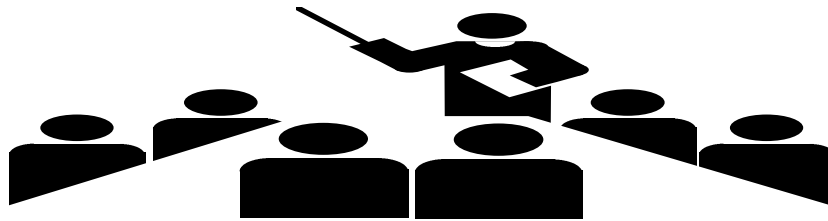


# EVANGELISM SEMINAR



Facilitator  
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**Topic:**  
**“Faith-Sharing”**

## OUTLINE

- I. The History of Faith-Sharing
- II. The Necessity of Faith-Sharing
- III. The Meaning of Faith-Sharing
- IV. The Implications of Faith-Sharing
- V. The Arena for Faith-Sharing
- VI. The Principles of Faith-Sharing
- VII. The Invitation in Faith-Sharing

## VIII. The Process in Faith-Sharing

### EVANGELISM SEMINAR

**Facilitator: The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.,**

### **Topic: Faith-Sharing**

**Proposition:** Instead of using faith-sharing to propagate the institutional church, we should see faith sharing as the end for which the institutional church is the means.<sup>1</sup> **Dr. H. Eddie Fox and Dr. George E. Morris**

#### **I. Introduction: The History of Faith-Sharing**

##### **A. The early church was born in a missionary situation.**

1. The church in Wesley's day was in a mission situation.
2. The church today is in a mission situation.

##### **B. The people called Methodist must be Faith-Sharing Congregations.**

1. We must be a contagious community.
2. We must be an inviting people.

##### **C. Wesley's greatest fear:**

*"I do not fear that the people called Methodist shall ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. I only fear that they shall exist as a dead sect having the form of religion, but not the power thereof, and that undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast to the **doctrine, spirit, and discipline** with which they first set out."*

John Wesley (1786 at age 83)

##### **D. In some parts of the world, Methodism has moved from the mainline to the sideline.**

1. Because of difficulty in communicating the message.
2. Because they are increasingly unsure of what the message is.

#### **II. The Necessity of Faith-Sharing [Why should we share our faith with others?]**

##### **A. Faith-Sharing Is God's idea!**

1. God's nature shown in creation: a *seeking* God.
2. God is a missionary God: a *sending* God.
3. Jesus Christ is the *key* event in salvation.

##### **B. Faith-Sharing is needed by Humanity.**

1. The reality of human sinfulness
2. Humanity's inability to redeem itself
3. This world's desperate need for Jesus Christ

##### **C. Faith-sharing is founded in God's love.** [God's love operating in the heart is the primary motive.]

##### **D. Faith-sharing fulfills the Great Commission.** [Obedience is the response of love.]

##### **E. Faith-sharing focuses on total redemption.** [The whole church must share the whole gospel to the whole person in the whole world.]

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<sup>1</sup> H. Eddie Fox and George E. Morris, *Faith-Sharing* (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2000)

### III. The Meaning of Faith-Sharing

#### A. The Nature of Christian Faith

1. Christian faith is centered.
  - a. It has a particular object: the gospel. (2 Corinthians 4:1-7)
    - 1) The knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
    - 2) The light shines in our hearts.
    - 3) To let the light shine out of darkness means Christian witness.
  - b. It is not faith in general.
2. Christian faith is personal.
  - a. Because it is centered in a living person.
  - b. Because it requires a personal commitment.
3. Christian faith is relational.
  - a. Because it makes possible a right relationship with God (Ephesians 2:4-8)
  - b. Because it makes possible a right relationship with others (Matthew 5:23-24)
  - c. Because it makes possible a right relationship with the self (Romans 5:1)
  - d. Because it makes possible a right relationship with all creation (Colossians 1:19-20)
4. Christian faith is a response of the total person which involves two dynamics:
  - a. Trust: we trust what we treasure and we treasure what we trust.
  - b. Obedience

