

How to Share the Gospel

Be Prepared

PREPARE

-) Memorize the “Roman Road” – Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, and 10:9
-) Prepare a 3-minute testimony of how you came to believe in Christ. One paragraph should tell of an incident in your life that reveals your misery before you came to trust in Christ. Another paragraph should tell of a key incident, person, or Bible verse that shows how you came to put your trust in Christ for salvation. Finally, write a paragraph that tells of your peace and joy that became yours after having trusted in Jesus Christ.
-) Have tracts or Bibles to give them.

To find out if they understand the gospel, ask the diagnostic questions.

ASK

-) Diagnostic question: If you were to die tonight, and you were standing at the gates of heaven, and God asked you, “Why should I let you in?”, what would you say?
-) Optional follow-up question; How sure are you that you’re going to heaven? 20%? 50%? 100%? Would you like to be sure?
-) If your listener is not sure that he is going to heaven, or if he thinks he is going to heaven because of his good deeds, then he probably doesn’t fully understand the way to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Many people who claim to be Christians do not understand the way to salvation.

Explain the “Roman Road” to salvation.

EXPLAIN

-) 3:23 – ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*** Be sure he knows what “sin” is. Be sure he believes that no one is perfect, because ALL have sinned.
-) 6:23 – ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** Be sure he understands that, according to the Bible, those who sin do not deserve eternal life, no matter how hard they try to be good.

GOSPEL ILLUSTRATIONS

A wise and just ruler established a series of laws for his people to follow. One day his mother broke one of the laws and was brought to the ruler after being caught. The penalty was twenty lashes. How could the ruler remain just and still fulfill the demands of his love for his mother? He took the lashes on his own back. Justice was satisfied, while love was revealed in full measure.

One day, a certain farmer saw that a fire had ignited in his wheat field, and was being blown toward his barns by the wind. To save the stored grain there, he lit a backfire, in hopes that it would impede the progress of the other flames. After both fires had subsided – and the barns had been saved – the farm walked out through the smoldering ashes of the nearby fields. There he discovered the dead body of one of his hens, which had been caught in the blaze. Sadly, he turned over her black, charred body with his foot – and out from underneath ran four baby chicks. Her sacrifice saved her young ones. Such is the work of Christ on the cross, a place where the love of God dealt with the justice of God, where God's mercy matched God's wrath. Our Lord's sacrifice has saved us. (Attributed to Donald Grey Barnhouse)

⌋ 5:8 – ***But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** Be sure he understands that God, through His enormous love, releases the believer from death by having Jesus die in our place. This is often hard for people to clearly understand. You may use one of the following analogies to help explain it.

⌋ 10:9 – ***That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*** Be sure he understands that the only requirement for his salvation is that he simply believes that Jesus Christ is Lord (i.e. master) over the entire creation (i.e. universe), and that He rose from the dead. Our good works don't win our way to heaven. Only the power of Jesus Christ can, if you believe!

Note: He may ask, "If our good works can't win our way to heaven, then why should Christians even try to do good works?" Answer: Christians do good works, not to win their way to salvation, but to express their gratitude to Jesus Christ for winning our salvation. In other words, genuine Christians automatically want to do good works because they say to Jesus Christ, "You saved my life... I'll do anything for you." (see Romans 12:1)

Help him/her to repent and pray
to receive Jesus Christ.

PRAY

Ask him if this is the prayer in his heart. If so, have him pray it to Jesus.

Lord Jesus, forgive me, for I am a sinner. But thank you for dying on the cross for my sins so that I could have eternal life. Thank you for saving me and giving me new life. Out of my gratitude, I give you my life and turn from my wicked ways. Take me, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Follow-up.

FOLLOW-UP

- ⌋ Invite him/her to your church or to a Bible-believing church in his/her area.
- ⌋ Form a Bible study or discipleship meeting for him/her.
- ⌋ Refer him/her to an existing Bible study for beginners.
- ⌋ Give him/her a Bible or tract to read. Have him/her begin reading in the book of John or Mark.