

LIFE **FOUNDATIONS**
CORE CLASSES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FOUNDATIONS 301: REACHING MY WORLD

THE BROOK CHURCH COMMUNITY

The Greatest Experience of the Christian Life...

I'll never forget the first time I shared the gospel with another person and they responded to my invitation to accept Christ. That event occurred over 25 years ago and since then I've had the privilege through individual encounters of leading dozens to trust Christ as Savior. It's happened with neighbors, friends, family members and even near strangers. Each time it occurred it was humbling and awe-inspiring.

Being used of the Lord to help another person discover Christ as Savior is indeed one of the greatest moments you will ever have as a Christian. Sadly, many believers live their entire lives never experiencing the joy of this adventure.

In this course, you'll discover that God can uniquely use the way he made you to lead others to faith in Christ. Through prayer, a heart of love and practices in your life that build credibility, you'll be able to see God work in your world and discover around you people who not only need the Lord, but who are seeking Him.

This model is built upon the attitudes and actions of Jesus. In it, you'll discover how he loved and led others into faith. You'll also find the He is still present today through believers like you and me and is actively calling those who are far from God into relationship with Him.

We live in a time of unprecedented opportunity and need. God is still drawing people unto Himself, and He invites us to take part in this great redemptive drama. Let's join Him in His work!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Ayers".

Mike Ayers, Ph.D.

Class Outline

Part One: A Walk in His Shoes (*Principles from the Life of Jesus*)

Part Two: Natural Approaches to Evangelism (*The Messenger of the Gospel*)

Part Three: The Simple Gospel (*The Message of the Gospel*)

Part Four: Taking Action (*The Ministry of the Gospel*)

Part Five: Practicum

Getting Started...

What are some words that come to your mind when you hear the term “evangelist”?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What is your biggest hesitation to sharing your faith with others?

Part One

A Walk in His Shoes

Principles from the Life of Jesus



examine

Turn in your Bibles to Luke Chapter 15. In Luke 15, three things are lost. What are they?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Who does the woman, the shepherd, and the father represent? _____

Who does the three lost items represent? _____

What do you think Jesus is trying to say these three stories?



apply

Spiritually Lost People _____ to God.

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:4-7, NIV)

God _____ Those Who Are Lost.

“This is what the Lord says to the house of Israel: ‘Seek me and live.’” (Amos 5:4, NIV)

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7, NIV)

In the Old Testament, the Lord was gracious in receiving those who sought Him, but the burden of seeking was often upon the sinner. In the New Testament however, God Himself sought out sinners, just as the shepherd went looking for the lost sheep.

“For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10, NIV)

God _____ When They Are Found.



live!

**A Model of Personal Evangelism from the Life of Jesus
(Matthew 9:35-37)**

- Jesus _____.

We should _____ to the _____ others in our world and people
Jesus _____ them as God _____ what He _____ them.

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.” (vs. 35a, NIV)

Three Key Concepts:

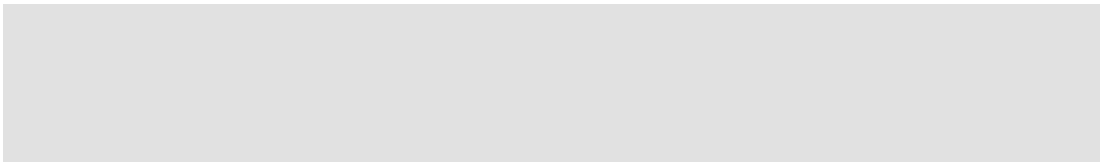
In Matthew 11:19, Jesus was called a “friend of sinners” by the Pharisee’s. How did Jesus gain this recognition? What does this say about Him?

Take a deeper look at Matthew 9:35. There are three dimensions of the act of sharing the gospel noted here in this passage:

“Jesus went”: _____

“teaching and preaching” : _____

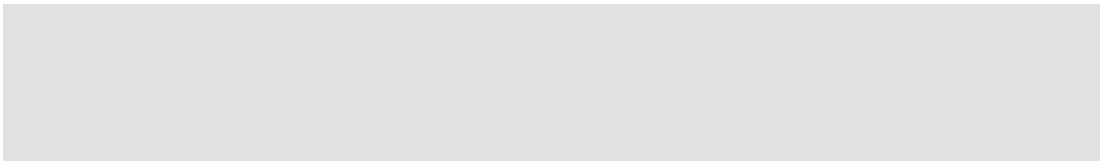
“healing every disease and sickness” : _____



▪ **Jesus** _____.

