

# I Can Do *That!*

*a relational approach to sharing your faith*

SEARCH

# Introduction

## The Barriers We Create

- Fear of failure
- Uncertainty of our answers
- Doubt it will do any good

Christians and non-Christians have something in common. We're both uptight about evangelism.

— Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Saltshaker & into the World: Evangelism as a Way of Life*.

## The Nones

**23%** of American adults say their religion is “nothing in particular.”

**78%** of these adults grew up in a religion but left it behind in adulthood.

**50%** of these formerly religious adults say that lack of belief, science, common sense, logic, and lack of evidence led to them moving away from religion.

## The Biblical Bedrock

- The Great Commandment
- The Great Commission
- The Power of Four
- The Peter Principle

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

— *Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)*

“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

— *Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)*

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .”

*1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

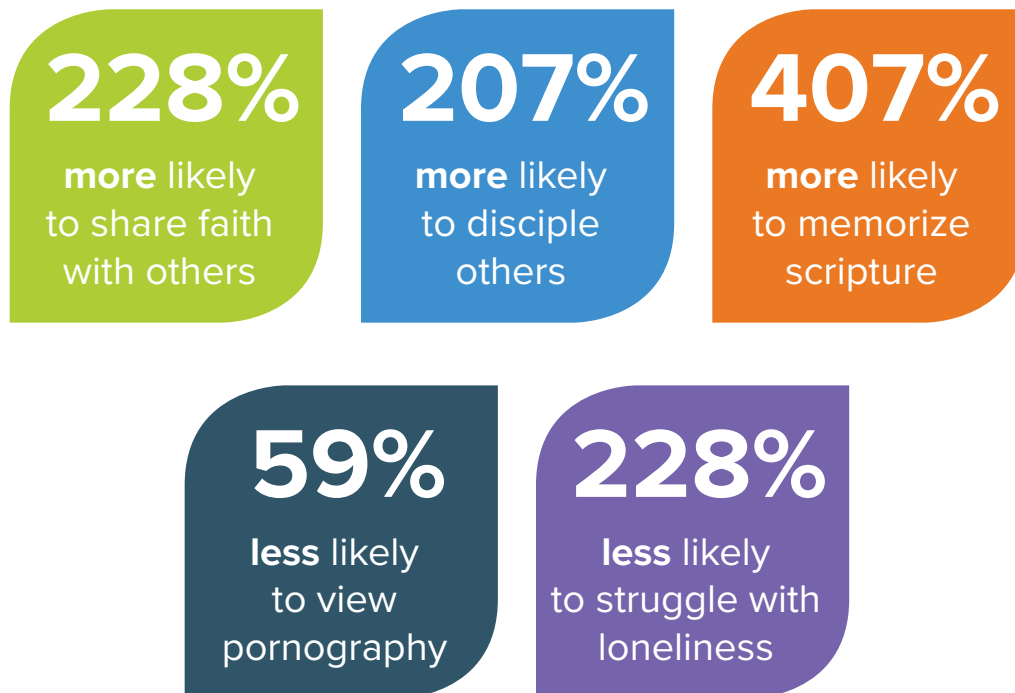
# The Power of 4 Effect

## Center for Bible Engagement:

- Over 200,000 people surveyed since 2003
- 8-80 years old
- 20 countries
- 75+ denominations

A key discovery from the CBE research is that the life of someone who engages scripture 4 or more times a week looks radically different from the life of someone who does not. In fact, **the lives of Christians who do not engage the Bible most days of the week are statistically the same as the lives of non-believers.**

Someone who engages the Bible **four or more times a week** is:



Our problem in evangelism is not that we don't have enough information—it is that we don't know how to be ourselves. We forget we are called to be witnesses to what we have seen and know, not to what we don't know. The key on our part is authenticity and obedience, not a doctorate in theology. We haven't grasped that it really is OK for us to be who we are when we are with seekers, even if we don't have all the answers to their questions or if our knowledge of Scripture is limited.”

