

Evangelism Training Modules

Module One – The Essentials of the Gospel

The big picture of the Gospel needs to address:

God's holiness
Mankind's sinfulness
God's grace
Men & Women's response

The Essentials: As we embrace the truth of the Gospel in our lives, there are certain questions that we have already answered for ourselves. These biblically based responses, when coupled with our personal experience, form our testimony, which should represent the "essentials of the Gospel."

The first part then is for each of us to engage, once again, these truths for ourselves. This will prepare us to communicate these essential truths to others.

Who is God? He is the Holy & Good Creator, worthy of worship from all of creation. Exodus 15:11-13, Psalm 100, John 1:3, Revelation 4:11

Who am I? I am created in God's image, blessed by God's kindness, provided for by God's generosity. Genesis 1:27, 28, 30-31

What Happened? Adam sinned. As he is the father of mankind, we are all born with his sinful nature and continue to willfully sin (to be opposed to God's perfect & instructed will). God's holy character and our sinful nature demands a great separation (as enemies of God) that cannot be bridged by the goodwill or actions of people, therefore destined for judgment. Genesis 3:19, Isaiah 53:6a, Romans 3:23, 6:23a, 1 Corinthians 15:22

How did God remedy our separation? Because of God's mercy and love for us, he sent Jesus, His only Son, God incarnate, to live, die, be buried, and rise from the dead in order to reconcile us to Himself. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice to pay the price of our sin conviction. In that, Jesus declared the victory over sin and death.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 50-57, Romans 3:21-25

- Lived – Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, Luke 1:30-33, John 1:1-5, 9-13
- Died – Isaiah 53:7-9, Luke 23:44-47, Mark 16:44-45
- Buried – Luke 23:50-53, Mark 16:46
- Resurrected – John 11:25-26, Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-7, Luke 24:1-49, John 20:1-18

What is my response? We can only be reconciled to God by accepting Jesus Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, turning to Him in repentance (important to understand the full thrust of this word) and trusting in Him by belief. We are then rescued (saved) by God's grace alone. John 1:12, 3:16, 14:6, Acts 2:38, Romans 5:8, 6:23, 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9

What Happens? When we repent of our sins and believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, thereby being clothed in His righteousness, we are filled with His Holy Spirit and thus empowered to love, obey, and to do the works of God. We have been transferred out of the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of His beloved Son and have become a part of the Body of Christ, the church.

Isaiah 61:10, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:10, 4:11-16, 5:18-21, Colossians 1:13, 1 John 5:2-3

The Application: With your story firmly grounded on the Word of God, you will be able to share the “essentials of the Gospel” from your life rather than a tract or program. There are certainly excellent aids to sharing your faith available, but they will not be as powerful without your personal story anchored to God’s eternal Word.

Memorize Key Verses: Start with the verses that you already know. Make sure you have them memorized accurately and with the scripture reference. If not, brush up those verses to that point.

Any major points you do not have a key verse memorized on, create a verse card (or use the Topical Memory System if verse available) and commit that verse or passage to memory. Notice that some passages or books have multiple verses.

This is for the purpose of developing a systematic theology for the Gospel and should make the process of moving through the presentation more fluid and less scattered.

Practice and Role Play: Spend time with your spouse, a friend, or even a stranger going over the Gospel presentation.

DO IT! Pray and ask God to give you a greater appreciation for His gift of Jesus’ salvation in your life. With a greater appreciation comes greater motivation to share. There is NO OTHER WAY into the Kingdom of God, so we have been commissioned to be God’s mouthpieces to present His Gospel.

Simple Huh? Let’s go!

Module Two – The Five Principles of Sowing

With the “Essentials of the Gospel” fresh in your minds and hearts, we will now engage “the Five Principles of Sowing.” Of course, we walk by faith that the Holy Spirit will bring to us opportunities to share the Gospel. Our faith is not blind but directed faith and that is where these principles of sowing come in. Our hearts must look for those that do not know Jesus. Philippians 2:3

Prayer: Jesus lived this principle to demonstrate that all of us are fully dependent on the execution of God’s will in and around us. Strategic and specific prayer for the conversion of many was on the heart of Jesus as well as Paul. There are three areas of targeted prayer. John 17:20-21, Romans 10:1, Colossians 1:27-29

Natural Connections: These are relationships currently in place. Develop an “Evangelism Prospect List” that names the specific people God is placing on your heart to share the Gospel with and then pay attention for opportunity.

Divine Appointments: These are tricky because as soon as you pray for them you forget them. But God doesn’t, and He will do spontaneous and surprising things in answering your prayers to share the Gospel without warning. Keep your head up and eyes open.

