

GOSPEL PRESENTATION

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Take a minute to pray for God to guide you as you study...

So far in PRACTICE, you've been learning your calling as a disciple which is to live with intentionality with everyone you meet in order to help them know Jesus. That's what friendship evangelism is all about. That's what evangelizing is all about. But all too often, you build a relationship with someone and become friends, but you miss the opportunity to share the most important message ever: the gospel! Now to be honest, you might be thinking that it seems really cheesy or fake or very inauthentic to have a hidden motive of discipling someone else. And I would understand if that's how you initially felt. But the reality is that it isn't a hidden motive! It's you living your life as a disciple! It's very authentically letting Jesus shine through your relationships.

So how does it work? Well, that's a great question, and it's going to be different for every friendship and person you know. Most of the time, there is no warning...it just happens in mid conversation. Sometimes someone will say, *"You're different! Tell me what makes you so happy?"* That's them asking! Or sometimes it will be super blunt like, *"I know that you're a Christian. Tell me more about what that means."* Sometimes it takes you bringing it up often by saying things like, *"I've been trusting God a little extra this month because of our financial situation, but let me tell you what He's been doing!"*

Recently, I was over at my neighbor's house as he was working on his truck. While I was handing him a wrench that he needed, a blue butterfly came fluttering by. He stopped mid-sentence and said, *"Ha! That's funny! My grandma died several years ago, and ever since, I've been seeing so many butterflies. I think that's her as she is coming to comfort me."* That wasn't the time to launch into the complete picture of what happens when you die, but it was an opening for me to say, "Sometime soon, I want to show you what the Bible says about death."

Because we are on God's mission of helping people know Him, we MUST be on the lookout for the opening, the invitation to share Him with others! And when you see it, you have to be ready to seize the opportunity to share Jesus with them.

When it comes to the gospel presentation, there are several different ways to do it. No way is wrong as long as Jesus is being lifted up. In fact, He's the beginning, the middle and the end of the message! But don't take my word for it...take THIS story's word for it!

Acts 16:25-31: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!' The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They replied, 'Believe in the Lord _____, and you will be saved—you and your household.'"

When you are giving someone else a gospel presentation, you are presenting them with the best news ever! In fact, that's what the Greek word for Gospel (euaggellion) really means - The Good News. It means sharing the message about a Savior to someone that changes their course of history. That's what Paul shared to the jailer, and it's the message that we get to share with those friendships and relationships and connections that we've made.

So how do you do it?

Well, it's not rocket science to share the message about Jesus, but if you have a little practice, it will help you feel super prepared when the opportunity presents itself to you. Here are the basic points in the message first, and then you'll get the Bible backup second. These points are simple, but they'll give the whole picture of the gospel and help you to share the powerful message with someone else.

ONE: God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!
TWO: Man sinned and separated ourselves from God. This also means that we cannot be with God forever.
THREE: Jesus, because of His death for our sin, is the only way that we can be reunited with God and live with Him forever.
FOUR: In order to be reunited, we must place our trust in Jesus and accept His death in our place.

BASIC POINT

The Gospel is the **Good News** about a Savior!

Pretty simple, right? It's not a difficult message to understand, and it's not a difficult message to present. And if you can understand those four points, then you've got it!

And while you can understand this message from many different verses in the Bible, there are some really simple ones that tell the story well. Here are some verses that you probably already know by heart.

1 John 4:16: "God is _____."

God is a loving God that wants more than anything to be with us! He'd do anything for us, because He loves us so much!

Romans 3:23: "For _____ have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

We've ALL sinned! There isn't a person on the planet that hasn't sinned.

Romans 6:23a: "For the wages of sin is _____."

We deserve to die because we have sinned. That's how sin works...it separates us from the life-giving God of love.

Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still _____, Christ died for us."

This is the most beautiful part of this message! God died for us while we were still sinners! He knew that someone had to pay the price for our sin, so He let His Son, Jesus, take our place. It also means that being perfect doesn't give us salvation, Jesus does!

Romans 8:1: "Therefore, there is now _____ condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Because of Jesus' death, we are no longer condemned to die.

Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be _____."

The gospel message ends with action. It calls us to believe and accept what Jesus did and know that we are saved because of Him.

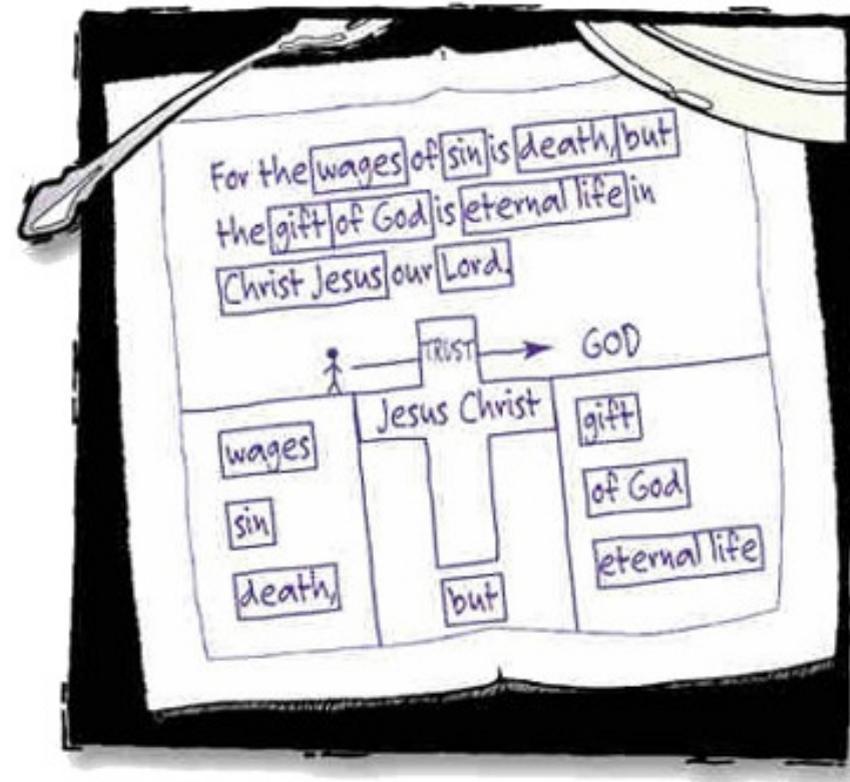
So what do you think? Think you can do it? Think that you can present the simple points and even maybe a Bible verse or two? This is the basics of leading someone to Jesus, and that's our calling. You're about to get some practice giving a gospel presentation, but there is one verse that you have to know. It's the last verse in the Great Commission where God charges us to go make disciples. Jesus puts it this way:

Matthew 28:20: "I am with you to the very end of the age."

That's the best news ever! He didn't just say, "Good luck! Go tell people about me, and I hope you have success." No, He gave us the instruction and then said that He would go with us in every conversation, in every word, in every verse, through it all. We will have success because He'll be with us.

So now it's your turn. Right now, take turns in your group giving a gospel presentation. Don't be shy. Learn together so that we can be better prepared to help others know Jesus for themselves.

One more thing, if you would rather draw it out, you can use the "napkin method" to give a visual of the gospel presentation. Here's what it looks like.



FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

1. What's the hardest part of giving a gospel presentation?
2. What would make it easier for you?

