



# THE GOSPEL CONVERSATION

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How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things." Romans 10: 14,15



# FIRST THINGS

- A believer with a heart for sharing the gospel is what is needed most.
- Living as the light of Christ in a dark world opens doors for conversation.
- Looking always for ways to bring the good news is the way of life.
- God will honor your efforts. You may be planting seeds that others will cultivate.
- Even if you can only remember a few verses, share the Word and plant seeds.
- And ... the message we share is the Word of life and the truth that all men and women need.



# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

- God is the good and righteous, all powerful, sovereign Creator of all, perfectly holy. He demands perfect obedience to His commandments.
- Man has broken God's commandments and will pay the penalty which is death and eternal punishment in hell. Man cannot save himself.
- Christ came to earth and took on human flesh as perfect God and man, demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for sin, redeemed His elect by His blood, rose from the grave and ever lives to save those who believe in Him.
- Sinners must respond by turning from sin and believing in Christ as Savior and Lord.



# LAUNCHING THE GOSPEL CONVERSATION

- Many different life situations - as we walk through life each day
  - A neighbor
  - Friend
  - Co-worker
  - A teacher or mentor
  - Family member
  - A spouse
  - A child
  - Stranger God puts in your path
- Our conversation approach will vary, but the content of the Gospel is the same



# HOW TO BEGIN - A CONVERSATION

- Get to know the unbeliever - show them respect, courtesy and love.
- Listen - hear their life situation.
- Ask good questions - open ended and work toward the gospel.
- Wait patiently - build a trusting relationship and hear them out.



# A WORK COLLEAGUE IN CRISIS



- You meet your co-worker in the break room on Monday morning, and he seems depressed and not himself. You know that he does not profess Christian faith.
- He proceeds to tell you that his wife has just been diagnosed with breast cancer, and he is devastated. He feels like life has been pulled out from under his feet.
- How do you respond, and how can you lead him to a conversation about Christ?

# GUIDING THIS CONVERSATION

- Show love, respect, empathy, compassion. It is a privilege that he would share his heart with you in a time of tragedy.
- Listen to him. Be slow to speak, quick to listen
- Lead into the Gospel message with the grace and mercy of God.
- “In the deepest times of fear and sorrow, I find my strength and hope in Jesus. The Bible says that He lived as not only God but also as man on this earth and knows our sorrows and comforts those who know Him and put their trust in Him.” I might share Psalm 23 with them (familiar to many) and use that as a segue to talking about God’s compassion through the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus. Also, Heb 2:15-18, 4:15,16; Matt 11:28,29





# GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

- Can you relate to their situation and how they are responding and recall how you responded in similar situations before you knew Christ? Can you use this to point them to the hope you have found in Christ?
- Listening to their conversation, are there questions you can ask that cause them to reflect on spiritual matters and God?



# A NEIGHBOR WHO NEEDS CHRIST



- Your neighbor is a friend but not a believer. It has been on your heart that you need to share the Gospel with her. You have known this family for a few years and have a good relationship with them.
- Your neighbor and her husband are typical middle class, non-church going happy pagans on the outside. "life is good"
- You decide to invite her over for coffee with the hope of sharing the Gospel.
- Where do you begin? What question(s) can you use to lead into talking about the Gospel?



# GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

- Listening to their conversation, are there questions you can ask that cause them to reflect on spiritual matters and God?
- Can you help your neighbor see why they need the Gospel?
- Can you relate to their situation before you knew Christ?
- Can you share how Christ changed your life then and now?



# STREET EVANGELISM

- Striking up the conversation with a stranger.
- You are on an evangelism team in a public shopping area.
- How do you approach a stranger with questions that lead to the Gospel?



# PROBING QUESTIONS

- What do you think God requires for someone to get into heaven?
- If you were to stand before God today and He were to ask you, why He should let you into heaven, what would you say?
- Who do you say that Jesus is?
- What does your religion teach regarding heaven and what happens when we die? Can I share with you what the Bible says about those questions?
- Are there things that are happening in our society that are evil? Why is there evil in the world? Is man evil by nature?
- What is the basis of morality in society?



# GOSPEL DIRECT QUESTIONS

- What are God's requirements to enter heaven?
  - Likely to hear a works-based answer
  - Likely to hear that man is basically good
  - You may hear about the God of their own creation
- Be prepared with good answers
  - May I talk with you about what the Bible says are God's standards for entering heaven?
  - I heard you say that God is too loving to send someone to hell, but the Bible tells us that there is an important fact we must remember about that. May I share with you?
  - It sounds like you try to live life as a very good person, but the Bible tells us that when we think that we are missing something important. May I show you from the Bible what that is?
  - May I talk with you about the hope God gives us in the Bible for getting into heaven?



# REJECTION

- Expect it.
- Your job is to sow seeds that the Holy Spirit may use. You cannot save anyone.
- When people lay down to sleep at night, they think about things.
- You cannot argue anyone into salvation.
- Pray for them and leave the door open for future conversations.
- Assure them of your love and concern. This is the door to remind them of the need to repent and believe without putting it off.



