

GBC Evangelism Training Workshop: Practical Tips

- **Listen to and depend on the Holy Spirit in evangelism.**
 - Pray and *ask God for opportunities* to share your faith, and when he gives them, *depend on his strength* for courage to *step out in obedience*. **Have faith, be filled with the Spirit, and act in obedience.**
 - Luke 12:11-12, “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (NIV)
 - Example prayers: *“God, I surrender to you and desire for you to use me to help others know you. Please give me opportunities to share your gospel today/at this event/in this time with my friend.”* And when you see those opportunities, *“Lord, please fill me with your Spirit and help me to depend on your strength, not my own. Give me the courage I need to be your witness in this opportunity, and give me the words to say and ask.”*
- **Journeying with people takes time; it’s not just a one-time conversation!**
 - Invest in non-Christians in your life. Spend time and do fun things together that you have in common, invite them to church and introduce them to other Christians, and have spiritual discussions with them, when the opportunities arise. Build a relationship with them and share Christ throughout it. In P2C we call this process of relational evangelism, **“journeying with people.”**
 - Consider making a **“Top 5”** list of friends/family *who are in your daily life* who you can journey with: who you can trust God to pray for, share the gospel with, and be intentional with in helping them take steps closer to Christ.
 - TAKE GREATER STEPS OF FAITH IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM:
 - Who is it that REALLY scares you to share the gospel with or journey with? A close friend? Family members? Or someone in your life who is really hard to love? Begin praying for them, even daily, and pray for opportunities to share with them and the courage to take them, then take the initiative to do so.

Some Practical Tips for Evangelism:

- Start with getting to know the person and caring about them, not just proving your point. Love them, rather than having an agenda.
- Build trust with them. “Vulnerability breeds vulnerability;” if you are open and honest with them, they will be far more likely to be open and honest with you.
- Ask good questions; and LOTS of them. Healthy evangelism is a dialogue and a process, not just preaching or just telling someone what you believe. Asking questions as you go through the gospel also helps you to gauge their understanding.
- Be honest if you don’t know the answers to their questions; you can find answers afterwards and get back to them. Being real is a better witness, and more important, than knowing it all (or acting like you do!)

- When you've explained an important gospel point, ask them to explain it back to you as they understand it. You'll be able to catch any misunderstandings and clarify them, rather than assuming they understood it the way you intended.
- Share your story! Your testimony is one of the most powerful tools God has given you. People can debate with you about theology and philosophies for ages, but they can't dispute your personal experiences.
- When bringing someone to a point of decision to receive Christ, help and challenge them to count the cost of following Jesus. What might they have to give up? Are they willing to surrender their whole life and will to him? What response might they face from family and friends with this decision? And are they willing to follow him anyway? Faith grows deep roots when someone has truly counted the cost and decides to receive and follow Jesus.

Some ways/questions/topics to transition into spiritual conversations:

- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- Movies/books/TV shows/current events
- Brokenness in the world
- Sharing about your experience at a conference, event or mission trip
- Holidays; Christmas, Easter, real love for Valentine's Day, etc.
- Sharing something you're struggling with or suffering from, but how knowing Jesus is helping you with that
- What was your family like growing up?
- I know you know that I'm a Christian, but I've never asked you what you believe. Would you be open to sharing that with me?
- What do you want most in life? What do you think will make you happy?
- What worries you the most?
- Do you have a belief, or a faith background? What does that mean to you?
- Talk about meaningful relationships you have with other believers

Some ways to transition from a spiritual conversation to the gospel:

- Thanks for sharing what you believe. Do you mind if I share with you what I believe as a Christian?
- If God exists and you could know him personally, would you want to?
- Has anyone ever taken the time to explain to you how you can begin a personal relationship with God?
- Would you mind if I shared with you what the Bible says about how you and I can know God personally?
- Or bridge off of whatever spiritual topic you are on, connecting it with the gospel.
 - Love and contentment: I experience deep and satisfying love through knowing God. Can I share more about that with you about how that's possible?
 - Security: I have confidence and security in this life and after I die, through my faith in Jesus. Can I share with you what I mean by that?
 - Suffering: I have a hope that is bigger than my suffering, and a peace that carries me through it. I'd love to share with you how I experience that through Jesus; would you be open to talking about that?
- Try brainstorming your own transitions from different topics into the gospel, especially topics that commonly occur in your circles of non-Christian friends and family.