#### B. What It Means to Share Christian Faith

1. Evangelism must be viewed from different angles of vision.
  - a. Methodology: No one method is **the** methodology, but each method by God's grace can become a method for sharing faith.
  - b. The meaning of the word EU ANGEL ION [Presentation of the Gospel]
    - 1) Good Message or Good Story
    - 2) Good News or Good Tale
    - 3) God's Tale or Gospel
2. What does it mean to evangelize?
  - a. Evangelization is the ongoing process of communication that involves the gospel.
  - b. To evangelize is not what we do to people, but what we do with the gospel.
  - c. **Evangelism is spreading the good news by *word, deed, and sign* through the power of the Holy Spirit, and then waiting and watching in respectful humility, and working in expectant hope.** (Romans 15:18-19)
    - 1) The rhythm of *word* and *deed*
    - 2) Whatever gives significance to Jesus Christ or the gospel is a *sign*. [SIGN IF I CAN CE]
    - 3) In the power of the *Holy Spirit*

### IV. The Implications of Faith-Sharing

- A. Faith-Sharing is not persuading others to adopt a point of view, but pointing others to a living person.
- B. We are not called to introduce people to a set of propositions, but to a PERSON and His kingdom.
- C. Christ does not call people to a religion, but to Himself and His kingdom.

D. Our best witness is undergirded by our deepest relationship.

## V. The Arena for Faith-Sharing

A. **The Diagnostic Imperative:** understanding the receivers language and world

1. We need to know more about the persons that we seek to reach with the gospel.
2. We need to help them discover those points in life that require more than a natural explanation.
3. We need to ask and look for those points of contact where the gospel is likely to be relevant & meaningful.
4. We need to recognize that God's prevenient grace works in all persons to prepare them for the gospel.

B. **Beginning where people are:** the point of contact is their need, desire, motive, aspirations, etc.

C. **Assessing human needs:**

D. **Establishing Contact:**

1. The incarnation of Christ teaches us that *we must enter into the other person's world.*
2. Pentecost teaches us that *we must speak in the language of the hearer.*
3. Jesus' message of "harvest time" teaches that *we must be sensitive to the passages in people's lives.*
4. Prevenient grace teaches us that *the Holy Spirit prepares people to be responsive to the gospel.*

## VI. The Principles of Faith-Sharing

A. **Evangelistic methods can be divided into three main categories.**

1. Information transmission: one-way act of communicating spiritual facts & propositions. [75% - no]
2. Manipulative monologue: emotional appeals and high-pressure salesmanship. [81% -yes, 85% drop out]
3. Non-manipulative Dialogue: a two-way process involving honest interaction. [99%-yes, 96% stay]
  - a. Non-manipulative dialogue is usually an extended relationship, not a single encounter.
  - b. 75% came to Christ because of the words, deeds, and encouragement of someone they trust.
  - c. Christians must be equipped to relate to others in such a way that trust develops.

B. **Faith-Sharing within Social Networks**

1. We must be clear regarding our purpose.
  - a. We build relationships with people to love them not to change them.
  - b. We build relationships with people ultimately to share the gospel with them.
2. Our witness must be grounded in prayer. [*Talk to God about people before you talk to people about God.*]
3. Listening opens the door to speaking.
4. We must take both the person and the person's environment seriously.
  - a. We must take seriously the particular culture and patterns of the people.
  - b. We must start where they are and build a link between their interest and God's truth.
  - c. We must remember that Jesus did not practice Xerox evangelism.
5. It is better to make invitational statements than to ask questions. [*An invitational statement is one that has the seed of a question within it, and listens for a response.*]
6. If people volunteer information, we can rest assured that they wish to tell us more.
7. To do the mission of Christ, we must have the mind of Christ. (humility)
8. It is better to expose our vulnerability than to pretend invulnerability.
9. God is far more interested in our availability than our ability.
10. We do not tell people why or what they must believe, we tell them why and what we believe.
11. Witnessing is most effective when done in the first person. [Your story matters]

### C. Faith-Sharing with Strangers

1. Sensitivity to the other person begins before you ring the doorbell or knock.
2. In establishing a relationship with a stranger, the introductory moments are of crucial significance.
  - a. Give a friendly greeting.
  - b. Make known your identity.
  - c. Explain why you are there.
  - d. Acknowledge the intrusion.
  - e. Ask to come in.
  - f. Promise to be brief.
3. The encounter is not a waste of time even if you are not invited inside.
4. In door-to-door visitation there is a greater need to take personal and contextual factors seriously.