— Rebecca Pippert, *Out of the Saltshaker & into the World: Evangelism as a Way of Life*.

## Evangelism Approaches

- Proclamational
  - Confrontational
- 

People often misunderstand the methods of evangelism. One can use hundreds of different methods, but **it is the message that counts.**

— Billy Graham, *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life*

# 1-2-3 *The Search Model*

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## 1 Begins with One

The place to begin sharing our story and God's love is with. . .

**one** neighbor,  
**one** coworker,  
**one** classmate,  
**one** friend.

Value the

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Lost people matter to God and therefore, must matter to us.

Lost = missing and valuable

— source: core values of the Willow Creek Community Church

### Luke 15

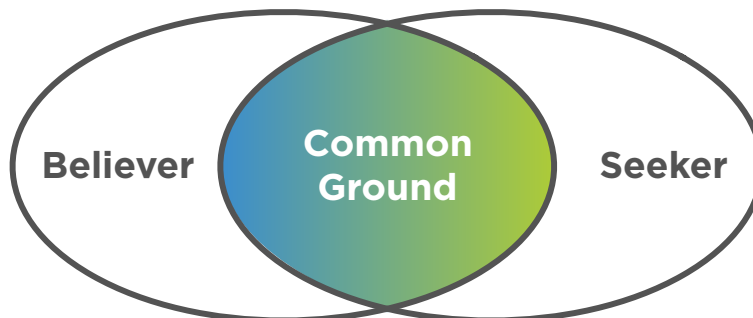
- Lost sheep
- Lost coin
- Lost son

## Identify your



## Cultivate

Shared areas of interest, background, experience, ability, or life situation that serve as a basis for developing a relationship.



“Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.”

*1 Corinthians 9:22 (NLT)*

# 2

## Principles

- A person's spiritual journey in a process
- God is responsible for the results

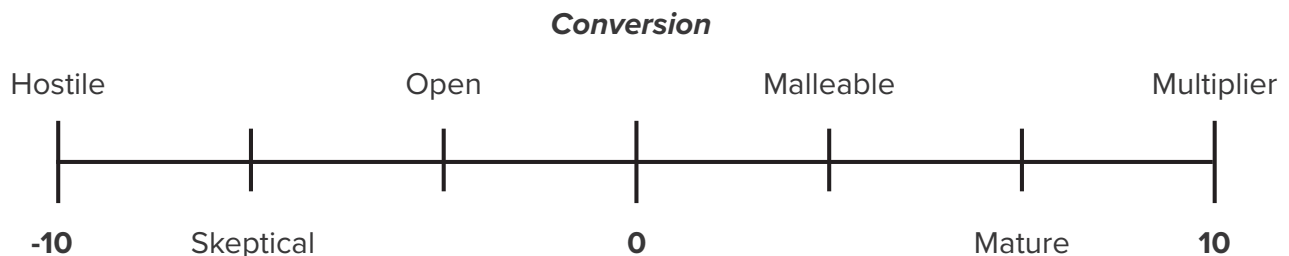
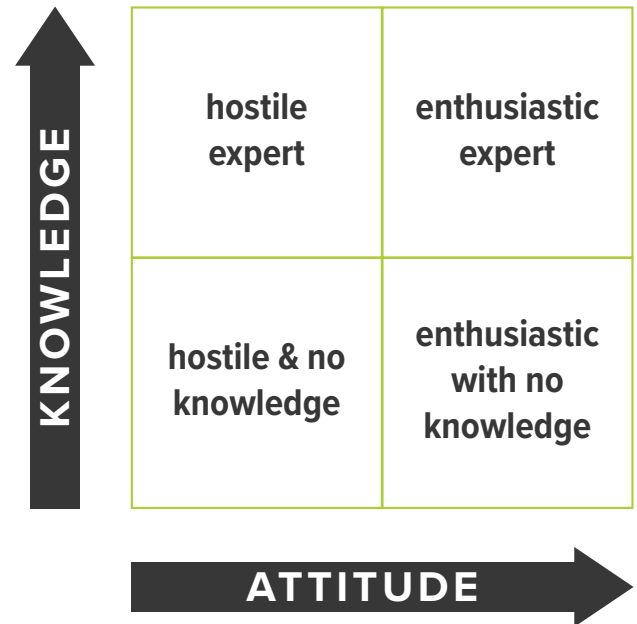
### A person's spiritual journey in a

