

POSTMODERN EVANGELISM TRAINING

THE FIRST STEP IN EVANGELISM IS DEVELOPING INTIMACY WITH GOD

A. It is easy to get sidetracked in the Christian life.

1. We end up focusing on the nonessentials

What are those nonessentials?

B. Passionate love is essential to our Christian lives.

1. The beginning of evangelism is found in Matthew 22:34-38

Read Philippians 1:21.
What is the difference
between obedience and
passion?

2. The overflow principle
3. Passion for Jesus needs to be guarded and cultivated

C. HOW DO WE DEVELOP INTIMACY WITH GOD?

1. Take time to get to know Him

- It is possible to read the Bible and not know Him (John 5:37)
- The purpose of this time is to meet with a Real Person.
- Luke 10:38-42 as an example!
- Remember that you are meeting with a Real Person.
- We get to know Him more by meditating on His person—thinking about what He's like.

- We become like what we love.

2. Remove barriers between God and us.

- Our sins (1 John 1:9)
- Misunderstanding the central truth of Christianity (Romans 3:25)

3. Ask God for more passion.

- John 17:26—Jesus’ high priestly prayer.
- “Put your eyes on the Son of God and leave them there (Hebrews 12:1 ff.), and you will find yourself becoming like Him. You'll find yourself falling in love with Him as you ask God day after day to consume you with passion for His glorious Son. And that passion, as it begins to occupy your heart, will conquer a thousand sins in your life. You will begin to love what He loves and hate what He hates.”¹

THE SECOND STEP IN EVANGELISM IS PRAYER

A. PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVANGELISM

1. Pray specifically because it changes the way God acts.

- Exodus 32:7-14
- James 4:2

2. Don't give up on those prayers

- Luke 18:1-8

How Can I Pray Evangelistically?

Pray for messengers (Mat. 9:37-38)

Pray for specific opportunities (Col. 4:3-4)

Pray for boldness (Eph. 6:19-20)

Pray against spiritual powers (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

¹ Taken from Jack Deere article entitled *Passion for Jesus*.

B. SPECIFIC PRAYERS FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

1. That God draws them to Christ (John 6:44)
2. That they may seek to know God (Acts 17:27)
3. That they be saved (Romans 10:1)
4. That Satan will be bound from blinding them to the truth (2 Cor. 4:4)
5. That God may send Christians to bring them to Christ (Matt. 9:37-38)
6. That they will repent of their sin and turn to God (Acts 3:19)
7. That the Holy Spirit will convict them and guide them into all truth (John 16:8, 13)
8. That they admit their need and humbly seek Christ (John 7:37-38)

Friends I am praying for...

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

When a believing person prays, great things happen!
James 5:16

C. KEY TRUTHS TO REMEMBER WHILE PRAYING

1. Evangelism is cooperating with the Holy Spirit and others to bring a person one step closer to Christ.
2. God has prepared our encounters (Eph. 2:10; Acts 8:26ff)
3. God is responsible for the results (John 6:44)

THE THIRD STEP IN EVANGELISM IS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

A. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IS ESSENTIAL TO EVANGELISM

Reasons that non-Christians move towards Jesus

- God (the Evangelist)
- Felt Needs
- Crisis
- Witness of believers

This is why relationships are crucial!

B. We are the light of the world

1. Matthew 5:13-16—this can only happen in relationships with unbelievers.
2. Imagine buying a new lamp, turning it on and sticking it underneath the carpet in your living room. This is pretty absurd!

Studies have shown that within 5 years most Christians lose all of their unbelieving friends.

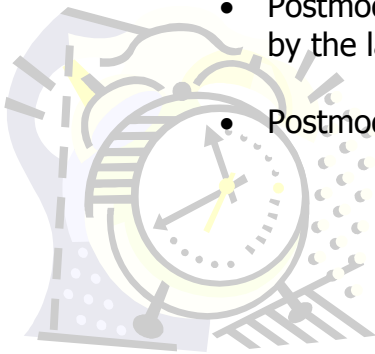
3. It is OK to be wildly happy and wonderful that we know Jesus Christ—this is where we show our love for Him by loving others.

C. Understanding Our Culture Is Essential To Building Relationships.

1. Postmodernism redefines how we do evangelism.
 - The postmodern world is wired differently from anything we have experienced; therefore, a different approach in evangelism is required.
 - This means that evangelism will take on new meaning in the 21st century.
2. What is postmodernism?
 - Postmodernism is, first and foremost, a reaction to the modern worldview. The modern worldview asserts that:

- ✓ *We live in a world of natural resources that can be known objectively through the scientific method.*
- ✓ *Humans are autonomous*
- ✓ *Human progress is the ultimate goal; and*
- ✓ *Humanity will save itself through science and technology.*

- Postmodernism addresses how language functions to construct meaning.
- Postmodernism asserts that we exist in a reality that we have constructed.
- Postmodernism asserts that any one narrative used as a meta-narrative is oppressive.
- Postmodernism asserts that human beings make themselves who they are by the languages they construct about themselves.



