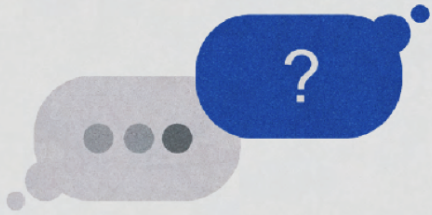


Gospel
INFLUENCE 2.0
ASKING INTENTIONAL QUESTIONS



(Theme Slide)



- It hadn't been "Good" Friday, but a bad one, terrible, no good, horrible.
- Why? Their faith and hope had been extinguished . . . like a campfire that has had a bucket of water poured over it.
- There may still have been steam rising but nothing more . . . the fire was out.
- There was no expectation of anything good . . . men hiding behind locked doors . . . women carrying spices to anoint the dead body of the One they had loved because He had first loved them.
- No, the first Easter (Resurrection Sunday) was not a rousing worship service but a time of grief, confusion, and rebukes.

TR: And then, there was more witness testimony that came forth, and then . . .

"The Jury is Out"

3

. . . READ SLIDE

-- In Luke 24, the women had already gone to the tomb and been rebuked.

-- Two men, angels, in dazzling apparel said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (v. 5)

-- (v. 11) "but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them."

TR: Later that day, two of the men, who had heard the testimony of the women, were going to Emmaus, about 7 miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:17-18 p.980

And he said to them, **"What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?"** And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

ESV

As they were walking and talking, a third individual came up and joined them . . . READ SLIDE

TR: The stranger probed further . . .

Luke 24:19-20

And he said to them, "**What things?**"
And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus
of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet
mighty in deed and word before God
and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief
priests and rulers delivered him up to
be condemned to death, and crucified
him.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Note that these men had a "past tense" faith in the Jesus who they saw brutally crucified . . . who WAS (past tense) . . . and then in verse 21 . . .

Luke 24:21-22

But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,

ESV

. . . we had hoped (what they had in the past but was now done with) . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 23

Luke 24:23-24

and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

*ESV***READ SLIDE****TR: This stranger then rebukes them . . .**

Luke 24:25-27

And he said to them, "**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!** ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them **in all the Scriptures** the things concerning himself.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- After accepting their invitation to spend the evening with them, Jesus revealed Himself and then disappeared.

TR: Luke then records that these men hustled back to Jerusalem, even in the dusk of early nightfall. They reported back to the eleven and those with them.

Luke 24:36-37

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The jury was still out, and their deliberations were leaning toward thinking that Jesus' spirit was somehow appearing to them.

TR: But the third rebuke of this chapter comes . . . first to the women, "Why are you seeking the living among the dead?" Then to Cleopas and the other disciple, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe." And now . . .

Luke 24:38-39

And he said to them, "**Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?** ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: I find great solace in this chapter . . .

“The Jury is Out”

- when people are slow to believe, troubled and filled with doubts

. . . because even those who had been with Jesus, some for three intense years, were . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Why did the angels, and then twice Jesus, rebuke them?

“The Jury is Out”

- when people are slow to believe, troubled and filled with doubts
- even when we have “enough” evidence for conviction, Jesus shows us more grace by . . .

Because they had already been given “enough” evidence to arrive at a conviction of faith.

-- But, Jesus showed them and us MORE GRACE by patiently instructing them.

TR: We see it in the description of what He did for the two on the road, in verse 27

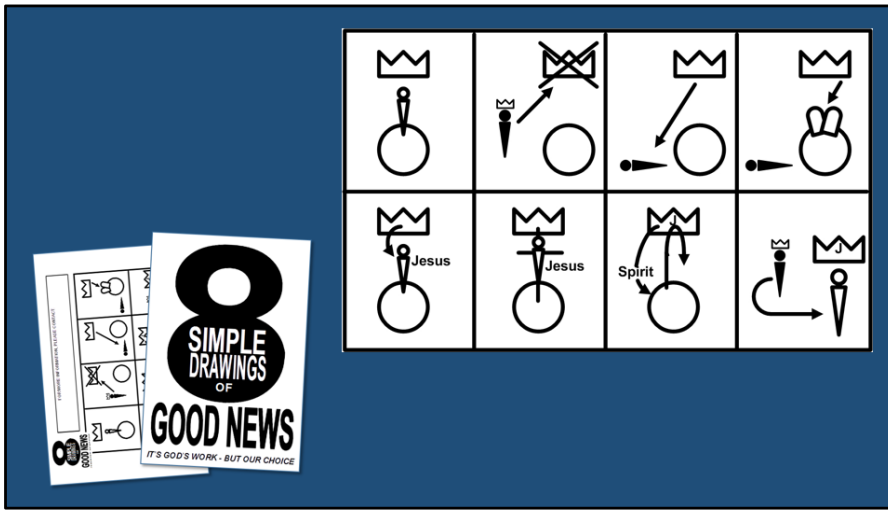
Luke 24:27

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Gospel Fluency is not just about giving someone the data-points of the Good News.



