

# REFORMED EVANGELISM

This seminar is bringing inspirational and informational messages to help Christ's disciples in the task of personal evangelism.

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# The Great Commission

*Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*



**R**ev. Paul T. Murphy was born in Rome, Italy (1953) and came to this country when he was three. He was raised in an Irish-Catholic neighborhood in the Bronx, N.Y.C.. Although he was an altar boy in the church and attended regularly until age 14 he did not know Jesus Christ personally.

From an early age he searched for Truth and the meaning of life. A college degree in philosophy brought him no closer to the Truth. He pursued a career in deep-sea diving and underwater construction that took him all around the world as he continued the search for Truth. This searching also was vain. At the age of 29 he was confronted with the claims of Jesus Christ. Thinking them foolishness he sought to refute Christianity with the teaching of secular philosophy. The Lord broke down the barriers of his heart and captivated his life. The Truth had found him! Now like the apostle Paul this Paul can say “to live is Christ. Prior to coming to Messiah's Reformed Fellowship, Rev. Murphy pastored Dutton United Reformed Church, Dutton, Michigan. Rev. Murphy is married to his fabulous wife Julie. They have five children ages 16, 14, 14, 11, 9.



*Pictured Above:  
Doug & Elaine Shock of Baltimore, MD whom the Lord used in Pastor Murphy's conversion.*

## ***EVANGELISM IS:***

That covenant activity of the Church of Jesus Christ wherein she complies with her Lord's command to call all nations [all covenant entities (mutatis mutandis with the necessary changes being made i.e. all creation)] to repentance and proclaims the forgiveness of sins in His Name, and wherein she baptizes in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit believers and their seed into the church and teaches them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded them and in which activity she is assured of Christ's presence and power.

## ***EVANGELISM DOES:***

By conveying accurate information about the triune God, His word, ways, and works to those who do not (yet) believe, honor, love, adore, worship, and obey Him through Christ to the end that they may do so.

The church evangelizes in a manner and by methods befitting, serving, and adorning both the information and the end of evangelism.

*An Introductory Outline of a God-centered Gospel:*  
God as Creator and Redeemer

I. God – the Holy and Loving Creator

- A. *Sovereign Creator*: Out of his pleasure and freedom God created and sustains us. Therefore, we are utterly dependent upon him for everything we have. We have no inherent rights. God is *light*, which symbolizes his majesty, purity and holiness. He sets the standard of right and wrong. He is God Almighty in heaven over his creation.
- B. *Personal Creator*: We are neither impersonal machines nor animals. Our significance is derived from our unique creation in the image of the God who is a person. God is *love*, and made us for the purpose of communion with him – to worship and honor him, and to fellowship with and delight in him. He is God, the Father of us his creatures.

**Main Point:** God has an absolute claim on our lives as our Creator. We are responsible to reflect God.

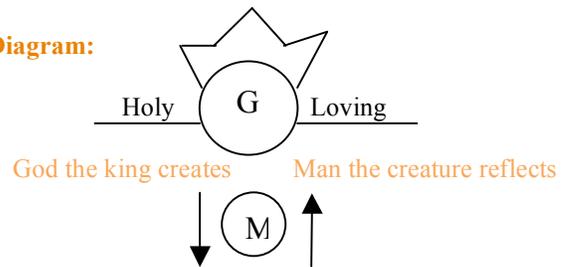
**Key Verses:** Psalm 100:3; Matthew 5:48

**Key Passages:** Exodus 19:16 – 20; 20:1 – 26; Matthew 5:17 – 48; Acts 17:24 – 31

**Question:**

Since God’s wonderful character, his rights as Creator, his blessings and his warnings are all designed to remind us of his loving ownership of us, why don’t we love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength?

**Diagram:**



II. Man – the Sinful Creature

- A. *Definition of Sin*: Willful rebellion by refusing to do what God commands; determining to do what he forbids. We find ourselves:
  - 1. Playing God: running our lives as if God did not matter; ignoring God; trying to be self-sufficient and self-made people.
  - 2. Fighting God: violating and disregarding his Law for living; wanting to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.
- B. *Consequences of Sin*: Death (separation). Both physical and spiritual death due to the wrath of God.
  - 1. Living Death: Separation now from God resulting in guilt, loss of identity, purposelessness, distorted relationships and so on.
  - 2. Eternal Death: Separation of our souls from God forever. Hell is real.

**Main Point:** We are self-deceived if we think we are living out of our own resources, when actually we are creatures and guilty rebels under judgment who cannot help ourselves. We have chosen to reject God.