“I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

*John 4:38 (NIV)*

“He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.””

*Mark 4:26-27 (NIV)*



*The Engle Scale (modified)*

## is responsible for the results

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

*1 Corinthians 3:5-7 (NIV)*

Some evangelists spend too much time thinking and even planning about how to achieve visible results. This is an easy trap to fall into...Nowhere do the Scriptures tell us to seek results, nor do the Scriptures rebuke evangelists if the results are meager.

— Billy Graham, *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life*

God did not call me to be successful, but to be faithful.

— Mother Teresa — *when asked how she dealt with having so little impact among the sick and dying of Calcutta*

# 3

## Barriers

- Emotional
- Intellectual
- Natural

### Barrier

- Based on: a bad experience
- Results in: isolation
- Response: relationship



## Barrier

- Based on: bad information
- Results in: indifference
- Response: research



## Barrier

- Based on: human nature
- Results in: independence
- Response: prayer



# Breaking the



## Understand their condition

- They are spiritually **dead**, not sick.

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. . .”

*Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV)*

- They are spiritually **blind**.

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

*2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NIV)*

- They are spiritually **captive**.

“And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

*2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NIV)*

## Rely on God's power

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

*Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

*Acts 4:31 (NIV)*

## Pray with purpose

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

*Ephesians 6:18-19 (NIV)*

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”

*Colossians 4:2-4 (NIV)*

# 1-2-3 *The Search Model*

A large, bold, blue number '1' that serves as a visual anchor for the first step of the model.

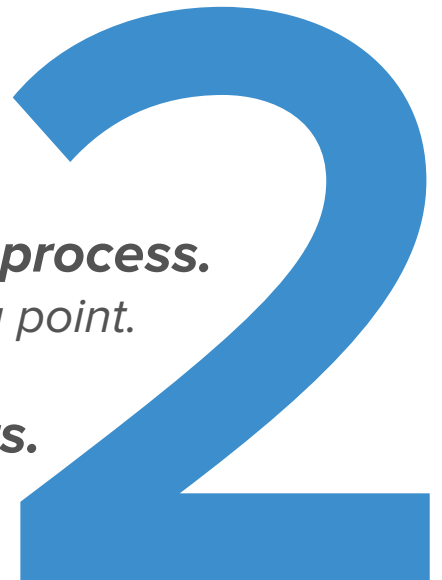
## Begin with One

*The place to begin sharing our story and God's love is with **one** neighbor, **one** coworker, **one** classmate, or **one** friend (see Luke 15).*

A curved grey arrow pointing from the text of step 1 down to the text of step 2.

## Two Principles

- 1. A person's spiritual journey is a process.**  
*Questions help determine the starting point.*
- 2. God is responsible for the results.**  
*Our responsibility is the relationship.*

A large, bold, blue number '2' that serves as a visual anchor for the second step of the model.A curved grey arrow pointing from the text of step 2 up and to the right, indicating the next step in the model.

# 3

## Three Barriers

### 1. **Emotional Barrier.**

*Often based on bad experiences (with any organized religion)*

### 2. **Intellectual Barrier.**

*This is a tendency to disregard or reject Christ based on bad information or misconceptions.*

### 3. **Natural Barrier.**

*Based on human nature, this barrier is a natural predisposition to resist examining spiritual issues based upon independence, pride or stubbornness.*

**SEARCH**  
questions · answers · conversations