

¹ Penn Jillette, "Penn Jillette gets a gift of a Bible," http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhG-tkQ_Q2w (accessed January 13, 2013).

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LEADERS PLANT [PART 2]

MORE EVANGELISM PRINCIPLES

If you believe that there's a heaven and hell and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, or whatever, and you think, "well, it's not worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward" ... How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"¹

Penn Jillette, atheist

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 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?

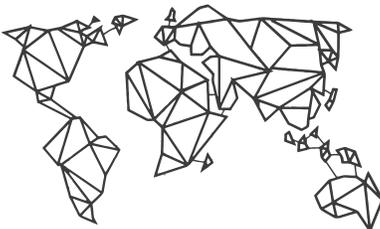
Romans 10:13-14 [NIV]

LEADERS BOLDLY PLANT

Jesus taught that His gospel was to be preached to the "whole world" (Matt. 24:14). The world needs bold Christ-followers who are willing to share the good news with them. Stephen was an unforgettable example of a bold and fearless evangelist. Stephen was chosen to be one of the first deacons (people committed to serving those in need in the church) in the New Testament (Acts 6:5). He was "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5) and "full of grace and power" (Acts 6:8). He shared the gospel with supernatural power (Acts 6:8) and wisdom according to the Holy Spirit's direction (Acts 6:10). He was falsely accused and brought before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:12)—the same group responsible for Jesus' trial before Pilate and resulting crucifixion (Mark 15)—to be questioned. Stephen was undoubtedly aware of the Sanhedrin's desire to stop him from proclaiming Christ but spoke the gospel boldly before

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them without fear for his life (Acts 7:1-53). He became the first Christian martyr that day (Acts 7:54-60) but left us an incredible example of bold and fearless evangelism. Persecution against Christians began to spread that day (Acts 8:2) but Stephen's example started the church off on the right track of courageous evangelism in spite of opposition. Leaders will follow Stephen's example, leading by setting an example of bold evangelism.

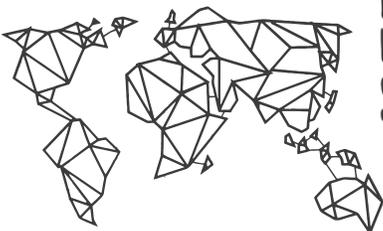
Last week we briefly reviewed planting, according to the Exponential Harvest Strategy: We must plant by treasuring Jesus (Mat. 12:34), by taking the initiative (Col. 4:4-6), by transitioning conversations (Jn. 4:4-26), and by telling people the Gospel (Jn. 3:16). We also looked at some ways to take the initiative in personal evangelism (avoiding the 10 Common Lies and the SHARE acronym), as well as tips for telling people the Gospel using evangelism resources (the SAFE acronym). This week we will focusing more in on the gravity of what's at stake when sharing the Gospel, the importance of treasuring Jesus in our outreach, and transitioning conversations,

- **Did the last chapter challenge your thinking regarding evangelism? If so, how? If not, how have you recently been challenged in your thinking regarding evangelism?**

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

While our love for Jesus should be the main motivator for us to share with others, many Christians follow personal ideas or cultural perspectives more than Scripture on what is at stake if someone rejects Jesus—the topic of hell. Our perspective or understanding of Hell gives sharing the Gospel a sense of urgency. What is at stake? Writers at *GotQuestions.org*—answering the question, “*Is hell real? Is hell eternal?*”—offer a Scriptural perspective about hell:

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as “eternal fire” (Matthew 25:41), “unquenchable fire” (Matthew 3:12), “shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2), a place where “the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44-49), a place of “torment” and “fire” (Luke 16:23-24), “everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where “the smoke of torment rises forever and ever” (Revelation 14:10-11),



² GotQuestions.org, *Is hell real? Is hell eternal?*, <https://www.gotquestions.org/hell-real-eternal.html> (accessed July 19, 2021).