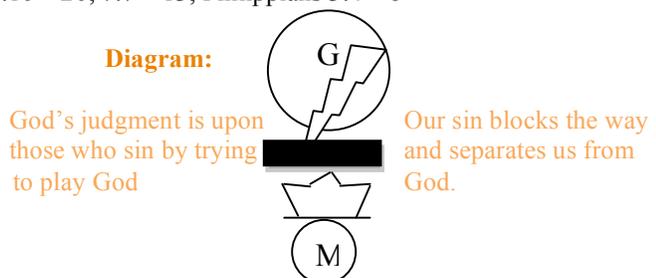
**Key Verses:** Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:20; James 2:10

**Key Passages:** Isaiah 64:6 – 7; Romans 1:20 – 25; 3:10 – 20; 7:7 – 13; Philippians 3:4 – 6

**Question:**

Why do we deny responsibility for our sins and continue to live with guilt?

**Diagram:**



### III. Christ – the Merciful Redeemer

- A. *Teacher*: Christ’s words and life reveal the nature of God. He communicates to our conscience, and we submit to his authority in Scripture.
- B. *Sin-bearer*: He offered himself as the innocent, substitutionary sacrifice for sin on behalf of all who acknowledge their sin. He took the guilt of sinners upon himself and endured God’s judgment for it in his death on the cross. He redeems them by his blood poured out, which satisfies the just anger of a holy God against sinful people.
- C. *King*: He rose from the dead (conquered sin and death) and ascended back to his Father to be Lord. His life of perfect obedience is now vindicated and he freely and sovereignly gives his reward of righteousness to undeserving sinners. He dispenses grace (unmerited favor) to whomever he will and rules, in love, over all united to him.

**Main Point:** Jesus as the God-man is the only way to life – by his life, death and resurrection as Redeemer.

**Key Verses:** Isaiah 53:5; Mark 10:45; Ephesians 1:7

**Key Passages:** Isaiah 53:1 – 11; 43:25; Mark 10:33 – 34, 45; Acts 2:22 – 24, 36

**Question:**

How does Christ’s death on the cross display both the holiness and love of God?

**Diagram:**

We are forgiven because  
Christ on the cross bore  
God’s judgment.



God in Christ redeems  
sinful people.

### IV. Our Necessary Response to Be United to Christ

On the basis of these historical truths, and because Christ is alive today, God invites and commands us now to:

- A. *Turn* from our rebellion to Christ as Lord with our whole selves in our:
  - 1. *Minds*: Agree with God that we have wronged him and deserve his judgment. Realize that his goodness shown to us in many ways was designed to humble us unto repentance.
  - 2. *Emotions*: Despise our sins and our sinful nature
  - 3. *Wills*: Determine to turn from our rebellion and serve our Creator and Redeemer. See Christ alone as the payer for and the power over our sin.

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 55:7

**Key Passages:** Isaiah 12:1 – 3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9 – 10

- B. *Trust* in nothing that we can do, but only in the finished work of Christ as Savior with our:
  - 1. *Minds*: Recognize Christ as the necessary and sufficient payment for sin.
  - 2. *Emotions*: Long for Christ and rejoice in his love for the undeserving.
  - 3. *Wills*: Commit our lives to Christ by casting ourselves upon him as our only hope for reconciliation with God. Transfer our trust from ourselves to him. Take for ourselves his gift of forgiveness and righteousness. Ask for God’s mercy.

**Key Verse:** John 1:12 **Key Passages:** Romans 3:21 – 26; John 3:16 – 18

**Main Point:** A person can only become a Christian by turning from a sinful life to Christ and by trusting in him as Savior and Lord. There is a cost to becoming a disciple of Jesus. Read Mark 8:34 – 38 and Luke 14:25 – 33. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to turn and trust.

**Conclusion:** Read Psalm 51:1 – 17; Isaiah 53:1 – 11; Galatians 2:20 and pray to God for his help. When he answers you, tell someone and seek out the friendship of Christians who take the Bible seriously.

# WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

GOD IS OUR POWERFUL,  
MAJESTIC, SOVEREIGN  
CREATOR

Gen. 1:1 – 3 & 27 ( ), Col. 1:16 ( ),  
1Chron. 29:11 – 13 ( ), 1Tim. 6:15 – 16 ( ),  
Is. 40:12 – 26 ( ), & Ps. 115:3 ( ).

GOD IS LOVING,  
COMPASSIONATE  
& PATIENT

1Jn. 4:8 ( ), Ps. 36:5 – 7, Lam. 3:21 – 23 ( ),  
Deut. 7:9 – 10 ( ), 2Pet. 3:9 ( ), & Gen. 6:3.

GOD IS PERFECTLY  
RIGHTEOUS & JUST

Deut. 32:4, Ps. 45:6 – 7, Ex. 34:7 ( ), &  
Ps. 5:5 – 6

ABOVE ALL ELSE, GOD  
IS HOLY & PURE

Is. 6:1 – 3, Ps. 99:5, Hab. 1:13a ( ),  
Ps. 5:5 – 6, Lk 5:4 – 9 ( ), & Is. 57:15.

