

### PRAYER: FIVE IN FOCUS

...pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.. (Colossians 4:3)

Choose five people from your circle of influence who you would like to commit to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> <li>4.</li> <li>5.</li> </ol>
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### ACTION POINTS

Put your circle of influence plan into action. Think through some questions you could ask them that can move conversations onto a spiritual level.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Read "God Space" by Doug Pollock (ISBN 0764438719

### EVERYDAY EVANGELISM

What has been your experience of sharing the gospel in everyday relationships? What are some of the encouragements and challenges?

In an average day we generally relate to hundreds of different people e.g. friends, course mates, shop assistants, university authorities etc. God can use us in these everyday relationships to spread the gospel through our lives and conversations.

#### Read Colossians 4:2-6

Note: Paul is writing this letter from a prison cell in Rome.

*What do Paul's prayer requests reveal about his attitude and intentions?*

*Why does he ask them to pray?*

*What is an "open door" Which doors would you like God to open up in your College/Uni?*

*How does Paul say they (we) should relate to non Christians (v5-6)?*

*How do you season your conversation with salt?*

*How would it look if you related to others like this in your everyday life?*

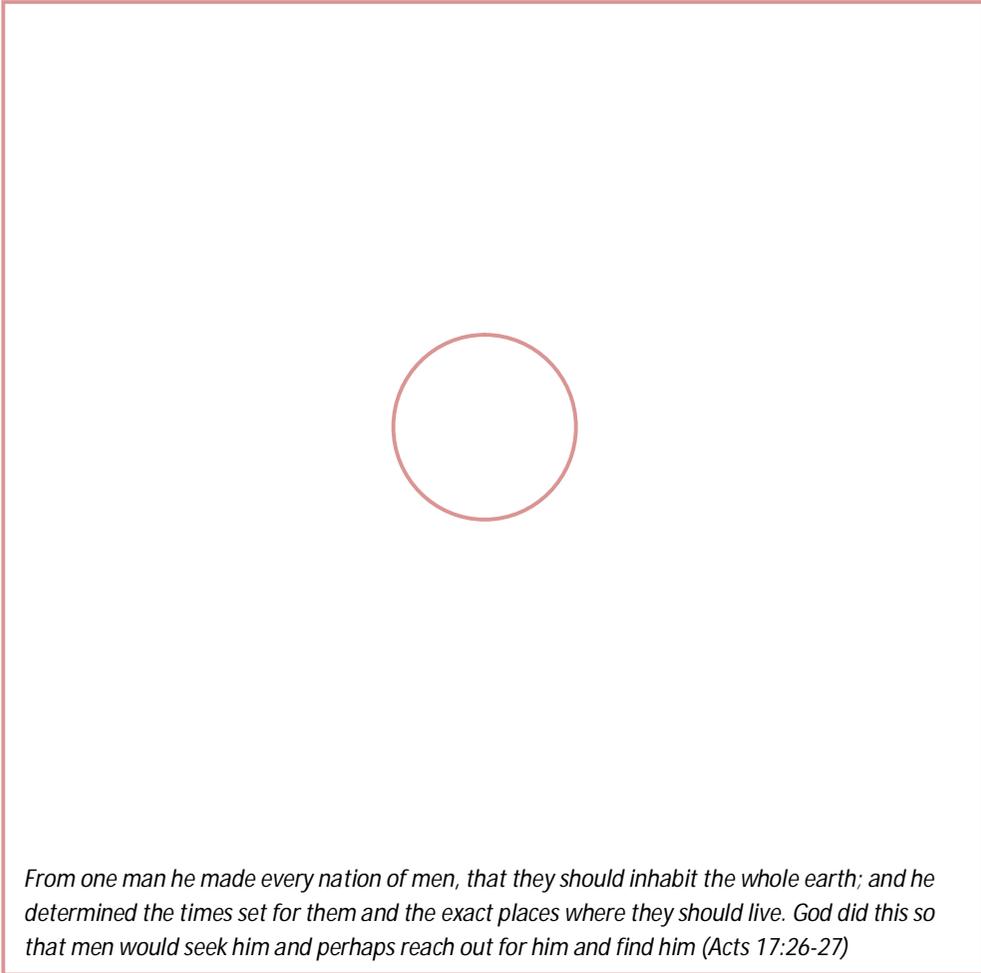
#### Salty Conversations

How we talk and what we talk about is important. Jesus taught that the "mouth speaks what the heart is full of" (Luke 6:45). The key thing that defines conversations that are "salty" is grace. How do we fill our conversations with grace? First, we are looking for opportunities to talk about the wonderful grace that we have experienced in Jesus. Second, the manner in which we talk to others should be in a gracious way. Not proud, Judgemental, critical, or defensive.

