

Personal Evangelism(7)



We are all responsible!



- Personal evangelism is the responsibility of every believer. God calls each of us to different, but the goal is the same (the salvation of the lost).
- God places us in strategic positions for influence. We have neighbors, coworkers, friends, and relatives who need to hear the good news about Jesus.
 - As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work (John 9:4)
 - 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. (Luke 12:11-12)

3 ways of evangelism



- The direct approach
 - Peter addresses the crowd on Pentecost, boldly proclaiming the gospel to those who are present,
- The testimonial approach
 - Storytelling, using a natural, conversational way to evangelize.
 - Sharing personal stories of your own walk with Christ.
- The relational approach
 - Building friendship relationships with unbelievers as a basis for sharing the gospel with them.

Evangelism through relationship

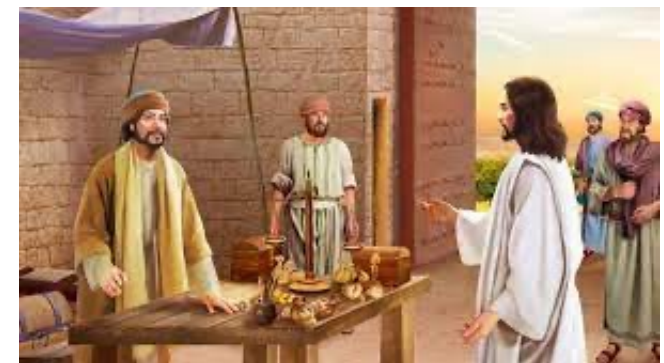


- Contagious (affinity) evangelism
- The effectiveness of relational evangelism
 - A majority of believers have come to faith in the context of a network of friends and family.
 - 75% -90% of all those who come to Christ are through a relationship with Christians.
- Examples
 - Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.
 - Philip brought Nathanael.
 - The Samaritan women told her whole town about Jesus.
 - (Paul) To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some (1 Corinthians 9:22)

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:29-31)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=395552487988453>



4 stages of relational evangelism



1. Stranger

- Matthew was a stranger until he worked as a tax collector in the town of Capernaum.

2. Acquaintance

- Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:29)
- Levi (Hebrew meaning joined) Matthew (Greek means gift of God).
- Become acquaintances with others on a first-name basis. Next time you see someone on your walk, say hello and introduce yourself.



3. Friends:

- Matthew invites a number of guests to his house for dinner for Jesus. The friendships developed there are fertile places for evangelism.
- Move from a neutral context to personal hospitality. Invite the neighbors over for a backyard barbecue or game night.

4. Disciples:

- Within trusted friendships, we can continue investing time with gospel intentionality.
- Pharisees were deeply offended at the company our Lord had chosen to keep (Luke 5:30). Our evangelistic methods cannot be guided by the opinions of the world. Jesus wisely pointed out that only people who admit they are sick could be healed; the others must die in their sins (Like 5:31).

Matthew: An eyewitness to Jesus' ministry

- The sinner turned saint
 - This tax collector was reviled for who he was, but Jesus loved him for who he was. And despite his position as a religious outsider, Jesus gave him a prominent position, one of his 12 disciples.
 - Matthew was there throughout almost all of Jesus' ministry.
 - He carried out his ministry in Ethiopia, Persia, Macedonia, and Syria.



Three biblical practices of a good neighbor

- Pray for your neighbors by name
 - Pray for their family, career and health.
 - Ask God to bless them—physically and spiritually
- Inquire and listen
 - Ask them, how can I pray for you? In what ways do you need encouragement? Will you share with me what you've been going through?
 - Ask God for wisdom to know when to offer words of life and when to simply listen by offering compassion and willingness to care for your neighbor's needs.
- Respond
 - Help your neighbor by caring to their physical needs. It may not be your place to provide for all your neighbor's needs, but simply offering an uplifting word or tangible gift can alleviate many hardships.

