

Evangelism Health Check & Equipping 101

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Starting Spiritual Conversations ~ Sharing our Testimony ~ Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

It's good to review our stated mission statement and reflect upon some foundational Scriptures...

Our Mission:

The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

"Now, brothers and sisters,

I want to remind you of the gospel

I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

that Christ died for our sins

according to the Scriptures,

⁴**that he was buried,**

that he was raised on the third day

according to the Scriptures..."

(1 Cor. 15:1-4)

"For God **so loved the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall **not perish but have eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **to save the world through him**." (John 3:16-17)

"Therefore **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

As it is written:

'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

(Romans 10:14-15)

"But *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;* and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession,
that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."
(1 Pet. 2:9)

Evangelism Health-Check (For both pastors & members):

1. How many people have joined your congregation by profession of faith within the last year? _____
2. Does your church regularly provide 'new member classes'? Y / N
3. Does your church regularly provide catechism/confirmation classes for children/youth? Y / N
4. Are there members of your church who are effective at discipling new believers? Y / N
5. Does your congregation host Alpha, or in other ways actively engage people who may be open to exploring Christianity? Y / N
6. How many people have you shared your testimony with during the past year? _____
7. How many people have you shared the gospel with during the past year? _____
8. When was the last time you had the joy of leading a person to faith in Jesus? _____

Do you (and your congregation) have eagerness and capability in evangelism that is demonstrated in:

- Leading people to faith in Christ?
- Are you regularly building relationships with non-believers?
- How regularly are you sharing the gospel with non-believers?
- Do you hold evangelism as a high personal value?
- Are you training and motivating others to evangelize?

What place does evangelism have in your local church and ministry?

Are you promoting a culture of evangelism?

Is there need for growth in this area?

What is your plan?

"Then Jesus declared, **"I am the bread of life.** Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."
(John 6:35)



"Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."

- D.T. Niles, Ceylon Methodist Conference

God's Story: His Love for Humanity in Four Chapter (Many sources available) yourtruestorybook.com

I. How everything started: GOOD

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1)

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Gen. 1:27)

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good..." (Gen. 1:31)

(CREATION)

II. How everything broke: SIN

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Gen. 3:6)

"As it is written: there is no one righteous, not even one." (Rom. 3:10)

(THE FALL)

III. How everything could be rescued: JESUS

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit." (1 Pet. 3:18)

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

(REDEMPTION)

IV. God's work of re-creation, now and in heaven: BY HIS SPIRIT

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Cor. 3:18)

*"Behold, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

(RESTORATION)

The effects of sin are real, and painful. As we consider life in all its dimensions, the need for healing and restoration cannot be denied. **Reflect for a moment. Where do you see the consequences of sin in our world?**

Our relationships with...	Created in God's Image (Gen. 1 -2)	The Broken Image after the Fall (Gen. 3)
God (Spiritual)	Trust, Fellowship, Obedience, Blessing	Fear, Alienation, Shame, Guilt, Judgement
Ourselves (Psychological)	Confidence, Security, Purpose, Integrity	Egocentricity, Insecurity, Deception, Disintegration
Nature (Physical)	Harmony, Dominion, Stewardship, Service	Alienation, Exploitation
One Another (Social)	Openness, Trust, Delight, Fellowship, Service	Alienation, Domination

See: *Follow the Healer*, by Stephen Seaman

Consider your own faith history and life in Christ. How do you see God working?

If you've been 'raised in the church all your life', you may not have memories of a dramatic conversion experience. If so, don't feel bad; growing up surrounded by the family of God is a blessing! This being said, it helps to review 'the facts': Restoring the relationship between the Holy God and sinful people requires drastic intervention. None of us could ever be "good enough" to erase our sins or 'fix' our brokenness, guilt & shame. We could never do this by our own ability, goodness, power, or strength. When we see Jesus and the cross, we understand that God Himself took on the task of making **redemption** (John 3:16-17) and 'new life' (**regeneration**) (John 3:3) possible.

As Wesleyan Christians, (regardless of 'where we've been, or 'what we've done') we recognize that even before we ever came to be followers of Jesus, God was making 'the first move'; reaching out to us (we call this '**prevenient grace**'), drawing us into a loving relationship with Him. Through the Holy Spirit, we experienced **conviction & awareness of sin**, were enabled to turn from our own ways toward God and His will for us (**repentance**); confess our sins, and receive **forgiveness** and **cleansing** through Jesus. Paying the penalty for sin through His death on the cross, the sinless Son of God accomplished what we could never do (**justification**), and makes it possible for us to live in a restored relationship with our Heavenly Father:

"and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." (1 Peter 2:24-25)

As Wesleyan Christians, we also understand salvation is not a 'once and done' event. Life 'in Christ' is lived through the power of the Holy Spirit, who continually draws us into deeper obedience and conformity to the character of Christ (**sanctification**). Developing holiness is not something we can accomplish on our own or by simply 'trying harder'. It is a spiritual work of God that takes place in His children; God changes us as we participate in spiritual disciplines (such as confession, fasting, God-focused discussion and fellowship) and **means of grace** (studying Scripture, family/private prayer, Holy Communion, worship).