“When Jesus saw the crowds...” (vs. 36, NIV)

The Greek word “horao”: _____



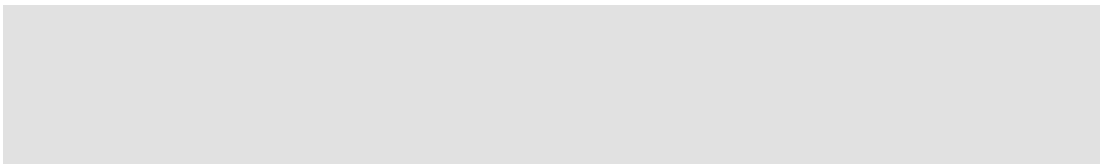
~~We should feel for God's divine _____ for others because they are~~
~~We should pray for God's divine _____ and~~
our spiritually _____ to go.

- **Jesus _____.**

"... he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (v. 36, NIV)

The Greek word "splanchnidzomai": _____

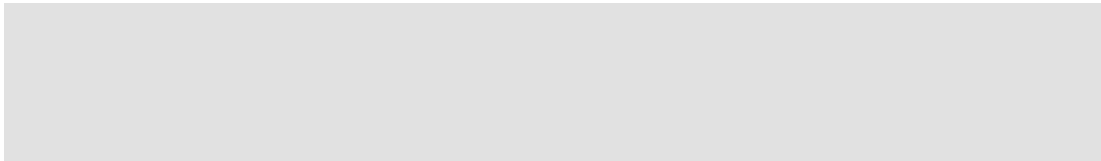
A sheep without a shepherd is a _____ sheep.



- **Jesus told us to _____**

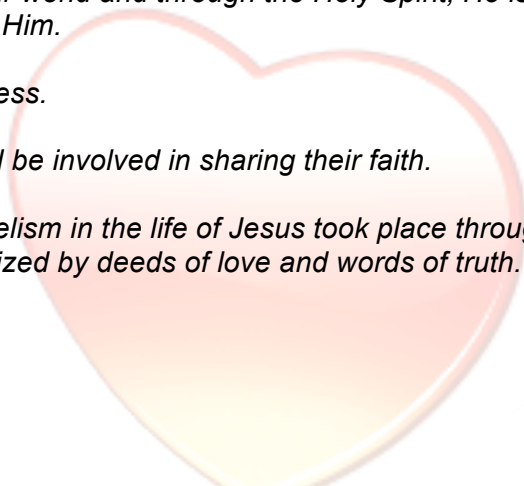
"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
(v. 38, NIV)

The Greek word "deomai" (middle voice): _____



The Values of Evangelism:

1. *Spiritually lost people matter to God.*
2. *God is working in your world and through the Holy Spirit, He is calling out to lost people and guiding them to seek Him.*
3. *Evangelism is a process.*
4. *Every believer should be involved in sharing their faith.*
5. *The pattern of evangelism in the life of Jesus took place through genuine relationships with lost people characterized by deeds of love and words of truth.*



6. *Evangelism is not the job of “the church”.*
7. *Evangelism takes place primarily outside of church.*
8. *The church should support and enhance the evangelistic efforts of its people through training, Sunday services and events that are inclusive of lost people.*
9. *Evangelism should be intentional.*
10. *Personal evangelism is a rewarding experience.*

List something new that you learned about evangelism that encourages you in sharing your faith with others?

Part Two

Natural Approaches to Evangelism

The Messenger of the Gospel...

“Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15b, NIV)

What is an evangelist according to the Bible?

“euangelion”

From the life of Jesus we learned that there are three components of sharing our faith with others: the messenger, the message and the ministry.

The **MESSENGER** (person) of the gospel helps us understand that God uses different individuals to reach others for Christ. Since God made us with distinct gifts and personalities, He seeks to use who we are in the evangelism process. The focus here is upon the unique gifts, abilities and _____ of the one sharing their faith.

The **MESSAGE** of the gospel never changes and it comprises the truth of who Jesus was and what He did. The focus here is _____ and what He has done through Jesus.

The **MINISTRY** of the gospel always changes because it is based upon genuine care for others and results in building credibility to gain the attention of those far from God. The focus here is on the _____ and their needs.

The Messenger



examine

- **Confrontational (Biblical character: _____)**

“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd...” (Acts 2:14, NIV)

- **Intellectual (Biblical character: _____)**

See The Apostle Paul in Athens (Acts 17:22-31)

See 2 Corinthians 11:6

- **Testimonial (Biblical character: _____)**

“A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. ‘Give glory to God,’ they said. ‘We know this man (Jesus) is a sinner.’ He replied, ‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!’” (John 9:24-25, NIV)

- **Relational (Biblical character: _____)**

“The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Luke 7:34

“And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:2

- **Invitational (Biblical character: _____)**

“Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. (John 1:45-47)

- **Testimonial (Biblical character: _____)**

"They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." (John 4:42, NIV)

- **Service (Biblical character: _____)**

"In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor." (Acts 9:36)



apply

From the list above, decide which manner of evangelism best "fits" you and the one which you believe God can uniquely use in your life to reach out to those far from God:

My evangelism style: _____

Why did you pick this style? _____



live!

