

**CREATING AN
EVANGELISTIC
ATMOSPHERE**

TEACHER CURRICULUM

Evangelism as a Lifestyle
Week 1-2 . . . 1-2

Evangelism as God's Work
Week 3-4 . . . 3

Evangelism Methods
Week 5-6 . . . 4-5

Evangelism as a Conversation
Week 7-8 . . . 6

Evangelism Anxiety
Week 9-10 . . . 7

Evangelism FAQ's
Week 11-12 . . . 8

Evangelism Recap
Week 13 . . . 9

There are three parts to each lesson.

- A Main Idea** to keep the conversation focused.
- A Scripture Memory** to help engrain spiritual truths.
- A Lesson** to guide the class through the topic.

The teacher is encouraged to take the material and make it his/her own.

The goal of this curriculum is not to turn students into evangelist professionals, but to *demystify evangelism* and *make people more comfortable* with the idea of sharing their faith.

Evangelism as a Lifestyle

Week 1-2

MAIN IDEA

Evangelism is a necessary part of being a disciple of Jesus, not an optional part.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

LESSON

Implications of the Great Commission (*Matt. 28:18-20*)

- Jesus is King (v 18).
- We are Jesus’ subjects (v 19a).
- Our primary duty is to make disciples (v 19a).
- Baptism and teaching obedience to Jesus are the commanded ways to make disciples (v 19-20a).
- We have the authority of The King (v 20b).

Evangelism in the Early Church

- Jesus commissioned His disciples to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8).
- As persecution scattered the church, the disciples took the Gospel with them (Acts 8:1-4).
- Evangelism occurred daily and regularly (Acts 18:1-4).
- Evangelism is not widely discussed in the Epistles. Instead, the writers place an emphasis on “Christ-likeness.”
 - Titus 2:3-10
 - Phil. 1:27; 2:5
 - Rom. 8:9
 - Eph. 3:16-17
 - Gal. 2:20

Evangelism: Program vs Lifestyle

- The church has leaned on programs and preachers/organized religion to bear the weight of evangelism, while the individual Christian has lost the natural element and muscle memory of the first century church.

- While these can be useful and effective *tools* to encourage evangelism, we cannot forget the original plan Jesus' provides and that it is an essential part of every Christian's walk.
- Jesus' evangelism "program" involved four steps:
 1. A disciple's life should raise curiosity in others (Matt. 5:14-16).
 2. Curiosity should lead to sharing the Gospel (1 Pet. 2:11-12; 3:14-15).
 3. Disciples are made through baptism into Jesus and learning to live like Him (Matt. 28:18-20).
 4. Repeat.

Evangelism as God's Work Week 3-4

MAIN IDEA

Evangelism is a supernatural result of God working through us.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

LESSON

We are God's Temple - 1 Cor. 3:16 - ("Making sure you're right with God.")

The Tabernacle - God leads Israel through the wilderness in a pillar of cloud in the day and fire by night. (Exodus 13:21)

The Temple - Permanent building where God chose to dwell on the "mercy seat" of the Ark of the Covenant. (1 Kings 8:6-13)

His People - On the day of Pentecost, God poured out His Spirit on the apostles, appearing as "tongues of fire" above their heads, similar to the fire He used to lead Israel through the wilderness. (Acts 2:1-3)

God should dwell in our hearts and should be seen in our lives to others.

We are God's Body - 1 Cor. 3:1-9; 12:12-27 - ("All parts working together.")

Coworkers in God's Service (1 Cor. 3:1-9) - Paul and Apollos each had different roles, but both were equally important. God was the One who got the credit.

Members of God's Body (1 Cor. 12:12-27) - God has assigned different roles to various people, but every member of the body is equally necessary.

Although talking about your faith may not be your strong-suit, we all share in the spread and advance of the Gospel.

We are God's Field - Matt. 13:18-23 - ("Jesus isn't for everyone.")

People Respond to the Gospel Based on the Condition of Their Hearts:

1. Road - Those who don't understand the Gospel.
2. Rocks - Those who are shallow and give the Gospel up easily.
3. Thorns - Those who are too distracted to grow in the Gospel.
4. Good Soil - Those who understand the Gospel and reproduce.

Jesus was demonstrating that not everyone would accept the Gospel. If Jesus couldn't reach everyone, neither can we. God, alone, gives the increase.

Evangelism Methods

Week 5-6

MAIN IDEA

Evangelism works best through genuine relationships.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - LUKE 19:10

The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

LESSON

Lecture Method - *I'm telling you what you need to believe.*

Uses one-way transmission of information to convert.
Emphasizes lecturer's accuracy and delivery.
Uses listening to find errors and correct them.

Rejection of the Gospel is **a result of the lecturer's failure.**

Salesman Method - *Can't you see that what you believe is wrong?*

Uses manipulation to convert.
Emphasizes pressure and closed-ended questions.
Uses listening to manipulate the conversation.

Rejection of the Gospel is **a result of a failure to trap.**

Friend Method - *What do you believe? Why do you believe it?*

Uses perspective and pursues friendship to convert.
Emphasizes understanding and sympathy.
Uses listening to understand and diagnose the disconnect from the Gospel.

Rejection of the Gospel is **a result of the convert's heart.**

Results of The Three Methods

"Converts" are defined as those who (1) agreed to study the Bible, (2) obeyed the Gospel, and (3) became active members in churches.

The **Lecture** method has the lowest convert rate at **2%**.
The **Salesman** model has the second-highest convert rate at **22%**.
The **Friend** model has the highest convert rate at **94%**.

