

## CONVERSATIONS ABOUT JESUS EQUIPPING FOR EVERYDAY EVANGELISM

We know and believe that the Gospel is the good news about the power of God for salvation to all who believe in Jesus (Romans 1:16). There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). We believe that we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ and give an account for all we've done (2 Corinthians 5:10). And all who have trusted in Jesus will not have their sins counted against them (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). For this reason, we are eager to see all people come to know the love of God as we share the truths about Jesus with our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

So, how do we share Jesus effectively with others in this culture and context?

### REHEARSE THE GOSPEL REGULARLY

The best way to prepare to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with our unbelieving friends is to practice sharing it with fellow believers. There are many different ways to share the gospel, but we need to insure we remain faithful to share:

**Jesus' Life:** He lived a human life perfectly submitted to God the Father without sin on our behalf to be for us our righteousness.

**Jesus' Death:** He suffered and died on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. All of our sin, past, present and future, was paid for.

**Jesus' Burial:** He died, and was buried in a tomb. He took our sin to the grave.

**Jesus' Resurrection:** He rose again in a physical body on the third day victorious over sin, Satan and death.

**Jesus' Ascension:** He ascended to heaven where he is seated at the right hand of God the Father constantly making intercession for the saints.

One of the ways we can practice sharing the gospel in fresh ways it to tease out the depths of the gospel in our missional communities, dna groups or over a meal. One of the ways to do this is by asking the question: *Why is Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ good news?* (Fill in the blank with one of the elements of the gospel)

### LISTEN WELL

Too often we speak before we listen. When we do this, we often end up trying to give answers to questions people aren't asking. We share how the good news of Jesus helped us (which is not bad), but we fail to show how the good news can help others if we fail to listen.

*The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.* Proverbs 20:5

*“If I have only an hour with someone, I will spend the first 55 minutes asking questions and finding out what is troubling their heart and mind, and then in the last 5 minutes I will share something of the truth.”*

Francis Schaeffer

We need to learn to ask open ended questions looking to draw out what is going on in people's hearts. As you listen, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you people's:

1. Longings
2. Disappointments
3. Pain
4. Hopes

Then, as you discover one or more of these, share how Jesus can:

1. Satisfy their Longing
2. Make-up for their Disappointment
3. Heal their Pain
4. Fulfill their Hope

**Practice:** Take turns in pairs sharing something difficult that you have experienced or are going through. While one shares, the other asks questions. Then, share how Jesus can be good news for what they have experienced.

## CONNECT THEIR STORY TO GOD'S STORY

Everyone has their own *good news story* that includes a Creation, Fall, Redemption, New Creation storyline.

As you get to know someone's story, listen for their *good news storyline*.

<b>Creation</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Redemption</b>	<b>New Creation</b>
What is Their Identity?	What is Their Problem?	What is Their Solution?	What is Their Hope?

As you listen to their story, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to hear where their story is in line with the truths of the Gospel and where Jesus may be good news to a broken story. Ask the Spirit to enable you to share good news for their story.

Identify a friend you know who doesn't yet believe in Jesus. If you know their story, write down what you think might be their *good news storyline*:

<b>Creation</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Redemption</b>	<b>New Creation</b>
-----------------	-------------	-------------------	---------------------

## SHOW AND TELL

One of the most effective ways to share the gospel is to show good news in tangible form and then tell people good news when they ask you why you do what you do.

*But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.* 1 Peter 3:15

We are called to display the effects of the gospel and then declare its truths.

One of the best ways to do this is to talk about your mission context (where you live, work, learn or play) and ask: What attributes of Jesus or outcomes of the gospel do they need to see there? And how could we provide a display of that?

Take a moment to brainstorm some of the attributes of Jesus or outcomes of the gospel and a tangible way you could provide a display.

**Attributes or Outcomes**

**Gospel on Display**

## ASK FOR A RESPONSE

As you share, make sure you invite people to share what they are hearing or believing about what you've said. Some of the questions you can ask are:

*What do you think about what I've said so far?*

*What questions come to your mind in response to what I've shared?*

*How are you feeling about what I've shared?*

*What do you think about Jesus and all that he has done for you?*

It's important to let people know they can respond to the good news in a few ways. If it appears they are not responding positively, ask: *Is there anything I've said that is confusing or offensive?* If they seem to be open to more conversation, ask, *Would you like to keep talking more about this now or in the future?* If it seems they are coming to faith, ask them: *Would you like to respond to what Jesus has done for you right now in prayer?*

If they are ready to respond, share with them the **ABCs** of responding to the gospel:

**A**cknowledge you have sinned and need a Savior.

**B**elieve that Jesus died and rose again to forgive you of your sins.

**C**onfess that he is Lord (surrender to Him being the God of your life instead of you).