Knowledge is not worth much without practicing it in life. Sometimes evangelism is simply about expressing your gifts and passions toward those outside of faith with the purpose of sharing Christ. In the space below write the specific, strategic actions that are consistent with your style that you can now begin to put into practice. What will you do now that you know how God can use you?

Part Three

The Simple Gospel

The Message of the Gospel...

The Message



examine

Many believers struggle with sharing their faith because they are not sure what they will say to others when witnessing about Christ. It's important for each Christian to understand the content of the gospel message. Let's start by examining the question: What is "the gospel"?

The word "gospel" is used 91 times in the New Testament and the term literally means

_____.

So the gospel should always be seen as something _____ and _____. It should not be something in which we are ashamed. The Gospel is called the 'good news' because it addresses the most serious issue that human beings must address: our relationship with God.

In 1 Corinthians 2:2 the Apostle Paul says, *"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."*

Clearly, at the heart of the gospel are these three questions:

- **Who is Jesus?**
- **What did He do?**
- **Why did He do it?**

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God. He was both God and man. He was born as a baby in a manger and grew to be a man. He lived a sinless life.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14 NIV)

What Did He Do?

As the Son of God, Jesus was crucified on the cross and buried in a tomb. Then, after three days, He was miraculously raised to life.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8, NIV)

Why Did He Do It?

Jesus died on the cross for our sin to restore our relationship with God and to purchase a place in heaven for us. All this He offers as a free gift.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 3:23, NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NIV)



apply

Below are three common ways for people to share the gospel. The value of each model lies in their simplicity and ease of sharing. The first model is called the “**Roman Road**” presentation. It is an outline of the gospel that can be marked in your Bible, and therefore does not have to be memorized. Simply highlight these verses and be prepared to share them with others. The second model is from a popular evangelism course called “**Evangelism Explosion**”. It is a simple five-point outline with illustrations that can be easily memorized. The third model is called “**The Bridge**” and uses a drawing to guide you in sharing the gospel message.

These models have power as you also share your own **personal story of faith** (see page 19) and live a life of credibility before those to whom you witness.

The Roman Road

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

We all have sinned. We must admit that we are a sinner.

Romans 6:23a “The wages of sin is death...”

Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death that alienates us from God, and will last for all eternity. We must understand that sin leads to death and separation from God.

Romans 6:23b “...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Salvation is a free gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, or deserve it, but you must reach out and receive it.

Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us!"

When Jesus died on the cross He paid sin's penalty. He paid the price for all sin- for yours and mine. He did all this because He loves us.

Romans 10:9,10 "...If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you shall be saved"

A person receives God's free gift of love and life by placing faith in Jesus Christ. To believe is simply to take God at His word. With our whole heart we believe that Jesus is God's Son who died for our sin on the cross and arose from the grave to live in us as Savior and Lord.

Evangelism Explosion Outline

Beginning: Two Diagnostic Questions

1. Have you come to the point in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven or is that something you would say you're still working on?
2. Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?

A. Grace

- * Heaven is a free gift (Romans 6:23)
- * It is not earned or deserved (Ephesians 2:8-9)

IL: Gift from a friend

B. Man

- * Is a sinner (Romans 3:23)

IL: Three sins a day

- * Cannot save himself. (Mathew 5:48)

IL: Omelet with Bad Egg

C. God

- * Is merciful - therefore doesn't want to punish us. (I John 4:8b)
- * Is just - therefore must punish sin. (Exodus 34:7)

IL: Traffic Tickets

D. Christ

* Who He is? The Son of God (John 1:1,14 & 20:28)

* What He did? He died on the cross and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sins and to purchase a place in heaven for us which He offers as a free gift.

IL: Record Book of Sin: Isaiah 53:6

E. Faith

IL: Key to Heaven

* What it is not, (Not head knowledge)

* What it is (Trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life)

IL: The Chair

Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life?

A Simple, Sample Sinner's Prayer:

"Dear God, thank you for making me and loving me. Thank you for sending your son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for me. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sin. I ask you to forgive me. Come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your free gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian. Amen."

Key Components to the Prayer of Repentance & Faith:

"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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 8:9-10

Your heart...

Your mouth...

A _____ who Jesus is.

B _____ in what He did.

C _____ that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.

D _____ upon Christ and Him alone to save you.

The Bridge Illustration



live!

Which one of these presentations are you attracted to? Why? _____

Will you set aside some time in the next 30 days to learn one of these models? _____

Who will you ask to hold you accountable and share with them the model you've learned?

Part Four

Taking Action

The Ministry Of The Gospel...

