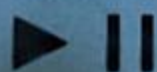


MENU



evangelism for my Life

Help.
I'm Lost!

The Nuts
and Bolts
of
Evangelism



Taking
Flight

Questions,
Anyone?



God's Story, Our Story



Help,
I'm Lost!

EVANGELISM FOR MY LIFE: PART 1 – HELP, I'M LOST!

Supplies needed for lesson:

- ☐ Lost Handouts
- ☐ Chris Tomlin *Not To Us* CD
- ☐ Song Lyrics for “Come Home Running”



Lesson Opener: Lost in the Media

Have students pair up or get into groups of 3-4 and see if they can find an example of being lost in popular media (video games, music, movies, TV, etc.). Give teams 3 - 5 minutes. Then have students present their findings to the group as a whole. They must act their example out and see if the group as a whole can guess what their example is. Presenting to the group should take no more than 10 minutes.

Great! That exercise was fairly easy, wasn't it? Got lots of examples that tell you what being lost is all about in life, huh? Well, let's take it a step further. What we're going to do is we are going to explore the idea of being lost in Scripture. What does the Bible tell us about being lost?

Lost in Scripture

Have students return to their groups and see if they can find one example of being lost in Scripture. Give students 5 - 7 minutes to complete their search. Have students present their findings to the group once time is up. Presenting to the group should take around 10 minutes.

Tonight we begin talking about Evangelism. Now Evangelism is a big “churchy” word. What does it mean? In the simplest form, Evangelism means sharing your faith with others. It is telling God's story through you and your story. It is showing people Jesus.

Getting Lost Together

Walk students through the Lost parables in Luke, focusing upon the three different characteristics of lostness that are encountered within.

*Those are great examples of being lost in Scripture. But did you know that Jesus talked about three different types of lost people while He was here on earth? I want you to open up your Bibles to **Luke 15**. We're going to explore this concept of being lost a little more. I want us to take a journey and discover these three different types of being lost. In fact some of you might have already brought up these parables in your search for examples of being lost in Scripture. Let's read the first part of the parable. Someone want to volunteer to read?*

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."



What can you tell me about this parable? Who is lost in this story? What does the Shepherd do when the sheep gets lost? He leaves 99 sheep to go find one lost one. Who do you suppose the lost sheep is? How did the sheep get lost?



The sheep wandered off on its own. It did not intend to get lost. It didn't wake up one morning and say to itself "I think I'll go get lost today!" No, this sheep simply was grazing, thinking about nothing really, and wound up getting lost because it was not paying attention to anything other than the grass it was eating. Sheep are stupid.

Let's keep going with this passage. Someone read verses 8 - 10 for me.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

What can you tell me about this parable? What is lost here? A coin. Something that does not even know it is lost. The coin does not know it is lost. It does not care that it is lost. It simply is lost. Who looks for it? Who do you suppose this woman is supposed to represent in this parable? Let's read on even further. Someone read the rest of chapter 15 for me.

MENU



The Parable of the Lost Son

¹"Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

⁷"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ¹⁰So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

¹¹"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

¹²"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ¹³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ¹⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

¹⁵"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ¹⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ¹⁷'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

¹⁸"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ¹⁹But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ²⁰But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

²¹" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ²²But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

What can you tell me about this parable? The son was the one who was lost. Allow me to give you a little bit of a history lesson to help you understand a little deeper about this parable.

An inheritance was what the father would leave behind after he died. The son who demands his inheritance is essentially telling his father that he wishes he was dead! So he takes the money, squanders it on wine and women, and winds up broke. He finally comes to his senses and decides to go back to his father, even as a servant. Now there are 3 things to know about the father's reaction to seeing his son.

- 1. The father ran. It was not a part of Jewish culture for men to run. The fact that the father not only ran, but he picked up the hems of his robes, exposing his legs, he was really far outside traditional culture at this point. A fair approximation today would be one of you guys stripping down to your boxers and running full speed from here to the courthouse.*
- 2. The father embraces his son. I don't know about you, but I think that hogs stink. They smell, the son smelled like them, he was probably covered in their filth. And not only was he covered in filth, but Jews did not even eat pigs because they were unclean! The Jews were a very clean people, and for the father to embrace someone who worked with hogs (and lived with them) was ridiculously outside the norm!*
- 3. The ring that the father calls for is not just jewelry. It is his signet ring, a ring that identifies him. It was the first century equivalent of a credit card. With it the son would be able to go pretty much anywhere and get anything he wanted on his father's name. It was a name, it was a line of credit, it was probably the most valuable thing the father could have given him.*

So who do you suppose is supposed to be the father in this parable? God, duh!

