

How to Not Get Sidetracked in a Conversation

Evangelism Training #3 - Tips For Witnessing

1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

- The cross divides - Those who reject it as foolishness...and those who recognize it as God's power.
- The cross is “foolish” - The crucified Messiah was seen as craziness to the Greek who sought philosophical wisdom...and a stumbling block to Jews who sought powerful signs
- The gospel is God's power - not merely information about God's power.
- The gospel is intended to sound foolish - To humiliate pride and insure salvation depends on God and not the intellect of man.
- True wisdom comes from God - Human wisdom cannot grasp the gospel. Need the Spirit
- The cross is central - Moral code is secondary. The cross of Christ is the only way.

How do you maintain ‘true north’ when sharing the gospel with someone?

1. Keep the Conversation Focused

- Keep the main thing the main thing - Focus on core doctrines of salvation, grace and the life of Jesus. Avoid secondary doctrines or ‘minor’ theological debates.
- Guide the conversation by asking good questions - Steer the conversation back to spiritual things. Make this a dialogue, not a monologue. Be patient.
- Listen - Try to understand the person's perspective. Don't be alarmed by sin. Don't judge
- Avoid rabbit trails - Politics, current affairs, doctrinal hot topics, silly God questions. Get back to the gospel. If a person keeps rabbit-trailing, they're not ready. Move on.
- Go back to Scripture - Like ‘Romans Road’. (Rom.3:23 - Problem), (Rom.6:23 - Consequence), (Rom.5:8 - Provision), (Rom.10:9-10 - Response), (Rom.10:13 - Promise), (Rom.5:1 - Result),
- Main message: All are sinners, Sin has a penalty, Jesus paid the price, Salvation is received by faith.

2. Keep Yourself Focused

- Guard your heart and mind - Meditate on Scripture. Pray like crazy.
- Be prepared - Know what you want to share and guide the conversation
- Stay in the Truth - Don't be intimidated by opposition or complex objections. Go back to your own experiences with Jesus and what you know about Him. And say, “I don't know.”

3. How to Get Back On Track

- Remember this phrase - “That's an interesting point. It reminds me of a story about Jesus that I think pertains right here.”
- Keep it Simple - The gospel message is simple. Stay on that. Avoid complex theological arguments. They might be smarter, but refuse to be intimidated. You have the Holy Spirit
- Be authentic - Be yourself. Share your beliefs and how Jesus has changed you. Avoid intellectual arguments.