When our conversations are marked by Grace, this is very attractive to outsiders – just as salt enhances the flavour of food. More than that it gives them a taste of what the gospel is really about.

SEED GROUP TRAINING

Draw a "circle of influence". Think of the different areas of your life where you meet people (family, course, housemates, sports team etc.) with you at the centre. List the people who you know under each of those areas.



*From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him (Acts 17:26-27)*

Ask yourself what spiritual conversations you've had with them in the past. As well as praying for them, what might be a way you could engage them with the Good news of Jesus?

SEED GROUP TRAINING

BEING AN AMBASSADOR IN YOUR SPHERE:

Start from the heart  
(pray that you will share Gods heart for non Christians.)

Go and depend on God

Be a learner and listen

Show and Tell the Gospel

Notice and Care

CONVERSATION KILLERS

Judgemental attitude

Cross examination

Self focused

Christian Jargon / not listening

**Writing style:**

- Write as though you were speaking to a friend rather than giving a formal speech.
- Begin with an attention-grabbing sentence or incident.
- Be positive from start to finish.
- Be specific. Give enough details to arouse interest.
- Be accurate.
- Include interesting, thought-provoking experiences.
- Use one or two Bible verses, but only where they relate directly to your experience. Explain the references if your audience is not familiar with the Bible. (Example: "One of Jesus' disciples said...", rather than "1 John 5 v 11 to 13 says...")
- Edit and rewrite as needed.
- Write a closing that provides a finished and logical conclusion

**EVALUATING YOUR STORY**

- Does my testimony express assurance that I know I have eternal life?*
- Have I clearly communicated how a person can receive Christ?*
- Does my testimony deal with things not related to my testimony theme?*
- What positive benefits of my relationship with Christ have I emphasised in my testimony?*
- Have I included an attention-grabbing opening sentence? Do I have a clear statement to close the testimony?*

**PRAY**

Ask the Lord to help you remember how He brought you to faith and for opportunities to tell others your story.

**YOUR STORY**

The story of how you came to know Jesus (your testimony) is one of the most potent weapons you have in your utility belt. People may argue with matters of Christian belief, but no one can dispute your story because it happened to you! Telling your story doesn't require you to remember lots of facts and, as such, is a really simple way of explaining how knowing Jesus makes a difference.

**Read: 1 Peter 3v15.**

*Do you have a way that you usually share your journey to faith?  
Have you ever "prepared" an answer in the past?*

Take some time to work through the following three questions. See if you can answer them each in a couple of sentences. Steer clear of Christian jargon and any negative references to other churches, organisations or religions. Let the focus be on you and Jesus.

1. What was my attitude before I believed in Jesus (towards life/God/others)?

2. Why/How did I come to believe in Jesus? What was involved in becoming a Christian? (Be specific, what did you do to become a Christian?)

3. What difference does knowing Jesus make to my day-to-day life? (Attitudes towards life/God/others)?

## PRACTICE

Go around the group and get others to give constructive feedback on your answers. Are they too long? Do they use words from a Christian dictionary? Do they invite questions?

## ACTION POINT:

Write out the story of your journey to faith. It should be about 3-4 min to read out. Arrange a time to meet as a group to listen to each other's stories and give helpful feedback.

## TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR STORY:

### What to do:

- Ask the Lord to give you wisdom and guidance as you write.
- Prepare your testimony so it communicates with groups as well as with individuals.
- Keep within your time limit.
- Be realistic. Do not imply that Christ removes all of life's problems, but rather that He enables you to live through them as you walk in obedience.
- Consider your audience. Write and speak to communicate with the group you are addressing so that they are able to identify with you.
- Speak boldly about Jesus. He is the main focus of your testimony.