So what do these three parables have to do with evangelism? What in the world do they tell us about sharing our faith with people around us?



The Big Deal

These three parables tell us about the three different types of people that need to hear about Jesus. Before we can even begin to talk about how to share our faith with our friends we need to know where they are coming from. People who need to know about Jesus are lost. They need to hear about Jesus to become found. We need to know that our friends might not be lost the same way across the board. They might not all be at the same level of "lostness." They might have gotten lost in different ways. So let's explore these three types of being lost and needing Jesus.

The Coin

I start with the coin because this is the person who is lost and does not care that they are lost. They may know they are lost, they may not. But even when they find out that they are lost, they really don't care and do not want to do anything to be found. These people usually will wind up staying lost, until God Himself comes along and does something.

The Sheep

The sheep is the person who wandered away from God without realizing it. A lot of times we tend to get so focused upon ourselves and what is right in front of ourselves without realizing that we are not paying attention to God at all. This is the person who is lost and does not realize it until you share with them that they are lost. Once they realize they are lost they are not sure of what to do about it/ "How do I get back?" they might ask. They are the ones who need help, know it, but just don't know what to do.

The Son

This is the person who willingly walked away from God, and realizes that they screwed up. Many of us in this room have probably been this person. This is the person who, once they realize that they are lost, will do whatever it takes to get back to God.

We need to know how our friends are lost before we can truly share with them. You have in front of you a handout that has 3 different pictures on it. A Coin, a Sheep and a Person. I want you to take a couple minutes and write at least 2 friends under each symbol. Try to



figure out how your friends are lost. Do they care? Are they lost because they wandered away from God without realizing it? Or did they willingly run away from God?



The Big Thought

When we share our faith with our friends, they will all be lost. It is important to know how they became lost, because that will help us to understand how to more effectively share Christ with them. You have homework this week. Those 6 (or more) names that you wrote down? I want you to commit to intentionally praying for them this week. Every day. Take 5 minutes and pray for each person on your list. Prayer is the first part of Evangelism. We need to pray for the people that we want to share our faith with.

The Big Finish

Before we close, I want you to listen to a song by Chris Tomlin. It's called "Come Home Running" and it is written to the person who is lost, either because they wandered off, or because they ran away. Let the words comfort you before we close up shop. Let it encourage you to pray for your friends this week.

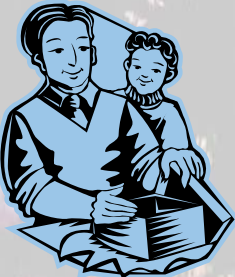
Play "Come Home Running"

Close in prayer, specifically for friends.

evangelism
for my
Life

Part 1 - "Help, I'm Lost!"

Write the names of at least 2 friends beside the icon that represents how they are lost.



Come Home Running

Chris Tomlin

From the album *Not To Us*



CHRIS TOMLIN
(not to us)

Oh heart of mine, why must you stray?
From one so fair you run away
And one more time you have to pay
The heaviness of needless shame

Oh heart of mine, come back home
You've been too long out on your own
And He's been there all along
Watching for you down the road

So come home running
His arms are open wide
His name is Jesus
He understands
He is the answer
You are looking for
So come home running
Just as you are

Oh child of God so dearly loved
And ransomed by the Savior's blood
And called by name, "daughter" and "son"
Wrapped in the robe of righteousness

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



EVANGELISM FOR MY LIFE PART 2: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF EVANGELISM

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



Supplies Needed for Lesson:

- ☐ Topical Scripture Concordances
- ☐ The Skit Guys: Live and Almost Live DVD
- ☐ Supertones "Loud and Clear" CD
- ☐ The Nuts and Bolts Handouts

Before we begin, let's briefly review last week's lesson. What were the three different types of lostness?

The Coin (doesn't care that they are lost), The Sheep (Doesn't know how they got lost, or how to get back), and the Son (Ran away and now wants to come back).

Very good, now How many of you put names down of friends to pray for last week? (2 for each type of lost person)

How many of you actually prayed for these friends this week?

