



Sunday February 11, 2018
Lifestyle Evangelism (Part-2)
Overcoming Inhibitions

We continue our series on "Lifestyle Evangelism".
Last week we spoke about the necessity and urgency of sharing Christ with others.

Quick review:

Necessity

why should we witness about Jesus Christ - why tell people the message of Jesus Christ?

- 1, *People Need A Savior And There Is Only One*
- 2, *People Are Empty, Are Hurting, Are Searching, Are in Need*
- 3, *People will not know the truth unless someone tells them*

Urgency

Why do we need to be witnesses with a sense of urgency...and not 'do it when convenient'?

- 1, *People are perishing and they don't know it*
- 2, *Time is running out*

Today: Overcoming Inhibitions

All of us face some amount of inhibitions when it comes to opening up a conversation to talk about Jesus and share the Gospel.

So lets talk about some common reasons for inhibitions and how to practically overcome them.
We will briefly cover the following:

- 1, Not knowing what the Gospel is
- 2, Assumption that people are not spiritual
- 3, Will people be convinced
- 4, Fear of rejection
- 5, Fear of persecution
- 6, Other Excuses

1, *Not knowing what the Gospel is*

We don't share Christ, because we don't know what to say.

This simplest approach is to just share what Jesus did for you. Remember the blind man who simply said: "*One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.*" (John 9:25)

Also become familiar with the Gospel message and how to present it.



In our APP Church App, in the Toolkit section, we have a section called "Gospel" where we present outlines you can use to share the Gospel.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

2, Assumption that people are not spiritual

While it is true that there may be some people who are in a particular stage in life where they are reluctant to discuss spiritual matters, it is also true that many people are open and willing to talk about such things. Many are searching for meaning, truth, for answers, for purpose. Many are hurting and are looking for healing.

Remember that God designed us as spiritual beings.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

... Also He has put eternity in their hearts,...

So don't hold back from starting or having a conversation.

3, Will people be convinced

Sometimes we are not sure if sharing the Gospel and pointing people to Jesus will convince them to do so. We may not feel qualified to debate, answer all the questions that could come up, etc.

There are two important truths to keep in mind:

- 1, The Gospel is the power of God. The message of the Cross is the wisdom of God and the power of God (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24).
- 2, The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts them of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11).

So share the message about Jesus Christ and depend on the power of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit to impact their lives.

What if I am asked difficult questions that I cannot answer? - It is alright to say "I don't know". You can go and find answers later if the questions are useful. Sometimes people pose questions just for the sake of arguing, not because they really want answers.

4, Fear of rejection

We are afraid people may reject us - they may tell us something rude straight in the face, just walk away from us, etc. etc.



We can learn to respond graciously even when we face such responses.

Jesus warned His disciples that they would face some who will reject them and their message:

Matthew 10:11-15,40

11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.

12 And when you go into a household, greet it.

13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

Keep reaching out. Move on to people who are open and willing to listen.

The truth is that many people who rejected Jesus initially, eventually came to encounter Him very powerfully.

5, Fear of persecution

Sometimes people not only reject us, but they retaliate in some form - ridicule or even persecute/attack in return. Friends could distance themselves. Some could make fun of your faith.

In Matthew 10 as the Lord Jesus sends His Twelve disciples out He does warn them that persecution will come (Matthew 10:16-42).

He instructs them to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16).

We must not be foolish and unnecessarily attract trouble.

We must not provoke or antagonize people when we go about sharing Christ.

He tells them not to fear (Matthew 10:28,31).

He promises them the work of the Holy Spirit who will give them the right words to speak (Matthew 10:19-20)

He assures them that the Father knows them intimately and will care for them (Matthew 10:29-31).

He promises that as we confess Him before men, He will also acknowledge us before the Father in heaven (Matthew 10:32).

Be strong. God is for us even in the midst of persecution.

Let's get rid of all kinds of fear that holds us back from sharing Christ. Some Scriptures that can help us overcome fear in this area :



2 Timothy 1:7-8

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

6, Other Excuses

There can be many other wrong ideas and excuses we may have that actually inhibit us from sharing the Gospel.

Thoughts such as:

A) I am not very strong, am unsure about my own faith and relationship with the Lord (*Get strong. Make an effort to study the Word, pray and build yourself up. Trust God. Step out*)

B) I don't have time for this (*Make this a part of your lifestyle - where you are, with the people you have access to. You can also be intentional and make some time to evangelize*)

C) I don't have many unsaved friends (*Step out and go to places where you can interact with those who need Jesus*)

D) I don't feel stirred up about this, no real passion for the unsaved (*Pray and ask God to fill you with passion for the lost. Stay around those who are passionate for the lost*)

E) It is just not my personality to do this (*God works through all of us just as we are*)

F) I don't think this is my calling. This is not my responsibility. (*We are all called to be witnesses for Jesus Christ*)

G) I'll just live a good life (*We are to preach, share, tell the Gospel also*)

A Few Thoughts On Having Gospel Conversations

(A) Be natural : Whenever possible, make it a natural flow in your conversation.

(B) Be intentional : Out of genuine concern for the individual, gently and intentionally share Christ with them.

One good way to engage in conversation is to ask questions.

Learn to ask questions.

Learning about a person's perspective and past may powerfully affect how we witness.

Find out what, if any, knowledge of Jesus, or church background the person had, and their attitude toward Jesus and/or the church.

There are different levels of conversation where different questions become appropriate.



Here is an example of conversation flow that gets you to a point where you can share about Christ:

Get to know the person:

What do you do?

Where did you study?

How do you spend your leisure time?

What are your hobbies/interests?

Get to know their belief system:

"Would you consider yourself a spiritual person?" followed by either "Why not?" or "What does that mean to you?"

Have you ever been to a church?

When you were studying at [Name of school, college or university] did anyone tell you about the "good news" of Jesus Christ?

What do you think of when you think of God?

Do you think there is life after death? Do you believe in a heaven or hell?

Why do you think there is evil in the world?

at special occasions, e.g. Good Friday: Has anyone told you why Jesus died on a cross?

at special occasions, e.g. Easter: Has any one told you what Easter is all about?

at special occasions, e.g. Christmas: Has any one told you why Jesus came in to the world?

Now, share your own personal experience about Jesus or you can ask permission to share the Gospel.

Always maintain proper motivation

Don't share the Gospel just as a "project" something to do.

Be motivated out of genuine love for people and concern for their lives - their present relationship with God and their eternal salvation.

James 5:19-20

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Matthew 10:1-42; Romans 1:16; John 16:8-11*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Review and discuss some of the inhibitors that hold us back from sharing the Gospel with others .:

- 1, Not knowing what the Gospel is*
- 2, Assumption that people are not spiritual*
- 3, Will people be convinced*
- 4, Fear of rejection*
- 5, Fear of persecution*
- 6, Other Excuses*



#2, What do you recognize as the top most inhibitor for you personally, and how would you make efforts to overcome it.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential). Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.