BECAUSE HE IS HOLY,  
GOD IS A GOD OF  
GREAT WRATH

Rom. 1:18 – 20 ( ), Nah. 1:2 – 7 ( ),  
2Thes. 1:6 – 9 ( ), Heb. 10:26 – 31 ( ),  
Is. 55:8 – 9, & Mat. 10:28 ( ).

# THE NATURE OF SIN

## THE FALL OF MAN

Gen. 1:26 – 31 ( ), Gen. 2:7 – 9 & 15 – 17, & Gen. 3:1 – 24

## SIN & GOD'S LAW

Ex. 20:1 – 17 ( ), Mat. 5:21 – 22 & 27 – 30 ( ), Ex. 34:7, & Jam. 2:10 ( ).

## SELFISHNESS & SIN

Phil. 2:3 – 4 ( ), Jam. 3:14 – 16 ( ),  
2Tim. 3:1 – 5 ( ), Jam. 3:2 – 10, & Is.  
64:6.

## THE END RESULT OF SIN

Jam. 1:13, Heb. 9:27 ( ), Ps. 9:17 ( ),  
Lk. 16:19 – 31 ( ), & Rev.20:10 & 15 ( ).

## GOD'S SOLUTION TO SIN

Mk. 1:14 – 15 ( ), Is. 55:6 – 7,  
1Thes. 1:9 ( ), & 1Pet. 3:18 ( ).

# THE PERSON & WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

## THE DIVINITY & HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Heb. 1:1 – 10 ( ), Jn. 10:27 – 33 ( ),  
Jn. 5:22 – 23, Jn. 4:5 – 7, Jn. 11:32 – 35,  
& Heb. 4:15.

## THE LIFE & MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Mat. 1:20 – 21 ( ), Lk. 8:22 – 56 ( ),  
Mk. 6:32 – 44 ( ), & Lk. 12:13 – 21.

## THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

Lk. 18:31 – 34, Mat. 26:14 – 16,  
Jn.13:21 – 28, & Mk. 15:16 – 39.

## THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Mat. 27:57 – 66, Lk. 23:55 – 24:9,  
Lk. 24:36 – 48, & 1Cor. 15:4 – 8 ( ).

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT ALL?

1Pet. 3:18 ( ), Rom. 5:6 – 8 ( ),  
Acts 10:43 ( ), & Phil. 2:8 – 11.

# JESUS CALLS FOR COMMITMENT:

## WHAT IS GENUINE FAITH?

SOME RELUCTANT  
DISCIPLES

Lk. 6:12 – 16 ( ) & Jn. 6:60 – 70 ( ).

JESUS WARNS OF  
THE COST OF  
FOLLOWING HIM

Lk. 14:15 – 24, Lk. 14:25 – 33, &  
Lk. 9:23 – 25.

WHAT IS  
GENUINE FAITH?

Lk. 9:57 – 62, Mk. 1:14 – 15 ( ),  
Is. 55:6 – 7 ( ), 1Thes. 1:9 ( ),  
Rom. 10:9 ( ), Jn. 10:27 – 28,  
Lk. 6:46 – 49, Mat. 7:21 ( ),  
Lk. 18:26 – 27, & 2Cor. 13:5.

# EVANGELISM TRAINING CLASS

## *How to communicate the Gospel*

Here is a set of questions for evaluating whether or not they have grasped the message:

### **1. Understanding Who God is –**

Have you come to see for certain that you deserve the wrath and judgment of God no matter what you do to seek to improve your life so that you have no hope of being saved except through the mercy of God?

### **2. Understanding Sin -**

Have you come to see that your “goodness” is unacceptable to God and that you are actually impure, worthy of punishment, and desperately in need of a Savior?

### **3. Understanding the work of Christ as a Substitute -**

Do you see that you cannot stand in the presence of God or be acceptable by Him unless you are righteous with Christ’s righteousness? (God treats believing sinners as though they had personally obeyed all that Christ has obeyed.)

### **4. Understanding Repentance -**

Are you willing to part with the sweetest pleasure, even your eye or hand, in order that Christ may be the Savior and Lord of your soul?

### **5. Understanding Faith -**

Do you find satisfying and precious the eternal righteousness of Christ and its owner the Lord Jesus, and do you rely on Him alone for your salvation?

# INTER-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION

*Much of the work of evangelism is done by asking questions.  
If you study the ministry of Jesus you will see that He was  
always asking questions.*

## DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS

- Useful for two things.
  - ONE is to see whether or not they share a theistic world-view.
  - TWO is to see whether or not they grasp the concept of grace and/or are assured of their salvation. What are these questions?
    - If you were to die tonight, would you be absolutely sure of going to Heaven to be with God?
    - What is it that God requires of someone for Him to accept them into Heaven?