# THE FAMILY MEMBER

- Your mother lives with you and has become very ill. The doctors do not believe she has long to live. Your brother lives in Seattle and is flying in to see mother before she passes. Mother is a godly woman, standing firmly on the Rock and does not fear death. Your brother however is a successful attorney who graduated from Berkley and has no need for Christianity. He cannot reconcile the Bible and what Mother believes with what he was taught in college regarding the existence of God, origins and life after death. His world is secular and pragmatic, but he is gripped by the fear of death.
- You pick up your brother at the airport and have an hour-long drive through traffic before you get home. You know in your heart that you must share the Gospel with him.





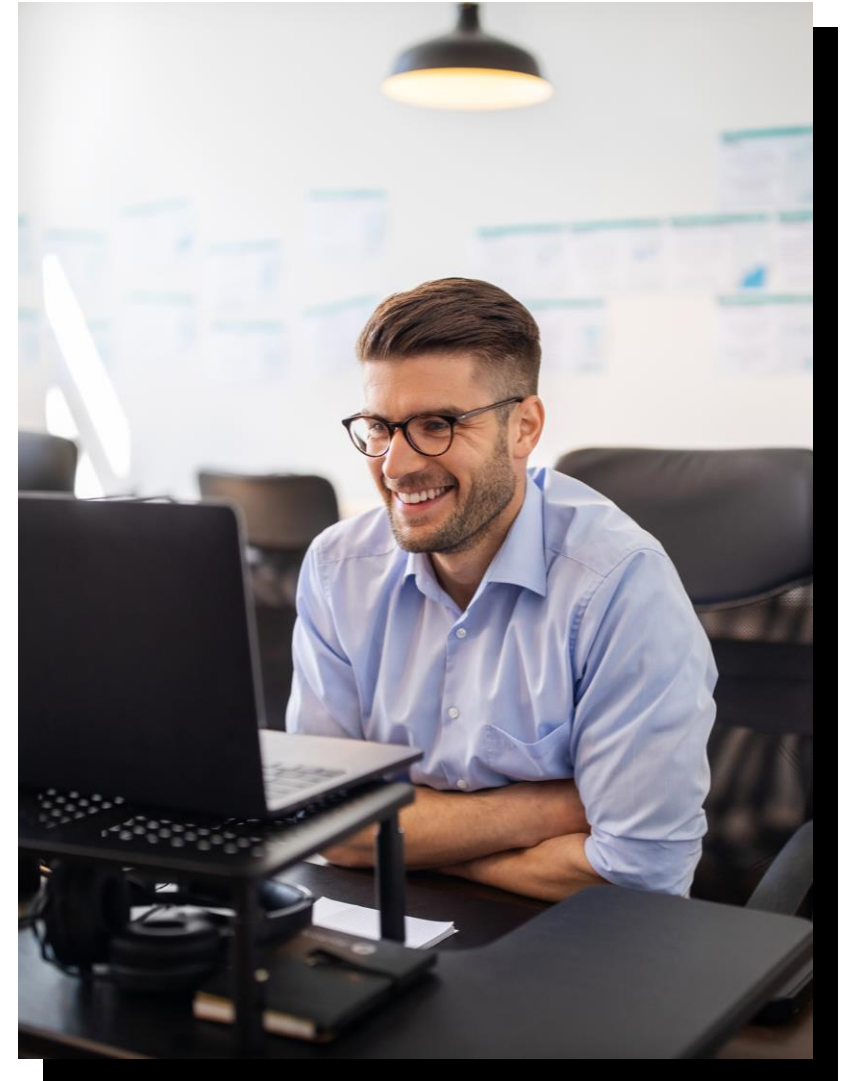
# PROBING QUESTIONS

- With Mother's health weakening and death nearing, have you considered where you will spend eternity?
- If you were to stand before God today and He were to ask you, why should I let you into heaven, what would you say?
- What do you believe regarding heaven and what happens when we die? Can I share with you what the Bible says about those questions?



# THE BOSS WANTS MY OPINION

- Your boss is a person with whom you have a good relationship. He is not a Christian. He stops you in the hallway one day and asks your opinion regarding a matter on his mind and asks you to step into his office.
- "I am thinking through the DEI issue and how it affects the workplace. What do you think about the LGBTQIA+ issue and how do you respond to it?" (He knows that you are a Christian.)
- Take a deep breath, send up an SOS prayer and trust God to give you the words to say.



# GUIDING THE CONVERSATION

- Can you with grace point your boss to God's Word and what He says about the issue?
- Ask him if you may discuss with him these important matters of life and spiritual things. It may help prevent outright rejection. He may appreciate your sensitivity.
- Use this current circumstance that is on his mind to point out God's sovereignty, judgment, mercy, grace and redemption.
- Point out how Christians acknowledge the truth of God's word and act in love to those around them.



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

For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. 2 Timothy 2:10

