

## Agenda

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12:30 to 12:45	Opening prayer and lunch
12:45 to 1:00	Sharing the Gospel
1:00 to 1:55	Writing your story (role playing)
1:55 to 2:00	My story and your story (role playing)



## Sharing the Gospel

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

*Romans 1:16-17*

### The Gospel:

The Gospel is profoundly simple and it's simply profound. Think about the redemptive story for a moment: God sending Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ to come to an earth that would murder Him in the first degree? Crazy love, right? Romans 5:8 is a great blessing in that He loved us enough, in that, while we were sinners, enemies of the cross, Jesus died for us. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21, "He who knew NO sin became sin that we might become... we might become the righteousness of God." WHAT? Amazing... profound and yet, so simple is the message of salvation!

When we share our faith, we need to understand this it is His Spirit that draws men to the salvation experience (Romans 1:16-17). Our role: simply being obedient to share. Further, sharing our faith isn't a suggestion, it's a command: Matthew 28:19. **The great news:** He's with us and will guide us; He will remove the fear and give us the strength and power to share. That's all we do: we share! The results are up to Him.

In our culture, if not every culture, one of the best ways to share one's faith is by how we live. Especially on the Central Coast, people really don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care, truly (over 10 years of experience here has taught me this). One of the biggest deterrents for non-believers coming to Christ is a *hypocritical* Christian – God forgive us. That's why Paul wrote to the Ephesians to walk in love... and, to redeem the time, for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:2; 5:16).

### Accordingly, consider the following:

1. **How you live your life is a great part of your witness**
2. **Earning the right to share is a key component to a receptive ear**
3. **People are looking for answers – you have it**

4. **Keep the sharing time simple and use normal language**
5. **Stress, stress and stress some more, stress the LOVE of God**
6. **Pray like crazy**

**A simple way to share the Gospel:**

1. **Share God's plan of salvation** – God loves you and truly has a wonderful plan for your life. John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” God has a plan for you; a great plan!
2. **Share the sin issue** – the Bible teaches that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). By nature, we are all separated from God. Romans 6:23, “The wages of sin is death; but, the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
3. **Share the remedy for sin** – God's love bridges the gap of separation between you and God. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave (the dead), He paid the penalty for our sins. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24 says, “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”
4. **Share the response required** – We are required to ask Him for forgiveness of our sins so that we can become His child. John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”
  - a. **To receive Christ, 4 things have to happen, biblically:**
    - i. **Admit you're a sinner**
    - ii. **Ask forgiveness for your sins and desire to turn away from your sins**
    - iii. **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose the third day**
    - iv. **Receive Jesus into your heart**
      1. Romans 10:9-10, “... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto

2.25.18  
*Evangelism Workshop*

righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2. Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved."
5. **Ask them if they want to receive Jesus** – if they say yes, pray with them. "Dear Lord, thank You for sending your Son to die for me. I ask you to forgive me for my sins and by the faith and grace You're giving me, I receive You, Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior. I pray this in Jesus Name, amen." If they say no, ask if you can pray for them...

**Next steps for those who receive Jesus as their Savior:**

1. Invite them to church, a Bible believing and teaching church where they will hear the absolutes of scripture.
2. Encourage them to set aside time to be alone with God, daily. Give them a Bible and have them read the Gospel of John to get acquainted with Jesus.
  - a. Invite them to a New Believer's Class.
  - b. Have them complete the *Ben Born Again* material (available, courtesy of Harvest Ministries).
3. Encourage daily times of prayer and meditation.
4. Encourage them to tell others about their new decision.
5. Invite them to your small group.
6. Teach them about baptism and encourage them to get baptized.
7. Encourage them to plug into a discipleship venue.

**Writing your story:**

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15-16

**Answer these questions –**

- **My life before Jesus:**
  - What about my life before Jesus will relate most to the non-believers I know?
  - What was the passion of my life? Where was my identity found?
  - How did these things let me down?
  
- **How I came to receive Jesus:**
  - When did I first hear the gospel message?
  - When and why did I receive Jesus as my Savior?
  
- **My life after receiving Jesus:**
  - How is my life different now? (list changes in your character, attitude, perspective, etc.)
  - What motivates me now? What do I live for?
  - How does Jesus help you in your daily life?

2.25.18  
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**Suggestions:**

- **Pray before you write and, before you share. Ask God for wisdom and how to effectively communicate.**
- **Write the way you speak.**
- **Be brutally honest.**
- **Keep your story to 3 to 5 minutes and practice, practice, practice!**

*(Workshop notes adapted in part from Campus Crusade for Christ and from the Billy Graham Evangelical Association)*