## Evangelism and Witnessing Workshop mbs 21:1-11

What is evangelism? The word is not found in the scriptures. Its first known use was in 1626. Definition: the promulgation (publishing or openly making known) of the gospel. (Webster's Dictionary 1828)
The term, gospel or good news is found over 90 times in the NT, is translated from the Greek euaggelizo_ - to announce glad tidings. From Greek words; eus (good) well, and aggelos a messenger, angel.

## Definition: Evangelism is announcing or making known of the good news of Jesus Christ.

## A. What information is essential to sharing the gospel?

What essential information must be shared to lead someone to salvation in Jesus Christ?
1.
2.
3.
4.
5. $\qquad$
6. $\qquad$
7. $\qquad$
8. $\qquad$

## B. What keeps you from sharing the gospel?

1. I don't know any non-Christian's that are interested in talking about heaven and hell.
2. I don't know what to say to people to witness to them or to lead them to Christ.
3. I would like to share Christ with others, but I don't have confidence that God will use me.
4. I'm afraid of getting in trouble for offending co-workers and clients who are not interested.
5. I value relationships, and if it doesn't make a difference, why jeopardize my relationships?
6. I'm too busy with my own issues to develop relationships and talk to people about Christ.
7. If I did lead someone to Christ, then what do I do? Wouldn't I need to help them grow?
8. This person has rejected the message so many times, I just give up.
9. To be perfectly honest, I don't care that much about the salvation of other people.

Your own reasons
C. What motivates you to share the gospel? Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 24:11-12, Ezekiel 3:18; John 4:36, 12:26, 14:21; Luke 16:9
Your own reasons $\qquad$
$\qquad$

What characterizes people who win souls? Proverbs 11:30
They are $\qquad$ and $\qquad$ .
D. Who are the people in my circle of influence?

Do we have a greater responsibility to the members of our own family or to our close friends and the people we have lived and worked with for many years than to strangers and people overseas?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 -diligently $\qquad$
Mark 7:11 -corban $\qquad$
1 Timothy 5:8 -especially those $\qquad$
Luke 10:29-who is my $\qquad$
Acts 1:8 Jerusalem... $\qquad$
List the people in your circles of influence

| CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE <br> A. |
| :---: |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |
| 5. |
| 6. |
| 7. |
| 8. |

CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE B.

1. $\qquad$
2. $\qquad$
3. $\qquad$
4. $\qquad$
5. 
6. $\qquad$
7. $\qquad$
8. $\qquad$

E. What is the goal of evangelism? What is it you want to accomplish when you share the gospel with someone?
 $-P$

What is faith and what is involved in believing or putting our faith in Jesus Christ? In the New Testament, the word faith is translated from the Greek word pistis which embraces the concepts of both faith and faithfulness. Pistis comes from the basic word peitho, which means to persuade, and is related to the verb pisteuo, meaning, to believe. It is consistent to say that if a man has faith in Jesus, he has been persuaded by someone or something, and as a result has believed in Him. 4102 pístis (from 3982/peithô, "persuade, be persuaded") - properly, persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust); faith.
4100 pisteúō believe (affirm, have confidence); (from 4102 /pistis, "faith," derived from 3982 /peithō, "persuade, be persuaded")-
3982 peith $\bar{o}$ - to persuade; (passive) be persuaded of what is trustworthy.
Original Word: $\pi \varepsilon i \theta \omega$, Verb, Transliteration: peithó, (phonetic spelling: pi'-tho)
Short Definition: I persuade, urge
Acts 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

Acts 18:4 And he [Paul] was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:26 "And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

Acts 28:23-24 And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. 24 And some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

Acts 26:27-28 King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do. And Agrippa replied to Paul, 'In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.'

2 Corinthians 5:11 Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

## F. According to Acts 14:1, why did so many believe at |conium?

## According to Ecclesiastes $10: 10$, what will help me do evangelism?

Ecclesiastes 10:10 If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.

