



HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Being Yourself

SESSION 2

Focus

1. Identify my own style of evangelism.
2. Identify ways to help develop my style.

Discovery

Five Styles of Evangelism

1. CONFRONTATIONAL STYLE

Biblical Example:

Peter (Acts 2)

Characteristics:

1. Confident
2. Bold & assertive
3. Direct
4. May not like small talk
5. Has strong opinions and convictions

Cautions:

- Be sure to use tact when confronting people with truth to keep them from becoming unnecessarily offended.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to restrain your desire to come on strong in every situation.

Theme Verse:

2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2. INTELLECTUAL STYLE

Biblical Example:

Paul (Romans)

Characteristics:

1. Analytical
2. Logical
3. Inquisitive
4. Likes to debate
5. More concerned with what people think than what they feel

Cautions:

- Avoid getting stuck on academic points, arguments, and evidence. These are mainly to clear the way back to the central Gospel message.
- Remember that attitude is as important as information. 1 Peter 3:15 says to have “meekness and fear” or “gentleness and respect.”
- Avoid becoming argumentative.
- Avoid doing all your preparation in an academic vacuum. Get out and talk to others. Try out your arguments and answers on real people and make refinements as necessary.
- Develop your relational side. Talk to people about everyday events and what is happening in their life and yours.

Theme Verse:

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations [arguments], and every high thing [pretension] that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

3. TESTIMONIAL STYLE

Biblical Example:

the blind man healed by Jesus (John 9)

Characteristics:

1. Clear communicator
2. Good listener
3. Vulnerable about personal life, its ups and downs
4. Overwhelmed by the account of how God reached them
5. Sees links between one's own experience and that of other people's

Cautions:

- Be sure to relate your experience to the life of your listener. This requires first hearing enough about your friend's life to know how to relate your story to his or her situation.
- Do not stop with merely telling your story. Challenge them to consider how what you learned might apply to his or her life.
- Avoid downplaying the value of your story because it seems too ordinary. The ordinary story is the kind that relates best to ordinary people!

Theme Verse:

1 John 1:3 "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

4. INTERPERSONAL STYLE

Biblical Example:

Matthew (Luke 5:29)

Characteristics:

1. Conversational
2. Compassionate
3. Sensitive
4. Friendship oriented
5. Focuses on other people and their needs

Cautions:

- Beware of valuing friendship over truth. Telling them they are sinners in need of a Savior will test the relationship.
- Do not get so involved in the process of building friendships that you forget the ultimate goal: bringing people to know Christ.
- Do not get overwhelmed with the amount of needs that your friends might have; do what you can and leave the rest to God.
- Continually create and plan opportunities to interact with new people through social events, sports, etc. This will put you in a position where your style can flourish.
- Be patient and bold. Look and pray for opportunities to turn conversations toward spiritual matters.

Theme Verse:

1 Corinthians 9:22 "To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

5. INVITATIONAL STYLE

Biblical Example:

Samaritan Woman (John 4)

Characteristics:

1. Hospitable
2. Persuasive
3. Enjoys meeting new people
4. Committed (believes in the things in which he or she is involved)

Cautions:

- Do not let others do all the talking for you. Your friends and acquaintances need to hear how Christ has influenced your own life. In addition, your friends have questions you could answer.

1 Peter 3:15 "...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

- Do not get discouraged if people refuse your invitation. Their refusal could be an opportunity for a spiritual conversation. Also, their "no" today may be a "yes" tomorrow.
- When inviting people, try to get written details about the event in their hands (either pre-printed or handwritten). Whenever appropriate, offer to pick them up and do something together before or after the event.

Theme Verse:

Luke 14:23 "And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Impact List

Personal Impact List

1. Carefully consider the people in your life to whom you could give concentrated effort in the attempt to bring them to the next step in the evangelism process.

2. List the names of these people:

Group Impact List

As you begin to pray for the people on your Impact List, ask God to work in their lives and to give you wisdom on how to effectively reach out to them. In praying for them, keep in mind the following three areas:

Them

Ask God to:

- Pull them toward Himself.
- Open their eyes to the emptiness of life without Him.
- Help them see their need for forgiveness.
- Help them grasp the meaning and importance of the cross of Christ.
- Open the person's heart to God's love and truth.

You

Ask God to:

- Help you live a consistent and attractive Christian life.
- Make you authentic and honest as you deal with life's ups and downs.
- Give you wisdom in knowing how to approach the relationship.
- Expand your knowledge so you will be ready to define and defend the Gospel message.
- Grant you appropriate boldness and courage.
- Use you to help lead this person into a relationship with Christ.

Us

Ask God to:

- Develop the same heart for others in the life of the others in our seminar.
- Provide opportunities and open doors for spiritual conversations.

