”

Keep Returning To Christ.

Final Application

61. WHAT THIS STUDY CONCLUDES • The gospel is the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ. • Sharing Christian experience can be meaningful witness, but sharing the gospel requires communicating the good news about Christ. • Christian evangelism centers on Jesus rather than the Christian, a church, political identity, or religious performance. • Jesus commands His followers to make disciples and bear witness to Him. • Some Christians may be especially gifted in evangelism, but all believers can be prepared to speak about Christ. • Christians do not need to answer every question before sharing their faith. • Personal testimony can be valuable, but the Christian's story should point toward Christ's story. • Listening and asking thoughtful questions are important parts of loving evangelism. • Christian love should not depend upon whether another person converts. • Christian witness respects freedom of conscience. • Respecting someone's right to reject the gospel does not mean believing all beliefs are equally true. • A vulnerable disclosure of abuse or trauma should never be treated merely as an evangelistic

opportunity. • Christians should not assume either belief or unbelief merely because someone identifies as Christian. • Apologetics can answer objections and give reasons for Christian belief, but it should serve gospel witness. • Christian conduct matters, but the gospel normally requires words to explain who Jesus is and what He has done. • The gospel includes humanity's sin, Christ's death and resurrection, God's grace, and the call to repentance and faith. • Salvation is received by grace through faith and is not earned through religious works. • The Holy Spirit empowers Christian witness, and only God changes hearts. • Christians disagree about aspects of God's sovereignty and human responsibility, but these disagreements do not cancel the command to proclaim Christ. • Christianity makes exclusive claims about Jesus while commanding Christians to treat people of other beliefs with dignity. • Evangelism must never use manipulation, coercion, exploitation, dishonesty, or inappropriate authority. • Children and vulnerable people require particular care. • Christian aid should not be made conditional upon religious conversion. • A prayer formula does not save; Jesus saves.

Evangelistic statistics should never be exaggerated or treated as proof of genuine conversion. • Hospitality, service, friendship, online communication, invitations, Bible reading, prayer, and ordinary conversations can create contexts for Christian witness. • Evangelism belongs within the larger work of discipleship and the life of Christ's church. • Cross-cultural evangelism should communicate Christianity rather than export a Christian's own culture. • Christian failure should lead to repentance rather than hypocrisy or cover-up. • Faithful witness can be costly. • Christians should communicate both the grace of salvation and the cost of following Jesus. • The gospel is not a product, the listener is not a prospect, and conversion is not a sale. • Christians faithfully share Christ and trust God with the result.

62. A WEEK OF SHARING YOUR FAITH DAY 1 - KNOW THE GOSPEL Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Write a simple explanation of the gospel. DAY 2 - REMEMBER THE MISSION Read Matthew 28:16-20. Notice Christ's authority, command, and presence. DAY 3 - PRAY FOR SOMEONE Read Colossians 4:2-6. Choose one person and begin praying regularly for them. DAY 4 - PREPARE YOUR STORY Read Acts 26. Practice telling your testimony in three minutes. DAY 5 - PRACTICE LISTENING Read James 1:19. Ask thoughtful questions and listen carefully. DAY 6 - PREPARE AN ANSWER Read 1 Peter 3:13-16. Choose one difficult question and begin studying it. DAY 7 - TRUST GOD Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9.

Some Plant.

Some Water.

God Gives Growth.

63. THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION The purpose of evangelism is not merely helping Christians become better at talking about religion. The central question remains: **WHO IS JESUS?**

Read Matthew 16:13-17.

Jesus asked His disciples: “Who do you say I am?” Christianity claims Jesus is not merely a moral teacher, a prophet, a religious founder, an inspirational example, or one spiritual option among many. He is the Christ. The Son of God. The crucified and risen Lord. The Savior. Jesus lived. Jesus died. Jesus rose. Jesus saves. Jesus reigns. Jesus will return. The Christian invitation is therefore not: “Become more like me.” It is: **COME TO CHRIST.**

64. RELATED 3NAILS STUDIES What Is Salvation? Repentance, Faith, and New Life Following Jesus - The Cost and Joy of Discipleship Baptism The Holy Spirit Prayer and Access to God Reading and Understanding Scripture Fellowship and the Church Spiritual Growth and Sanctification Spiritual Gifts

65. CONTINUE STUDYING

THE GOSPEL Romans 1:16-17 Romans 3:21-26 Romans 5:6-11 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Ephesians 2:1-10

JESUS AND EVANGELISM John 3 John 4 Luke 15 Luke 19:1-10

THE GREAT COMMISSION Matthew 28:16-20 Luke 24:44-49 Acts 1:6-8

EVANGELISM IN ACTS Acts 2

Acts 8 Acts 10 Acts 13 Acts 17 Acts 22 Acts 26

CHRISTIAN WITNESS 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Colossians 4:2-6 1 Peter 3:13-16 COURAGE Acts 4:13-31 2 Timothy 1:6-14 GOD'S WORK IN SALVATION John 3:1-21 John 6:35-51 Romans 8:28-39 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

66. QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN STUDYING EVANGELISM What does this passage actually say? Who is speaking? Who is being addressed? Is this describing a unique historical event or giving a pattern Christians should follow? What is the gospel content? What does the passage teach about Jesus? What does the speaker assume the listener already knows? How does the speaker adapt to the audience? What remains unchanged? What role does Scripture play? What role does the Holy Spirit play? What role does prayer play? What response is requested? Is anyone being pressured? How are truth and love held together? What does this passage teach about God's work? What does it teach about human responsibility? Am I turning one evangelistic example into a universal script? How does this passage help Christians communicate Christ more faithfully?