**Most answers will be blatantly works-righteousness in nature. If a person says “I made a decision” or “I believe in Jesus” ask “Why does that satisfy God?” Generally you’ll get an answer that shows the person thinks that his love or commitment is earning favor with God. Many people who look like they have an understanding or religion really believe in a “sincerity covenant”. That is they think that if they live the best that they can for Jesus, Jesus will make up the rest with his death.**

**The key is this: PRESS THEM FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THEIR HOPE**

If they say “I will go to Heaven because my sins are forgiven” ask them “Why do you think God will forgive your sins?” Often they will say “because God is a God of love” or “because I’m sorry for my sins”. All of these answers show a misunderstanding of the Gospel ground for salvation: the work and merit of Christ on our behalf.

# HOW TO COMMUNICATE PERSONALLY

## *The Goal in Witnessing Affects the Methods*

### Me-Centered Goals

Decisions, mental asset, immediate responses by repeating a prayer

Get them to agree mentally with certain facts or laws

Show as many advantages as possible

Get them to pray a standardized prayer with you

Trigger their residual powers for freely choosing God

Use an outward physical sign to confirm spiritual reality – signing a card, raising a hand, going forward, repeating a prayer

Challenge their will with adventure, entice their emotions with excitement

Give immediate assurance – don't allow them to doubt their own sincerity

### God-Centered Goals

Disciples, conversion of the whole person, conscience moves them to call on God for mercy in their own words

Responsibly teach the gospel clearly, forcefully, patiently

Balance the benefits of the gospel with the sacrificial demands of the gospel

Allow time for prayer in their own words – alone, or as you listen

Face them with the impossibility of saving themselves or exercising faith on their own

Emphasize baptism, partaking of the Lord's Supper to proclaim his death, changing sinful ways of life

Present truth to the mind, call on the will to obey, expect heartfelt emotions to follow

Let the Holy Spirit give assurance via subjective inner witness and objective biblical evidence of changed life

If discipleship is our goal in God-centered evangelism, what do we need to witness? We need a knowledge of others and a knowledge of Scripture.

# Some Contrasts In Gospel Content

## Man-centered

### *View of God*

Point of contact with non-Christians is love (God loves you). Therefore, God's authority is secondary.

Love is God's chief attribute.

God is impotent before the sinner's will.

The persons of the Trinity have different goals in accomplishing and applying salvation.

God is a friend who will help you.

### *View of Humanity*

Fallen, yet has the ability (or potential) to choose the good.

Seeks truth but lacks correct facts.

Needs love, help, friendship.

Makes mistakes, is imperfect, needs forgiveness.

Needs salvation from the consequences of sin – unhappiness, hell.

Humanity is sick and ignorant.

## God-centered

Point of contact with non-Christians is creation (God made you). Therefore, God has authority over your destiny.

Holiness and love are equally important attributes of God.

God is able to empower the sinner's will.

The persons of the Trinity work in harmony – salvation accomplished for and applied to the same people.

God is a king who will save you.

Fallen, and will not come to God by own will power.

Mind at enmity with God; none seek God.

Needs new nature (mind, heart, will), regeneration.

Rebels against God, has a sinful nature, needs reconciliation.

Needs salvation from guilt and the power of sin.

Humanity is dead and lost.

# Man-centered

# God-centered (cont'd)

## *View of Christ*

Savior from selfishness, mistakes, hell.

He exists for our benefit.

His death was more important than his life.

Emphasizes his priestly office – Savior.

An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is optional for salvation.

## *View of Response to Christ*

Invitation waiting to be accepted now.

Our choice is the basis for salvation - God responds to our decision.

We give mental assent to truths of gospel – decision.

Appeal is made to the desires of the sinner.

Saved by faith alone – repentance omitted for it is thought of as “works.”

Assurance of salvation comes from a counselor using the promises of God and pronouncing the new believer saved.

Sinners have the key in their hands.

Savior from sin and sinful nature.

He exists to gather a kingdom and receive honor and glory.

His death and his life of obedience equally important.

Emphasizes his priestly, kingly and prophetic offices.

An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is necessary for salvation.

Loving command to be obeyed now.

God's choice is the basis for salvation - we respond to God's initiative.

We respond with our whole person (mind, heart, will) – conversion.

Truths are driven home into the conscience of the sinner.

Saved by faith alone – saving faith always accompanied by repentance.

Assurance of salvation comes from the Holy Spirit applying biblical promises to the conscience and effecting a changed life.

God has the key in his hand.