Alright. Let's get underway for this week. First question. Did you talk to anyone about Christ this week? Even for a minute or two? Think back on your conversations this week. What did you talk about with your friends? Just shout some topics out.

What makes it so easy to talk about _____ with your friends, but so hard to talk about your Faith?

Fear, right? We are terrified of what others will think of us, or say to us. We are scared that we might offend someone. We are even afraid that we might say something wrong and screw up, right? Well, let's look at an example of someone overcoming their own fear in Scripture. I want to set up a little background for you. The Samaritans and the Jews were two different people groups. They both believed that they had the real religion, the true way to God. This led to a lot of conflict, even going so far as the Jews utterly demolishing the Samaritans' temple where they worshiped God. A fair contemporary application would be fanatical Muslims and modern American "Let's speak loudly against every sin and not show any grace or love" Christians.

If these two were to meet in a dark alley, one of them probably wouldn't be coming out of that alley.

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



In any event the Samaritans and the Jews did not like each other, and oftentimes would go out of their way to stay away from each other, quite possibly in fear for their lives sometimes.

Now, I am going to narrate this story. I would like to have 5 people who will act it out for me.

³⁰⁻³² *Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.*

³³⁻³⁵ *"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'*

³⁶ *"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"*

³⁷ *"The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.*

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

~ Luke 10:30-37 (The Message)

Here was a man who saw someone in need on the road before him. He overcame his fear of being robbed himself, and his fear of what the Jewish man could have done to him, and shared money, medical help and a bed to sleep in with this man who hated his entire race!

I want you to do something else for me while you have your Bibles open.

Scripture Diving

Have students pair up and look for examples of people who were scared in Scripture. It does not matter where it came from, or even if it is not real fear. Students may need to use concordances to find this information. After students are done, have them share their findings with the group.

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



Great! Did this help you at all to see that there are more people around you who are not as confident about what God can do through them? Let's move on to our next item.

Video Time

Run the Skit Guys' skit of "Bad Ways to Witness"

The Skit Guys present a great example of a few bad ways we can share our faith with each other. Have you ever seen any of these types of sharing in practice? Have you ever done any of these yourself? Its okay if you have, we won't stone you for it. But now we can dive into a different type of evangelism. I want to lay out two main types of evangelism for you.

Roman Evangelism

There are two major schools of Evangelism. Every time you encounter some sharing the Gospel, they will fall into one of these two major categories. The first is the Roman form of Evangelism.

Within the Roman Evangelistic Style, you gather people together into a central location in order to share about Jesus with them. The idea is that if we can get people together in one place, we can hit a lot of people with the Gospel at the same time and be more effective. What are some examples of the Roman Form of Evangelism that you see around us?

Some examples of Roman Evangelism:

Acquire the Fire Billy Graham Crusades Christian Concerts Church Services Parts of FNF

There are a lot of different ministries that use the Roman form of Evangelism. They get as many people as they can together, shoot the message toward them, and hope that it sticks. This has been, and continues to be the most widely-used form of evangelism today.

Celtic Evangelism

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



The other major form of Evangelism is known as the Celtic style. Within Celtic evangelism, we are geared more toward a one-on-one approach. In this style of evangelism, we are to befriend a person and get to know them. Typically this method of evangelism does not even mention Jesus' name for a long time. It involves us doing life with someone who does not know Christ, living an example of life following Christ for them. The ultimate goal is for the person who does not know Christ to see someone who models a solid example for them of what it means to truly follow Christ, the good, the bad and the messy. This method does not ask the person doing the evangelism to spoon feed the Gospel to their unsaved friend, but merely to love their friend as Christ has loved the one doing the evangelizing.

Both of these forms of evangelism have their strengths and their weaknesses. For example, The Roman method of Evangelism will typically succeed at tugging on the emotional strings of a non-believer's heart, creating the desire for them to accept Christ into their life. It is typically very successful at generating large numbers of people who "come to Christ" for the first time. But this method is not successful at showing what life is like each and every day for someone who follows Christ. And if there is no one who will come alongside the person who was reached at the large Roman Style event, that person will quickly fall off the map and slip back into a lifestyle of sin.