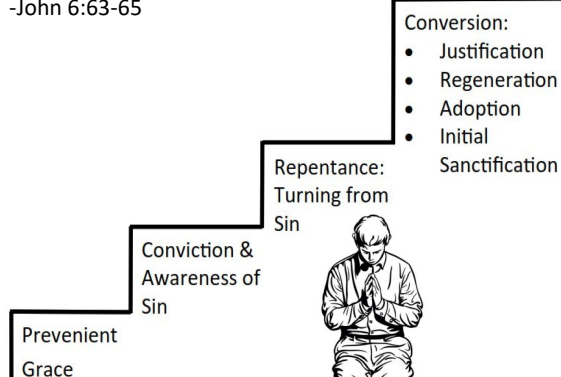
The Wesleyan Way of Salvation: God's Grace in Our Lives

Salvation is found only in Jesus:

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- John 14:6

The work of the Spirit in bringing new life through Jesus:

"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."
- John 6:63-65



*An Overview of the Process:
A Wesleyan Ordo Salutis by
Josh Hilty*
<https://jesusandjosh.wordpress.com/2014/05/29/an-overview-of-the-process-a-wesleyan-ordo-salutis/>

Catalysts for Growth

Personal Ministry
Christian Community
Pivotal Circumstances and Suffering
Spiritual Disciplines and the Means of Grace

PREVENIENT GRACE	PREVENIENT/CONVINCING GRACE	PREVENIENT/CONVINCING GRACE	JUSTIFYING GRACE	SANCTIFYING GRACE...			GLORIFYING GRACE
				Includes Enabling Grace, Sufficient Grace, Sustaining Grace, Serving Grace			
Prevenient Grace	Conviction & Awareness of Sin	Repentance: Turning from Sin	Conversion: • Justification • Regeneration • Adoption • Initial Sanctification	Repentance: Change of Mind • False Narrative to True • Emotions Repentance: Change of Heart • Willing what God Wills Training: Change of Body	Character & Virtue Fruit of the Spirit 'Putting On'	Holiness/Entire Sanctification: Perfect Love, Soul Transformed, Renewed in the image of God	Continue in Grace until Glorification
PREVENIENT GRACE...the divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes conscious thought about God. Wesley believed that this grace enabled individuals to perceive and accept the offer of faith. Matthew 5:43-48; Isaiah 1:18		2 Tim. 2:25; Acts 5:31; Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 1:18; Mark 1:15	John 3:3-17; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 2:16; Ro. 5:8-12; Luke 7:48-50; 1 John 3; John 1:12-13	Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:22, 25; James 1:21; 1 Pet. 2:1; Rom. 13:12; Heb. 12:1	Rom. 13:12, 14; Col. 3:10, 12, 14; Eph. 4:24, 6:11, 14; 1 Thes. 5:8	2 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 12:14; Gal. 4:19-20; 1 Thes. 4:3-6; Matt. 5:48	1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 5:2
"The mission of Jesus is the reason the church exists." Helping people come to know God through Jesus Christ, making disciples (<i>followers; those who obey His teachings</i>) who love God and love others, incorporating them into the Church, and equipping them to join Jesus in His mission - so that God will be glorified among the nations - is at the very heart of what it means to be the Church.				2 Corinthians 3:18 says that we are being transformed into [Christ's] likeness: "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. " Romans 8:29 states that God "predestined [all believers] to be conformed to the likeness of his Son." This is what God desires to accomplish in all believers—that His children will be transformed to reflect Jesus.			
Humanity made in God's image				Humanity renewed in God's image: able to rule, reign, and love			

Being Honest - What Holds Us Back from Sharing the Gospel?



"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.'" (Luke 9:23-26)

If You Are Reluctant to Share Your Testimony or the Gospel with People You Know, What Holds You Back?