- Postmodernism asserts that ethics is also a linguistic construct.

WE NOW LIVE IN A TIME WHEN THERE IS NO ULTIMATE VALUE

- There are many paths to the same destination
- All faiths are interchangeable
- "What works for me" is more important than some eternal value

D. Here are the primary longings of most Postmoderns:

1. Authenticity. Honesty over politeness. They want to see that we struggle like everyone else. This is why vulnerability and transparency are so important.
2. Community. Relationships are of prime importance. They need to see the gospel lived out. Rather than instant conversion, it's more like a process where they are socialized into the faith.
3. This desire for community flows out of people's feelings of loneliness, alienation and abandonment.
4. Lack of dogmatism. Rules aren't what they used to be. They do not believe that anyone "good" is going to hell.
5. Music is the lifeblood. Art is a primary vehicle for worship.
6. Diversity. Gender and race are meaningless.

7. Interdependent. We can learn from each other. You feed me and I will feed you.
8. Fun oriented.
9. They respond best to a passionately lived out faith.

E. Other characteristics of postmoderns

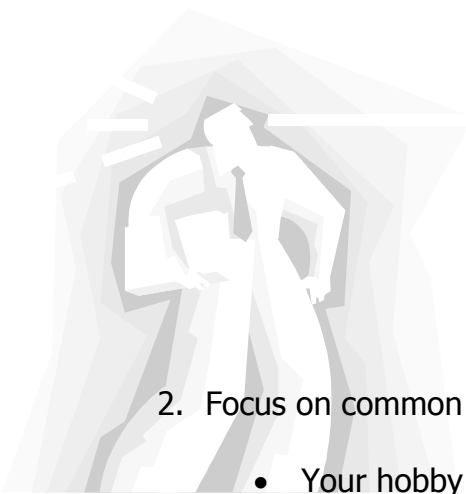
1. Interactive forms of worship work best. They have no ultimate value system and no ultimate truth.
2. The mental models are more Hebraic than Greek. They are more Eastern than Western. They do not separate sacred from secular.
3. Cynicism.
4. They have a higher view of marriage and a lower view of sex. 40-50% grew up in a divorced home and were latch key children.
5. Extreme experience is the highest form of reality.
6. They are suspicious of organized religion but they are very spiritual in their attitude.
7. Evangelism is obnoxious.
8. Family is made up of those who befriend them more than those who produced them.
9. They have a slow transition to adulthood.
10. Education is a high priority but it is taking longer.
11. Don't trust institutions.
12. Passionate about community.
13. Express themselves through music.
14. The Bible is no different from any other book.
15. Pre-packaged programs such as the "Four Spiritual Laws" will not work well because this generation doesn't begin with Christianity as the starting point. These laws are valid, but they have to be discovered by the person we are trying to reach, not told to them by another. A relationship has to be established and our own personal story has to be shared.

16. Our method MUST be based on a process that begins with relationships (look at Jesus in John 4)! We must get to know the person and this may take time.

F. HOW DO WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS?

1. Be intentional about looking for relationships.

- More than 80% of all Christians trace their conversion to a friend, relative, associate or neighbor.



Think back to your conversion.
Who were the people crucial in your journey to faith in Christ?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2. Focus on common interests

- Your hobby or interests may be God's greatest tool to reach certain people for Jesus.

What are some of your hobbies and interests you can use in sharing your faith?

3. Take advantage of social events

- Invite others to parties or events that you host.
- Spend an evening doing something that would interest your friends or neighbors and invite them.
- This helps build trust and communication on a more personal level. This increases the opportunity that we will have to talk about Jesus.

- What are some social events that you can do to reach specific groups of people?

4. Be a great listener

- You can't build authentic relationships without being great listeners.
- Take a genuine interest in their lives.
- Listen even if their ideas make no sense to you. You don't need to correct them, just listen.
- This also means being transparent and vulnerable with them. Most people have very few friends who care enough to listen to them, take time to really understand and who will share personal matters with them.

5. Love beyond the unexpected

"Love them till they ask
you why."

