

Discipleship Class

Evangelism and “Discipleship”

Primary Goal of Evangelism: A right relationship with Jesus

Sub Goals: Basic knowledge of Jesus, getting past defeaters, meeting the Church...

Evangelism Methods

- Tracts & Scripts
- Story Telling
 - The Big Story – Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration (culmination)
 - Your personal story – How Jesus became your Lord and Savior
- “Gospel Fluency” (Jeff Vanderstelt) – attaching the story to present circumstances
- Long-form Evangelism – Regular meetings to read Scripture together

Discipleship Methods

- Biblical & Systematic Theology
 - Biblical Theology: Reading the Bible together → from meaning to application
 - Systematic Theology: Listen, consider Biblical implications, help them get there
- Targeted development – assessments, topical Christian books, workbooks
- Join me – Bring them along with whatever you are doing, teaching why you do what you do

General advice

Pray – God will give the growth, not you. Rely on the Lord in prayer.

Be a disciple first – You can’t pull people up to a place where you are not present.

Define the Relationship – shared goals, understand roles, expectations & boundaries

Being friends is great, but it’s not the mission – this is a disciple-making relationship

Time Bound – Don’t commit “from now on” – have an end date

Avoids awkward breakup, easier “yes”, & it creates good pressure

Don’t go solo – Solo disciple-making is not the model of Scripture. The church makes disciples.

Starting Questions (William Fay)

By asking questions, we can open the door to a significant spiritual conversation. Questions pique interest, promote dialogue, and help us understand where the person is spiritually. Questions are like “traffic lights.” The person’s response will determine whether or not you go the next question.

- 1) I’m curious __Joe__, do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
- 2) So, do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
- 3) If you (God forbid), died right now, where would you go?
- 4) (Assuming “Heaven”) Why would God let you in?
- 5) __Joe__, if what you’re believing weren’t true, would you want to know it?

Questions to Invite Someone to Tell Their Story (Rick Richardson)

- When have you experienced turning points and crises?
- What have you done with the spiritual side of life?
- Where do you seek perspective and help with your inner questions, doubts and struggles?

Experience-Focused Starting Questions (Rick Richardson)

- Have you ever had an experience of feeling close to God? What happened?
- Do you think there is a God? What do you think God might be like?
- What do you think about prayer? Do you think it works? What do you think it does?

Worldview-Focused Starting Questions (Cru)

- 1) I’m curious, __Jen__, what is your philosophy of life?
- 2) What do you think is the basic problem of humans?
- 3) Does your philosophy of life include a solution to the basic problem of humans?

Starting Point for Conversations (Randy Newman)

- 1) Do you ever think much about spiritual things?
- 2) At what point are you in your spiritual journey?
- 3) Along the way, what part, if any has God played in your life?
- 4) Do you ever wonder about life after death?

Questions to Surface Beliefs (Norman Geisler and David Geisler)

- Do you think that all religious beliefs teach basically the same thing?
- Do you think human lives are valuable? Why?
- Do you think all people will be held accountable for the way they live? What do you think the standard will be?
- How do you fit Jesus into your religious beliefs?

Questions to Peoples’ Responses

1. Why do you say that?
2. How do you know?