

## Evangelism...

- What have you learned so far?
- *“Evangelism is not only joy, but also translation. It is connecting the reality of God's kingdom in Jesus Christ, with lives of real people who are living in totally different stories.”*
- *Great evangelists are great listeners...  
...listeners to other people's stories!*

## Take a few minutes...

Discuss at your tables, write on the chart paper, share with us

- North: What makes a good listener? (Are you one?)
  - Genuine interest
  - Warm personality
  - Body language
  - Dedicating time (quality & quantity)
  - Not judgmental
  - Focused, engaged
  - Asking good questions
  - Reading between the lines
  - Agenda—not conveying an agenda
  - Memory & building on past conversations
  - Having a sacrificial heart, thinking of others first

---

  - Someone who relates well to others
  - Someone who prays first as he listens
  - Someone who sits on her hands and keep her mouth shut.
  - Someone who listens, not just hears
  - Someone who can stimulate others to interact
  - Someone who encourages others to speak
  - Someone who meets people where they are

---

  - Asking good open-ended questions
  - Being quiet
  - Listen for details
  - Focus
  - Make eye contact
  - Validate their responses/acknowledge their feelings
  - Be sincere
  - Be encouraging
  - Take time
  - Good memory pull out thoughts
  - Pray while listening
  - Listen for what is beneath the surface
- South: What keeps you from sharing the gospel with others? (Fears, hang-ups, lack of understanding...)

- Easier to share with people we won't see again is easy; but need to be very thoughtful with what you say to people you see on a routine basis
- Fear of judgment
- May be asked difficult question you can't answer
- Self-absorbed in our own lives
- Ridicule

---

- Losing or changing the relationships already there
- Difference of culture, demographics, background knowledge, worldview
- Self-absorption
- Preoccupation with sin
- "losing" the debate if challenged
- The fact that faith is not "logical"
- Other people
- Lack of personal faith

---

- Rejection
- Not fitting in
- Not sure how to relate to them
- Is it appropriate
- Fear of speaking
- Fear of not having the right answers
- Fear that it's judgment
- Fear that they think we are a 'Jesus freak'
- Fear associated with the Christian right
- Not spending the time with ones who are unbelievers
- Not caring about what God cares about
- Rejection
- Discrimination
- Persecution
- Not radical story
- Not having a close relationship
- Lack of urgency
- Unfamiliarity with our own story
- Time
- Feeling of unfamiliarity with Scripture
- Starting the conversation

---

- Fear of people's reactions
- Inconvenience
- Evangelism is messy and time-consuming
- Personal insecurities
- Uncertainty of how to start conversations
- Fear of misunderstanding (especially with those who have past grievances against the church)
- Fear of instigating defensiveness or coming across as condescending

Stories are always in a context...

They always lie within some culture...

## What is culture?

...the patterned way in which people do things together

- ...an agreement, spoken or unspoken
- ...holds people together over a span of time
- ...holds people together over a span of time
- ...closely bound up with language, and is expressed in proverbs, myths, folk tales, and various art forms
- ...not static, but rather dynamic, gradually changing

## Understanding Culture

- Behavior—WHAT IS DONE?  
(outer/most superficial)
- Values—WHAT IS GOOD OR BEST?
  - standards of conduct and judgment which guide what is good, best or beautiful
  - Values are “pre-set” decisions that a culture makes between choices commonly faced.
  - what should or ought to be done in order to “fit in” or conform to the pattern of life?
  - standards of conduct and judgment which guide what is good, best or beautiful
  - standards of conduct and judgment which guide what is good, best or beautiful
  - Values are “pre-set” decisions that a culture makes between choices commonly faced.
  - what should or ought to be done in order to “fit in” or conform to the pattern of life?
- Beliefs—WHAT IS TRUE?
  - ‘operating’ beliefs (beliefs that affect values and behavior)
  - VS. ‘theoretical’ beliefs (stated creeds that have little impact on values and behavior).
- Worldview—WHAT IS REAL?
  - Every culture assumes specific answers to these questions, and those answers control and integrate every function, aspect and component of the culture.

What are some of the different cultures you  
rub up against in your life?

## Cultural Differences

- Misunderstandings: Differences of Beliefs
- Ethnocentrism: Differences of Feelings
- Premature judgments: Differences of Values
- Clashing Worldviews: Major confusion > Unwillingness to interact

## Our understanding from our worldview

For God so **loved the world**

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone

who believes in him

**will not perish**

but have **eternal life**.

## Buddhist worldview

We must **denounce the material world**

We must strive to **reach a state of nothingness – Nirvana**

Until then will be **reincarnated**

## Buddhist's understanding from his worldview

“For God so lusted after this material world that he (even) gave his only son (to get it).  
Anyone who (is gullible enough to) believe in Him  
shall not perish (enter Nirvana)  
but will go on being reincarnated forever and ever.”

## So where do we start?

Divide up into pairs and each take a few minutes (3-5) and tell your story...  
interweaving as much of the ‘gospel’ as appropriate.