Memorize the ' B ' pack (Proclaim Christ) of the Topical Memory System
Write out and practice sharing my salvation testimony in 3 minutes.
Practice presenting the bridge or the chain illustration until they flow like water

## G. What are Keys to Effective Evangelism?

1. Prepare your own heart
A.

John 15:7ff If you abide in me...ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you, by this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
1 Timothy $2: 21$ therefore if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, Isaiah 50:4 The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen ... 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to
B.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
1Timothy 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

## 2. Pray and Recruit Prayer

## Pray for their salvation

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. Luke 6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

1 Timothy 2:4 What does God desire?
1John 5:14 if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
1 John 3:21-24 What is the cause of receiving answered prayer?

## Pray for God to work in their hearts and circumstances

John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;"
Colossians $4: 3$ praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ,

Pray for spiritual alertness, compassion, boldness and wisdom for yourself
John 4:7 Jesus and the woman at the well-He spoke to here
Matthew 9:36 And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.
Psalm 126: Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting
Ephesians 6:19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
Proverbs 12:18 There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable...
Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
Pray for God to send workers to the harvest of souls
Matthew 9:38 Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.

## 3. Build relationships with people and engage them in conversation

Invest time in them Acts 28:23 ... they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

Ask questions and listen Acts 8:30-32 And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?
Proverbs $18: 13$ He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.
Serve them Mark 10:45 For even the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Also 2 Corinthians $4: 5$

Enjoy your time with them 1 Thessalonians 2:8 Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

## 4. Use the right tools

## Use the Word

Psalm 119:41-42 May Thy lovingkindness also come to me...Thy salvation according to Thy Word, so I shall have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Thy Word.

Jeremiah 23:28-29 "The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?' declares the Lord. 'Is not My word like fire?' declares the Lord, 'and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"'

Isaiah 55:8-11 "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."
Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation Ephesians 6:17 having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any twoedged sword, and piercing as far as the division between soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Share your testimony-Tell them what God has done for you.
Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the adversary, Mark 5:19 "... He said to him, 'Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.'" Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death."

## What to include in a personal salvation testimony

What was life like before you came to Christ?
What factors led up to your coming to Christ?
What did you do to gain eternal life (did you claim a verse?).
What has life been like since you came to Christ?- Then stop, don't drag it out.
When you are through, will they know how to come to Christ and be saved?

## Use illustrations and tracts

Tracts- Seven Questions for People who like to Think- tract
The Bridge illustration-
The Chain illustration-

## Invite them to come in if you think they may be ready

Matthew 22:9 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.' "And those slaves went out into the streets, and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. Luke 14:16-24 compel them to come in-If you don't have a sickle you will never reap.

## Reason with them from the scriptures

Isaiah 1:18a "'Come now, and let us reason together', Says the Lord, 'Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow.""
Acts 17:17 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. Acts 17:2 And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

## 4a. How do you reason with someone from the scriptures?

## Start where they are

Acts 8:34-35 And the eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?" And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

You may have to ask more questions to know where someone is in his thinking.

## Quote to them, or have them read the Word

Psalm 119:130 The unfolding of Thy words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.
Hebrews 4:12-13 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

## Use the Word of God with skill

Proverbs 22:17-21 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; For it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, to make you know the certainty of the words of truth that you may correctly answer to him who sent you?
Song of Solomon 3:8 "All of them are wielders of the sword, expert in war; Each man has his sword at his side, guarding against the terrors of the night.
Acts $13: 48$ they spoke in such a way that many believed
Mark 3:14 And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach,

Let them see your earnestness, beg them to be reconciled to God-
2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. If an evangelist is flippant or overly passive, it makes the message harder to believe.
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## Questions and opening lines for witnessing to strangers and acquaintances-

Are you by any chance interested in spiritual things?
May I share something with you about my spiritual journey that you might find interesting?
What do you think happens to people when they die?
When you die, do you think you will meet God?
What would you say if God asked you why he should let you into his heaven?
Are you a Christian, or still on the way? If they say they are a Christian, say
"Great, tell me about your journey." Or, what led you to put your faith in Jesus?