### What to avoid:

- Do not make statements that reflect negatively on the church, organizations or people.
- Avoid mentioning denominations or churches by name.
- Avoid speaking in a preaching manner. Make your delivery in a normal, conversational tone.
- Do not use vague terms such as 'joyful', 'peaceful', 'happy', or 'changed', without explaining them.
- Avoid using biblical or religious words such as 'saved', 'converted', 'convicted', or 'sin', without clarifying what you mean. These words do not always communicate to non-believers.

**OTHER ADVICE:**

- Keep it clear and simple. It's not a time to overcomplicate things, besides, Satan will be also be doing all he can to confuse the situation.
- Encourage, but don't pressurise. Be positive about them making a commitment but It's important they know that this is their decision
- Depend on God. Ultimately, God opens people's hearts but uses us in his purposes on the earth (Acts 16:14). Remember, Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.
- Follow up soon. If someone prays to become a Christian, arrange a time to meet soon to help them understand what is next

**PRAYER**

*Ask the Lord to help you look for opportunities to share the KGP and to give you boldness to take those opportunities.*

**ACTION POINTS**

*During this week, memorise the titles of the 4 points and share the booklet with a non Christian.*

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read Acts 17 and Acts 18. Compare how Paul shared the Gospel in Thessalonica and Corinth with his approach in Athens. What are the main similarities and differences? Why do you think he chose those approaches?*

**KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY**

*On a scale of 1-10, how confident do you feel to share your faith with others?*

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 10

*Thought Shower: What are some of the things that someone needs to understand in order to become a Christian?*

## THE KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY OUTLINE:

The Knowing God Personally booklet is a really helpful tool to help us share the Gospel clearly. It has been extremely helpful for many to become confident in sharing their faith and has been used to help lead many to faith.

**As a group, read through the booklet up to the prayer.**

*What are your thoughts about this outline?*

*Was there anything new, surprising or helpful for you?*

## BENEFITS OF THE BOOKLET

- *Keeps the gospel clear*
- *Prevents us missing important points*
- *Can be left with people afterwards*
- *Gives us confidence*
- *Has helpful Diagrams*

*How do you think this tool could help you in explaining your faith?*

*When might it be good to show people the KGP booklet?*

## MAKING IT INTERACTIVE

Try and make it interactive and not just a monologue. It is helpful to think of a couple of questions you could ask for each point of the KGP

*How does this make you feel?*

*What do you think of when you hear the word "Sin"?*

*Have you heard this before?*

## THE TWO CIRCLES

The two circle diagrams are an excellent way to clarify what it means to receive Jesus and make it personal.

What would you do in the following Scenarios?

1. They are on the left and want to stay there
2. They are on the left but want to be on the right
3. They are already on the right

## THE PRAYER

The prayer simply helps them make a commitment to follow Jesus.

**Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. I'm sorry for going my own way instead of your way. Thank you for dying on the cross to forgive my sin. Please come and take first place in my life and make me the person you want me to be.**

In what ways does the prayer express the three attitudes of repentance, faith and lordship? Mark on the prayer above.

## ADVICE IN LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

- a) Keep it clear and simple. It's not a time to overcomplicate things, besides, Satan will be also be doing all he can to confuse the situation.
- b) Encourage (be positive), but don't pressurise. It's important that they know that this is *their* decision.
- c) Depend on God. Ultimately, God opens people's hearts but uses us in his plans (Acts 16:14). Remember, Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.
- d) Follow up soon. If someone prays to become a Christian, arrange a time to meet soon to help them understand what is next.

## PRAY

Keep asking God in faith for opportunities to lead people to faith.

## LEADING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

In this session we will be thinking about how we can help other people enter a relationship with God. It is a really amazing privilege to walk alongside someone as they make a commitment to follow Jesus

How do you feel about the prospect of leading someone to Christ?

### Read John 5:24

*What do these verses say it means to become a Christian?*

*What does this verse promise those who believe?*

## THREE KEY ATTITUDES

There are three important aspects to entering a relationship with God. When we are sharing the gospel with people, we need to help them understand these three necessary attitudes towards God.