We must not imagine that when we have reviewed with someone the 8 Simple Drawings, or the Bridge Illustration, or some other tool that gives the overview of the Gospel, that's that.

-- EX: Stuart Briscoe giving Jill an engagement ring . . . "I picked it up . . . here it is . . . (she puts it on) . . . 'That's that.'"

TR: Yes, they had been . . .

“The Jury is Out”

- when people are slow to believe, troubled and filled with doubts
- even when we have “enough” evidence for conviction, Jesus shows us more grace by . . .

. . . given enough evidence.

-- Yes, they were slow to believe, troubled and filled with doubts, even after the testimony of the women and the two disciples who had been on the Emmaus road.

-- BUT, Jesus graciously presents to them, and reviews with them, the . . .

“Body of Proof”

16

READ SLIDE

TR: When Jesus appeared to the eleven and the others He presented to them . . .

“Body of Proof”

- the Bodily Resurrection

. . . evidence for . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Yes, it is a mystery to us how Jesus’ resurrection body could appear and disappear, . . .



. . . but this artwork suggests that His appearance was only that of a spirit .

TR: But Jesus will have nothing of that . . .

Luke 24:39-40

“See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

ESV

In verses 39-43 He says . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 41

Luke 24:41-43

And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"
⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- The Bible is honest with how challenging it is to believe.
- There may be joy and marveling but there also is doubt and disbelief.
- Jesus gives them further evidence of His bodily resurrection by eating some fish.

TR: That first Easter it was not a rousing worship service but .

..



. . . a time for the eleven and others to deliberate the body of proof.

TR: Jesus not only gave them evidence of His bodily resurrection, but also reviewed with them . . .

“Body of Proof”

- the Bodily Resurrection
- the Body of Scriptures

READ SLIDE

TR: Even as He had done with the two on the road, back in verse 31 . . .

Luke 24:31-32

And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, **while he opened to us the Scriptures?**"

ESV

READ SLIDE**TR: So, Jesus later that day did with the others in verse 44**

Luke 24:44

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me** in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

ESV

READ SLIDE

- This was review material, He had already spoken it to them before His death.
- From the Law, Prophets, and Writings (Psalms) . . . every part of God's written revelation pointed to Messiah, the Christ, the Promised Anointed One

TR: Verse 45

Luke 24:45-47

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "**Thus it is written**, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Don't miss the contrasts here with the limitations Luke records of the disciples' expectations, as seen in the two on the road:

-- expect prophet -> the CHRIST

-- expect to redeem from Rome -> REDEEM FROM SIN

-- expect Israel -> NATIONS

TR: The Old Testament, as we call it. The Hebrew Scriptures. The Law, Prophets, and Writings were inspired by the Holy Spirit so that . . .

IN THE SCRIPTURES,
GOD HAS GIVEN US . . .

Promises, Predictions,
Symbols,
Types, Shadows

. . . we would be given . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Most of us get the more clear prophecies, but God has written His Scriptures so that the layers give us ever more things to discover.

A “TYPE” =

a special example, symbol, or picture that God designed beforehand, and that he placed in history at an earlier point in time in order to point forward to a later, larger fulfillment.

- ESV STUDY BIBLE

Whether TYPES or shadows, God has given us Scriptures written by some 40 authors over 1500 years to make clear that He has always had a plan.

TR: There is powerful proof for the truthfulness of the Gospel because, as Jesus modeled, we have the body of proof that includes . . .

“Body of Proof”

- the Bodily Resurrection
- the Body of Scriptures

. . . READ SLIDE

- Truth in science and math is often described, even by those who don't believe in God, as beautiful. A simple intricacy that once seen can never be unseen.
- In literature, the great stories capture us with a woven intricacy of plot and characters.
- EX: Clive Cussler . . . weave story from legend of history with modern day adventure. The importance of chapter one seems lost until there is almost no more book left.

TR: The body of proof is there, but it is the work . . .

“Body of Proof”

- the Bodily Resurrection
- the Body of Scriptures
- the Work of the Spirit

. . . of the Holy Spirit that puts it all together.

TR: That was who was behind the experience of the two . . .

Luke 24:32

They said to each other, "**Did not our hearts burn within us** while he talked to us on the road, **while he opened to us the Scriptures?**"

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Jesus open the Scriptures to them, but He also . . .

Luke 24:45-46a

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written . . .

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Does this mean that we shouldn't read the Bible the way we read other literature? That we shouldn't follow the rules of grammar and syntax?

1 Corinthians 2:12, 14

12Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

14The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

ESV

No, a person may *intellectually* understand what they read, but they cannot “ACCEPT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD” without the Spirit’s help.

-- From 1 Corinthians 2, the Apostle Paul teaches us . . . READ SLIDE

-- The path to conviction, to rendering the verdict that Jesus is the Christ, sent to suffer, die, and be raised offering forgiveness to all nations . . .