*Joe Aldrich, Lifestyle
Evangelism*

Brainstorm some practical ways to love the people you
are praying for:



6. Look for opportunities to plant spiritual seeds.

- Use everyday activities as opportunities to talk about Jesus.
- Ask questions that get them thinking and talking. In doing this you are checking for open doors.
 - *Do you ever think about spiritual things?*
 - *Where are you at on your spiritual journey?*
 - *Do you ever pray?*
 - *Do you ever think about God?*
 - *Do you have a spiritual background?*

- *What do you do in your free time?*
- *Can I pray for you?*

7. Do this in stages. Look at it as a journey of faith.

What are some ways you are currently asking questions?

8. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

- Be patient and don't force Jesus on them. This is a process NOT a project!
- Few people commit their lives to follow Christ during the first time of hearing the gospel. A recent study showed that it takes 7-10 contacts with Christians before non-Christians respond.

THE FOURTH STEP IN EVANGELISM IS SHARING YOUR STORY.

A. OUR STORIES ARE IMPORTANT

1. People will be interested.

- As we get to know people and genuinely care about them, they will want to find out more about us. Real friends want to understand each other's thoughts, values and backgrounds.

2. People will be able to relate to your story.

- At one level or another, people will be able to relate your experience to their own.





Writing Your Personal Testimony

The example of the Apostle Paul

One of the privileges and responsibilities of Christians is to share our faith in Jesus with others. There are many ways to do this. One of the most effective ways is sharing with others how God has poured out His love and grace into our lives.

People to whom we witness can argue with many things that we say but it is hard to argue with our personal story. Completing this worksheet will help you put together a logical and organized way to help others understand who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

We are going to take a look at Paul's story as a pattern for our testimony. Before you continue any further, read Acts 26:1-23.

Paul's attitudes and actions before his conversion (vv. 1-11)

Paul lived as a Pharisee—v. 5 (see Galatians 1:13-14)

Paul imprisoned many Christians—v. 10

Paul condoned the deaths of many Christians—v. 10

Paul persecuted Christians—v. 11

Circumstances surrounding Paul's conversion (vv. 12-18)

1. Where was he going?

2. What time was it?

3. What did he see?

4. Who was with him?

5. What did he hear?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15

Changes in Paul's attitudes and actions after his conversion (vv. 19-23)

What evidence of Paul's repentance and conversion can be found in the following verses?

6. Verse 19 _____

7. Verse 20 _____

8. Verse 21 _____

9. Verses 22-23 _____

Read 1 John 1:5-9; 2:3-6

C. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!!

1. Use the sheets in this manual to outline your personal story.
 - Model 1 is for people who committed their lives to Jesus at a point and time in their lives.
 - Model 2 is for people who became Christians at a young age.
2. Remember, this is a first draft. You have a lifetime to work it out.

6 THINGS TO REMEMBER AS YOU WRITE YOUR STORY

1. Keep in mind that you are speaking with a pre-Christian.
2. Avoid exclusive language.
3. Avoid exaggeration—the best testimonies are believable.
4. Be clear and concise—it should take about 3 minutes to communicate it.
5. Make the essence of your story what Christ has done for you.
6. Find a Scripture that sums up your story and incorporate it.

Writing Your Personal Testimony

Model 1

(for Christians who trace their conversion to a specific point)

Introduction

➤ Name _____

Attitudes and actions before I became a Christian—Describe your life before Jesus. What was your life like—what were your feelings, attitudes, actions and relationships? What caused you to begin considering as a solution to your needs?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Circumstances surrounding my conversion—Consider the time, date, place, people, motivation, etc. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to commit your life to Christ? This is a great place to summarize the gospel—the death, burial and raising to life of Jesus for the forgiveness of all your wrongdoings. Verbalize how you prayed to God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Changes in my attitudes and actions since my conversion—What benefits have you experienced since becoming a Christian? How is your life different? Describe how Jesus is blessing you today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Writing Your Personal Testimony

Model 2

(for people who became a Christian at a young age)

Introduction

➤ Name _____

Encounter with Jesus— Describe your early life and when and how Christianity was involved. If appropriate, include family or church background. Avoid naming religious denominations.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Circumstances surrounding a crisis or special encounter with Jesus— Describe one or more events that brought you to a deeper trust in Jesus. What realization did you come to that finally motivated you to seriously follow Jesus? Verbalize how you made your deeper commitment to Him. Consider the time, date, place, people, motivation, etc. This is a great place to summarize the gospel—the death, burial and raising to life of Jesus for the forgiveness of all your wrongdoings. Verbalize how you prayed to God.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Changes in my attitudes and actions since my conversion— What benefits have you experienced since becoming serious about Jesus? How is your life different? Describe how Jesus is blessing you today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

D. TELLING YOUR STORY

1. Directions for practicing your story

- Pair up with someone.
- One of you tell your story, and the other listen and use the Your Story Feedback Checklist to write down any comments.
- After the first person tells their story, the listener should provide feedback on what worked well, and what areas could be improved. Use the checklist to guide you. Be honest! This feedback can only help.
- Then trade places and do steps 2 and 3 again.