67. A SIMPLE BIBLE-STUDY METHOD

Open Your Bible.

OBSERVE What does the passage actually say?

INTERPRET What did it mean in its original context? **CONNECT** How does it fit the larger biblical story and the gospel of Jesus Christ? **RESPOND** How should this truth change belief, speech, prayer, relationships, obedience, and witness? Do not begin with an evangelism technique and search Scripture for support. Begin with Scripture. Let Scripture shape the evangelism.

68. FURTHER VERIFICATION AND STUDY Evangelism intersects with apologetics, world religions, missions, culture, philosophy, science, church history, theology, and biblical interpretation. Responsible resources can help. When studying another religion, worldview, denomination, or theological position, consult responsible primary sources whenever possible. Do not learn what Muslims believe only from Christians criticizing Islam. Do not learn atheism only from Christian apologetics. Do not learn Catholicism from Protestant critics or Protestantism from Catholic critics. Understand positions accurately before responding. Then return to Scripture.

Resources Can Help Christians Study. They Do Not Replace Scripture.

69. SCRIPTURE AND QUOTATION NOTE Scripture references throughout this study are provided to encourage direct Bible reading. Short biblical phrases may be included where helpful, while many passages are summarized or referenced rather than reproduced in full. Readers are strongly encouraged to open a complete Bible and read every cited passage in context. Do not depend upon this study - or any commentary, pastor, teacher, evangelist, missionary, theologian, ministry, denomination, website, apologetics resource, or AI tool - as a replacement for Scripture.

Use resources to help study the Bible. Do not use them instead of studying the Bible.

70. FINAL REFLECTION Sharing your faith can feel intimidating. Maybe you worry you will say the wrong thing. Maybe someone knows more about science, philosophy, history, or another religion than you do. Maybe your family does not want another sermon. Maybe you tried before and the conversation went badly. Maybe you feel ashamed because you rarely talk about Jesus. Or maybe evangelism has always been presented as: Approach a stranger. Follow a script. Overcome objections. Get a decision. Report the result. But look again at Jesus. Jesus saw people. He listened. He asked questions. He ate with people others avoided. He showed compassion. He confronted sin. He told the

truth. He welcomed children. He challenged religious pride. He refused manipulation. He allowed people to walk away. And ultimately: He gave Himself. Christian witness begins there. Not with a technique. With Christ. You do not need to become someone else's personality. You do not need to become an extrovert. You do not need a seminary degree. You do not need a dramatic testimony. You do not need an answer to every question. You do not need to force a conversation. And you do not need to convert anyone. You cannot. God changes hearts. Your calling is faithfulness. Learn the gospel well enough to explain it simply. Keep learning Scripture. Practice telling your story without making yourself the hero. Listen to people. Ask questions. Take objections seriously. Say "I don't know" when you do not know. Study the question. Come back to the conversation. Respect people who disagree. Respect their conscience. Do not treat anyone as a project. Do not turn trauma into an evangelistic opening. Do not hide the difficult parts of Christianity. Do not promise an easy life. Do not manipulate fear. Do not use authority to pressure someone. Do not turn evangelism into marketing. And do not become so afraid of doing evangelism badly that you never speak about Jesus at all. There is good news. Tell it. Tell it with humility because you did not save yourself. Tell it with gratitude because grace is a gift. Tell it with confidence because the gospel does not depend upon your eloquence. Tell it with gentleness because the person listening bears God's image. Tell it with courage because Jesus is worthy. Tell it with patience because God may be doing something you cannot see. Tell it with honesty because truth does not need exaggeration. Tell it with love because true words can still be delivered wrongly.

And then: LET GOD BE GOD. Maybe you plant a seed. Maybe someone else waters it. Maybe you answer one objection. Maybe you correct one misunderstanding. Maybe you invite someone to read John. Maybe you pray with someone who is hurting. Maybe a conversation appears to go nowhere. Maybe years later someone remembers something you said. You may never know. The results were never yours to control.

The Gospel Is Not A Product.

The Listener Is Not A Prospect.

You Are Not The Closer.

You Are A Witness.

So know Jesus. Know the gospel. Listen to the person. Open Scripture. Speak when God gives opportunity. Answer honestly. Invite gently. Respect the conscience. Live faithfully. Pray continually. And trust God. The mission belongs to Jesus. The message is about Jesus. The

power comes from God. And the glory belongs to Him.

Final Memory Anchor

Know The Gospel.

Listen To The Person.

Share Christ.

Answer Honestly.

Respect The Conscience.

Invite Without Pressure.

Help Make Disciples.

Trust God With The Result.

The Gospel Is News To Announce, Not A Product To Sell.

Sharing Your Experience Can Point Toward The Gospel. It Does Not Replace The Gospel.

You Do Not Have To Answer Every Question To Faithfully Point Someone To Jesus.

A Christian'S Responsibility Is Faithful Witness. The Holy Spirit Changes Hearts.

Truth Without Love Misrepresents Christian Witness. Love Without Truth Withholds The Message.

Christian Witness Respects The Conscience Of The Listener.

The Gospel Is Not A Product.

The Listener Is Not A Prospect.

The Christian Is Not The Closer.

The Christian Is A Witness.

Share Christ Clearly.

Love People Genuinely.

Leave The Results With God.

Jesus Is The Message.

People Are Not Projects.

God Gives The Growth.

All For The Glory Of God.