Jesus Cared about People's Souls (Luke 19:1-10)

Zaccheus was curious, but he wasn't accepted by others (Luke 19:1-4).

Jesus prioritized the outcast when others would not (Luke 19:5).
Zaccheus was glad to receive Jesus into his home (Luke 19:6).
Jesus wasn't afraid to be seen with Zaccheus (Luke 19:7).
Zaccheus repents because of Jesus' kindness (Luke 19:8).
Jesus lived His life intentionally (Luke 19:9-10).
Jesus' kindness had "no strings attached."

Flavil Yeakley, *Why Churches Grow*, 75-84

Evangelism as a Conversation

Week 7-8

MAIN IDEA

Dialogue is the most natural and effective way to share the Gospel.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

LESSON

Evangelism is presented as dialogue and reasoning (Acts 18:4).

Paul has a *consistent plan* (every Sabbath).

Paul had a *dialogue with people* (reasoned in the synagogue).

Paul was *engaging and convicted* (trying to persuade Jews and Greeks).

Conversations work best (Acts 17:22-31).

Paul identified *core beliefs* (Acts 17:22).

Paul found things in *common* (Acts 17:23).

Paul related on a *human level* (Acts 17:24-31).

Meet them where they are.

Learn how to ask *clarifying, honest, and sincere* questions.

Learn to not *trap* people.

Learn how to *be transparent*.

Two valuable questions:

1. "What do you mean by that?"
2. "How did you come to that conclusion?"

The goal is to bring them to Jesus.

Jesus taught that we can only sow the seed (Matt. 13:1-23).

Jesus is the teacher, so we point others to Him (John 1:40-42).

Jesus has the answers, not us (Matt. 11:28-30).

Make friends, not prospects (Matt. 9:36).

Edwin Jones, *Guiding Someone through Scripture with Questions and Dialogue*

Evangelism Anxiety

Week 9-10

MAIN IDEA

While anxiety is understandable, God has equipped us to represent Him.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - EXODUS 4:11-12

So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”

LESSON

What do I say? (The Moses Approach - Ex. 3:4 - 4:11-12)

- We meet God (Jesus) (Ex. 3:4-6).
- We are commissioned to do His will (Ex. 3:7-10).
- We make excuses (Ex. 3:11, 4:1, 10, 13).
- God encourages and empowers us to do His work (Ex. 4:11-12, 14-17).
- Jesus has promised us the same (John 14:15-27).

Becoming comfortable with discomfort.

- Consider how anyone gets better at anything (sports, music, etc.).
- Practice makes perfect.
- Start small and take baby steps.
- Learn and study under someone who knows the ropes.

A practical guide to evangelism (Gregory Koukl, *Tactics: A Game Plan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions*)

1. Look for opportunities.
2. Don’t overcomplicate things.
3. Stay away from religious terminology and language.
4. Focus on the truth, not your personal beliefs.
5. Give evidence.
6. Stay calm.
7. Be vulnerable and honest.
8. Let them walk away if they want.
9. Leave them with something.
10. Follow up with them.

The greatest apology we have is our love.

- Love is the supernatural sign of Jesus’ disciples (John 13:34-35).
- Love is even more important than miracles (1 Cor. 13:1-13).
- Love will convert more people than anything else will (1 John 4:7-21)

Evangelism FAQ's

Week 11-12

MAIN IDEA

Evangelism is like any other skill; practice makes perfect.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - JOHN 8:31-32

If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

LESSON

How do I start conversations about Jesus?

- Look for natural opportunities.
- Ask sincere questions and be honest.
- Avoid phoniness/salesman attitude.

Where do I get answers to hard questions?

- Online resources, books, and other Christians.
- Further study is a good thing, not a bad thing.
- Finding the right answer is just as important as the process.

How do I handle rejection?

- Don't burn the bridge.
- Understand it's the soil, not the planter.
- People reject Jesus when they reject the Gospel (Luke 10:1-16).

How do I feel prepared?

- Have safe spiritual conversations with a Christian you trust (Pro. 27:17).
- Study the Bible daily to become familiar with it (Matt. 22:29).
- Have non-threatening spiritual conversations with people who show interest (1 Pet. 3:15-16).

FAQ's (Ask class for particular concerns they may have. Encourage open discussion and class participation.)

Evangelism Recap

Week 13

MAIN IDEA

The more comfortable you are with the Gospel, the more comfortable you will be with evangelism.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY - MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

LESSON

Evangelism is a trait of a changed life.

- King Jesus has commissioned us as His representatives (Matt. 28:18-20).
- We are God’s Temple, so others should see God in us (1 Cor. 3:16).
- Evangelism is simply the act of living out the Gospel.

Make friends, not prospects.

- A Christian’s job isn’t to “win arguments” or “close a sale.” They should genuinely care about lost people.
- Jesus lived intentionally (Luke 19:10).
- All we can do is plant the seed of faith (Matt. 13:18-23).

Lead people to Jesus, and let Him do the heavy lifting.

- Remember that Jesus is the teacher, and we are the students. We don’t have the answers; only He does.
- Remember the “Andrew approach” (John 1:40-42).
- Remember that rejection of the Gospel is a rejection of Jesus, not you personally (Luke 10:16).

Evangelism should lead to discipleship in Jesus.

- The Great Commission is a call to make disciples of Jesus (Matt. 28:19).
- Evangelism is the first step in a life-long following.
- The best proof we can provide is our example (John 13:34-35).