**STOP FOR A MINUTE:
ASK GOD FOR AN
OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOUR
STORY THIS WEEK.**

You will be surprised how God uses
your story!

YOUR STORY FEEDBACK CHECKLIST

Item	Observations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Life Before Jesus – clearly explained <input type="checkbox"/> Encounter w/Jesus-clearly explained <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer—clearly verbalized 	<p>What worked well?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Life in Jesus today – early explained <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture – was it relevant to their story <input type="checkbox"/> Language – avoided religious clichés (If not, what were they?) <input type="checkbox"/> Length – was about 3 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Language – avoided exclusive and religious language (If not, what were they?) 	<p>Areas for Improvement:</p>

THE FIFTH AND LAST STEP IN EVANGELISM IS SHARING HIS STORY.

6 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SHARING HIS STORY

1. God has revealed and is revealing Himself (Romans 1:18-20)
2. God is seeking lost people (Luke 15)
3. God has prepared our encounters (Acts 8:26ff)
4. God is responsible for the results (John 6:44)
5. You will sense from the Holy Spirit if they are ready.
6. It is good to have a method that works for you.

E. THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S STORY

1. God
 - God is loving (1 John 4:16)
 - God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - God is just (2 Thessalonians 1:6)
2. Us
 - We were created good but became sinful (Romans 3:23)
 - We deserve death, both physical and spiritual (Romans 6:23)
 - We are spiritually helpless, or morally bankrupt (Isaiah 64:6)



3. Jesus

- Jesus is God who also became man (John 1:1, 14)
- Jesus died as our substitute (1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Jesus offers His forgiveness as a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9)

4. You

- You and I must respond (John 1:12)
- You and I must ask Christ to be our forgiver and leader (1 John 1:9; 1 Peter 3:15)
- The result is spiritual transformation (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)



F. SHARING HIS STORY

1. Directions for practicing His story

- Pair up with someone.
- Each of you pick the method that you think would be the most powerful for the people you are ministering to. One of you tell His story, and the other listen and use the His Story Feedback Checklist to write down any comments. Stay within about 3 minutes as you tell His story.
- After the first person tells their story, the listener should provide feedback on what worked well, and what areas could be improved. Use the checklist to guide you. Be honest! This feedback can only help.
- Then trade places and do it again.

VARIOUS METHODS FOR SHARING HIS STORY	
	Do vs. Done
	The Bridge
	The ABC's
	The Roman Road

G. CROSSING THE LINE

1. 3 possible questions we can use to assess readiness.

- Have you come to the point of asking for God's forgiveness and leadership in your life or are you still in the process of thinking it through?
- Where would you say you are right now in that process?
- Is there any reason you wouldn't ask God for His forgiveness and leadership right now?
- Remember there is a spiritual battle going on!

2. Pray

- You and your friend pray together with you guiding the prayer by prompting them.
- Prompt them to ask for God's forgiveness.
- Prompt them to ask for God's leadership.
- Give thanks



3. Take the next step

- Help them get involved with other Christians

HOW CAN THEY GET INVOLVED WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS?

Encourage them to go to church and worship

Encourage them to develop friendships with other Christians.

- Encourage them to get to know God better.

We get to know God better by actively seeking Him (prayer, reading the Bible)

- Encourage them to remain in purposeful relationships with their non-Christian friends.

Studies have shown that within 5 years most Christians lose all of their unbelieving friends.

H. PRACTICING CROSSING THE LINE

1. Using the Crossing the Line Checklist as a guide, practice leading your partner into a faith relationship with Jesus as though your partner were one of the people you have been praying for.
 - After the first person has practiced doing this, the listener provides verbal feedback on what worked well, and areas for improvement. Use the checklist to guide you in giving feedback.
 - Trade places and let the other person practice and get feedback.

CROSSING THE LINE CHECKLIST

Item	Observations
<p>Assessing readiness <i>(Check one of the following)</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have you come to the point of asking for God’s forgiveness and leadership in your life or are you still in the process of thinking it through?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Where would you say you are right now in that process?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Is there any reason you wouldn’t ask God for His forgiveness and leadership right now?</p>	<p>What worked well?</p>
<p>Praying:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ask for God’s forgiveness</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ask for God’s leadership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Give thanks</p>	<p>Areas for improvement:</p>