

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Found people are sent to find people

God on Mission

Genesis 3:15 - God declares a plan for redemption

Genesis 12:1-3 - God calls out Abram and plans for a chosen nation

Genesis 18:17-18 - God will use Israel as a lamp for the nations

Deuteronomy 10:17-19, 31:12-13 - The law instructs Israel to love the aliens

Isaiah 42:6-7, 60:1-4 - The prophets are presenting the hope of the nations via Israel

Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21 - People are commissioned to the world

Acts 13:49, 19:20 - God is setting up local churches as kingdom communities to reach the world

Romans 10:12-15 - God shares the need for people to tell other people

Revelation 7:9-10, 21:1-5 - God tells us where history is heading

Summary thoughts

1. God has always been on mission to reach the lost and He still is today.
2. God's missional work takes people and those people today are the church
3. God's glory is the end goal of God's mission

Challenge

- Is God's mission your mission?

BASICS

Conversations happen when there is permission, which is based on care and credibility.

- Be a godly person with the joy and hope of the gospel (1 Thess 4:7)
- Cultivate real relationships with people (Mark 12:31)
- Serve people around you (James 2:14-17)

Challenge

- Does your day-to-day life build a bridge or a roadblock?

Remember

We share about what we care about

- Sharing is a conversation, not a presentation.
- Be a great listener

GETTING TO THE CONVERSATION

Target

Move the conversation to discover whether the person has a faith of any kind.

Listen for and ask questions around:

- Does this person reference praying?
- Does this person have a moral framework for what he or she sees as right and wrong? ("I think it's wrong that...")
- Does this person attend a faith community of some type?
- Does this person talk about the Bible?
- Does this person consistently speak against certain behaviors or worldview?
- What do you hear this person saying about afterlife?
- What does this person turn to crisis, pain and despair?

Hitting the target

You'll often discern that this person has some type of faith that is being lived out to some degree.

Next step

Dig deeper

- Get over your insecurities and trust in your authority and identity (Matt 28:18, John 1:12)
- Care more about their eternity than your comfort

Ask about their faith

- Identify common ground
- Ask clarifying questions.
- Listen critically to the way they tell their story

Challenge

- **Are you being gospel-focused and intentional in your relationships?**

Church Story vs Jesus Story

Church story	Jesus story
The person has a worldview that is colored by religion	The person understands and has received the gospel in their life
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "I have always been" language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sin
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Denomination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Repentance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Relational clergy connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Grace
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Religious activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The cross
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Religious language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Life change/lost
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Morality focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Holiness/obedience focus

YOUR JESUS STORY

Remember: Your story is exactly that: YOUR STORY. You should feel no pressure to try to make it sound like anyone else's. It's unique and important simply because it's yours.

Keep in mind:

1 - Call out common ground, and then begin to tell your story

2 - Keep it simple, focused and brief. Four minutes is a good goal.

3 - Watch your language.

Make sure that your story is understandable by someone who has no history or affiliation with "church speak".

4 - Make Jesus the hero.

Remember that the most interesting, important thing about your story (or anyone's) is what Jesus has done. Keep the focus on Jesus and how He has changed your life.

Primer Questions:

1 - What was your life like before you became a Jesus follower? How would you describe it? What were thoughts, feelings, experiences that were typical in your life at that time?

2 - How did you meet Jesus? What were the circumstances that surrounded it? Were you turned on or turned off at first? Was it through a church / friends / family? What was it about Jesus that drew you to Him?

3 - How has your life changed as a result of following Jesus? Why is His "Good News" good news to you?

THE GOSPEL

Consider

- What you're sharing is not only good (John 10:10), it's true (John 18:37)
- Share like you are an ambassador, not a lawyer. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

The Gospel Arc

Creation —> Fall —> Redemption —> Restoration

Creation

God made everything and it was good. Man and God had a relationship marked by shalom and goodness and access

- God is good, and his creation was initially good

Fall

Man rebelled against God and as a result the shalom of the relationship was fractured. The very fabric of creation was broken. Humanity is now separated from God and is in need of redemption.

- We messed it up, we can't fix it, and there are consequences

Redemption

God has provided a way to restore shalom in the relationship with man. He has sent Jesus to pay for our sin and redeem us back to our Heavenly Father.

- God provided the solution through Jesus

Restoration

God is going to return some day. When it is all said and done, He will set up a new heavens and new earth where God and man live in perfect relationship

- God will make all things right again.

What now?

The conversation will usually go in one of three ways:

- I'm in
- I need to think about it
- I'm not interested

Always remember

This is a person to be loved, not an argument to be won

You are responsible for faithfulness, not for results

RESOURCES

Sermons from Grace (gracefellowship.cc/messages)

Sermon series (year) - title of message

TWO (2018) - all three messages

Quality (2017) - *Share*

How to Ruin a Barbeque (2016) - *You Believe What*

#churchgoals (2015) - *Tell*

Did you Know (2014) - *Who, Me?*

Books

Reason for God - Tim Keller

Just Walk Across the Room - Bill Hybels

One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven - Mark Cahill

The Case for Christ - Lee Strobel

Good Faith - David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons

Websites

www.gotquestions.org

www.rzim.org