



Living Your Life With

GOSPEL

INTENTIONALITY

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO
PERSONAL EVANGELISM



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE WITH GOSPEL INTENTIONALITY?

Before we answer the question above, think about this question yourself: What comes into your mind when you think about evangelism? For many of us, our first impulse may be to think about a program that we went through that was organized by church staff. And that is certainly a legitimate form of evangelism. But...

The inherent danger is that if we only think of evangelism as a program of the church that we do on a certain day and time, then we may very well miss opportunities to share our faith with people who are right in front of us in our everyday lives! To put it another way, evangelism should be something we engage in all week, not just when church staff organizes it. Rather than evangelism just being one program among many at Central, we want it to become a part of our culture. A culture in which it is normal for members of the church to regularly be involved in initiating Gospel conversations where they live, work, and play (more on that in a bit) and normal for prayer request lists to be filled with the names of non-believing co-workers, friends, neighbors, and family.

So, what is Gospel intentionality? It is doing the things you normally do, going to the places you normally go, and seeing the people you normally see with a strong sense of Gospel awareness. We want to consider the ordinary rhythms of our lives and then strategically think about how we can create and sustain a faithful Gospel presence in all of them.

Whether you're a young college student, middle-aged stay-at-home mom, or retiree, God has placed people right in front of you who desperately need to hear the Gospel of grace. So, will you be faithful to tell them? If so, then keep reading..

WHERE YOU LIVE WORK, OR PLAY... SHARE, SERVE, OR PRAY

Have we made evangelism too complicated?


When we only think of evangelism as an elaborate program or special event, then yes, we have overly complicated evangelism. The truth is, God's plan for seeing the Gospel advance to the ends of the earth is through ordinary people living their lives with Gospel Intentionality. But what does this look like really? At Central, we want you to think through where you currently live, work, or play, and then choose at least one of those areas to be more intentional in with the Gospel by choosing at least one of three actions: share, serve, or pray. To help with that, we've developed the table below to help you chart out what this might look like in your own life.


	LIVE	WORK	PLAY
SHARE			
SERVE			
PRAY		X	


We will call the top row "spheres" and the row to the left "activities". The goal is to identify one "sphere" and one "activity" to pursue within that "sphere".

SPHERES

Spheres- These are the most common realms in which we carry out our lives. Let's take a look at each one.

 **Live-** Your neighbors are not your neighbors by accident. Sure, you may have picked that neighborhood because of the great school district and HOA benefits, but in reality, God was sovereignly at work behind the scenes, placing you where you are now.

 **Work-** The same can really be said of your job. Here, you encounter people that almost no one else will be able to reach like you can. This is not business as usual (no pun intended). Instead, you can use your job as a unique way to reach a very specific group of people whom you have already developed relationships with.

 **Play-** Everyone enjoys recreation. But believers do so for the added benefit of putting ourselves in situations where we will encounter non-believers. If for some reason where you live or work doesn't yield Gospel opportunities (for example, perhaps you're retired and live on a farm), then your best bet is to find ways to be strategic in this sphere. It could be as simple as joining a gym or going to the same place for coffee each morning. Or maybe you get more intentional with your golfing buddies. Whatever the hobby/recreational activity, make sure it's one that will put you in contact with other people.

ACTIVITIES

Activities- These are those practices which define what it means to live with Gospel Intentionality.



Share- When we think of this one, it obviously means sharing the Good News of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection with another person. But this can look differently depending on the context. For a neighbor, you might hand them a copy of "What Is The Gospel?" by Greg Gilbert and then invite them out for coffee a few weeks later to discuss it. At work, you might organize an evangelistic Bible study for interested co-workers during the lunch hour. Or, you simply invite a friend out to lunch for the express purpose of telling them the Gospel. All of these are great ways to share your faith.



Serve-As believers, we should always be looking for needs in our communities and work places and then work to provide solutions to these where we are able. Now, meeting physical needs around us is not evangelism. But, they can go a long way toward adorning the Gospel and commending it to others (Titus 2:10). Also, pursuing good works is an essential part of what it means to be a believer (Ephesians 2:10).



Pray- This one really is as simple as it sounds. Prayer is a great way to begin cultivating a heart toward the people whom you hope to reach with the Gospel. It's also great to share this with others, such as the members of your Life Group, so that they can pray too!

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE, REALLY?

Take just a minute and look back at our chart on page 2 and notice where we've placed the "X". Here is one scenario of what this might look like.

Let's suppose that a member of our Life Group, we will call her "Susie", is the one who placed the "X" under the "Work" sphere and to the right of the "Pray" activity. Susie teaches at a local elementary school.

Now, her desire to be a faithful witness to Christ in this sphere, but she knows that in a school setting, it can be a bit complicated on just how vocal she can be about her faith in Christ. And, at this point, she's simply not sure what she should do or where she should begin.

So, she wisely selects "Prayer" to be her first activity. And she commits to pray about this very concern for at least 5 minutes every day. But it doesn't stop there. She also brings this request up in her Life Group. Now, there are 20-25 believers who are praying along with her! This also has the added benefit of creating a culture of evangelism within her group because what a group prays for is what it prioritizes.

It's probably safe to say that within a month or so it will probably be clear to her what her next step is in being a faithful Christian witness in her school. She can then place her "X" to the right of another activity.

OKAY, BUT WHAT IS THE GOSPEL ANYWAY?

As followers of King Jesus, we have been called to speak on His behalf (2 Corinthians 5). And thankfully, the Gospel is not a complicated system. In fact, it can really be understood with just 4 key concepts: God, Man, Christ, Response.

God- God is our Creator (Genesis 1-2) and He is supremely holy (Isaiah 6:1-4), which means that He is morally perfect in every way and in a completely different category from us.

Man- Humanity was created in God's image to reflect His rule and reign on earth (Genesis 1:26-28). Unfortunately, the first human pair, Adam & Eve, decided to usurp God's authority and in so doing rebelled against Him. Being our first parents, we have the same sinful nature as they did. What this means is that every human being is justly underneath the wrath of God (John 3:36, Ephesians 2:3), rightly deserving punishment for our sin.

Christ- And God, as a function of His holiness, will punish all sin and evil everywhere He encounters it. This is bad news for us. But, the good news is that God also desires to show mercy. In order to justly punish sin and show mercy to undeserving sinners, God became a man (Jesus Christ) and died in our place. He absorbed the punishment we deserved for our sin through His death on the cross (Romans 5:6-8). And three days later He was gloriously resurrected from the dead, proving that He is who He says He is and He did what He said He came to do (1 Corinthians 15:1-3).

Response- The appropriate response to this glorious good news is for us to turn from our sin and toward Christ in faith (Mark 1:14-15).

TIME TO GET PRACTICAL

Take some time to really think and pray through the different spheres of "Live", "Work", and "Play". Where is God calling you to advance the Gospel? Once you've identified that, then think and pray through which activity you should begin with. Place an "X" under that sphere and to the right of that activity.

LIVE WORK PLAY

SHARE

SERVE

PRAY

Now that you have selected your sphere and activity, identify the very first step you need to take in beginning to accomplish this activity. Be as specific as you possibly can.

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Next, we encourage you to share this information with your Life Group during the prayer request time.

Finally, let our Discipleship & Evangelism Pastor know how you plan to live a Gospel-Intentional life! You can email him at jdrew@centralwr.com