- a) **Repentance:** *Agreeing with God that we are sinful and deciding to turn away from our sin*

Read Acts 3:19, 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9

How is Repentance seen in these passages?

Repentance means a change of direction. It is like we have been walking in one direction but then make a 180 degree turn and walk in the opposite direction. To become a Christian we must be sorry for the way we have been living and treating God and desire to change and live God's way from now on.

Question to ask: *Is there anything that needs to change in how you have been relating to God?*

**SEED GROUP TRAINING**

**b) Faith:** *Trusting God to forgive us completely because Jesus died for our sin*

Read Romans 3:21-24

What do these verses say about the role of faith in becoming a Christian?

What is the faith in?

Faith means to put our trust in something or someone. Faith in Jesus is not blind faith or wishful thinking. We believe that his physical death and resurrection are able to make us right with God and we base our lives on it. When someone goes into the operating theatre they voluntarily put their life into the hands of a surgeon – trusting that he will be able to cure their illness. In the same way, we put our lives in Jesus hands, trusting that he will bring us into an eternal relationship with God.

**c) Lordship:** *Choosing to follow Jesus, putting him first place in our lives*

Romans 10:9

Lordship means to put Jesus first in our lives above all else. The defining thing about a true believer is that he is able to say “Jesus is Lord” and mean it.

**THE TWO CIRCLES IN KGP**

**THESE CIRCLES DESCRIBE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE**

**SELF-DIRECTED PERSON**  
*self* is on the throne † Jesus is outside this person's life  
 People like this have never accepted Jesus into their lives. They remain guilty and cut off from God by their sin.

**CHRIST-DIRECTED PERSON**  
 † Christ is on the throne *self* is following Jesus as Lord  
 People like this have accepted Jesus into their lives. They have been forgiven and experience God's love.

WHICH CIRCLE BEST DESCRIBES YOU?  
 WHICH CIRCLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO DESCRIBE YOU?

**SEED GROUP TRAINING**

**Some Scenarios**

Which circle best describes you?	Which circle would you like to describe you?	What to do
Left	Right	This is great! Ask them why they want to be the one on the right and then take them to the prayer.
Left	Left	Ask them why they want to remain in that place. What are their biggest barriers? Clarify the gospel if necessary. Show them the prayer in case they ever decide they want to accept Jesus in the future
Somewhere in the middle	Right	Could be a Christian who has accepted Jesus at some point, but has not been living for Christ. Why have they put themselves in the middle? What would their circle look like if they could draw it? Have they ever prayed a prayer like the one on KGP? Would they like to put Jesus first now? Encourage them to pray the prayer
Right	Right	Ask them how and when they became a believer. You could ask them whether the prayer expresses where they are at the moment. Invite them to join a discipleship group to grow in their relationship with God.

### DEEPENING CONVERSATIONS

The following boxes show the different kind of conversations we have with people. Write the names of people you have conversations with in the boxes. What kind of conversations have you had with them?

<p><b>Superficial non spiritual</b></p>	<p><b>Deep non spiritual</b></p>
<p><b>Superficial spiritual</b></p>	<p><b>Deep spiritual</b></p>

**Action Point:** Think of one or two people you would like to deepen a conversation with this week. Are there questions that might be appropriate to ask them?

**Digging Deeper:** Read Questioning Evangelism by Randy Newman

### ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

Jesus himself often used questions in his conversations ( eg Rich young Ruler - Mark 10, Pharisees - Matt 22 v17-20). His questions often brought to the surface heart level attitudes. Questions can help to initiate, open up a conversation and dialogue rather than just closing it down. The combination of questions and listening can deepen spiritual conversations. We will look at four ways that questions can help us share our faith.

**a) Questions can express interest and a desire to understand**

Sometimes, when people say things that we don't agree with or are aggressive its tempting to launch straight into a defence of our faith. However asking a good question can be more effective and communicate more love.

*e.g. What has led you to believe that? Why is this important to you?*

**Discussion:** "I really dislike the way Christians try to convert everyone". What questions could you ask to understand more where the person is coming from?

**b) Questions can awaken people:**

Good questions can help them examine what they think and believe.

