

Sharing Your Faith – Master Class

"Having Conversations..."

III. SHARE WHAT WE BELIEVE – The process of sharing your faith

1. ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES (3) – to share your faith

A) DIRECT – LONG Conversation

- i. a long, relevant, impromptu conversation (John 4:1-28)
 - o Sometimes it takes a long, direct conversation

B) DIRECT – SHORT Testimony

- ii. a short and sweet testimony (John 4:29-30, 39)
 - o Sometimes, all you have is your testimony and an awareness the void and emptiness in their life

C) – "COME AND SEE"...and hear a longer, deeper message by someone more mature in Christ (John 4:41-42)

- i. INVITE them to CHURCH or to dinner with your spiritual leader
- ii. INVITE them to a CHRISTIAN CONCERT or Christian conference
- iii. INVITE them to a BIBLE STUDY Small Groups or choose a Christian book to study with them. You could introduce them to the YouVersion App, and then begin a Bible Plan together.
- iv. HAND them a TRACK with your phone number on it and say,
 - o "Here (track), Jesus loves you."
 - o "Did you know that Jesus makes life better AND makes you better at life?"

There are numerous ways to invite someone to hear the truth and grace about Jesus Christ.

2. UNDERSTAND YOUR AUDIENCE

A) Learn who your audience is, if you don't already know them

- I. Learn how to *adjust* your wrench, so that you can *connect* with them
- II. Learn thru questions

B) "GROUP" Your Audience –

- I. **Religious Person** (Gospel of Matthew)
 - A Religious **Churched Unbeliever** – Nicodemus [*John 3:3, 16-18 Pharisee Nicodemus*]
 - A Religious **Unchurched Unbeliever** -- Spiritual or other religion person. [*Acts 26 King Agrippa*]
- II. **Non-religious Busy** – Bold, action-oriented, impatient person (Gospel of Mark)
- III. **Non-religious Intellectual** – Scientists, philosophers, thinker, and processor personalities (Gospel of Luke)
- IV. **_____** – Edge-loners, outcasts, hopeless, the forgotten, the destitute, also the relational, the personable and the big-hearted persons (Gospel of John)
- V. **Children** -- (teens fall under the above categories)
 - Deu 6:7
 - Sharing Christ with them all the time; making them aware of the Lord God in every circumstance and referring to Him and Heaven practically in life daily

Some World Views

- **Atheism:** No God(s) [*Secular – Humanism, Naturalism, Rationalism and Materialism*]
- **Agnostics:** Can't prove or disprove God
- **Monotheism:** One God [*Judaism, Christianity, Islam*]
- **Polytheism:** Many gods [*Hinduism, Buddhism*]

2. UNDERSTAND YOUR ENVIRONMENT (*at work, neighborhood, soccer game, etc*)

- What is their language?
- What's the culture? [English, Spanish, Indian, Asian, street or wall street, country or urban, educated or uneducated, hip-hop or classical]
- What are the rules?

3. ENGAGE THEM – Be proactive and intentional

A. **Start a _____** –

- i. Be cheerful, engaging, and non-traditional [**John 4:7**]
- ii. Always be on the lookout for how you can introduce someone to Jesus

B. **Ask God for help as you start** – In that moment, ask the Lord for the right words to speak

- i. Pray in your heart for help right then

C. **Listen and Gather information** – Stop, Look and Listen for that OPEN DOOR that the Lord may open

- i. Listen and note their terminology their language and terminology
- ii. Always be ready and tuned in

D. **Ask lots of questions** – This is how you learn who they are and why!

E. Be willing to TAKE the time and SPEND the time.

ENGAGEMENT STYLES: (see chart)

- 1) **Assertive** → Confident approach
- 2) **Analytical** → Logical approach
- 3) **Story-telling** → Engaging approach
- 4) **Relational** → Conversational approach
- 5) **Invitational** → Hospitable approach
- 6) **Incarnational** → Compassionate approach

Some methods of ENGAGING:

- "Hi, know any good churches around here? Is that where you go?"
- "Hi, can I try that?"
- "Wow, that looks fun. Can I try?"
- Hand them a track with your phone number on it and say,
 - "Here (track), Jesus loves you."
 - "Did you know that Jesus makes life better AND makes you better at life?"

Some REBUTTALS while engaging [Gregory Koukl] – Don't argue...just ask clarifying questions...

1. What do you mean by that?
2. How did you come to that conclusion?
3. What led you to believe that?
4. What does that mean [*the slogans they buy into*]
5. Have you ever considered?
6. What I hear you saying is?
7. Well, you might be surprised to know.

4. As they share, look for events happening in their lives that are making them "RIPE" for Christ?

1. Tragedy or Death
2. Catastrophe or Loss
3. Desertion or Abandonment
4. Unexpected Insight or Revelation
5. Confusion or Perplexed
6. Other

5. Share YOUR story (testimony)

- "The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, **"Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you."** And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him." (Luke 8:38-39)
 - Sharing your story is your obligation
- 3 points about sharing your story:
 - 1) No one knows and can ***tell*** your story like you can! [*John 9:9*]
 - 2) No one has the ***passion*** of the experience like you do!
 - 3) Your genuine story is the one thing that is ***non-debatable!***
 - It is first-hand account and *personal*
 - It is giving *evidence* of a change in your life
 - The beforehand account is something that *others can attest to*. [*John 9:20*]

6. CLARIFY what they believe:

- Ask them, "Does that make sense?"
- Hear from them

7. CHALLENGE them to take the NEXT STEP:

- Ask them, "Is there anything holding you back from putting your faith in Jesus" or "Do you believe this?"

III. LIVE WHAT WE BELIEVE – Show visibly your faith

- Live an transformed life
- The greatest evidence of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a transformed life!
- Show others the pages of a godly life of faith for them to read
- Jesus said it this way, be Salt and Light [*Matt 5:13-16*]
- Live the NEW commandment [*John 13:34-35*]
- Be full of holy fruit [Gal 5:24, 25], and as you do this, you'll be asked a variety of questions:
 - Why are you so happy?
 - Why are you always so steady and calm?
 - Why don't you have any bad days?
 - Why do you always have a smile on your face?
 - Why are you so patient with your team members?
 - Why are you always singing? What are you singing?
- So, who are you living your life out in front of?

CONCLUSION – Realize It Takes Time to Hatch an Egg [*1Cor 3:5-11*]

- Every seed has its own gestation period
- It could be immediate or it could be days or it could be months or it could be years
- Whether you share your faith through your story, extending an invitation, appealing to someone's intellect, or spreading the joy of Christ; whatever is your best evangelistic tool, **USE IT!**
- "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are *white for harvest.*" (*John 4:35*)
- Can't you see that "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to **send out laborers** into His harvest." (*Luke 10:2*)