# TELLING THE GOSPEL THROUGH STORIES



Here is a list of passages from the four Gospels that bring out parts of the gospel. After reading the story in the Bible and understanding the main point(s), decide which of the five points of the gospel is being described: (1) the character of God, (2) the high standard of God’s law, (3) the breaking of God’s law – sin and its consequences of separation, enslavement, diseased heart, (4) Jesus Christ as the achiever of salvation and the focus of faith, or (5) responding to God/Christ by turning and trusting. Next, retell the story to a friend in your own words either by using the biblical characters or by substituting an imaginary (or real) contemporary person. Ask the friend to give feedback about what they understood was your point. Repeat the story to others, saying, “Here’s a good story...”

# The five stories from the “Come Home” gospel diagram: Acts 17:22 – 34, Mark 10:17 – 27, John 4:4 – 30, John 19:17 – 20; 31, Luke 15:11 – 32.

## OTHER STORIES:

### Matthew

- 11:25 – 30 ~ Little Children and Burdened People
- 13:1 – 9, 19 – 23 ~ Four Kinds of Soil (Responses)
- 14:13 – 21 ~ Miracle of Multiplying Food
- 14:16 – 20 ~ Where Sin Originates
- 14:21 – 28 ~ Need for Humility
- 16:13 – 17 ~ Believing
- 20:1 – 16 ~ Grace, Not Obligation
- 21:33 – 46 ~ Murdering the King’s Son

### Mark

- 2:1 – 12 ~ Forgiveness of Sins
- 2:13 – 17 ~ We All Need a Doctor
- 5:1 – 20 ~ Evil Power Is Overcome
- 6:1 – 6 ~ Familiarity Breeds Contempt
- 8:31 – 38 ~ Christ Calls Us to Come and Die
- 12:28 – 34 ~ What Does God Require?
- 12:32 – 37 ~ Warning: Christ Will Return



### Luke

- 5:1 – 11 ~ In the Presence of God, I Realize My Sin
- 7:36 – 50 ~ The Result of Being Forgiven Is Great Love for Jesus
- 12:13 – 21 ~ Our Possessions Can Be a Dangerous Distraction
- 12:32 – 34 ~ God’s Awesome Love
- 12:49 – 53 ~ The Cost of Following Jesus
- 13:22 – 30 Salvation Is a Time-Limited Offer
- 15:1 – 7 ~ God Is Seeking the Lost
- 16:19 – 31 ~ Not a Miracle but the Bible Will Convict People
- 18:9 – 14 ~ Pride Versus Humility
- 19:1 – 10 ~ A Changed Life Is Evidence of a Changed Heart
- 24:13 – 49 ~ A Dead Man Comes to Life

### John

- 1:10 – 14 ~ Reject or Receive?
- 3:1 – 21 ~ Spiritual Rebirth Is Necessary
- 5:24 – 30 ~ Crossing Over from Death to Life
- 8:31 – 36 ~ Truth Sets You Free
- 9:1 – 34 ~ Spiritual Blindness Is Worse Than Physical Blindness
- 20:24 – 31 ~ A Doubter Believes

## **GOD'S TEST FOR EVERYONE: MEASURE YOURSELF BY GOD'S LAW**

1. I have never put anything else before God in my life. I have always given God first place in my thinking, affections and actions.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
2. I have never had any wrong conceptions about God nor worshipped Him in a way not recommended by Him. I have always rejected any wrong imaginations or images of God that I've seen or thought and refused to remake God according to my liking.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
3. I have never slighted or abused the character of the true God by using His holy name as a swear word or using it in a thoughtless manner, such as by calling myself a follower of God yet not obeying. I have always held the name of God, which signifies His character, in highest respect, invoking it with thoughtfulness and reverence.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
4. I have never done less than a full week's work, and never done any of my normal work on the day set aside to worship God. I have always worked hard and willingly at whatever task is set before me, seeing it as a God-given service each day, and consistently remembered to set apart one day weekly to worship God with others.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
5. I have never disobeyed nor dishonored my parents or any others in authority over me. I have always respected and been thankful for my parents and given them honor and willing obedience, as well as other authorities over me.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
6. I have never murdered anyone nor had hateful thoughts or taken the slightest pleasure in seeing harm done to another human. I have always thought of more of others than I have of myself and practiced the highest regard for human life and justice.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
7. I have never practiced any sexual impurity, either physically engaging in sex before marriage or mentally having impure thoughts about someone. I have always treated other's sexuality with respect and dignity in both my physical actions and mental attitudes.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
8. I have never taken anything that doesn't belong to me nor been deceitful in any attitudes or unwilling to work for my needs. I have always respected the belongings, rights and creations of others and been completely truthful and fair.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
9. I have never lied nor slandered another person or group of people. I have always told the truth in every situation regarding every person I have known.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_
10. I have never been greedy for something that wasn't mine, nor jealous even of the abilities, looks, or status of others. I have always shared and given of my possessions and myself to others and have been thankful in my heart for what they have and content with my possessions and situation.  
YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