## VII. Inviting People to Receive Christ.

### A. The Guidelines for Inviting

1. The invitation flows out of the nature of the gospel.
2. The human response consists of turning and trusting.
3. There are many methods of inviting persons.
4. In inviting persons to receive Christ, we do not pressure people, but take the pressure off people.
5. The faith-sharer is sensitive to life's important intersections.
6. The faith-sharer offers the invitation with clarity.
7. The faith-sharer offers the invitation with integrity.
8. The invitation to respond in faith is a community affair.
9. In inviting a person to receive Christ, one must be willing to wait in expectant hope and humility for a response of faith.
10. The faith-sharer trusts the Holy Spirit.

### B. The Factors to Consider

1. The leading of the Holy Spirit
2. The quality of the relationship [e.g. is the person willing to open up and trust us]
3. The receptiveness [e.g. where are they in their seeking]
4. The content or place

### C. The Pattern of Faith-Sharing (GRACEful)

1. **G- God's grace in Christ Jesus for all**  
*[Tell persons about God's grace and His desire for a relationship.]*
2. **R- Recognizing and Repenting of sin**  
*[Help persons recognized the reality of sin and the need for repentance]*
3. **A- Accepting God's forgiveness**  
*[Help persons experience the assurance of being in right relationship with God.]*
4. **C- Confessing faith in Christ**  
*[Help persons commit in trust to Christ and continue walking in His way]*
5. **E- Entering into the reign of God**  
*[Help persons enter into the fellowship of the church and its mission.]*

## VIII. The Process in Faith-Sharing

In his training resource entitled, *Discovering Spiritual Receptivity: Speaking to Our World*,<sup>2</sup> Dr. Lyle B. Pointer shows how the conversation of the pre-Christian determines the method and processes of evangelism. The Christian witness must listen and respond appropriately.

<b>PRESENCE EVANGELISM</b>		
Christians continue to build their relationships with the pre-Christian, modeling Christ's love. Christian witnesses show genuine concern for prospective believers and seek ways to meet their needs.		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conversations of the Pre-Christian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sure I believe in God.</li> <li>• I don't know the Bible</li> <li>• I didn't grow up in church.</li> <li>• I've wondered about God and the Bible.</li> <li>• I know I ought to learn more about God.</li> <li>• Can you answer a question for me?</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Process of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Credibility of the Christian is being established.</li> <li>• Contact with the world.</li> <li>• Compassion or acts of kindness are shared.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Method of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I try to live the life.</li> <li>• I model Christian living.</li> <li>• I do nice things for unsaved people.</li> </ul>
<b>PROCLAMATION EVANGELISM</b>		
Christians share what they have seen, heard, and experienced of God. Often conversations simply turn from surface to spiritual matters. During proclamation the Christian is listening and praying for an opportunity to share how God has or is working.		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conversations of the Pre-Christian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know God loves me.</li> <li>• The Bible says I need to accept Christ.</li> <li>• If I get saved, I know I will need to make some changes.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Process of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication of the Good News.</li> <li>• Counseling people about spiritual matters.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Methods of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I explain what Jesus means to me.</li> <li>• I tell about the time Christ came into my life.</li> <li>• I recount how Jesus died for everyone.</li> </ul>
<b>PERSUASION EVANGELISM</b>		
Christians encourage pre-Christians to accept Christ. Christians also explain how to accept Christ and invite them into relationship with God.		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conversations of the Pre-Christian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know I should get saved.</li> <li>• I need to get right with God.</li> <li>• I think I'm ready to accept Christ.</li> <li>• Will you pray with me?</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Process of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenging people to respond to God's offer of relationship.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Methods of Evangelism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I ask if he is ready to accept Christ.</li> <li>• I tell her I hope she will become a Christian soon</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Lyle B. Pointer, *Discovering Spiritual Receptivity: Speaking to Our World* Participant Booklet (Church Growth Research Center & Southern Nazarene University Region, 1994) p. 9.