## Questions to use during a discussion about spiritual things-

Gently ask, "Can you tell me what do you mean by that statement?"
How did you come to that conclusion?
What difference is what you believe going to make?
What if you are wrong?
How do you know that what you are saying is true?

## 1. How to witness to old friends and members of your family?

For witnessing to family, the following steps are worth considering.

1. Never, never, never, never, never, never, never give up. Luke 8:15 bear fruit with P.
2. Be kind and be a servant. Serve them how they want to be served. Mark 10:45
3. Take time to listen. Respectfully ask questions they will want to answer.

Like: Is there anything I can do for you?
Like: Mom, tell me about the book you have been reading?
Like: Grandma, what was it like back in the day?
Like: Where would you say you are in your spiritual journey?
Like: That's interesting, tell me why you think that is how people are saved.
Like: $\qquad$
Not like: You don't really think church attendance will save you, do you?
Not like: Dad, is there any reason I should believe you are a Christian?
Not like:
4. Tell them what God has done for you. Mark 5:19 go home and tell them...
5. Don't be in a hurry, and don't argue. Proverbs $12: 18$ rashly like the thrusts of a sword..
6. Help them get into the Bible. Psalm 119:130 the unfolding of Thy words gives light...
7. When you see they are ready, invite them to come in. Matthew $22: 9$

Don't press for a decision before they have enough information to make it intelligently. Putting in the sickle before the grain is ready will cause it to rot.

## THE RICHMANAND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-29 "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.
22 "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'
27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

## Stories: Stories and examples:

Steve, a pastor and missionary in Houston, tells about being concerned for his family after his conversion. His dad was a big military guy and was a leading cardiologist in Texas. His mother was harsh and cold. He also had several brothers. When he became a Christian, he witnessed to his family with little effect. He asked a friend to pray for their conversion, and the friend said to him, "Steve, I have to tell you the reason they are not coming to Christ is you. You are condescending, and unloving and you are getting in the way of the gospel." Steve took his friends advice, and started being kind, loving them, and serving. After a few years, he was at a Promise Keepers meeting at a big stadium, and his friend asked him if his brothers were there. He said he didn't know. But, as he was leaving the stadium, in the course of about a 150 ft . he saw every one of his brothers. His friend asked them how they all had come to Christ, and they said it was Steve's life that had made the difference. His mom was now giving big hugs, and was his best friend. Steve said: Live your life in such a way that when you do share the gospel, it's not a surprise, it's expected.

I had the privilege of coming to Christ while my grandmother was still alive. When she was about 80 , I went over to fix the plaster on her house and sat in her dining room to chat with her. She didn't seem to be very happy with her life. As a girl, she sang in a choir for a Billy Sunday tent meeting in Clarenda, Iowa. I asked her if she was absolutely sure that she had eternal life, and she let me know she wasn't completely sure. I asked her if she would like to pray and make sure, and she said yes. We prayed together and she was thankful. Within a couple of years she died very slowly, but very peacefully from congestive heart failure. I then had the privilege of sharing the gospel at her funeral, so all her friends heard the gospel.

One friend of mine was pretty resistant to the gospel. I went hunting with him out in western Nebr. Later, I asked him if he would do a study in the Gospel of John, which he did before he moved to another city.

When our architectural firm was just getting going back in the early 80 s , we used to have noon Bible studies and did things to build up the believers and evangelize the non-believers in the office. Joe N. came to our office as a spiritual skeptic. We were doing some simulated picking up of hitchhikers to see if we could work the gospel in before they got out in three to five minutes. So, what do you do for a living? I run a small hog confinement operation. Oh, ...Have you ever felt confined? I called Joe to see if he remembered those days and where he was with God. He said they were good days, but his life took another route. He also mentioned that he remembered the Christians being at odds with one another...