" I believe all religions are the same" *Really? How have you come to believe that?*

"I think its terrible that you think everyone goes to hell if they are not a Christian." *Do you think Hell exists? How do you think God would decide?*

Other examples: *Isn't it possible that there is a God? Isn't it possible that Jesus did rise from the dead?*

Remember that we are asking questions to *help them*. Guard against being defensive or using this to validate ourselves. Ask the questions in a gentle and humble way and avoid arrogant or condescending tone.

**Discussion:** How could you respond to the following statements to help them examine what they believe?

"I think God is everywhere, in nature, people"

"I don't think there is enough evidence to believe in God"

### c) Questions can start and deepen conversations

*'I was wondering.....!.....do you believe that there is a God? How would you describe God?*

*.....what is the main thing that puts you off believing in God?*

*.....what would be needed for you to think that there is a God?*

*.....has there ever been anything in life that would make you think God existed?*

*.....have you ever sensed that there is a greater power or being?*

*.....if you could ask God a question, what would it be?*

*.....what would you say is our purpose as human beings?*

*.....what have been the most important moments in your life?*

*.....have you ever found yourself praying?*

*.....what was your impression of Jesus? what questions did you have about him?*

*.....what was your experience of religion when you were growing up? What were some of the positive/negative aspects?*

**Discussion:** What things do you wonder about ..... and how could you ask your friends/acquaintances about it?

\* Remember to be genuine. What are you really interested in?

### d) Questions can clarify the gospel and help them see where they are at in making a commitment to Jesus.

Once you have shared the gospel with someone, it can be helpful to ask questions that reveal *their* understanding of the gospel

*How would you define sin? Can you see this attitude in your own life?*

*Why do think Jesus died on the cross?*

*What would you say is the main difference between the 2 circles (in the KGP)?*

*What is the main thing that the prayer is saying?*

*What would you want to say to God?*

*What do you think it means to be a Christian?*

*What difference do you think it would make in your life to become a Christian?*

*What do you think the hardest thing would be in becoming a Christian?*

## HEART CHECK

Our own attitude is important as we ask questions

### Titus 3 v 1 – 8 1Peter 3 v15-16

Humility/Gentlesnes

Listening to answers

Grace and patience

**Discussion:** What attitudes have you seen God help you in? Are there areas you need to confess to God and ask him to give you the power to change?

### FOR TIPS ON HOW NOT TO LISTEN WELL...

...look at the example of Job's friends. Job is in the midst of great suffering and distress, yet his friends fail to truly listen to and understand him. Poor Job is led to exclaim, *O that someone would hear me!* (Job 31v25)

### PRAY – LISTEN IN THE SPIRIT

As we seek to listen to others with understanding and empathy, its vital that we are also listening to the Holy Spirit, who understands perfectly and can help us to empathise with people. Pray constantly, and ask God to help you demonstrate His love, acceptance and truth.

Ask God now to transform your heart and character and help you truly listen to people.

### ACTION POINTS

Practise active listening and reflecting back with someone who knows what you are doing and has agreed to help you work on your listening skills. With their feedback, develop expressions and phrases which fit with your natural style of speaking and way of being.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Read chapter 5 of **“God Space”** by Doug Pollock (ISBN 0764438719) – *Listening Your Way into Spiritual Conversations*

### LISTENING

Think about the last time you felt that somebody had really listened to you.

What things did they do? How did it make you feel? What qualities make someone a good listener?

*“I’m willing to bet the farm that in our postmodern Christian society, the most important evangelistic skill is listening.”* Todd Hunter, former CEO of Alpha USA

In what ways do you think that listening is important in evangelism?

*“The purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters but a man of understanding draws them out”*  
Proverbs 20:5

## READ

*James 1:19; Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 18:13.* What do these verses teach us about listening?

Listening is not passive. It is not the same as being silent, switching off, or even asking a ton of questions. Listening requires entering actively and imaginatively into another person’s situation and trying to understand a frame of reference different from your own.

Active listening means...