Celtic Evangelism is very successful at showing non-believers what it looks like to live a life following Christ with everything that you have. It shows the successes and the failures. It is honest, and does not force people into a commitment that they are not ready for. It does take time though. Anything worth doing will take time, but a lot of people get frustrated because there are no quick results. It may take years for someone to come to the faith through Celtic Evangelism.

Both of these styles have their strong points and their weak points. The Celtic form is probably the most effective though, because in order for us to share our faith, we need to earn the right to speak into someone's life. When I first came to the church, did every one of

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



you immediately listen to everything I had to say? You probably didn't, whether you saw me as simply the Youth Pastor who did not understand your life, or as someone who did not know you. But those of you who have gotten to know me, do you listen to me more now than you used to? Of course you do. I have earned the right to speak into your life over the past 16 months, through spending time with you in non-judgmental atmospheres, through making it a point to find out what is going on in your life, and through letting you see me screw up sometimes. This is what Celtic Evangelism looks like.

A Caution

Within Celtic Evangelism, there is less of an emphasis on speaking about Jesus every time you see the person you are attempting to Evangelize. Do not let this become an excuse to not look for opportunities to share. You will need to be very intentional about looking for chances to share vocally about how your life has been impacted through Christ. While you will not be speaking Jesus' name every time you have a conversation with your friend, you will need to share vocally sometimes, it is up to you and the Spirit to decide when those times are. Remember, Celtic Evangelism is honest. If you are committed to following Christ with your all, you will have a hard time containing your excitement over sharing Him sometimes, and you will need to make it a point to share verbally.

What's Next?

Now that you know the major differences between Celtic and Roman Evangelism, I want you to get a little exercise in sharing Christ. Next week we are going to spend a lot of time talking about stories. Everyone loves a good story, and there are no exceptions. We are all a part of a story right now, and this story will continue on until after the day you die. All you are is a small part in this story. So what

The Nuts and Bolts of Evangelism



we are going to do right now is answer a few questions about our own stories. Sometimes in Celtic Evangelism we will need to share our story to share Christ. I know that a large complaint from people is that they do not know what to say. So in front of you there is a worksheet that I want you to complete. There are some leading questions on there to help get you started. We'll do more with this next week and the week after, but for tonight just take 5 minutes and answer these questions as I play some music in the background.

The Big Thought

We are all called to share the Gospel with those around us. When we are told in Matthew to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." we are given that charge with the authority of the person who created the earth and everything in it. We have the right, the responsibility and the privilege to share this awesome news. Most times it will be better to share it in a one-on-one Celtic setting, but we have to earn the right to share outright. We can only earn this right by living as examples of Christ.

The Big Finish

As we close, remember that we are not to be afraid to share our faith! Sometimes we will need to reign in our enthusiasm, but we should always be ready to share. Think back to your friends that you were supposed to be praying for last week. I have new sheets for you this week if you need them. Make sure that you are praying for them this week. Remember that Evangelism starts with prayer. I want to close out this week with a song that hopefully will encourage you to share your Faith with your friends. The lyrics are in front of you, so follow along and let the song encourage you.

Play "Spend It With You"

Close in prayer, specifically for friends, in groups of 2 or 3.

evangelism
For my
Life

Part 2 - The Nuts and Bolts

Below are some questions to get you started on your way to being able to share your faith journey. Answer them as best as you can

What was your life like before you discovered Jesus?

How did you meet Jesus?

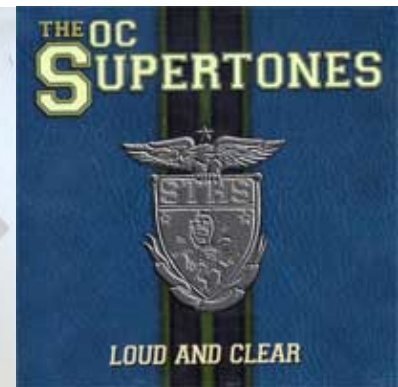
Who Introduced you to Jesus?

What is your life like now that you are following Jesus?

