Intro:
- continue series on Conversational Evangelism

- 1st series: Personal Work and Personal Evangelism
  - #1 Be a Good Neighbor: paradigm of personal work and evangelism, love, good neighbor
  - #2 Don’t Worry, Just Do It: God equips Christians to work, trust Him and yourself, just go it
  - #3 What Works Today: in busy urbanized society, make friends and bring them to church

- 2nd series: Good Neighbor Evangelism
  - #1 A List of Prospects: make a list of people you may be able to reach, help stay in priorities
    - this series: cultivating, stimulating, and recognizing those who may be interested
  - #2 Build Bridges: build relations to have opportunities to communicate Christ and gospel
  - #3 Let the Traffic Flow, Share the Gospel: communicate the message of Christ
    - this series: how to communicate and teach in everyday conversation
  - #4 A Lesson You Can Share: the lesson I use to teach Christ

Review this series (#3): Conversational Evangelism
- 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.: Pam and friend met 2 boys at bowling alley, came to church the next day, continued to come and visit at house, in a few weeks studied, one obeyed gospel that day and other a few weeks later
  - illus.: Gary Palmer at health food store, recommended church (Temple Terrace) and person to talk to, lady visited, converted

- First two lessons:
  - #1 Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities
  - #2 Review and Exemplify: Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities – men helped

- Next four lessons: – four types of conversations we need to have with people
  - #1 Learn About Them and Their Religion (Church)
  - #2 Identify Common Ground, Based on God’s Word and Authority
  - #3 Help Them Understand What They (and their church, religion) Believe – many people are going to a church, and don’t know its beliefs
  - #4 Introduce Bible Teaching in Everyday Conversation, While Overcoming Objections – teaching God’s word in everyday conversation
Why is this study important?
- Col. 4:5-6 how to walk wisely toward outsiders, making best use of time, speech seasoned with salt, know how to respond to each person – our culture, day and age

- Matt. 5:14-16 how to be brightest possible light to world

You can use questions to introduce topics of conversation.
- Matt. 16:13-15 Jesus ask disciples 2 questions, use answer to teach about church – Jesus already knew answer
  - illus.: raising children, sometimes parent asks questions to teach, even when already know answer

- study with Mormons:
  - What do you think about Mitt Romney? (running for President, Mormon) – ice breaker to start talking about Mormon religion

- talking to person on phone:
  - What do you think about divorce? – seeking common ground, teach on divorce, establish “religious” credibility

- tip: ask, “What do you think about. . . .” often
  - learn what they think and why – make notes, mental or otherwise
  - talk about the subject, helping them to think through things they hadn’t thought about or discovered
  - share your thoughts with gracious speech

You can respond to other people’s comments.
- Jn. 3:1-3 Jesus responded to Nicodemus’ comment, taught lesson

- principle: if someone communicates a religious belief or opinion, and you say nothing, your silence is often taken as agreement – have to say something, if a strong mature Christian

  - illus.: someone says, “I don’t believe you have to be baptized to be saved.”
    - silence is taken as consent
    - even if running to an appointment, can say, “I disagree – we can talk about it later if you want”

  - illus.: new acquaintance tell you where they go to church
    - don’t know that church well enough or person well enough to voice objection
    - not remain silent, rather also tell them where you go to church and why
Tell people about yourself – share your faith.

- Paul’s example of teaching by telling people about himself: – ashamed? do we follow his example?
  - 1 Cor. 15:9-10 Paul’s attitude toward self – teaches humility, power of God
    - Acts 22:4, 20 persecuted Christians – tell others about sins before saved?
    - Acts 22:16 baptize, wash away sins – tell others what did to be saved, why did it?

- Dawn’s band director: after parent meeting, went up and talked about, casually brought up that Dawn wouldn’t be at activities on Sunday or Wednesday that conflicted with church
  - had a picnic Sunday, Dawn not have problem telling friends she would be at church

- first meeting with adult unbeliever to teach: tell me story from sin to salvation
  - make credible, example of God’s grace and power to save – people can relate – common ground

Don’t compromise your faith, communicate, and you’ll also teach.

- Daniel and friends:
  - Dan. 1:8-13 not defile with diet, communicated, asked, went to boss with solution – Steven Covey, win/win
  - Dan. 3:16-18 refused to worship idol, communicated faith in God

- talking with Dawn’s band director: told us about 50/50 raffle, communicated our faith, we told him had conscientious objection to gambling
  - nothing to fear: he respected us – even if he didn’t. . . .

- person working job agreed to let have off to go to church: start scheduling during church, talk, may have to quit (Beth) – good employer respect more, want to work with you
Overcoming objections:
- view as great opportunity – not dread – illus.: salesman, have to know and address to make sale
- have the best chance of leading them to Christ with the gospel when people are willing to engage in graceful conversation regarding their objections, you
  - tips:
    - welcome people’s objections: be excited about the opportunity, don’t fear – take as compliment
    - know and understand why someone objects, before answering
    - be sure deal with a root cause behind the belief – fundamental religious principles might have to be addressed before dealing with this objection

- effective in teaching
  - Acts 19:8-9 Paul, Ephesus, reasoning and persuading, answering objections
  - 1 Cor. 16:8-9 Paul at Ephesus – objections open doors, opportunity
  - Jude 1:3 contend earnestly for the faith
  - Tit.1:9 elders, refute those who contradict
  - illus.: Brittany with Jeremy, her fiancé
  - illus.: Allen Michaels in Bible study

- attitude and behavior extremely important:
  - Eph. 4:15 speak truth in love
    - right answer with bad behavior = bad answer - turn off (Col. 4:5-6)
    - the truth without love is not effective in converting souls to Christ with the gospel – actually damaging
  - illus.: 1 Pet. 2:21-23 Jesus’ attitude when threatened and reviled
    - How would you have reacted?
  - illus.: Acts 24:10f Paul behavior after being vehemently accused by Jews
    - How would you have reacted?
  - illus.: adult of congregation told me a story about one of our young people, religious discussion on the phone, parent got in on it and was not very nice, young person kept her head and exhibited good behavior
    - Who was most effective?
    - adults: When was the last time you were in a serious religious discussion with an unbeliever? Would you have done as well?

Summary / Inv. – review PP slide
- we are blessed with opportunities in day-to-day life, some which we don’t even recognize, but as long as we talk about God and His church, doors will open
  - ask questions
  - respond to comments
  - tell people about yourself – your story
  - don’t compromise, communicate, and you’ll also teach
  - overcome objections, welcome the opportunity, speaking the truth in love
- inv.: if you want to help people get to heaven, first have to be a faithful Christian yourself