

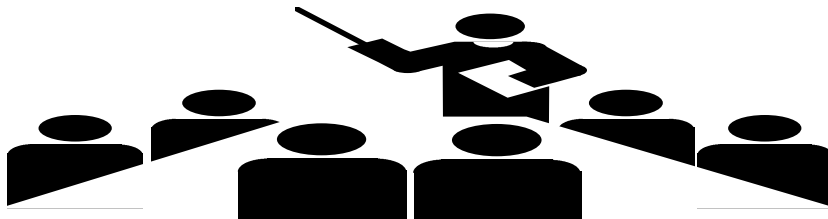
EVANGELISM SEMINAR



Facilitator

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Topic:
“Personal Evangelism”

Outline

- I. Understanding the Meaning of Evangelism
- II. Overcoming a Hindrance to Evangelism
- III. Mastering the Message of Evangelism
- IV. Mastering the Message of Evangelism II

I. Understanding the Meaning of Evangelism

- Evangelism is literally the proclamation of the gospel.
- “Evangelism is that set of intentional activities which is governed by the goal of initiating people into the kingdom of God for the first time.”

William Abraham

- “Evangelism is *being, doing, and telling* the **gospel** of the kingdom of God, in order that by the power of the Holy Spirit persons and structures may be converted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.”

Delos Miles

- “Evangelism is spreading the **good news** by *words, deeds, and signs* through the power of the Holy Spirit, and then waiting and watching in respectful humility, and working in expectant hope.”

H. Eddie Fox/George Morris

II. Overcoming a Hindrance to Evangelism: Unresolved Anger: (Ephesians 4:26-32)

A. We must *acknowledge* our anger. (26-30)

1. Be angry and sin not. (26)
 - a. We must be honest with ourselves about our feelings of anger and inner pain.
 - b. We must be honest with God about who hurt us and what they did to us.
 - c. We must not sin by letting our anger cause us to hurt anyone.
 - 1) We must not sin by retaliation.
 - 2) We must not sin by getting revenge.
 - 3) We must not sin by redirecting our anger on an innocent party.
 - 4) We must not sin by repressing our anger and hurting ourselves.
2. Let not the sun go down on our wrath, neither give place to the devil. (27)
 - a. We must deal with our anger before the sun goes down.
 - b. We must not give the devil a stronghold by our delays.
3. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths, only what edifies. (29)
 - a. Corrupt communication is an evidence of anger or inner pain.
 - b. Edifying communication is an evidence of inner healing and well-being.
4. Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God. (30)
 - a. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we fail to deal with our own anger and pain.
 - b. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we hurt ourselves or others with our anger.
5. Prayer of Acknowledgment: *Lord, I am angry at _____ for _____.*

B. We must forgive those who have hurt us. (32)

- A. We must forgive in order to be healed.
- B. We must forgive in obedience to Christ.
- C. We must forgive because Christ has forgiven us.
- D. Prayer of forgiveness: *Lord, I forgive _____ for _____.*

C. We must release our anger and pain. (31)

- A. We must get rid of all of the poison and pain in our hearts.
- B. We must get rid of all of the poison and venom in our mouths.
- C. Prayer of release: *Lord, I release all of my _____ and _____ and _____.*

D. We must receive God’s healing.

Prayer of healing: *Lord, I receive your healing.*

E. We must trust God to make things right.

Prayer of faith: *Lord, I trust you to make things right.*

III. Mastering the Message of Evangelism

In order to evangelize effectively we must master some clear and accurate presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The following outline of the gospel presentation from *Evangelism Explosion*¹ by D. James Kennedy can be used in personal evangelism, whether it is door-to-door or relational.

A. The Introduction

1. Their secular life
2. Their church background
3. Our church
4. Testimony: personal or church
5. Two diagnostic questions:
 - a. *"Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?" (1 Jn. 5:13)*
 - b. *"Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and He was to say to you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' What would you say?"*