Spend It With You

The OC Supertones

From the album *Loud and Clear*



Had an old friend call me up this morning,
Telling me about how he had changed, His life's not the same
Warning me about a place, So far away from heaven's grace
And how life is no simple game
I thought about it, laughed out loud, Only fools would dare reject it
I decided to just accept it
I thought about it and I sang this song
Thought about the day when, I'd be singing to you all day long

Chorus

*'Cause I wanna spend it with you, I wanna live in the service of heaven
I wanna spend it with you, From eternity to forever*

Got another call from a friend this morning, Telling me I didn't have to wait
'Til I walked through the gates
That heaven's with me everyday, And every step along the way
I take with me takes
I thought about it, laughed out loud, How much better could this get
I've barely even started yet
I thought about it and I smiled so wide, Now I can spend everyday walking
close to Jesus' side

Chorus

*'Cause I wanna spend it with you, I wanna wake up and say good morning
I wanna spend it with you, I wanna know in your heart that you're with me*

Called up my old friend this morning, Telling him about how I had changed
My life's just not the same
Warning him about a place So far away from heaven's grace
And how life is no simple game
He thought about it, he laughed out loud, Only fools would dare reject it
He decided to accept it
He thought about it and said that he, Only wished I didn't wait
To call him up and tell him this



God's Story, Our Story

EVANGELISM FOR MY LIFE PART 3: GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

Supplies Needed for Lesson:

- ☐ Guided Testimony Handouts
- ☐ Stories Volume 1 DVD
- ☐ Paper for students to write their story on
- ☐ Pens and/or pencils



Review

Last week we talked about some of the nuts and bolts of sharing your faith with your friends. What is the one thing that keeps us from sharing above all else? (Fear). And why should we not be afraid to share? (Because all authority has been given to us from the Creator of the entire universe!) We also spent some time beginning to write about our stories. How many of you thought about your stories this week? How many of you prayed for your friends from 2 weeks ago this week?

Well this week, we are going to continue to look at how to tell our story. But first I want to look at a couple of different students who want to share their own story with you.

Video Time

Run the two video clips about sharing faith on the first volume of the Stories DVD (Bluefish TV) for students to watch. Discuss each story after watching it. Lead the discussion toward the major points that each student made in sharing their story.

Story Time

Now that we have seen two teenagers sharing their faith with you, we are going to continue working on our own stories together.

I want you to take out the handout from last week if you have it. If you do not have it, that is okay, because we are going to build off of it, and having it on you will really only give you a little more help for our exercise.

I want you to take the guided outline with you and go anywhere in the building by yourself. Answer the questions and begin to write out your own story. Use your answers from last week to get you started. And if not, just write away. We're going to give you about 15 minutes to write out your story. We will be walking around to help you if you need any help, so disperse and begin writing.

Rejoin the Group

So how was your writing? Did you get some of your story down on paper? What was it like seeing where you have been compared to where you are now? What was it like to see that progress when you put it down on paper? Were you able to see how God has grown you? Awesome! I want you to take this stuff home this week and to keep working on writing out your story. And I want to tell you another story tonight. This one takes place in the first century, and follows a fairly famous man through Athens, Greece.

Pauline History

Paul was a missionary. His job was to carry the Gospel to the world. He wrote the majority of the New Testament, and he had many opportunities to overcome his fear. His fear was a little deeper than ours goes, though, You see, our fear is of being ostracized from the group because of our faith. His fear was of being beaten or killed because of his faith. In fact he was beaten and thrown into jail on different occasions for sharing his faith!

We're going to pick up his story while he was spending time in Athens. Here he was sharing the Gospel with a group of people that had never heard it before. Let's listen in as he speaks to the people.



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MENU



God's Story, Our Story

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." ²¹(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. ²⁷God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

³²When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

³³At that, Paul left the Council. ³⁴A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

~Acts 17.16-34

Here I want to focus in on Paul's technique of sharing the Gospel. He shared a story. But he did not share HIS story. He shared God's story He had already talked to some people In Athens and shared some of his story. But he shares something different here. He shares his faith in what type of Evangelistic Style? *(The Roman forms of Evangelism)*.



Here Paul takes something that the people know, the Unknown God, and apprehends it for Christ. He uses their own culture to point them toward God! We can do this today still. And next week we will get into it, as well as do some more work with our own stories.

The Big Thought

There will be a lot of times where we are asked to share our story with people. Where did we come from? What is our family like? Is God a part of your story? Are you telling people about being a part of His story? Or are you leaving that detail out?