CHECK EACH REASON THAT KEEPS YOU FROM OBEDIENCE:

- ☐ I've never really thought about it.
- ☐ I live in a way that shows Jesus. Isn't that enough?
- ☐ I don't know what to say.
- ☐ I'm afraid of making mistakes, or not having answers.
- ☐ I'm so busy, it never crosses my mind.
- ☐ I'm serving in another area; isn't that enough?
- ☐ It's just not my gift.... Someone else needs to do it!
- ☐ That's what we hire the pastor for, isn't it?
- ☐ I don't want my friends to think I'm weird.
- ☐ I don't want people to think I'm a religious fanatic.
- ☐ The world has changed so much. I don't think people want to hear it.
- ☐ Religion is a private issue. I don't feel comfortable asking about someone else's faith.
- ☐ I don't want my kids to stop talking to me.
- ☐ I don't want to ruin or bring strain to a relationship.
- ☐ Everyone has to choose what they think is right. My faith works for me... Who am I to suggest they change?
- ☐ People say religion causes wars. I don't want to be a factious person or sound like a Crusader.
- ☐ I don't talk about religion, politics, or money with people outside of my family; it just causes arguments.
- ☐ I'd have to make changes in my life to be credible, and I'm just not ready or interested in making changes.

Review your responses. Confess your fears, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Talk with other believers who share your struggles, and commit to praying for one another so you may find new courage, resolve, and strength to share the gospel.

How Do We Respond to "People Shouldn't Judge?"

We live in time during which a popular refrain has been, "Don't judge me!" Some may feel reluctance to share the gospel out of fear of being identified as being "judgmental."

How can we be faithful in sharing the gospel when our intention is not to be 'judging' - and we know our efforts may be misunderstood?

Jesus teaches: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged" (Matt. 7:1), which calls us to **practice humility, and to avoid having a critical or condemning spirit toward others** (also see Luke 6:37). Jesus also instructs us, "Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly" (John 7:24). The phrase "judge correctly" tells us that some sort of "judging" is expected - but that there is a "right" judging, and a "wrong" judging.

Paul gives clarification regarding judging *within the body of Christ*: 1 Cor. 2:13-15 reminds us **spiritual discernment is essential to assessing (judging) situations**; 1 Cor. 4:3-5 confirms it is the Lord who judges us, and in 1 Cor. 5 Paul instructs the church that "passing judgement" (discerning right from wrong) is an aspect of insuring believers understand what is holy and what is to be avoided. **Compassion for the lost (not judgementalism) moves us to share the gospel!**

"Why Would I Need to Repent? I'm Not So Bad!"

Perhaps a way to approach the sentiment being expressed by "Don't judge me" is to consider the human condition as expressed by Romans 3:23, **"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;"** (and Romans 3:10 - **"As it is written, 'There is no one righteous, not even one'"**) - and gently communicate we're all in the same situation!

We can be mindful that Jesus' very first recorded message was: **"... Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** (Matt. 4:17).

And, simply "believing in God" is not enough: **"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder"** (James 2:19). (What are demons missing? Repentant faith!)

We're reminded that the kind of sorrow for our sins that moves us to turn to God is different than simply 'having regrets' with no desire to please God: **"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."** (2 Cor. 7:10).

Everyone needs to hear the call to repentance, and know God's promised blessing for those who respond: **"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord"** (Acts 3:19).

What Motivates Us to Share the Gospel with Other People?

Consider Some of These Common Reasons for Sharing the Gospel... Which Most Deeply Impact Your Heart?

IDENTIFY AND NUMBER THE TOP 3 MOTIVATORS FOR YOU :

- ___ **Love for Christ** (He is so good and has changed my life...I'm so grateful, I have to tell people about Him!)
- ___ **The love of Christ compels me!** (2 Cor. 5:14; 1 John 4:20)
- ___ **Like Jesus, we are moved with compassion on behalf of others** (Matt. 9:36, 15:32; Luke 15:20; Mark 1:41)
- ___ **Promised rewards /rewards in heaven** (Matt.19:27-30)
- ___ **Avoiding 'blood-guilt'** (Ezekiel 33:6; Acts 20:26)
(We don't want to face God and have to explain why we didn't share the gospel with family, friends & neighbors)
- ___ **Obedience to Jesus: to be His witnesses & make disciples** (Mk 1:17-18, 2:14; Mt. 28:19-20; John 14:15, 21)
- ___ **To bear much fruit & bring glory to God**
(John 17:4; John 15:7-8; Psalm 96:8-13; Gal. 1:10; Ps.9:1)
- ___ **The desire to have our life count for eternal purposes**
(Matthew 16:26; 1 Peter 1:24-25)
- ___ **So that people will be saved** (John 3:16-18; Rom 10:17)
- ___ **I have family members and friends who don't know Jesus as their Lord and Savior** (Luke 16:19-31)
- ___ **Because of the reality of hell - eternal suffering and separation from God** (We need to warn and help people avoid this!) (Mark 9:43-48; Mt. 13:49-50, Mt.25:1-46)
- ___ **I know people who struggle with anxiety, depression and are living without hope...** (Prov. 18:24; Heb. 6:19; 1 Pet. 3:15; John 4:13-14)
- ___ **The Holy Spirit empowers witnesses (how exciting!) and strengthens believers** (Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:11)
- ___ **God wants to work through us to accomplish His purposes** (Eph.2:8-10); **I want to please Him** (1 Thes. 2:4)
- ___ **So others will know Jesus: the Way, Truth, & Life!** (John 14:6)