# DO YOU DARE LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF?

## PROUD, UNBROKEN PEOPLE

focus on the failure of others

are self-righteous; have a critical, fault-finding spirit; look at own life/faults with a telescope but others with a microscope

look down on others

are independent; have a self-sufficient spirit

maintain control; must have their way

have to prove that they are right

claim rights

have a demanding spirit

are self-protective of time, rights, reputation

desire to be served

desire to be a success

desire for self-advancement

are driven to be recognized and appreciated

are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked

think “The ministry is privileged to have me!”

think of what they can do for God

feel confident in how much they know

are self-conscious

keep people at arm’s length

## BROKEN PEOPLE

are overwhelmed with their own spiritual need

are compassionate; have a forgiving spirit; look for best in others

esteem all others better than self

have dependent spirit; recognize others’ needs

surrender control

are willing to yield the right to be right

yield rights

have a giving spirit

are self-denying

are motivated to serve others

desire to be faithful to make others a success

desire to promote others

have a sense of unworthiness; are thrilled to be used at all; are eager for others to get the credit

rejoice when others are lifted up

think “I don’t deserve to serve in this ministry!”

know that they have nothing to offer God

are humbled by how much they have to learn

have no concern with self at all

risk getting close to others; are willing to take the risks of loving intimately

# PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

A testimony can be a very personal, non-threatening, and natural way to begin a discussion about the gospel. Everyone who has been born-again by the Spirit of God and knows Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior has a testimony.

A testimony of how you came to be a Christian is different from telling someone what they must do to become a Christian. **REMEMBER**, giving a testimony is not evangelizing!

## Some helpful tips:

Be winsome, sincere, and honest.

Never go into details about sins.

Make sure your testimony is Christ-centered.

There are two models found in Scripture:

### Timothy (II Timothy 1, 3:14, 15)

Introduce yourself

Your early Christian experience

How do you know you're a Christian?

How knowing Christ has changed your life

Where is there continuing need for change

Bible verse summary

### Paul (Acts 9)

Introduce self

Life before Christ

How became a Christian

How knowing Christ...

Where is there continuing...

Bible verse summary

## OR

1. **What I was like**...family friends, interests were...security was...religious background and attitude about Jesus was...
2. **What God used to begin to open my eyes**...awakened to my need by (people, books, meeting, circumstances)...what I thought &/or noticed (about self, God, Christians) was...
3. **What it was I saw/understood**...certain aspects of the gospel that touched me were...I came to understand that Jesus...I saw my need was...
4. **How Jesus has/is effecting my life**...my relationship with...my attitude towards...my desires now are...I'm now doing...A different area of obedience is...

## TURNING CONVERSATIONS TO CHRIST

**Situation:** Someone complains about developments in the world among certain people.

**Response:** “Why do you think people do such terrible things? What do you think God thinks of that?”

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**Situation:** Someone you have helped thanks you.

**Response:** “You’re welcome. I want to help people. My perspective on life was really changed a while back.”

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**Situation:** Someone helps you.

**Response:** “I really appreciate your help. What made you that way?...I feel God has called me to take a personal interest in people.”

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**Situation:** You receive a compliment for something you’ve done.

**Response:** “Why, thank you. I’ve gotten a new perspective on this since Jesus came into my life. I appreciate the world around me more – knowing who made it.” (It is not improper to just say, “Thank you.” It was you who did it. God uses you. Don’t fall into an attitude of sickening self-abasement.)

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**Situation:** Someone asks you what you do.

**Response:** (Scientist) “I’m involved in figuring out the structure of God’s universe.” (Give a descriptive or functional answer rather than where you work.)

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**Situation:** A comment is made on the difficulty of raising children.

**Response:** “We’re facing problems, too. But we’re encouraged by an interesting method that’s quite helpful. We call it “discipline with love,” and it’s based on the Bible. Have you heard about it?”

~~~~~

**Situation:** Someone is telling of their good fortune or luck in a matter.

**Response:** “Do you think God has a reason for allowing you to experience this good thing? How do you account for the good things that have happened to you?”

~~~~~

**Situation:** You’re given too much change after a purchase.

**Response:** “You know, at one time I would have kept the money, but Jesus Christ has turned my life around. Do you know Christ?”

When you recite this outline to ANOTHER PERSON, strive for smooth flow of the presentation, as if you were doing it with a prospect, not just the “bare-bones” of the outline itself.

