

## LIFE ON MISSION SERIES – Part 4

### The Touchdown

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#### Summary:

Week 1 – God’s heart

Week 2 – Connecting with People, seeing people

Week 3 – Loving people deeply

All of that relational effort is demonstrating the Love of God. But we haven’t planted the seed yet... It’s just preparing the soil. Like the farmer in the month of march. He’s just getting the soil ready. It softens people. They trust you. But we still have to plant the seed of truth in their life.

“Preach the gospel. If necessary, use words.” -- It’s necessary.

**Romans 10:17** faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

#### Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. Prayer – V. 2,3,4 (For God to open spiritual doors)
2. Door of opportunity V.3; making the most of every opportunity V.5 (praying for opportunities, we’re looking for opportunities)
3. Full of grace, sprinkled with salt (proportions) like baking bread –full of flour, sprinkle of salt

I want to start with the end in mind. Where are we leading people? What is our goal?

*Analogy of Football: You’re trying to get to the end zone.*

*Slide: Picture of Eagles Superbowl Touchdown*

Our endzone is really simple. **We want people to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

We’re introducing people to Jesus. If we connect people to Jesus, the Life Giver will convict them in the areas they have sin. Their life giver will fill in the gaps in their understanding. Truth is a person, not an idea.

We don’t have to warm them up to all the details yet: don’t have to warm them up to the church yet or checking a doctrinal box. They don’t need to make sure they understand the definition of the word “incarnation” or “propitiatory sacrifice” or “atonement”. Are those things important? Yes. They’ll get to unwrap all their birthday gifts later.

But our goal is for them to have a homecoming/birthday. For them to decide for themselves that to start following Jesus.

John the Baptist says this powerful statement that defines the urgency and posture of this relationship -- “He must increase. I must decrease.”

I’ve discovered after 27 years of following Jesus, that I still have to choose daily “**That the life in Jesus is greater than the life I can produce on my own.**”

### **The Gospel in a Nutshell**

I don’t want to lose the simplicity of helping lead people into a “personal relationship with Jesus.” But at some point, we have to unpack our understanding of what a relationship with Jesus looks like.

I think it’s helpful for every believer (every one of us) to be able to explain in our own words, the core truth of the gospel in under two minutes. Practice the gospel. We want you to be able to communicate this in your own language.

#### **One Slide: The Good News (Gospel)**

- A. God’s Love = God loves you and has a plan for your life.**
  - i. Jn 3:16-17, Jn 10:10
  
- B. Man’s Need = We all have sin that separates us from God**
  - i. Rom 3:23, Rom 3:10, Isa 64:6, Isa 59:2, Heb 9:27, II Thes 1:8-9
  
- C. God’s Provision = Jesus Christ has come to forgive us of**
  - i. our sins and bring us into relationship with God.**
  - ii. Jn 3:16, Rom 5:8-9, Rom 6:23, Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-6, Jn 14:6
  
- D. Man’s Decision = Everyone must individually decide**
  - i. whether to receive Christ.**
  - ii. Jn 1:12, Rom 10:9,13, I Jn 1:9, Rev 3:20, Jn 6:40, Jn 3:36

#### **One Slide: Prayer of Salvation**

Jesus, forgive me for my sins. Thank you for dying on a cross to pay for my sins, I receive your free gifts of forgiveness, relationship, and life. I now invite you to come into my life as savior, and I choose to follow you as my Lord. In Jesus Name, amen.

Moving backwards from our goal line. If you’re standing on the one-yard line, I have a really simple question I like to ask to help people take that final step across the endzone:

- **Have you ever had a defining moment in your life when you decided to start following Jesus?**
- Are you ready to start following Jesus?
- What’s holding you back from surrendering your life to Jesus and following Jesus?

## Running Plays

Let's back up from the red-zone (striking distance of the endzone).

Great offensive teams may take 10-15 plays to drive the ball down the field. Rarely is success that 30 yard pass down the field. Sometimes success is moving the ball 3 inches.

I want to give us a Playbook (Conversational Pathway) that will help you run the right play wherever this person is on the field. Help Them Take A Next Step.

- **1 Corinthians 3:6** I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.
- I want to give you permission to let the Holy Spirit do his job. All you have to do is plant and water seeds. You don't need to convince people that Jesus is the answer.
- Permission to be patient. This may take 13 years. And dozens of conversations.

## Our posture:

**We're building a relationship, not an argument. We're introducing them to Jesus and not religion. We're taking a journey with them, not imposing a solution on them.**

## Playbook: S.A.L.T. + Holy Spirit

Slide:

S. Start a conversation

A. Ask questions

L. Listen

T. Tell Your Story

## Holy Spirit

The first question you're asking.

**Holy Spirit, what do you want to say? What do you want to do?** (Holy Spirit, you're already active. How can I step into what you're already doing?)

- Cory Wilson atheist neighbor's son prayed for.
- Cameron had a vision of his sister taking caffeine pills. So one night at the dinner table he blurted out, "so how long have you been taking caffeine pills?" It brought conviction.

## Start a conversation

Looking for an onramp into meaningful conversation. Colossians 4:3 -- the open door.

- *Do you have any faith community you're a part of?* --I've heard you say your Father grew up Catholic, did that play any role in your life? Do you have any interest in that stuff today? Why not?

- I know you and your wife have been going through a hard time. Do you have anyone who's been walking through that with you? How do you get through that? What gives you hope?
- Conversation with John on the Appalachian Trail

### Ask Good Questions & Listen

- Listen to their story. Listen to their heart.
- **Proverbs 27:7** One who is full loathes honey from the comb, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.
- We're not trying to cram Jesus into places people aren't hungry. We're probing, testing, looking for the places in their lives they are hungry or empty or in pain!
- What drives people? What's in their heart? What are they searching for?  
---Need to feel secure. Pleasure. Doing their best. Power. Significance. Someone to notice them. They're in pain. We're looking for the open door.
- These fundamental drivers are often where there's an opportunity to sprinkle truth
- Ill: Ben Musser listening to young man talk about all of his success, but his broken relationship with his father. And he then shared the acceptance of love of God.

### Telling Your Story or Speaking Life, Wisdom, Truth, Resources

- It may only be one sentence.
- "I'm not telling you what to do. But I went down that road and had to learn that the hard way. There are better ways..."
- "I used to chase all that stuff to feel good about myself. I'm so glad I don't have to do that anymore."
- I.e. There's a really great podcast I've heard that's helped me out with that. Would you be interested?
- I just listened to someone share their own personal struggles with losing a child.
- In one sentence. "All I know is, Jesus saved me from empty, lifeless religion.
- I can't stand religion. And I'm a pastor."

### Providing Resources (Take people to websites)

Slide: <https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>

Slide: <https://www.christianityexplored.org/>

Slide: <http://www.iamsecond.com/>

Slide: <https://oneminuteapologist.com/>

Purple Book & Card

### Final Prayer