B. The Gospel

1. Grace
 - a. *Heaven is a free gift. (Rm. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9)*
 - b. *It is not earned or deserved. (Rm. 3:20; Gal. 2:16)*
2. Man
 - a. *He is a sinner. (Rm. 3:10,23; Ja. 2:10)*
 - b. *He cannot save himself. (Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5)*
3. God
 - a. *He is merciful and does not want to punish us. (Ex. 34:6)*
 - b. *He is just and must punish sin. (Is. 13:11)*
4. Christ
 - a. *Who He is - He is the Infinite God-Man (Jn. 1:1,14)*
 - b. *What He did -*
 - 1) *He paid for our sins. (Is. 53:4-6; 1 Cor. 15:3)*
 - 2) *He purchased a place in heaven for us. (Jn. 14:2)*
 - 3) *He offers it as a free gift. (Rev. 22:17)*
5. Faith
 - a. *What it is not*
 - 1) *It is not mere blind faith. (Mt. 15:14)*
 - 2) *It is not head faith or intellectual assent. (Ja. 2:19)*
 - 3) *It is not temporal faith. (Jn. 2:23-25)*
 - 4) *It is not dead faith. (Ja. 2:17)*
 - b. *What it is*
 - 1) *It is belief plus commitment (Jn. 8:30-32; Ja. 2:18)*
 - 2) *It is receiving Christ (Jn. 1:12; Rev. 3:20)*
 - 3) *It is trusting Christ alone for salvation (Acts 4:12)*

¹ D. James Kennedy, *Evangelism Explosion* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1977), pp. 16-17.

C. The Commitment

1. The qualifying question: *"Does this make sense to you?"*
2. The commitment question: *"Would you like to receive this gift of eternal life?"*
3. The clarification of commitment
4. The prayer of commitment
5. The assurance of salvation (Rm. 10:13; 1 Jn. 5:11-13)

D. The Immediate Follow-up

1. Stressing the Assurance of Salvation
 - a. Revisiting the Diagnostic Questions
 - b. Revisiting the Assurance Verses
2. Stressing the Aids to Spiritual Growth
 - a. Bible Intake: reading, study, meditation, and memorization
 - b. Prayer: daily communication with God
 - c. Worship: public and private
 - d. Fellowship: spending quality time with Christian friends
 - e. Witness: learning to share one's faith with others

IV. Mastering the Message of Evangelism II: Writing Your Personal Testimony

The proper use of personal testimony is a very effective way of mastering the message of evangelism.

A. Write a personal testimony.

1. It should be brief (250-500 words).
2. It should be in a conversational style (like talking to a friend).
3. It should be in the first person (use “I” and “me”).

B. Choose the approach most fitting to our experience.

1. The chronological approach emphasizes what happened before and after conversion.
 - a. This approach is appropriate if prior to our conversion we had significant experiences with which the other person can easily identify.
 - b. This approach allows us to center on the drama of our conversion experience.
 - c. This approach begins at a significant point of our life prior to conversion, tells the conversion experience, and then tells its effects on life up to the present.
2. The thematic approach focuses on an experience, problem, or issue with which the other person can identify and stresses how salvation has influenced that concern.
 - a. This approach is appropriate if we were saved as children, recall few events in our conversion, or cannot remember the exact sequence of events in our conversion experience.
 - b. This approach allows us to show how we solved a problem because of our conversion years ago.
 - c. This approach begins with a problem common with the other person and tells how, because of our conversion several years earlier, we came to our present or current situation.

C. Consider the following outline in developing our testimony.

Introduction: Begin with an interesting life-related event or fact identifying with other person’s situation)

1. Before I Met Christ
 - a. Chronological Approach: My Life and Attitudes Before Conversion
 - b. Thematic Approach: Problem or Need Conversion Solved
2. How I Realized My Need for Christ: highlight events that led to us to realize our need for Christ.
3. How I Became a Christian: summarized the facts of our salvation
 - a. Tell how we became aware that we were living an “I-controlled life.”
 - b. State how we felt when we realized the nature of sin and the penalty of sin.
 - c. Tell the joy when we learned Christ paid the penalty for our sin.
 - d. Summarized how we received Christ.
 - 1) How we repented of our sins
 - 2) How we put faith in Christ
 - 3) How we surrendered to Jesus as Lord of the rest of our lives
4. What Being a Christian Means to Me Now: summarize specific differences Christ has made in our life.
5. Closing Question or Invitation: use questions as a transition device from our talking to our listening.
 - a. Has anything like that ever happened to you?
 - b. Does that make any sense to you?
 - c. Have you ever wanted such an experience?
 - d. Have you ever made the wonderful discovery of knowing Jesus as your personal Savior?

D. Check the written testimony.

1. Is the story line clear?
2. Have the important issues been covered adequately?
3. Has an invitation to know Christ been extended?
4. Is the tone right for conversation with a friend?
5. Did I conclude with a bridge question to involve the other person in talking about salvation?
6. Is my testimony true?

E. Practice giving the testimony to Christians before sharing it with non-Christians.

F. Give the testimony to a non-Christian. Do not worry about memorizing it. Adjust to the situation.

G. Ask God to provide opportunities to give the testimony to others.

H. Our responsibility is to share our testimony and pray for salvation, The Spirit’s task is to convict and convert.

I. Remember the goal is to lead a person to know Christ in salvation.