

Sharing the Gospel with Others
Essentials for Following Jesus - Lesson 5

How to Share the Gospel in 3 Steps

1. Hear Their Story 2. Share Your Story 3. Share God’s Story

1. Hear Their Story

One of the best ways to share the gospel without being awkward is to hang out with your friend one-on-one. Start talking about normal stuff and then move the conversation in a more spiritual direction.

The acrostic **FIRE** can be helpful tool for getting into spiritual conversations...

- **F**ind Common Ground: (Make a connection)
- **I**nterests: (So, what do you like to do for fun?)
- **R**elationships: (What was your life like growing up?)
- **E**xperience with God: (Did you grow up going to Church or anything like that?)

Listen to their story and take mental notes of ways that you can connect your story with theirs.

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”

Colossians 4:5-6

2. Share your Story

Your personal story of how Jesus has changed your life can be very attractive to people who are not believers yet. Read the following examples of how Jesus changes lives below this paragraph. Mark the box or boxes of how Jesus has changed your life. This could be a past change, a more recent change, or something that is changing right now! Then write down the story of how Jesus changed the left side into the right side.

I struggled with.... but Jesus gave me....

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WorryPeace
<input type="checkbox"/> ShameForgiveness
<input type="checkbox"/> FearCourage
<input type="checkbox"/> Being rejected by others.....Acceptance
<input type="checkbox"/> Feeling Useless.....Useful
<input type="checkbox"/> AngerPatience and love
<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Purpose.....Purpose in life
<input type="checkbox"/> Grief.....Comfort and joy
<input type="checkbox"/> StressPower for living
<input type="checkbox"/> Low self-esteem.....Significance
<input type="checkbox"/> Health problems.....Healing or Strength
<input type="checkbox"/> Regrets.....Countless second chances
<input type="checkbox"/> Loneliness.....His friendship | <input type="checkbox"/> Addictions.....Power to change
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-centeredness.....Love for people
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression.....Hope and Joy
<input type="checkbox"/> Boredom with my life.....Adventure with God
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear of Death.....Assurance of heaven
<input type="checkbox"/> "Something was missing".....What I was looking for
<input type="checkbox"/> BitternessFreedom from my past
<input type="checkbox"/> Conditional love from others...God's unconditional love
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Problems.....everything I needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Greed.....a generous heart
<input type="checkbox"/> Hurting Others.....Love for people |
|---|---|

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3. Share God's Story

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15 **What can we learn from this verse about sharing the gospel with others?**

A gospel booklet is a great way to be prepared to share with others the reason for the hope you have in Jesus. Here are a couple great booklets...

- **Would you like to know God personally?** (The 4 Spiritual Laws)- This is the most popular booklet in the world! Over 2.5 billion of these booklets are in print around the world in every major language!
- **How Good Is Good Enough?** (The first lesson in this Packet)

Why use one of these?

- It's easy to use.
- It gives you confidence, because you don't have to memorize anything.
- It's clear and to the point.
- It keeps you from getting sidetracked with less important topics.
- It uses both the hearing and seeing senses.
- It provides a clear invitation for your friend to accept Christ.
- It includes a lot of Bible verses.
- The person you are sharing with can easily turn around and share the Gospel with their friend.
- It works really well!

How can I share the booklet without being awkward about it?

The environment is very important. The best way to share the booklet is when you are hanging out one on one with your friend in a place without a lot of distractions. First ask them questions about their story spiritually. After you have heard their story, share some of your story. Then you could say one of the statements below.

- *"I have this really cool booklet that explains how you can know God personally. Wanna look at it together?"*
- *"I have a short booklet that gives an awesome summary, kind of like cliff notes of Bible. Can I share it with you?"*
- *"Have you ever read this before? (Show them the booklet.) It basically shows how to have a relationship with God. You want to read it together?"*
- *"I have something here that has really changed my life. Can I share it with you?"*

How can I read it effectively?

1. Sit side by side.
2. Read it out loud yourself. Don't make them read unless you are really confident they would like to.
3. Hold the booklet yourself and point to things in it.
4. Try not to get too sidetracked with too many stories and questions. Many questions will be answered or forgotten about once they understand the booklet as a whole.
5. If they want to receive Christ, ask them to pray out loud. If they do not want to pray out loud, then tell them it's ok to pray silently.

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6. If they don't receive Christ then don't pressure them, invite them to hang out with you again. You can offer to study the Bible more with them.

What do I do if they receive Christ?

- Be excited for them! Tell them it's their spiritual birthday. Tell them that now you are their new brother or sister in Christ!
- Finish reading the bookle. It contains great information for the new Christian.
- Invite them to come to a Bible Study and Church with you this week. It's very important they get plugged into a community.
- Tell them it's very important that you meet with them soon to help them start their new relationship with God off well. Try your hardest to meet with them within 24-48 hours. Pick a specific time and place to meet and go through this packet.
- Tell them to start reading the Gospel of John.
- Tell them to share the booklet with a friend.

Action Step: Make a list of friends and family members who don't know Jesus. Start praying for them to accept Jesus.

Congratulations!

You finished the Essentials for Following Jesus Bible Study! You may be wondering where to go from here. Here are some "checkpoint" questions to help you evaluate if the Essentials have taken root in your life.

The Essentials for Following Jesus Checkpoints

- Are you 100% that if you died today that you would go to heaven?
- Are you a part of a small group Bible study of some kind? If not, why not? Where could you find one?
- Have you become a member of a church yet? If not, why not? What church could you join?
- Have you been baptized yet? If not, why not?
- Have you been reading the Bible and praying consistently?
- Have you experienced victory over sin and changes in your attitudes? If not, you may need to review Essentials Lesson 3.
- Are your close friends and family members saved? If not, have you tried to share the Gospel with them?

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