-- . . . will only come as the Spirit helps people welcome what they read in the Scriptures.

TR: Luke has been led by the Spirit to show us how Jesus helped those, who should have had enough information to

reach a verdict, when it looked like it would be a hung jury.

“Body of Proof”

- the Bodily Resurrection
- the Body of Scriptures
- the Work of the Spirit

He helped by presenting a body of proof . . . READ SLIDE
-- This includes the Spirit Who helps us when we want to read into the Scriptures our historical or cultural biases.
-- Cf. testimony of InterVarsity Jao: into mission against parents' wishes – Chinese Christians vs. White Christians.
-- Under 20, next year in USA, non-whites > whites in population.

TR: All this Jesus does to prepare the disciples to be witnesses.

Luke 24:48-49

You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Jesus did this so that they might be witnesses of these things . . . His bodily resurrection and how the Scriptures point clearly to Him.
- But, even as Bible study without the power of the Spirit doesn't yield anything but spiritual arrogance, so being witnesses without the empowerment of the Spirit yields fruitless-ness.

TR: So what are the lessons for our witness today?

“Instructions for the Witnesses”

35

What instructions are included in what God wants us to walk away with?

TR: First, . . .

“Instructions for the Witnesses”

- Strengthen our own conviction

We must . . . READ SLIDE

-- HOW?

-- By studying the Scriptures and seeing how they ALL point to God’s great work of redemption and restoration through Jesus.

TR: Remembering . . .

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture
is **breathed out by God**
and **profitable**
for teaching,
for reproof,
for correction,
and for training in righteousness

ESV

READ SLIDE

- It is helpful to study logic and reasoning. To study science for proofs of God's existence.
- BUT, it is the study of Scripture that will strengthen our ability to give forth the clear verdict when asked, "How do you find Jesus?"
- "Guilty, of being the Son of God come in the flesh. Of taking the sin of the world upon Himself. Of dying in our place. Of being raised victoriously. Of being the promised Messiah, the Christ."

TR: Elsewhere Paul writes . . .

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and **through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Cleopas, Peter and the others had lost hope, having only a past tense faith.
- Jesus gave them a body of proof in His earthly body, raised from the dead.
- **AND**, in the Scriptures, which through the Spirit they could receive and welcome.
- It is the encouragement of the Scriptures that give us hope.

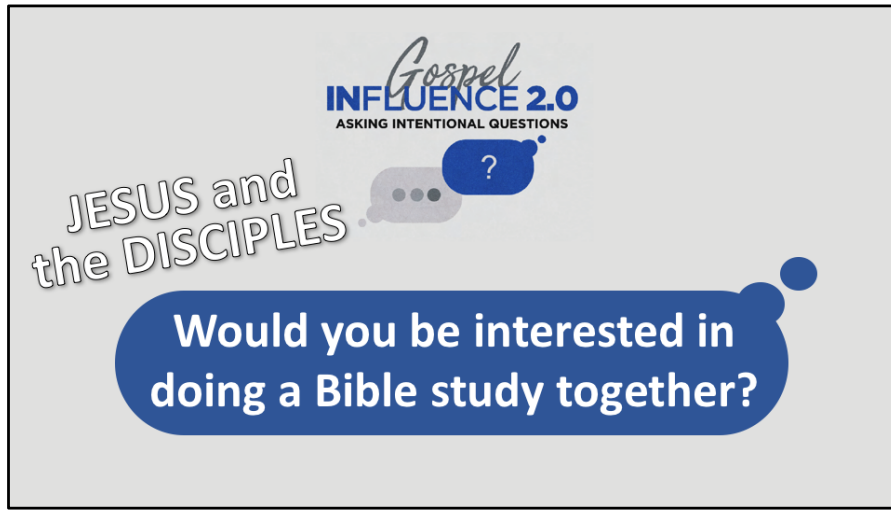
TR: Therefore, doesn't it make sense for those subpoenaed to be witnesses, who win and grow disciples for Christ, that we . . .

“Instructions for the Witnesses”

- Strengthen our own conviction
- Invite others to reach a judgment of faith

. . . READ SLIDE . . . by giving them the same Body of Proof?

TR: Bible study is not just for those who have already come to faith, but also for those who are slow of heart to believe, troubled and filled with doubts.



As we seek to be Gospel Fluent, does it not make sense to be open to the Spirit's nudge to invite someone to a Bible study with us?

- You don't have to have all the answers.**
- We don't have to be seminary or Bible School trained.**
- We do have to be those who are seeking to be strengthened in our own conviction.**
- We do have to be humble enough to say, "That's a great question. I don't know. Let's try to answer it together."**
- We do have to be those who keep in step with the Holy Spirit so that He can help us welcome the always profitable Scriptures.**
- We do have to be those whose hearts are broken for the lost,**

so that we will make the time to sit with them with an open Bible.

-- Jesus gave us more evidence, a body of proof, even though we should have been able to come to a verdict already.

-- He didn't just review the data-points and say, "That's that!"