The Big Finish

Think back to last week when we ended with the Supertones song "Spend It With You." Are you going to pick up the phone and tell your friends? Or are you going to keep quiet? Look for opportunities this week to share about your story with your friends. Be creative. And keep praying for them.

evangelism
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Life

Part 3 - God's Story, Our Story

Below are questions that are designed to help guide you in writing your own story. Think about these questions, and then write out your story of your journey so far.

These are not exhaustive questions, merely ones designed to help guide your storytelling.

What was your life like before you discovered Jesus?

How did you meet Jesus?

Who introduced you to Jesus?

What are some things that are different in your life now that you are following in Jesus' footsteps?

What are some tough spots that you have encountered since you started following Jesus?

What are some good things that you have encountered since you started following Jesus?

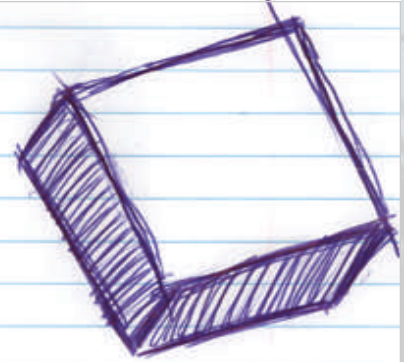
Why is it important that you (whoever is writing this) follow Jesus? Why did you decide to follow Him?

What is your life like now that you are following Jesus?

What do you expect your life to look like from now on, now that you are following Jesus?

What are some ways that Jesus has helped and supported you in your life?

Why do you choose to do the things you do while following Jesus?





Talking

Flight

Taking Flight

EVANGELISM FOR MY LIFE PART 4: TAKING FLIGHT

Supplies Needed for Lesson:

- ☐ Real Christians of Genius Video
- ☐ Note cards with animals written on them (matching)
- ☐ Skit Guys *Live and Almost Live* DVD
- ☐ Nooma *Bullhorn* Video
- ☐ Evangelism Q&A Cards

Review

Okay, it's week four of our *Evangelism for Your Life* Series. Some of you may not have been here through the past few weeks, so let's review for everyone what we've been talking about.

Week 1: The 3 types of lost people. What is lost? *(Needing God in your life)* What are the 3 types of lost people? *(coin - doesn't know, doesn't care; sheep - knows they are lost, but not how to get back; son - knows is lost, runs back home)* What does Evangelism need to begin with? *(prayer)* Who has been praying for the 6 people we had you write down in week one? What are the two types of Evangelism and what makes them different? *(Roman - Speak to everyone in a central location about Jesus; Celtic - build a relationship with someone eventually introducing faith into the dialogue)* Why do we use stories when we share our faith? *(we are sharing our story within God's story)* What are Unknown Gods? *(idols that people worship and devote their time to instead of God - evangelism opportunities)* Good! Now let's dive into this last week of Evangelism for your life

Run the Real Christians of Genius video clip for the group, using this as a guide for what not to say, and how not to present the story. Also used for humorous purposes.

Taking Flight



Did you enjoy that video clip?

Think back to the Skit Guys' bad ways to witness. How did they decide was the Good way to way to witness? Trick question. I never showed you that part of the clip. So here it is. The right way to witness.

Run the Skit Guys Bad Ways to Witness Sketch, focusing on the last portion, where they show the best way to witness.

What do you guys think about that? Going back to last week, the question was raised about is there a "right" way and a "wrong" way to share your faith? Yes, there is a wrong way. When we share our faith, if we are truly giving God the attention and not ourselves, our method will line up with God. It is only when we stop focusing on God's story and start focusing on our own story that we slip into these really wrong methods of evangelism.

The Meat

Tonight we are going to take our practice to the next level. Over the last few weeks, we have started writing our stories inside of God's story. What we are going to do right now is we are going to split up into groups of 2 or 3 and you are going to have the opportunity to practice sharing your story with someone else. This is why this series was so challenging. I am having you get outside of your comfort zone and share your testimony with each other. Here are some guidelines to remember as you share with each other:

- ☐ *Do encourage each other*
- ☐ *Do allow each other to finish*
- ☐ *Do look for positives to share after the speaker is done speaking*
- ☐ *Do take turns*
- ☐ *Do try to make each other comfortable*
- ☐ *Do share - Everyone shares*

Taking Flight

Here is how I am going to split you up. I have in this container names of animals. I am going to have you draw out a random animal name, DO NOT TELL ANYONE ELSE WHAT IT IS! When everyone has an animal, I am going to have you close your eyes, and wander around making your animal's noise, trying to find your partner(s) by finding the other people who have your sound. Ready, set, Go!

