

BREAKING BARRIERS IN SHARING CHRIST

Summary:

Visual aids are frequently used to communicate messages to people (whiteboards, billboards, puppets, powerpoint presentations, etc...). People need a visual aid to God's kingdom. You are the best Christian somebody knows. You are somebody's "visual aid" to understanding the Christian faith.

Disciples who follow Jesus...

- Desire to bear fruit of Christlikeness and lead others to know Jesus Christ.
John 15:8
- Love the people around them. *John 13:34-35*
- Have a heart for the lost and are willing to go all out to share the gospel, disciple converts, and teach them about everything God has given them.
Matthew 28:19-20

...Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio "[Breaking Sound Barriers](#)" Ryan McReynolds (1 hr 11 min)
 - BONUS: If you want more on this topic - there is an article that follows along with this audio in the Appendix
- Witnessing Worksheets
 - Memorize 2 evangelism questions from the Conversational Questions section. Write them on a verse card and add them to your Scripture Memory review. Practice them with 3-5 people.
- Memorize and practice Section #3 of the Bridge with the previous sections
- Memorize one of the following verses on the topic of "Evangelism":
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - Psalm 105:1
 - 1 Peter 2:9
- Pray for yourself and others to have faith and courage in sharing the gospel
- Write down a key thought (on the Action Plan page) that helps you remember the importance of taking opportunities to have spiritual conversations
- Seek to have a Quiet Time every day, and during one Quiet Time study the life of Andrew the disciple
- At CV this week, write down anything that makes you think/sticks out to you and write a sentence that summarizes the topic

BEFORE MOVING ON:

As I have gotten into spiritual conversations with others recently, does my Identity in Christ change at all depending on whether or not the other person responds well to God's Truth? Do I have to be perfect in order to get a good response?

Witnessing Worksheets

Church Talk

1. Christians often use “church talk.” To most unbelievers, “church talk” makes no sense and can be easily misinterpreted.
2. Circle the phrases you say often, and translate them so they would make sense to an unbeliever: (Refer to “Unlearning the Lingo” in the Witnessing for Christ section of Foundations)
 - Redemption:
 - Conviction:
 - Sin:
 - Saved:
 - Washed in the Blood:
 - Repentance:
 - The judgement:
 - I responded to the invitation:
 - Fellowship with God:
 - To surrender to Christ’s Lordship:
 - Born again:
 - Quiet Time:

Conversational Questions

Look up 1 Peter 3:15

- With this verse in mind, answer the following questions:
 - What is our part in the evangelistic process?
 - What is God's part in people coming to a saving faith?

Asking questions can be very useful in getting to know the person you're talking to and opening doors for spiritual conversations.

- A helpful tool is using the Three Categories of Questions: Start, Investigate, and Navigate (S.I.N.)
 - 1. Start Questions - Starting questions that lead toward spiritual things**
 - What three words would you use to describe your life?
 - What single thing do you want to make absolutely sure you do during your lifetime, if at all possible?
 - What do you see as the reason for the world's problems?
 - What are some of the lessons you have learned from your Dad's life?
 - Where did you get married?
 - Have you ever had a friend with whom you felt completely accepted? What was it like?
 - Who or what would you be willing to entirely "sell out" for?
 - Based on the media presentation of things, what do you think they are pushing?
 - What is true happiness?
 - How do you deal with stress?
 - What motivates you to do what you do in life and to be who you are?
 - What was your childhood like?
 - 2. Investigate Questions - Investigating the spiritual beliefs of others**
 - Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people?
 - Do you believe in God?
 - How do you feel about a relationship with God?
 - Do you believe God works directly in people's lives?
 - Do you think about spiritual things/have any spiritual/ religious background?
 - What are your thoughts on the Bible?
 - Do you/did you ever go to church as a child?
 - Where did "all this/we" come from?
 - 3. Navigate Questions - Navigating toward the gospel message**
 - Have you ever thought about what happens after you die?
 - Do you believe in God's control?
 - Do you have any spiritual resources to draw on?
 - What do you think God thinks about (your problem)?
 - What do you base your values on?
 - How can I pray for you?
 - What happens after death?
 - If you rated all your desires on a scale from 1-10, with those things you desire most being a 10 and the things you desire least being a 1, where would you put your desire to know God?
 - Your best friend comes to you and says, "I want to become a Christian, but I don't know how." What would you tell your friend? Assume your friend wants you to answer the questions, not be sent to a priest, minister or someone else?

Starting Spiritual Conversations

Colossians 4:5-6 says, “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

This verse urges you to make the most of your time, seizing and buying up opportunities with unbelievers. It says your words have power. They can be pleasant and engaging, making Christ and Christianity desirable and appealing. Therefore, what you say is crucial as you relate to unbelievers.

Communication is a two way process. Effective communication occurs when you:

1. Ask questions then listen with sincere interest.
2. Offer information about yourself and your relationship to God.

Often we have opportunities to get to know people, but we miss them because we don't know what to talk about with them. Many conversations can be opened up by initiating in the two areas. Below are some examples of ways to move the conversation toward sharing about Christ.