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Their secular life
- B. Their church background
- C. Our church
- D. Testimony
  - 1. Church or personal
  - 2. (Did not give away answer to Question 2)

*Transition: May I ask you a question?*

- E. Two diagnostic questions
  - 1. Question 1 – Have you come to the place...
    - a. 1John 5:13
    - b. May I share...
    - c. Let me ask you a second question...
  - 2. Question 2 – Suppose you were to die today...
    - a. Repeat and confirm answer

*Transition: (Good News)*

## I. THE GOSPEL

- A. Grace
  - 1. Heaven is a free gift
    - a. Romans 6:23
  - 2. It is not earned or deserved
    - a. Ephesians 2:8 – 9
    - b. Friend’s Gift

*Transition: This can be seen more clearly when we understand what the Bible says about man.*

- B. Man
  - 1. Is a sinner
    - a. Romans 3:23
    - b. Sin Defined
    - c. Three Sins a Day
    - d. Matthew 5:48
  - 2. Cannot save himself

- a. Omelet with Bad Egg
- b. Proverbs 14:12
- c. Do you see now why it is impossible...

*Transition: This comes into sharper focus when we look at what the Bible says about God.*

### C. God

- 1. is merciful – ~~and therefore doesn't want to punish us~~
  - a. 1John 4:8b
  - b. Therefore some think He doesn't want to punish us
- 2. is just – therefore must punish sin
  - a. Exodus 34:7b
  - b. Bank Robber

*Transition: God solved our<sup>+++</sup> Problem in the Person of Jesus Christ*

### D. Christ

- 1. Who He is – the Infinite God Man
  - a. John 1:1, 14
  - b. John 20:28
- 2. What He did – He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for the<sup>+++</sup> sins of His people and to purchase a place in heaven for them<sup>+++</sup> which He offers as a gift
  - a. Record Book
  - b. Tetelestai
  - c. G-R-A-C-E

*Transition: This gift is received by faith*

### E. Faith

Key to heaven

- 1. What it is not
  - a. Mere intellectual assent
  - b. The Devil
  - c. James 2:19
  - d. Matthew 8:29
  - e. Mere temporal faith
- 2. What it is – Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life
  - a. Acts 16:31
  - b. The Chair
  - c. Motive for Godly Living
  - d. Beggar's Hand
  - e. Is always accompanied by repentance  
Mark 1:15

## II. COMMITMENT

### A. Qualifying questions:

*Does this make sense to you?*

### B. Commitment question: *Would you like to repent of your sins and receive by faith the gift of eternal life?*

### C. Clarification of Commitment:

*Let Me Clarify this*

1. Transfer trust
2. Receive the resurrected and living Christ
3. Receive Christ as savior  
John 1:12 ~~Revelation 3:20~~
4. Receive Christ as Lord
5. Repent

### D. Prayer of Commitment

*If that's what you really want, I can lead us in prayer and you <sup>\*\*\*</sup> can tell God what you just now told me.*

1. Pray for him (to understand, repent, and believe)
2. Pray with him (short phrases at a time - Gospel personalized)
3. Pray for him (for assurance)

### E. Assurance of salvation

1. I would like for you to read something that Jesus says about what you have just
2. John 6:47
3. Assurance question (Q1)
4. God's "Why" (Q2)

## III. IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP

### A. Welcome to the family of God

### B. *Partners in Growing*

1. This is for you...
2. Read "My Spiritual Birth Certificate"
3. Is this the decision you have made?
4. Prospect signs
5. Evangelist's name, address, phone

### C. The means of growth

1. Bible (7-day call back appointment)  
Gospel of John/Chapter a day
2. Prayer
3. Worship
4. Fellowship
5. Witness

### D. Appointment for church

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| Trainee's Name _____            |
| Listener's Name _____           |
| Evaluation (check one)          |
| <input type="radio"/> Excellent |
| <input type="radio"/> Good      |
| <input type="radio"/> Fair      |
| <input type="radio"/> Poor      |

# Contacts Within Your Spheres of Influence

## Clubs & Organizations

- Health Clubs
- Sports booster clubs
- 4-H
- Community volunteer organizations/auxiliaries
- Special interest groups

*(Note: You might want to prayerfully consider the possibility of becoming involved with a special interest/hobby group as a means of meeting people to evangelize.)*

## Neighborhood & Community

- Neighbors
- Restaurant workers
- Coffee shop round table regulars
- Barbers and beauticians
- Grocery store personnel
- Postal workers
- Newspaper deliverer
- Teachers and PTA members
- Tutors and music teachers
- Physician and dentist
- Pharmacist
- Chiropractor
- Childcare provider

## Friends & Relatives

- Fishing/hunting buddies
- Walking/jogging partners
- Sports pals
- Shopping friends
- Classmates
- Team members (bowling, softball)
- Mother's club members
- Golf partners
- Children
- Spouse
- Uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins
- Parents & grandparents
- In-laws