- Laying down your own agenda and entering into someone else’s frame of reference, making an effort to understand the world through their eyes
- Laying aside your assumptions and preconceptions about a person
- Putting a lid on your favourite stories, personal disclosures of similar experiences, and stunning anecdotes while you devote yourselves fully to hearing their story

## PRACTICAL SKILLS - REFLECTING AND CLARIFYING

One really effective listening skill that can be learned and practised is reflecting. This involves mirroring back the content and meaning of what someone has said to you. It helps you to clarify what you think you have heard someone say, as well as communicating to the person speaking that you are really seeking to **understand** and **empathise** with them. It also helps to draw the person out, and enables them to clarify their own thinking.

### For example:

*“I’ve had so many essays to write this term and I handed most of them in late. I really started to feel guilty and helpless about it. I think I should probably drop out of university.”*

### People’s stories are generally a mixture of:

- Their experiences – what happens to them
- Their behaviours – what they do (or don’t do)
- Their feelings – the emotions that are associated with either experiences or behaviour
- Their thoughts – the ideas or beliefs they have about feelings, behaviours and experiences.

**You don’t want to reflect back everything that has been said. But choose one aspect, perhaps their feelings or thoughts, to draw out more from them.**

*E.g. “So you’ve been feeling quite guilty about this?”*

*Or “So it makes you think that you should drop out of university?”*

Accurate reflections create safety and build trust, and help people to become more aware of their own thoughts, feelings, behaviours and experiences. It’s not about analysing or editing what people say, but it’s about understanding and helping people know that they are understood.

## REFLECTING WELL IS NOT...

- “Parroting back” whatever the person says so frequently that it feels like a tennis match
- Using overly eloquent or precise language in your paraphrasing
- Putting thoughts and feelings into someone’s mouth that they have not expressed

**Action Point:** Choose one of the following questions and research some possible answers.

- Do you think that all religions lead to God?
- Can we trust the bible?
- How can you believe in a good God when there is so much suffering in the world?
- Hasn't science disproved God?

**Recommended books/resources:**

Reason for God, Tim Keller  
 More than a Carpenter, Josh McDowell  
 Turning Stumbling blocks into Stepping Stones, Agape UK  
 bethinking.org.uk

**TRICKY QUESTIONS**

What questions have people asked you about your faith?

How do you feel when you are asked difficult questions?

Questions and objections are often a window into what someone really thinks and feels. They can be a great opportunity to talk about the things that matter to them and point them to Jesus. For this reason it's important that we spend time thinking about how to answer some of the most common questions and objections about faith. Yet at the same time, we mustn't feel we have to be able to answer every question before we can say anything.

Often it is the way the Christian responds to questions and objections that makes all the difference. A humble, sensitive and honest response can make a much greater impact than an aggressive response – even if the content is true.

**Why** do you think people raise objections about faith?

There are many reasons **why** people ask us difficult questions about our faith. Here are some examples:

- To further understand something about the Christian faith.
- To determine whether Christian faith 'adds up' – that it makes sense logically and adequately explains some of the bigger questions of life
- To see if faith actually 'works' in practice
- They have had a bad experience of Christianity and feel frustrated
- They have had a painful experience related to their question (e.g. personal suffering)
- To avoid facing the personal challenge that is in the Gospel message
- To find some failing in our thinking to help justify unbelief
- To confirm in their own mind that they would be able to defend their Christian faith in front of their friends if they were take the step and decide to follow Jesus themselves

In light of the wide range of reasons, how should we initially respond to people's questions and objections?

#### Questions to clarify what their real interest is.

"Why do you ask that question?"

"What difference would it make if you knew an answer to that?"

"Has this issue been a personal one for you?"

Observe their body language and tone of voice for signs they're feeling uncomfortable, aggressive or defensive. Pray for God's Spirit to give you wisdom and discernment.

## RESPONDING TO TRICKY QUESTIONS.

Remember it's important to respond with humility, honesty and sensitivity.

### Humility

Our aim is not to win an argument but to help *people* take a few steps closer to God. We need to be careful not to try so hard to win the argument that we lose the person in the process. God is quite able to defend himself. He doesn't need us to fight his corner. We should listen carefully to what they're saying and show them respect, even if we feel their opinions are inconsistent or ill-founded. We should try not to become overly defensive or allow our irritation at their questions or objections to come out in the way we speak.

### Honesty

It's perfectly reasonable (and good for our witness) to be prepared to admit we don't have an answer for certain questions.

