

Review and Exemplify: Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities

Lesson II: Conversational Evangelism

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **purpose is to review and exemplify** the things we talked about in lesson 1
 - **motivated to do this after hearing positive feedback** from first lesson
 - **if we can get this lesson down and make it part of our life, lifestyle**, we will improve greatly in our efforts to reach the lost
 - **next lessons** on specific types of conversations we have with people, develop the relationship
- **what we're going to do in the lesson** - other men help - 1st time done lesson like this
 - **rather than me just giving more of my personal illus.**, let other men help - **not testimonies**
 - **point: encourage and motivate, not toot anyone's horn**
- **Lesson II: Review and Exemplify: Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities**

➤ What is conversational evangelism?

- **sharing God's word with people in everyday conversation**, rather than in a formal class
 - **normally, conversations lead to** home study or attending church, leads to obedience to Christ
 - **rarely, lead to obedience without** home study and visiting at church
- **illus.: talking to next door neighbor after they moved in**, tell each other where go to church, I invite him to church and gospel meetings, he doesn't come, but I continue to invite

➤ Pray about it — last lesson

- **Col. 4:2-4; Eph. 6:19-20** - **last lesson, Paul requested prayer** to evangelize
- **Questions for your heart:** — everyone can help do this work
 - **Do you believe that God will help us in our efforts if we pray about it?** - effective prayer righteous man
 - **Have you been praying about your evangelistic efforts?** - in general, about specific people, can do more
 - **Have you been praying for people who have recently obeyed the gospel?** - how often, about what
 - **Are you maintaining a prospect list?** - previous lesson, maintain on paper or in mind, praying for them
 - **Can we be praying for our evangelistic efforts more, as a church?** - of course, will we

➤ **Be the world's Bible** — last lesson

- **analogy, world's Bible:**

- **a Bible is something someone has to want to use** before it does them any good - can't force people
- **saying: can lead a horse to water**, but you can't make him drink
- **we are living in the world, wanting people to learn about God and obey, but we can't make them**
- **analogy: we can bring the water to them**, but we can't make them drink (Jn. 4 living water)

- **one of our strengths as a congregation!** — what people see in our assembly and homes, etc

- **Matt. 5:14-16** light of the world

- **1 Pet. 3:15** answer people's questions - pick up on the cues and signals they sending telling us they want to talk about God

- **share your faith with everyone you contact**, just talk about yourself and what you believe

- **be an open book**: share spiritual failures and successes — **illus.: Paul**

- **common mistake**: just share the good, make people think we are perfect, people not think we can relate to them and teach them and go elsewhere to learn about God

- **Joe Bates**: it takes a congregation to reach out to the world and bring them to Christ through the gospel

- **Joe** very gifted reaching out to people, esp. those who visit with us, making them feel welcome and comfortable and important

- **talk about** reaching out to those who visit with us: greeting visitors, being friendly and making them feel at home, following up with them and getting to know them, being open and letting them get to know us, displaying a Christ-like attitude of humble service, communicating how much we appreciate them being with us, sending cards and making calls and visiting when possible, making friends with them and including them in our personal lives, serving them outside of the assembly such as getting coffee for a guest, praying for them, encouraging them

- **sayings**: It takes a good, faithful congregation to reach the lost, not just a few good members. Everyone has work to do in reaching the lost with the gospel, although we don't do the same work.

➤ **Recognize opportunities to talk about God, salvation, and church.**

- **Eph. 5:16** make the best of your time

- don't waste time, when someone send a cue that there interested in talking about spiritual things, jump on it

➤ - **tips:** - review from last lesson

- **tip #1:** if someone says the word church, followup and walk in the open door

- **tip #2:** if someone starts a conversation regarding a moral or religious issue, reference the Bible (specific passages when possible) to substantiate your position

- **tip #3:** you can use any conversation that last longer than a few minutes to springboard to a conversation regarding God, church, salvation — religion has everything to do with every topic

- **tip #4:** whenever talking about a religious topic, ask where they're going to church and about their church - use this to talk about Christ's church and our congregation

- **Scott Flatt:** successful reaching people and bring to church

- talk about building relationship and being people to church with us

- e.g., ladies from work who visited with their families, Russ

➤ - **homework, keep working:** go throughout day, try to recognize as many opportunities as possible, think about what could do to share gospel — soon, you will start doing it

➤ **Stimulate spiritual conversations**

- **illus.: like fishing, throw out a line, see if someone bites**
 - **how:** send the cues to others that you're trying to pickup (above) - everyone, everywhere, trust God to help
 - **share your faith:** talk about yourself, beliefs, salvation, church — **be yourself, natural**

 - **tips:** - review from last lesson
 - **tip #1: use spiritual vocabulary: words like church, God, Jesus, salvation, etc.**
 - sends out cues you are willing to talk about spiritual things
 - **illus.: People Want To Talk About God** (attached)
 - **tip #2: talk about moral and religious issues, using the Bible to substantiate your position**
 - shows they you know the Bible and dedicated to it - gives you credibility
 - **illus.: Beth's discussion with Jeff, leading to his conversion and Shelly's conversion** (attached)
 - **tip #3: talk about God in relation to as many topic as you can** to springboard to a conversation regarding God, church, salvation — religion has everything to do with every topic
 - **shows people that you are committed** to God's word, and that it is the ultimate authority for your life
 - **shows them that you are a sincere and faithful Bible student**, and allows you to graciously interject basic principles, such as:
 - **We both can't be right, but both of us can be wrong.**
 - **I just want to know what the Bible says. I'll change if I'm wrong.**
 - **One who believes God, obeys God.**
 - **practice:** ask self, "How could I have taught a spiritual lesson using that conversation?"
 - **tip #4: tell everyone you can about Jesus' church, our congregation, and invite them**
 - if someone takes up the conversation, run with it (tips previous point)
 - **illus.: like sower sows seed in field - talk about it all the time, with everyone you can**

 - **Scott Love:** work he is doing building relationships and working to get Bible studies
 - cultivating and stimulating opportunities - illus. fishing
 - went to neighborhood pot luck Sunday afternoon, through general conversation let others know they were going to church
 - let others know they were spiritual, church goes, that God was important along with worship and obedience
 - used that to try and get community studies going, have a few commitments but no studies yet
 - Scott and Patti talking with people at work, guy with neighboring office, mailman

 - **other stories relate if have time:**
 - Brittany, Allen Michaels, Josiah, Joseph Sullivan, Chandler, Fran with Gilane, Charla with teacher at school, Gerald Scarcy, two guys Pam met at bowling ally came to church, Jones family and then Johnson family, lady pulled over by trooper, Beth's story of Jeff's conversion (attached)
- - **homework, keep working: be yourself, talk about spiritual things all the time, see how many people pick up the conversation - invite everyone you can to church**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- compliment, all ages, in assembly, in daily lives - encourage to continue and increase

- summary:

- make the best of your time

- be prayerful regarding evangelism and personal work

- talk about God and share the gospel in everyday life / everyday conversations

- pick up on signals people send when they're willing to talk about spiritual things

- send out signals that you are willing to talk about spiritual things, run with the conversation

- **inv.:**