

ORGANIC EVANGELISM



Matthew 13:3

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed ...

John 4:38

I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

Matthew 5:13-14

You are the salt of the earth. ... You are the light of the world.

Daniel 6:26-27

I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth.

How Adults Come to Christ

A long-term study conducted by the Institute of Church Growth asked: "How did you come to your new relationship with Christ and the church?"

My Guess

- _____ Special Need
- _____ Walk-ins
- _____ Pastor
- _____ Church Program
- _____ Visitation
- _____ Sunday School
- _____ Evangelistic Crusade/TV Show
- _____ Friend or Relative

Research

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Reframing Evangelism

Evangelism is ... an organic _____ not an event.

the process of intentionally engaging (usually prolonged)
individuals in their spiritual journey

joining the Holy Spirit

watching for where He is already at work

to help them take one step closer to God

and new life in Christ,

becoming the unique reflection of the image of Christ
as the resurrected, glorified person God intended

Success is ... consistently taking the _____, using the gifts and opportunities God gives you, to help someone move one step closer to Christ.

Evangelism is ... the _____, organic result of contact between a Christian and non-Christian unless ...

1. We've lost your saltiness
2. We've hidden your light

Building Spiritual Capital

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

- ▶ Daniel did *excellent work*.
- ▶ Daniel demonstrated *godly character*.
- ▶ Daniel showed *concern for others*.
- ▶ Daniel *spoke of openly* of his faith.

The person who says naively, "I don't preach; I just let my life speak," is insufferably self-righteous. No one is that good.

—Elton Trueblood

Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your **conversation** be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.

Titus 2:10

... in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

Philippians 2:4

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

1 Peter 3:15

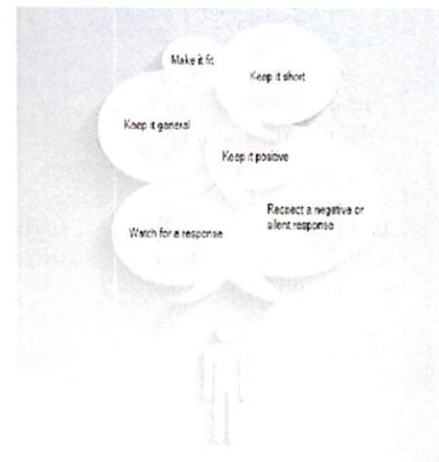
But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ...

Four Investments

4.		
1.	2.	3.
<p>Colossians 3:23 Titus 2:10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ People don't care if you are a good person until they know that you do good work. ▶ If you want people to pay attention to our faith, you must first pay attention to your work. 	<p>Philippians 2:14-15 Galatians 5:22-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It's not enough to do good work. ▶ There must be something attractive about you personally. 	<p>Philippians 2:4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. ▶ You show concern and compassion by what you say and do.

Five Standards of Wise Communication

1. Are my words **intelligible**?
2. Are my words **positive** and **helpful**?
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:29
4. Are my words filled with **grace**?
5. Is the person **interested**?
 - ▶ 1 Peter 3:15
6. Are my comments a **natural** part of conversation?
 - ▶ **Faith Flags** - A casual comment (20 seconds max) in the course of a natural conversation in which you identify yourself as someone to whom God, faith, the Bible, or prayer is important
 - ▶ **Faith Stories** - A short account (2 minutes max) of how God, faith, prayer, a Bible verse, or a Biblical principle has helped you, your family, your work





Few of us make it in one big decision. Instead, it is a multitude of small choices – mini-decisions that a person makes toward Christ.

—Jim Petersen, *Living Proof*

PERSONAL CRISIS ►

HEARS THE GOSPEL ►

READS THE BIBLE ►

GETS ANSWERS ►

WORK TOGETHER ►

HEARS FAITH STORIES ►

HEARS FAITH FLAGS ►

MEETS YOU ►

The Journey to Faith

When someone comes to Christ, it is never just an event. Even though we all start at different places, it is always a journey. What often looks like one major decision is really made up of a multitude of small incremental decisions made along the way, based on life experiences and exposure to the truth and Christians God brings across our path.

Here's an example:

- +5 Chooses to live by faith
- +4 Makes Christ-like choices
- +3 Chooses to share his/her faith
- +2 Joins in Christian community
- +1 Assimilates God's Word
- 0 Trusts in Christ
- 1 Turns from self-trust
- 2 Sees Jesus as the answer
- 3 Recognizes his/her need of Christ
- 4 Considers the truth of the gospel
- 5 Understands the implications of the gospel
- 6 Recognizes the Bible may have answers
- 7 Aware of the gospel
- 8 Looks positively at the Bible
- 9 Doubts the Bible but trusts you
- 10 Likes you even though you are a Christian
- 11 Recognizes a difference in you
- 12 Aware that you are a Christian
- 13 Views God and faith as irrelevant
- 14 Wary of Christians and truth claims

Think about the following individuals and their response to your faith. What barriers prevent them from seeing Christ? What next step do they need to take? How would you help?

Things you might hear	Next Steps	Response
Barbara John, you're a really great guy, but I'm just not interested in talking about Christian stuff. I understand that this is really important to you and I respect that. But I'm just not interested.		
Bill I'm just not ready to place my trust in a book thousands of years old. Besides, there are things there I just can't swallow like the subjugation of women and the issue of slavery.		
Thomas My life is good. If I became a Christian ... well there are things I just don't want to give up.		
Kathy Can you believe these Christians! They are so arrogant. How do they get off believing that they are so good that they are the only ones who get to go to heaven. Jerks!		
Lee Christianity has a history of supporting injustices, of destroying culture, and oppressing people. And there are so many people who are not Christian (or not religious at all) who appear to be much more kind, caring, and moral than many Christians. I just can't believe it's the <i>true</i> religion.		

PENETRATING THE DARKNESS

- ▶ Takes salt.
- ▶ It takes light.
- ▶ It takes sensitivity.
- ▶ It takes prayer.