However, if the question is genuine, we should at least offer to try and find an answer for them, and then do the necessary reading/research to discover it, or point them in the direction of a person or book that might give an answer.

Lending them a book that addresses their question and suggesting that they do the reading is a good way to engage them in the process and enables you to ask them what they thought of the book's answer.

### Sensitivity

We don't always know what is going on in people's lives when they ask us questions. It's better to stay on the safe side and assume that they may have had a difficult experience related to their question.

## SPIRIT OF MISSION

*In what ways do you think that the Holy Spirit is involved as we share our faith with others?*

### Read Acts 1:1-9

*What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in these verses?  
 What difference would the Holy Spirit make in their lives?  
 What do you think it means to be "Witnesses"?  
 Why do you think they needed to wait to receive the Holy Spirit before going out to be witnesses?  
 What does this say about success in evangelism?*

### Read the following Passages: Acts 2:1-41, 4:1-22.

*What impact did receiving the spirit have on these disciples?  
 How did the spirit enable them to share their faith?*

## SPIRIT EMPOWERED MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

The Holy Spirit transformed the believers into a missional community. The Holy spirit worked in and through them in amazing ways including:

- Radical community of believers committed to Christ, each other and the Lost (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37)
- Believers bold in sharing their faith (Acts 4:8-13, 4:23-31, 6:10)
- Bringing new life (Acts 10:44-47, 11:15-16)
- Guidance in Mission (Acts 8:26-40, 11:12, 13:2, 16:6-7)

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*"The Christian mission is rooted in the nature of God himself. The bible reveals him as a missionary God, Father, son and Holy spirit who has a missionary vision, creates a missionary church and sends it out on a missionary expedition throughout the world.....Pentecost was essentially a missionary event. Jesus promised that after the Holy Spirit had come upon them, his followers would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the utter most parts of the earth. The book of Acts is in fact the fulfilment of that beginning. We watch enthralled as the missionary spirit created a missionary people and sends them out on a missionary adventure beginning in Jerusalem the capital of Jewry and ending in Rome, the capital of the world. How then shall we respond to these things?"*

*Have we resisted the missionary dimension of the church's life? Have we perhaps patronised it rather reluctantly with a few formal prayers and a few grudging coins? If so, we need to repent. That is to change our mind. You tell me you believe in God, he is a missionary God. Are you committed to Christ? he is a missionary Christ. Do you claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit? He is a missionary spirit. Its impossible to avoid these things. Mission is integral to authentic Christianity. Christianity without mission is Christianity no longer. For Mission is rooted in he very nature of God himself; Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (John Stott 'Our Missionary God')*

## WITNESS IN THE SPIRIT

The only way we can be an effective witness for Jesus in our university is if we depend on the Holy Spirit. As he works in and through us, we can be involved in Gods plan to bring people into relationship with him. Follow the steps in the WITNESS acrostic to become a vibrant, courageous ambassador for Christ.

**W**alk in a way that demonstrates honourable character and the spirit filled life.

**I**ntercede for the lost in prayer.

**T**ake the initiative to present the gospel

**N**ever argue, but show loving concern

**E**xpect the Holy Spirit to lead you to receptive people

**S**hare what God has done for you

**S**peak boldly, stay on track, and seek the Holy Spirits guidance in your conversation.

*"The Christian mission is rooted in the nature of God himself. The bible reveals him as a missionary God, Father, son and Holy spirit who has a missionary vision, creates a missionary church and sends it out on a missionary expedition throughout the world.....Pentecost was essentially a missionary event. Jesus promised that after the Holy Spirit had come upon them, his followers would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the utter most parts of the earth. The book of Acts is in fact the fulfilment of that beginning. We watch enthralled as the missionary spirit created a missionary people and sends them out on a missionary adventure beginning in Jerusalem the capital of Jewry and ending in Rome, the capital of the world. How then shall we respond to these things?"*

*Have we resisted the missionary dimension of the church's life? Have we perhaps patronised it rather reluctantly with a few formal prayers and a few grudging coins? If so, we need to repent. That is to change our mind. You tell me you believe in God, he is a missionary God. Are you committed to Christ? he is a missionary Christ. Do you claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit? He is a missionary spirit. Its impossible to avoid these things. Mission is integral to authentic Christianity. Christianity without mission is Christianity no longer. For Mission is rooted in he very nature of God himself; Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (John Stott 'Our Missionary God')*

## WITNESS IN THE SPIRIT

The only way we can be an effective witness for Jesus in our university is if we depend on the Holy Spirit. As he works in and through us, we can be involved in Gods plan to bring people into relationship with him. Follow the steps in the WITNESS acrostic to become a vibrant, courageous ambassador for Christ.