I tried to share the gospel with everyone who worked for me. I had the opportunity to lead a former Nebraska football player and an architecture student from Lebanon to Christ. I prayed with a Korean Chinese restaurant owner on the first day I met him. I've shared with lots of clients and tons of hitchhikers.

You don't want to wait too long to share with people, however. Early in my Christian life I was planning to share with a banker named Don E. on a trip to Omaha on a Thursday. On Wednesday he flipped the jeep and died. Then a 90 year old architect in the office where I was working died suddenly while I was sneaking up on him.

We had a missionary from New Tribes Missions come to our house and stay a couple of nights with us. He told the story of going into the deepest parts of the Amazon Rain Forest. Way up the Negro River where you could only come by hollowed out canoe. He was talking to an old Gentleman and the guy came around one day and ask how many believers in Jesus there are in his country- Oh, as many as the stars in the sky. A day later, the old gentleman returned and asked, 'How long have you known about the gospel?' 'Oh, hundreds of years.', was the missionary's reply. 'And you say, that all of our people who have died without the knowledge of Jesus will spend eternity in the flames of hell?' 'That's right', replied the missionary. Then the old Indian gentleman said thoughtfully, 'That can't be right, because if you knew that our people would all perish in hell, with no chance of escape, and there are thousands of thousands of believers in America, and you've known about the gospel for hundreds of years, you would have come before this.

Save others, snatching them out of the fire." (Jude 23)
"'As I live!' says the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live." (Ezekiel 33:11)
"This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1Timothy 2:3-4)
"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

## THE WHEELBARROW ILLUSTRATION

Back around the turn of the century, a fellow who was billed as "the greatest tightrope walker of all time" stretched a cable across Niagara Falls. The folks from the surrounding area, even as far as New York City, would come out to see his performances. High above the thunderous, boiling waters, he would walk across the cable, day after day, cheered on by growing crowds. One day, he posed this question to the onlookers: "Who believes I can push a wheelbarrow with a sack of potatoes in it across the tightrope?" The crowd applauded and shouted their affirmation. After pushing the wheelbarrow full of spuds over and back he again addressed the crowd. "Now, who believes I can push a wheelbarrow across with a man in it?" The masses went wild with shouts of, "You can do it!"
Then he stunned them with this question: "Who will get into the wheelbarrow?" The throngs who had been noisily affirming their belief in the tightrope walker's ability now stood silent and motionless, until a little boy stepped forward and said, "I will get into the wheelbarrow."

## EVANGELISM WORKSHOP APPLICATION:

Choose one area you would like to make an application in. It could be something you will do with a member of your family or with someone with whom you wish to share the gospel. Write out what you will do, the time frame over which you will do it, and who will check up on you to make sure you will do it. This is the most important part of the workshop.

Application

## What facts are essential to the gospel?

The presentation of Jesus Christ and what He came to do- More specifically

## God's love for a world which has rebelled and sinned against Him-

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
1 Timothy 2:4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

## The fact of sin-

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned. Isaiah 53:6, Ecclesiastes 7:20

## The penalty of sin- death and judgment

Genesis 2:17 For in the day that you eat from it you will surely die
Romans 6:23a, For the wages of $\sin$ is death,...
Hebrews 9:27 $\ldots$ as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,
The person of Christ-His deity, His humanity and His sinless life-
John 10:30-33 'I and the Father are one.' 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.'
John 14:9 he who has seen me has seen the Father
John 17:5 'And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.
John 14:6 I am the way the truth and the life
2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
See also, Hebrews 4:15 One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

## The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ-

1Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried and that He was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures.

## The condition of repentance from sin-

Isaiah 30:15a thus the Lord God... has said, "In repentance and rest you shall be saved, Luke 24:47 that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name... Acts 26:20 but kept declaring...that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is ...not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

## The need for a personal decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ -

Deuteronomy $30: 19$ "...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

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

Revelation 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.'