Outreach Ministering: Do not take ministry situations for granted, thinking that everyone is a Christ-follower. Ask questions (ATQ) and get to know the stories of those people you are engaging in ministry with, or those that you are ministering to. Develop good questions.

Broad Sowing: This term means sowing in as many opportunities as God would give you. There is a deep sensitivity to God’s Spirit in broad sowing. It is as simple as offering to pray for a server or stranger, and as courageous as responding to the Holy Spirit telling you to “go” share with that person over there. It may be a one on one, or an audience of many that are hungry (first for fish and bread, then for truth). In “broad sowing” consider the following:

Sensitivity to the Spirit: If you think He says go, you better go.

Compassion for the People: “Folks do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.” There needs to be a heart of compassion with a spirit that is vulnerable and transparent.

Anyone can come to Christ at Anytime: Don’t think you know who they are. If God leads you to broad sow, do it and pray for a harvest. Many people are just waiting for the message of Jesus’ unconditional love for them. Do not remove yourself from the game by thinking you can’t be effective. The Spirit can do as He pleases, so please Him.

Looking for the “Person of Peace”: When Jesus said the fields were white unto harvest in John 4, He was speaking in present tense. Those that are “persons of peace” are often receptive to the Gospel. This person may fall into any of the categories in the “Prayer” area, and their hunger for truth will be obvious. The Spirit is preparing the hearts of “PoPs” to look for the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), in order to live a life of peace (Phil 4:6, 7). A few items to practice:
Be flexible and willing to be inconvenienced
Be a good listener & thoughtful question asker
Be prepared to share your faith (1 Peter 3:15)

Rapid Multiplication: Let’s get away from the idea that only we (the mature) can share our faith. Fact is, just as a new church plant has a higher rate of conversions, so a new believer often is more apt to share their faith. Let’s come alongside the new believers and encourage them to the simple message of “I was blind but now I see.” The “Foundations of Faith” study will be very helpful in this area of sowing.

New Believers remaining in Social Circles: This application of sowing takes a great faith in the power and sealing of the Holy Spirit. There is much risk in not extracting new believers from their old “social circles.” The truth however is that after 6 months, a new convert has no former non-believing friends. This fact severely hampers evangelism. Here are some steps to help:

Discipling: The new believer must be aggressively disciplined in the basics of their faith so the process of maturing can take root. The 2 Timothy 2:2 principle is the key in multi-generational salvations.

Accountability: Loving care and accountability provides a safe environment for the young believer.

Acceptance: Old habits take time in most cases to change. Love, instruct, and accept the new believer. The Holy Spirit is in the change business.

Join Them: Be willing to engage their old friends and environment, just as long as it is not detrimental to their safety. Abuse, addictions, criminal habits, dangerous activities may be the exceptions to remaining in social circles.

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Module Three – “The Seven Neighborhoods”

God has strategically placed us in a variety of “neighborhoods.” Some of our neighborhoods are places we are very comfortable while others feel like a foreign land. Understanding those neighborhoods will allow us to pray more specifically in preparing our hearts to share the Gospel.

Geographical: Your neighbors in direct proximity to your home. BBQs and other very casual social functions are excellent ways to break the ice with those around you.

Relations: Your family members near and far are the most natural and yet can be some of the most intimidating relationships. Prayer and regular contact will help in this area.

Career: If you work outside of the home, this is a key area where you spend a concentrated amount of time. Strategic prayer and planning will help in sharing the Gospel at work. A noon time Bible study, inviting someone out for lunch, coffee break discussions, all can grow relationships and opportunities. Pray!

Lifestyle: The club, kids soccer, hobbies, or other activities are great opportunities to display the love of Jesus in restful and sometimes stressful (referee makes a bad call) situations. Take advantage by inviting for a BBQ, birthday party, or participating in sports leagues in order to build relationships. Be creative.

Retail: Regular patronization to a small store, coffee shop, or other retail outlet allows for the learning of names and developing significant conversation. Make it a point to learn names. That alone makes people feel cared for.

Highways and Hedges: Any person you may come across through the course of the day. Perhaps a homeless person, young couple out of gas, an automobile accident, or a bumper sticker noticed getting out of your car. Use these times to show the love of Jesus, ask good questions, and serve without expectation.

Ministering: This of course would include church or any activity that is associated with the ministry of North Point. Do not take relationships or people’s spiritual journeys for granted, but invest yourself in getting to know those that you associate with in this area. You may just lead a church friend or religious person to Jesus.

We could ask, “what neighbor should I focus on?” Jesus’ reply would be similar to the story of the Good Samaritan. The compartmentalization of neighborhoods helps us to focus, but the key is having a spirit sensitive to the Holy One and a heart willing to serve wherever and whenever He calls.