

How Might You Get to the Gospel?

Practicing Getting to the Gospel



Evangelism: Sharing the Gospel | Week #26 | October 1, 2025 | Written & Taught by John Cole

ONE PLAN AMONG MANY

It aims at the focus of what I believe to be the key distinction of Christianity and all other religious claims:
God came to us so that we could live with Him.

Mark 1:1 THE beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

Roadmap—a guide *to get to* the gospel message:

1. Relationship—discern yours and talk.
2. Reality—consider what is self-evident.
3. Revelation—God communicates.
4. Response—invitation to read Mark's Gospel with you.

1) RELATIONSHIP: ESTABLISHED/NEW/INTRODUCED

EXAMPLE 1:

Friend: "It's been a rough week..."

You: "I am sorry to hear that. Would you like to tell me about it?"

Friend: "Sure, thank you. I had a good friend get cancer, and I don't understand it."

You: "I don't think we can fully understand things like that. Cancer is so horrible and brings so much pain."

EXAMPLE 2:

Friend: "It's been a great week..."

You: "I am glad to hear that. Tell me about it."

Friend: "Alright, thank you. I was really hoping to get this job position, and I got it."

You: "Congrats! I'm sure you'll do great. What are you most excited about? What do you think will be most challenging?"

Friend: "I get to use my skills, and they have a great team. There are some high expectations I have to live up to though."

You: "Yeah like most things, we have to expect some bad with the good."

EXAMPLE 3:

You: "Hi, I'm John. May I give this neighborhood church invite to you?"

Neighbor: "Sure."

You: "Our church is out offering to pray for our neighbors. Would that be okay? Can I pray for you?"

Neighbor: "Yes."

You: "Do you have anything specific we can pray for right now?"

Neighbor: "Just in general. Good health. My family."

You: "I would be happy to pray for those. Let's go ahead and pray now...[Thank God for creating and ruling in goodness. Confess we have often sought to define good for ourselves apart from Him. Thank God for coming in Christ Jesus to save us from our sin through His death and resurrection. Ask God to reveal the goodness of Jesus to your neighbor. Pray for your neighbor to know the joy of forgiveness and fellowship with God and His people. Ask God to give your neighbor the wisdom, peace, and joy that is only found in Him. Pray for your neighbor's health and family.]"

You: "It was nice meeting you. If you ever want us to pray for something else or if you have interest in learning about Jesus, that small card I gave you has our website on the front and a QR code on the inside. You can contact us through the website. The QR code will take you to a place on our website where you can explore more about Jesus. If you would like to go through that with someone like me or someone else, we would love to. Just let us know. Our church is located on Franconia Rd near the Rose Hill Shopping Center and is easy to find. Any questions?"

Neighbor: "No, but I will let you know if I have any."

You: "Great. Thank you for sharing your time with me. I hope to see you again."

2) REALITY: GOOD/BAD—>DESIGN—>PURPOSE

You: “Have you ever wondered how there can be so much **good and bad** in our world at the same time?”

Friend: “Yeah. It’s kind of crazy.”

You: “Don’t you think there has to be a **design** and **purpose** to it all?”

Friend: “Not really sure. Probably. I know you do because you are a Christian.”

You: “True. *If* there is purpose, do you think we can know what it is? Do you think Whoever designed us would tell us?”

Friend: “I have no idea. What do you think?”

You: “I believe so. And so do all true Christians. Can I talk about that with you?”

3) REVELATION: LANGUAGE—>FACE-TO-FACE—>RECORD

You: “Our reality is filled with **language**. Can you think of different forms of language we experience every day?”

Friend: “Like talking?”

You: “Exactly. And... Math, DNA, seasons, our five senses, music, writing, computing, face-to-face. Isn’t it amazing how much our world is filled with intelligent forms of language?”

Friend: “It is. I haven’t really thought much about that before.”

You: “For humans, what do you think is the most meaningful way to communicate?”

Friend: “I prefer texting.”

You: “For sure, but what is the most meaningful way to communicate if you could only choose one? I believe it is talking **face-to-face**. Even though we might process more information in other ways, doesn’t it seem we are made to communicate face-to-face?”

Friend: “I can see that.”

You: “You know I am a Christian. Did you know that Christians believe God made us to live in **face-to-face relationship with Him**? Doesn’t that make sense when we live in a created world full of intelligent language?”

Friend: “That’s something to think about.”

You: “And did you know that **the historical Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of that**? He claimed to be God in human flesh and to one day return and live face-to-face with His people.

He claimed this was the purpose for which He designed us. That face-to-face relationship with God would be our greatest and most lasting joy. Eternal life.

Jesus’s life and message has been **recorded** by people who lived face-to-face with Jesus. We have a paper trail of 2,000 years that was passed on with face-to-face interaction, starting with eye-witnesses. The witness of these records have been woven into history.

With all the AI generated and altered content today, I could reasonably argue that we have a far more verified record of Jesus’s life and teachings than the next post you read online. Maybe that’s some of why Jesus came then and not now!”

4) RESPONSE: INVITATION—>MESSAGE—>CALL

Friend: “Huh.”

You: “Either way, I would like to **invite** you to read one of the historical records of Jesus’s life and **message** with me. It claims to also tell us God’s purpose for creating us.

With the way Jesus’s life and message has shaped our world, **don’t you think it would be worth reading and discussing together?**

Friend: “I am up for trying it.”

You: “Great. How about we break up the shortest record of Jesus’s life and message into six readings. **Would you rather read and discuss that over six days or six weeks?**

Friend: “Six weeks.”

You: “Let’s do it. I’ll text you the link so we can meet up **face-to-face** once a week for six weeks to talk about it. Read the intro description and then access the lessons through your browser or the app.

The main idea is to read a portion of Mark’s Gospel of Jesus, think through the provided questions, and listen to the short clip of one of our pastors teaching through Mark’s Gospel. When we meet up, come ready to talk through those questions and any questions or thoughts you have. It will be good! Sending you the link now...”

HOW MIGHT YOU ADJUST IT? WHAT PLAN MIGHT YOU WRITE?