The Ministry



examine

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23, NIV)

What is Evangelism Based in Relationships?

_____ + _____ + _____

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. P _____

2. P _____

3. P _____



apply

Four ways to build evangelistic relationships:

- a. **Start with those _____ to you.**
- b. **Throw a “ _____ ”**

Luke 5:29 tells us that immediately after Jesus called him, Matthew held a big banquet at his house for Jesus and a lot of other tax collectors, who were probably the only friends Matthew had. He was so excited about his new life that he wanted to share it with his friends.

- c. **Become a _____ of people who provide ongoing services.**
- d. **Provide a loving presence in moments of need**

Below is an excerpt from an article written by a man who absolutely had no interest in God. He had a neighbor who was a Christian and they had sort of a neighborly relationship. This man's wife developed an aggressive form of cancer and was given 3 months to live. Here's what he wrote about his neighbor...

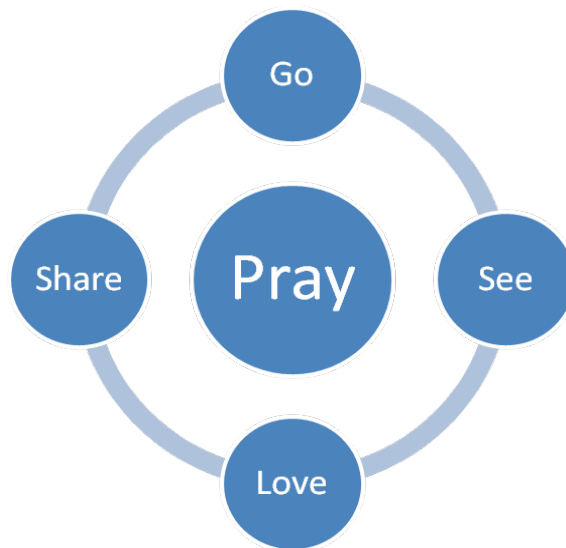
"I was in total despair. I went through the funeral preparations and in the service it was like I was in a trance. Then after the service I went to the path along the river and I walked all night. But I did not walk alone. My neighbor, who was afraid for me I guess, he stayed with me all night. He did not speak. He did not even walk beside me. He just followed me. And when the sun finally came up over the river he came over to me and he said, 'Let's go get some breakfast.' I go to church now. I go to my neighbor's church. A religion that can produce that kind of caring and love my neighbor showed me is something I want to find out more about. I want to be like that. I want to love and to be loved like that the rest of my life."



live!

Matthew 9:35-28

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."



Reaching My Mission Field for Christ (Use the Model)

- Go
- See
- Love
- Share
- Pray

Your Top Three

Out of the people above, pray and ask God to show you three people to pray for and reach out to throughout the next 6 months.

Defining My Personal Mission Field

Fill in as many names as possible of people you know who are not Christians. Don't worry about how likely you think it is that they will respond positively to Christ. Just list the names and let God point out which three He wants you to reach out to in a special way.
* invite others to pray for these people and for you!

People in my world...

Family

Neighbors

Acquaintances

Friends

Co-Workers

Others



My Personal Testimony
(sharing my story of faith)

“Before Christ...” (one thing I lacked)

“I received Christ by...” (what I did)

“Now that I know Jesus...” (the difference Jesus makes)

A Fishtale

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And low, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these people, who called themselves fishermen, met in meetings and talked about their call to fishing, the abundance of fish, and how they might best go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as a noble occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be the primary task of fishermen. Continually they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. They built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters". Their constant plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and that every fisherman should fish.

One thing they didn't do...they didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. All the fishermen seemed to agree that what was needed was a committee, which would challenge fishermen to be faithful in their fishing. The committee was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, and to promote the idea of fishing in far away streams and lakes where many other fish of different colors lived.

One thing they didn't do...they didn't fish .

Some fishermen spent much study and travel to learn the history of fishing and to see the far away places where the founding fathers did great fishing in the centuries past. They lauded the faithful fishermen of years before who handed down the idea of fishing.

One thing they didn't do...they didn't fish .

Some fishermen said that they wanted to be a part of the fishing party, but they felt called to furnish fishing equipment. Others felt that their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know that they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how kind and loving they were was good enough.

One thing they didn't do...they didn't fish .

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity for Fishing", one young fellow left the meeting...and went fishing. The next day, he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honored for his excellent catch and scheduled at all the big meetings to tell about how he did it. He went all across the country, reliving his experience to other fishermen.

One thing he stopped doing...he stopped fishing.

Imagine how hurt some of the fishermen were when one person suggested that people who didn't catch fish weren't really fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person really a fisherman if, year after year, he never actually catches a fish?

We are called to be fishers of men! Let's not just talk about it- let's reach out to those who matter so much to God.

