

# Your Personal Approach in Evangelism

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At this point in the week, you've seen various videos. You've seen evangelism in transitions. You've seen Lee Strobel from apologetic information. You've seen how I put together how I would put a gospel presentation. You've even seen Greg Laurie and how he's put together a gospel presentation. What I want to encourage you to do is to sort of look at your gifts, who you are, and get a plan in your mind on how you would lead someone to that next step into a walk with Christ. In doing so, I want to remind sort of of the seven connections or introduce them to you if you haven't taken the introduction to Christian Leaders Introduction to Discipleship and Evangelism class. Essentially, when you think about evangelism, understand that at every connection of life, you have an opportunity oftentimes to share a walk with God.

The seven connections basically are this. Connection one is you alone and God. A walk with God in that connection is talking. Prayer to God. Listening to God is the Bible piece with God and repeatedly are good habits. A lot of time people will come to you and you want to help them personally get into a walk with God. But in order to get into that walk with God, of talking, listening repeatedly and that's something that they would want. You need to help receive Christ and get connected to God.

The same can happen in marriage, connection two. Somebody can be married and having troubles in their marriage or not. Walk them with God. God is not really in their marriage on a regular basis. So you talk with them in connection two. But still sharing in that connection when there's trouble maybe one or both of them are not believers to share Christ to them as a couple and that can be a powerful way to really get their marriage back together.

And opportunity. Connection three. Somebody has trouble with their children and that gives them another opportunity to share the gospel with that child or even with the parent who's leaving the child. Connection four is friendship and there's all kinds of issues that happen with greater numbers of people, small groups of people, and you may have an opportunity to have a little Bible study and share Christ.

Connection five is the church connection. You have a worship service and people are coming. How many times can you end your message with a proclamation of the gospel in connection five? Or connection six issues are related to I would call more apologetics. Somebody has a question about

science, evolution or so forth. And you have an opportunity through some of the apologetic tools that you can look for that we even look for here in Christian Leaders Institute is to share what others have said about the perplexing question of “Is there a God or isn’t there?” and you can share that. That’s the kingdom connection. Resources, CS Lewis, other leaders that the church has developed over the years.

There is, or we call in some connections, the evangelism connection and really to us, the evangelism connection is more about how do you reach the world and how do you place in everybody you reach the DNA of reaching the world. I love that 1 Thessalonians 1. Paul says, “We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.”

When we proclaim Christ in our personal approach, we ultimately are the models, if we’re living it in our personal life and walking with God, talking, prayer, listening, Bible reading repeatedly. And we have a relationship in Christ. If our marriage is walking with the Lord, our family, our church, if that’s all real on the inside out, our credibility is really there. The walk that is real makes you missional.

You model the truth of your life and the foundation of sharing the gospel. It’s not like I live my life the way I live my life and I’m not walking. But you know what? I’m going to share to you the message of the gospel. That’s somewhat hollow. The gospel is so powerful that many times will be saved. But at the end of the day, the gospel’s jumping board comes out of real life lived. As the apostle Paul says, “To the one, you are the scent of life. To the other, the smell of death.”

Your relationship with God is that powerful foundation of sharing. It’s not some formula. Let someone into your real walk. Even some of your struggles are very encouraging because to hear you, a Christian, have some struggles and you share with someone that you find walking with God helps your marriage because you have some struggle. That is very powerful. You have your walk with God, your walk with God and we talked about this in Christian Leaders Institute, that seven connections.

So now it's very appropriate to put together your specific plan. What would that specific plan look like? Put together your gospel plan. Now I will tell you the elements of the plan. You're not going to mess with those. That's the Bible. It has something to do with God. God is creator. He made creation. The problem of sin and redemption comes in there in Christ Jesus. Also remember these action steps. Repent or believe or believe and repent. You'll see that in the New Testament. The action steps maybe repent and be baptized or other believe and be baptized or believe and repent or other believe and be baptized or believe and repent.

You'll have those type of interchangeable ways as described. Now, why repent? What repent is really saying "I am an image bearer who walks as an image bearer of God and I am in a state of rebellion against the God of the universe and I am going to change the direction of my life and I believe that it's Christ Jesus who can reunite me and put me in fellowship in connection in relationship to the God of the universe and His blood will cover my sins."

You can hear those metaphors and those words in these various plans of salvation. Then again, how do you put together your plan? There's that receive part, that ultimately we are asking people to receive the Lord Jesus into their soul, into their heart, into their life. That the living Lord lives inside of the person that you're sharing the gospel with, and then the other element is that now that you have received---it goes back to those seven connections, talking, listening, repeatedly with God---is walk with God.

One of the difficulties in so many plans is they'll do the repent, believer, receive, and then they'll just stop that and that someone does at the end of the day, that sinner's prayer, and they leave it like that. But we forget that walk with God that's ultimately about a walk with God by which someone who is reached walks with God and who knows where they will go in that relationship with God on an ongoing basis, the sanctification, the development of a leader. Let's not just bring in someone to Christ. It's bringing someone to walk with Christ.

Here's my fun challenge. And again, you may or may not have time to do it. You know what would be really fun to do is put together your gospel plan on YouTube or Vimeo, those are two free video technology sources on the Internet, and upload a video into the church and ministry group at Christway.com. If you haven't joined Christway, join Christway. And upload to the church and ministry group your video so all of us can share and get an idea how you would do it.

I'm not requiring this. This is just a fun challenge for you to participate in. I've uploaded my video how I would do it. I would love to see how you would do it, how your personal approach to sharing the gospel, how it would come together and what it would like.