**W**alk in a way that demonstrates honourable character and the spirit filled life.

**I**ntercede for the lost in prayer.

**T**ake the initiative to present the gospel

**N**ever argue, but show loving concern

**E**xpect the Holy Spirit to lead you to receptive people

**S**hare what God has done for you

**S**peak boldly, stay on track, and seek the Holy Spirits guidance in your conversation.

### MOTIVATIONS

What are the main reasons *why* you would talk to others about Jesus?

### BIBLICAL MOTIVATIONS

Read the following passages and identify healthy motivations for evangelism

2 Corinthians 5:11-21	
Ephesians 3:7-11	
Matthew 9:36-38	

How would each motivation affect the way you share your faith?  
Which of the Motivations do you think are strongest for you?  
Which would you like to grow in?

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## BAD MOTIVATIONS

- Guilt trip
- Making ourselves feel better (duty or self-validation)
- Pleasing (or being accepted by) others
- Frustration (at others unbelief, lack of results)

It's important that we regularly check our motivations for evangelism. Doing evangelism for the wrong reasons can make our experience miserable. It's much more joyful when our desires are in line with Gods!

The good news is that even if we share the gospel with the wrong motives, God can still use it. **Check out Philippians 1:15-18.**

## BUILDING CONVICTIONS IN EVANGELISM

(Adapted from Tell it often Tell it Well, Mark McCloskey)

1. Do not expect your culture to encourage you to take evangelism seriously. The nature of man's sin problem blinds him to his real needs. Unless the Holy Spirit convicts them, non Christians will at best be indifferent to your attempts to evangelize. You can expect to encounter the built-in opposition to the gospel found in any culture. Recognize this cultural lethargy and unwillingness to pursue spiritual truth, and realize that it is part of the devil's scheme to desensitize the world to its spiritual disease. Do not allow the world to dictate your commitment to proclaiming the gospel.
2. Purpose in your heart to develop biblical convictions in the area of evangelism. Recognize that this may take time. Allow your mind to dwell on biblical truths that point toward evangelism's crucial role in God's plans for the world and His plans for you.

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## OVERCOMING FEAR

Thought Shower: What are the main reasons we can be fearful of telling others the gospel?

Most of us feel fearful when it comes to telling others about Jesus. Even Apostle Paul admitted that he sometimes felt fearful when he went out to take this message to new people (check out 1 Corinthians 2:1-5). It's not so much whether we feel fearful, but how we can overcome this fear.

Read: 2 Chronicles 14:1-12

- How would you describe King Asa from verses 1-7?
- What kind of situation was King Asa was facing?
- How would you feel if you were in King Asa's Shoes?
- How did King Asa respond to this situation?
- What do we learn from King Asa's prayer?
- What were God's role and the Israelites role in the outcome of battle?
- What can we learn from this story when we experience fears?

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As followers of Jesus, we are living in the middle of a spiritual battle. Our enemies are not other human beings, but spiritual forces that are against God and the gospel message.

### TRUE OR FALSE

Our fears about evangelism always have no real basis

### PRAY

Think about situations where you experience most fear in evangelism. Ask God to help you overcome this fear as you trust in him.

### ACTION POINT

Think about two or three people you know who need to hear about Jesus. Begin by praying for them to be open to Jesus and for you to have boldness. Next take the plunge and initiate a conversation a conversation with them about Jesus. You could try using a spiritual beliefs questionnaire or invite them to do Soularium.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Investigate how the disciples went from being locked up in a room for fear of the Jews (John 20:19) to fearlessly proclaiming the good news of Jesus (Acts 2:38-42). What key things happened in between? What can we learn about overcoming fear?

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