Conversation Project

Principle	Example
1. Dropping a “spiritual potato chip” (sharing bits and pieces to test for a spiritual appetite.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Sometime I’d like to share with you how God has helped me with...”○ “Sometime I’ll drop you a paper that explains what it means to be a Christian. The guy who wrote it explains it better than me.”○ “Maybe we can get together and read the Bible sometime.”
2. Contrast between life before Christ and life with Christ.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Before I became a Christian, I used to...”○ “I certainly don’t have it all together, but my relationship with God has really helped me get control of my temper. Before I let Jesus Christ be the boss of my life, my anger ruled my life.”○ Share things about how others have changed.
3. Use your personal struggles as a springboard to sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “I’ve been pretty down lately. I’ve had to ask God to help me carry on with my job and responsibilities.”○ “My critical attitude is an area that God has continually pointed out in my life as wrong. I really want to work on it.”○ “I’ve wanted to share with you how God has changed my life, but I’ve been afraid to.”○ “This is hard for me to say, but it’s important for me to be honest with you about my relationship with God.”○ “Will you forgive me for...”○ “If it weren’t for God, I think I would’ve gone under a long time ago.”

4. Use circumstances as a springboard to sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (accidents) “That makes me thankful for the Lord’s protection.” ○ “You wouldn’t believe how I got this job. This sounds crazy, but I had been praying...” ○ “It’s amazing how my bills got paid last month. This check came...”
5. Ask leading questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “You say the evidence for Christianity is insufficient. How did you come to that conclusion?” ○ “What did you think after investigating the primary Biblical documents?” ○ (hypocrisy) “Do you believe there is such a thing as a real Christian?” or “Isn’t it amazing how far they are from true Christianity” or “so what do you think is the solution?”
6. Begin with general interest questions and then move toward more specific questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “What do you enjoy about your job?” ○ “What do you think God desires of us?” ○ “How do you think God fits into the picture?” ○ “Do you ever get really lonely?”
7. Comment on their situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “It sounds like you’ve been under a lot of pressure lately.” ○ “That’s a hard decision - how do you think you will decide?”

- Write at least two natural, inoffensive questions you can ask to start or advance a conversation about spiritual things.
- Share your questions with your group and use the group’s ideas and input to improve your two questions. After discussing and revising your questions, write them on Scripture Memory cards for regular review.

1.

2.

Three Questions

This section of the Witnessing Worksheets covers a practical method of approaching people on campus and starting spiritual conversations.

APPROACH

"Excuse me. Hi, we're from the Campus Ventures and we're on campus today talking to people about a relationship with Jesus Christ. May we ask you a few questions?"

DIAGNOSTICS

- "Have you given much thought to spiritual things?"
- "Have you ever come to a point in your life where you could say that you know for sure that you are right with God?"
- "Suppose you were to stand before God today and He were to ask you, "(use their name), what makes you right with Me?" What would you say?"

THREE QUESTIONS

1. What do you live for?

- "What matters most to you?"
- Follow up with discussion.
- **Read a Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:15** (give them your NT & let them read the verse.)
 - What does that say to you?
 - Does it make sense?
 - How would you put it in your own words?
 - Does it fit into your idea of what life is all about?
 - Do you see that it puts living for self and living for Christ at odds with each other?
 - If you had to pinpoint where you are on that continuum (between living for self and living for Christ), where would it be?
- **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
 - John 10:10
 - Philippians 3:7-8

2. What causes all the world's problems?

- Follow up with discussion. This point will probably take longer to discuss than the first. Don't cut it short.
- Direction: Present sin as the cause of all the world's problems. But lead into it. Don't announce it.
- Additional questions that might be helpful
 - What do you think is behind that? (whatever their answer may be: hate; greed; violence; people; lack of love, etc)
 - Do you think people are part of the problem? (people ARE the problem)

- Do you know any perfect people?
- How would you define the term, sin?
- **Read a Verse: Romans 3:10-12, 23**
- Use similar follow-up questions.
- Discuss the separation that sin causes and how it is a serious offense to God.
- It is critical to establish the personal problem of sin here, not just a human problem. If they don't think they, personally, have a problem, the next question will be useless.
- **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
 - James 4:17
 - Isaiah 59:2

3. Is there one solution that works for everyone?

- Follow up with discussion.
- There are a lot of proposed solutions being offered (various religions; materialism; power; etc)
- If there were one solution that really worked for everyone, would you want to know?
- Are you familiar with the claims of Jesus Christ?
- **Read a Verse: John 14:6**
- **Verses to memorize and use as needed.**
 - Romans 4:25
 - Hebrews 4:15

LEADING TO A RESPONSE

- **Verses to memorize and use as needed**
 - Acts 3:19
 - John 1:12
 - Revelation 3:20
- Does this make sense?
- Do you think you understand what you would need to do be right with God?
- Can you think of any good reason why you would not be willing to receive Christ into your life?
- Are you willing to repent and receive Christ today?

SAMPLE PRAYER

"Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner and I need a savior. I know I can't save myself. Please forgive me. I'm ready to ask Jesus to come into my life. I'm ready to turn away from my sin and turn to you. I want you to take control of my life. I receive you right now. Thank you for saving me. Amen."

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

- Did you mean what you prayed?
- Where is Jesus right now?
- Where was Jesus 30 minutes ago?
- Do you see what just happened? Jesus just entered your life. You are now a child of God.
- IMPORTANT: Arrange another meeting as early as possible. Get their name, phone, email, etc. Leave them yours, too.
- Give them a gospel tract (whether they trusted Christ or not).
- Be tenacious in getting with them again.
- Pray for them.