## Business/Work Associates

- Factory/business co-workers
- Salesman and suppliers
- Farm hands
- Veterinarians
- Employer and employees
- Lawyers
- Insurance providers
- Bank attendants
- Mechanics
- Financial/business consultants

# Bridge Building Ideas

## SERVICE

- ~ Bring flowers, food, a card, or share a kind word when someone they know has died
- ~ Volunteer to watch someone's house, maintain their yard, care for a pet, or get their mail when they are on vacation or are sick or injured
- ~ Babysit children during a special need
- ~ Volunteer to help with a backyard or garage project
- ~ Clean house for a mother who has just had a baby
- ~ Provide a meal or transportation for someone who is sick or in an emergency

## ENCOURAGEMENT

- ~ Remember birthdays, anniversaries
- ~ Send seasonal cards
- ~ Congratulate for an accomplishment
- ~ Visit when there is a death in the family or during a hospital stay
- ~ Stop by with baked goods

## ACTIVITIES

- ~ Go out for ice cream
- ~ Concerts
- ~ A sack lunch at work or in the park
- ~ Picnics
- ~ In-home demonstration parties
- ~ Birthday Parties
- ~ A short shopping trip
- ~ Craft seminars/fairs
- ~ A short fishing or hunting trip
- ~ Special interest seminars
- ~ Volunteering in the community, work, church or family
- ~ Vacation Bible School

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

## BOOKS

How Shall They Hear: Church-Based Evangelism, Peter Jeffery, Evangelical Press

It is no use mourning over the way the world thinks of God if we do nothing to make him real to men and women who are dead in their sin. The purpose of this book is to help believers see their God-given responsibility to evangelize a lost world and at the same time to see evangelism as both a privilege and a joy.

God Centered Evangelism, R.B. Kuiper, Banner of Truth

The great focus of much evangelistic outreach, sad to say, is on man. The focus is often on “the charismatic personality of the evangelist, or the great numbers of people who profess faith, or attention to the benefits man may derive from an encounter with God.” Kuiper presents the biblical view of God-centered evangelism, showing from first to last that God is the great initiator, God is the effective agent, and God is the great end for all our gospel-bringing efforts. Here is the biblical framework within which all God-glorifying efforts to evangelize must be conducted.

Tell the Truth, Will Metzger, InterVarsity Press

Highly recommended, the best there is. A training manual on the message and methods of God-centered witnessing.

Evangelism and Your Church; A Faith Worth Sharing; Outgrowing the Ingrown Church; Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless; C. John Miller

Rev. Miller was a Pastor and Professor at Westminster Seminary. You may not agree with everything here but these books will challenge, motivate, and inspire you as well as equip you for the task.

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God, J.I. Packer, InterVarsity Press

If God is in control of everything, does that mean the Christian can sit back and not bother to evangelize? Or does active evangelism imply that God is not really sovereign at all? J.I. Packer shows in this classic study how false both these attitudes are. In a careful review of the biblical evidence, he shows how a right understanding of God’s sovereignty is not so much a barrier to evangelism as an incentive and powerful support for it.

A Vision for Missions, Tom Wells, Banner of Truth

Wells shows that a vision for missions must begin with a biblical vision of God. Missionary endeavors must not arise solely from human need and suffering but from the conviction that God is worthy to be known.

## TRACTS

### Coming to Faith in Christ, John Benton, Banner of Truth

This booklet presents a straight-forward summary of the gospel for those who may be considering the Christian faith for the first time. Bible references are given throughout to encourage the reader to search the pages of Scripture and see for himself the message of Jesus Christ.

### What's Going on Out There?, John Benton, Evangelical Press

The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw tremendous advances. Yet, as one looks at the world, he might well ask, "What's going on out there? Why is the world still in such a mess?" In this up-to-date evangelistic booklet that addresses our sin-sick 21<sup>st</sup> century society, John Benton shows us that God himself has provided the answer – the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven throughout the world. But the good news is that the love of God has been revealed through his Son.

### Ultimate Questions, John Blanchard, Evangelical Press

This proven evangelistic tool meets the modern unbeliever with solidly biblical answers to life's most important questions with a message as winsome as it is accurate.

### Which Way To God?, Peter Jeffery, Evangelical Press

With eye-catching illustrations printed on glossy paper, Evangelical Press has produced an evangelistic tool that targets our increasingly "spiritual" and pluralistic society. *Which Way to God?* will help you present the gospel of Jesus Christ, who alone is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life."

### A Bad Record and A Bad Heart, Albert N. Martin, Simpson Publishing

This popular booklet is a valuable resource for sharing the gospel with others.