Have students find their groups, then give them 15 minutes to share their stories with each other. After this exercise is over, bring the group back together

How was your experience? Challenging? Were you nervous sharing that part of your life with someone else? How many of you guys have stories that you are not proud of? We all do.

This exercise was planned to give you real practice for when opportunities arise to share your faith with your friends and family. I pray that this entire series has helped you and has answered your questions you have had about evangelism. In fact, if you have more questions that weren't answered, jot them down on the EFYL question cards I have here, and drop them in the Question Box. If there are enough, we will answer them next week in a big Q&A Session. If not, I'll just answer them one on one with you.

The Big Idea

I want to give you one more Big Idea before we close this series out. I have a video to share with you that drives one more important point home. Watch and see.

Run the Nooma Video Bullhorn

The Big Finish

"If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate." That is How Eugene Peterson words 1 Corinthians 13.1 in The Message. The New American Standard puts it like this: "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." No matter how we share our faith with our friends or other people around us, we need to remember that love is the most important part. Without love, we are simply Bullhorn Guy. Don't be Bullhorn Guy as you take flight this week. Pray for your friends. Share your story. Look for unknown gods. Love.

Close in Prayer

evangelism
for my
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Taking Flight





Questions,

Anyone?



EVANGELISM FOR MY LIFE PART 5: QUESTIONS, ANYONE?

Supplies Needed for Lesson:

- ☐ Question Cards from Students
- ☐ PowerPoint presentation



Review

We have journeyed far for this series. Hopefully, and prayerfully the series has taught you the basic skills that you will need to successfully share your faith story with your friends, your family, your neighbors, and anyone else you come into contact with. But before we wrap this series up, there were 3 questions that you guys asked that I need to answer. Here they are.

Questions Answered

Question #1

If someone claims to believe in God, acts like it, cries at altar calls and talks about Him on their MySpace[®], but doesn't try to follow God and doesn't realize that they are acting ungodly, then what type of lost are they?

Questions, Anyone?



Question number 2 follows very closely along these lines, so we'll read it as well...

Question #2

How do you determine what stage of "Lost" a person is in?

These are both very good, well-thought out questions. As far as how do you determine how lost a person is, a lot of the time it simply comes from knowing the person. How do they respond to God when He is brought up in conversation? How do they react around people who are following Christ? What do they value in their own lives? What is important to them? What are your conversations about with them? Do they ever seem to wonder about God at all? Most of your being able to discern how a person is lost will come from actually knowing or getting to know that person.

As far as the first question goes, you have discovered the fatal flaw of this system. Not everyone will fit neatly into one of these three categories. In fact, you will probably find that many people will spill over into a couple of categories, depending upon what is going on in their life at the time. Try not to focus so much on putting people into these boxes, and focus your energy instead upon how to love them. It helps to know exactly where they fit, but sometimes you will only get a basic idea of which lost they are. And sometimes, that is all God will need to give you.

Question #3

How do we pray for lost friends and family?

Great question! And the answer is as simple or as complicated as you want to make it.

Questions,
Anyone?



You pray for their heart. That they would be receptive to the Gospel no matter where they are at in life right now. You pray for their mind, that God would open it to new ideas they might not be totally used to right now. You pray for their soul, that above all else, that they would see God in you and through your actions and your lifestyle that you lead.

Really, the biggest thing you need to pray for is that no matter what you do or do not do, no matter what someone else says or does not say, that God would be glorified, and that He would do what He wants in their lives, and through you as you share about Him.

The Big Thought

When it comes right down to it, evangelism is complicated and involved, yet is as simple as the act of listening to a friend as they pour out their heart, and offering a comforting word. The amount of time you put into preparing yourself and training yourself will come out in the end. But remember, no matter what, whether people don't fit into these nice categories perfectly, or whether you don't think you prayed properly, or even if you think you totally screwed up your story telling, God will use it for His glory.

The Big Finish

We need to be prepared. We need to be ready to share our story. We need to listen to the people we are trying to share our faith with. We need to love unconditionally. We need to live our lives as Christ would, and as He did, sharing His story, His principles, His light with everyone we meet.

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