Read the following passage (2 Corinthians 5:7-21).

Underline or highlight phrases that can motivate you to be active in sharing the gospel of Jesus with people you know.

2 Corinthians 5:7-21 (NIV)

⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ That God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'" (Luke 15:3-7)



Starting Spiritual Conversations

"When he saw the crowds, **He had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:36-38)

Before sharing the gospel with someone, ask God to fill your heart with compassion for those who don't know Jesus! Keep the love of Christ prominent in your sharing.

How to Make Spiritual Connections:

Start - As you engage in conversation, ask God to help you build bridges.

Ask questions, rooted in genuine interest. (Ask about their lives, family, occupation, recreation/interests; faith background.)

Listen (more than you talk). "You can't get to know someone if you're doing all the talking. Once you ask questions, be sure to listen intently and actively to get to know the person. People's responses will often point you in the direction of their hearts and help you find common ground that will help you find the time and place to connect the conversation to God. **Don't constantly think about what you're going to say next. Take time to hear the person you're talking to.**"

Look out for keywords and common ground. If you're asking questions and listening, you'll be able to pick up on **what a person cares about or what experience you both share**. Do they have a family? Are they going through a hard time? What do they love to do? These are all great places to start when finding common ground or natural places to move the conversation to deeper topics.

Bringing spiritual topics into the conversation. Once you've gotten to know the person a little and have found common ground or shared experiences, you can begin to shift the conversation toward spiritual topics. You can do this through more questions **or by offering to pray for them**. These will bring responses that often lead to talking about Jesus in a way that's relevant and not overwhelming. Great ways to begin a spiritual topic are to ask what the person believes about God or if they have a faith.

After they respond, you can ask if you can share what you believe ("May I share my story?") and then share the gospel.

Connect again

Maybe you shared the gospel or maybe you just got to encourage a fellow believer. Either way, you should make a point to connect with them again. Leave your contact information for them to get in touch with you if they want to talk further, or—if you think they need more connection—get their contact information so you can be the one to reach out.

Disciples are not made in a moment, but you can help someone on their spiritual journey by making a point to start conversations and connect with them spiritually. www.eastwest.org/blog/how-to-make-spiritual-connections/

From: What are the Best Questions for Meaningful Spiritual Conversations? - Sean McDowell.org

Here are 10 questions you might find helpful to advance genuine spiritual conversations with those who do not share your worldview:

1. Do you have a background in religion? If so, what is it?
2. Was there ever a time you believed in God? If so, why did you think it changed?
3. How important is spirituality to your life *now*? Has this changed over time? If so, why?
4. In terms of religion, who has had the biggest influence on your life?
5. Who do you think Jesus was, and why?
6. Are there any features of the world that give you pause and make you think there might be a God?
7. Are there any things that attract you to religion in general or Christianity in particular? And are there any things that turn you away?
8. What experiences have most shaped your spiritual life?
9. If you were to breakdown the key reasons you don't believe into intellectual, emotional, personal or other factors, how would you rate them?
10. What might convince you to believe in God?

The good news for these kinds of conversations is that you don't have to have all the answers. That's right. *You don't have to be an expert! You just need to be bold enough to ask the questions and care enough to listen.* If you do, you might be amazed at the depth of conversation you can have with people who hold radically different views than your own.

<https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/what-are-the-best-questions-for-meaningful-spiritual-conversations>

"Being an extrovert isn't essential to Evangelism - obedience and love are." - Rebecca M. Pippert

God has set His heart on us. He not only finds us in our lostness, but through Jesus He makes a way to forgive and restore us. As new creations in Christ, God cleans us up, gives us a new identity, and adopts us into His family, declaring us to be His own dear children.

*Heirs with Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we're sent out to share the message of hope with the people God places in our lives.*
Who is God placing on your heart to introduce to Jesus?

3-D GOSPEL: GUILT-INNOCENCE, HONOR-SHAME, AND FEAR-POWER WORLDVIEWS

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2XNoAFtqOw>

¹⁸ **And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.**

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

¹⁹ **Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,**

²⁰ **for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.**
(Ephesians 9:18-20)

Sharing Our Testimony

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You." (Psalm 51:10-13)

As you prepare your own testimony, here are some modified questions from *Advice for Reading Romans* to consider:

1. What was my condition before Christ saved me?
2. What did God do in Jesus Christ (in history!) to save me from that condition? How did I come to know this?
3. What did God do in me to save me? (How did God's grace prepare me, move me, help me to overcome resistance? How did it happen? How did my faith come into being? If the mind of the flesh is hostile to God and cannot submit to God's law (Romans 8:7) how can I describe the change that occurred in me?
4. Now that I am in Christ, how is my life different?
5. Has becoming a follower of Jesus changed my thinking, feelings, words, or actions?
6. How has living for Jesus impacted my relationships - with family, brothers and sisters in Christ, with enemies?
7. We know that becoming a Christian doesn't mean we don't ever sin again. When I become aware of sin in my life, how do I address it? Is this different than before becoming a follower of Jesus?
8. How does my relationship with God impact my view of the future?

In the space below, write a 'rough draft' of your testimony. Consider using the framework of : "My life before Christ / How I came to become a disciple / My life after knowing Jesus."

How to Share Your Testimony in 15 Seconds (Source: #NoPlaceLeft)

Step 1: Describe your life in two words/phrases before following Jesus. ("There was a time in my life when I was _____.")

Step 2: Describe your life in two words/phrases afterward. ("Now, I am _____ and _____.")

Step 3: Share those words/phrases in a conversational way using this approach:

"There was a time in my life when I was _____ and _____.

Then I was forgiven by Jesus and chose to follow Him.

My life changed.

Now, I am _____ and _____. Best of all, I have a friendship with God.

Do you have a story like that?"

"Evangelism is the spontaneous overflow of a glad and free heart in Jesus Christ.

- Robert B. Munger (author, My Heart, Christ's Home)

One Simple Way to Introduce God's Story...

*"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who is wise wins souls."
(Proverbs 11:30)*

View THE 3 CIRCLES (#NoPlaceLeft Training) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k>

Related Scriptures

God's love - (John 3:16)

Jesus came to give life
(John 10:10)

**Humanity is tainted by sin,
separated from God** (Isa. 59:2)

All have sinned (Rom. 3:23)

**Our conscience knows right
from wrong** (Rom. 2:14-15)

**We will come before God and
be judged** (Rom. 2:16; Heb. 9:27)

**Consequence of sin = death;
(free gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord)**
(Rom. 6:23)

**Jesus is the provision for our
sin & restoration of our
relationship with God:
While we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us** (Ro. 5:8)
He is the way, the truth, the life
(Jn. 14:6)

Confess our sins (1 John 1:9)
**Place faith in Jesus, receiving
Him as Savior & Lord** (John
1:12), (Acts 16:31), (Eph. 2:8-9)

**At the name of Jesus
every knee will bow**
(Phil. 2:10-11)

The Importance of Prayer

Read Acts 1:8. As a witness, you do not go alone!



"We must talk to God
about people
before we talk to people
about God."

- D.L. Moody

Praying Effectively for the Lost is a great tool to assist you in identifying strategic ways to lay a foundation for intercessory prayer on behalf of those who don't yet know Christ, as well as for effectiveness in witnessing. Here are some specifics:

- 1) Pray for individuals by name - for God to sanctify, bless, convict, illuminate and to save. Pray captives will be freed.
- 2) Pray for soul-winners - for the Lord to equip with effectiveness & power through the Holy Spirit; pray we will have power (ability and spiritual strength); boldness, compassion, zeal, and divine insight.
- 3) Pray for the Word of God that is to be shared - for the verses that speak to specific issues and needs; for God's Word to be effective and prevail in hearts and minds.

When praying with or for individuals, consider the **BLESS** model to cover important areas of life:

- Body (health);
- Labor (job & finances);
- Emotional (morale & hope)
- Social (relationships);
- Spiritual (walk with God)

Consider your relationship network. Identify 5 people who do not know Christ and commit to praying for them for a period of time. Ask God to prepare their hearts, and open opportunities for spiritually-focused conversations and sharing the gospel. Offer to pray with/for people who've shared about situations in their lives that can be brought to the Lord for His help, healing, wisdom, or strength. As God blesses, remember to share with brothers and sisters in Christ - that He will be praised and honored.