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and a “lake of burning sulfur” where the wicked are “tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

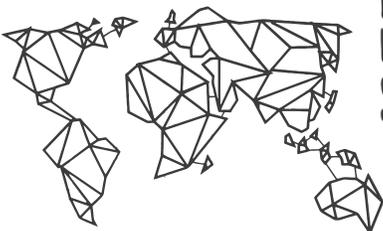
The punishment of the wicked in hell is as never ending as the bliss of the righteous in heaven. Jesus Himself indicates that punishment in hell is just as everlasting as life in heaven (Matthew 25:46). The wicked are forever subject to the fury and the wrath of God. Those in hell will acknowledge the perfect justice of God (Psalm 76:10). Those who are in hell will know that their punishment is just and that they alone are to blame (Deuteronomy 32:3-5). Yes, hell is real. Yes, hell is a place of torment and punishment that lasts forever and ever, with no end. Praise God that, through Jesus, we can escape this eternal fate (John 3:16, 18, 36).²

Hell is real, and it will be terrible and eternal. Real people that we know and love will spend eternity there if they don't come to Christ. We all must do everything that we can, in the power of the Spirit, to “save others, snatching them out of the fire” (Jude 1:21-23) by sharing the hope that we have come to know and experience through our own relationship with Christ. The reality of Hell motivates us because we know of the way that Jesus freely gives to those who know Him! As we share we must also remember that it is God's kindness that draws people to repentance (Rom. 2:4), and His love and grace should be the focus of our message. Our hope—and theirs too!—is not what we are saved from, but Who we are saved by and Who we are saved to—Jesus!

- **What has been your concept of hell and from where does it derive (Scripture, your own thinking, culture, etc.)?**

- **What did you learn from the short, scriptural quote about hell in the section above?**

- **How does a proper understanding of hell effect our desire to make the most of every evangelistic opportunity (Col. 4:5)?**



³ Keith Davy, *Passages: A Devotional Journey* (Orlando, FL: CruPress, 2008), 19.

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OUR TREASURE

Near the very beginning of this course, in Homework Packet 2, we looked at our first priority in life and ministry—our relationship with Jesus. Since that lesson, we have opened each week's homework with this question: "Is Christ on the throne?" This question is foundational for every aspect of life and ministry, including evangelism. Are we seeking Jesus as our Lord, surrendered to Him and His will, or are we still seeking to keep control over our life? This battle rages on in all of us (consider Paul in Romans 7:14-25), yet it is important that we lean into Jesus and the victory He has over our flesh! As we abide in Him and treasure all He is and all He has done, sharing about Him with others gets exponentially easier!

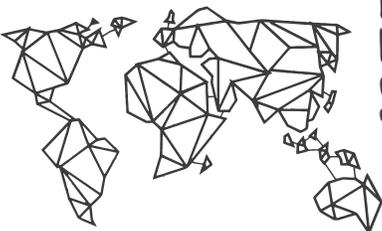
Matt. 12:34 tells us that "...the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart." This is especially true of our outreach. If you are passionate about Jesus, you won't have to try very hard to talk about Him—you'll find you can't help but talk about Him. If Christ is naturally coming up in your conversations, that is likely because He is very important to you. If you rarely find yourself talking about Him there is likely a real heart issue at stake—your heart for God is probably not where it needs to be. If Christ rarely comes up in your conversations, you'll need to let Him change your heart before you take any further steps in evangelism, discipleship, or any other form of leadership role.

- **Take some time to review Homework Packet 2, and also to think about Jesus' work in your life. What about your relationship with the Lord do you treasure most?**

TRANSITIONING CONVERSATIONS

In evangelism, there are key aspects to every conversation we have with someone. Every evangelistic conversation requires four transitions. Keith Davy refers to these transitions as the *Four Sound Barriers of Evangelism*, and describes them as such³:

1. Meeting someone and beginning a conversation with them.
2. Transitioning the conversation to a spiritual conversation.
3. Transitioning the conversation to the gospel.
4. Bringing the person to a point of making a decision for Christ.



¹Footnote

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These are referred to as “sound barriers” because each transition requires intentionality and saying something in order to progress further in the Gospel conversation. *The Four Sound Barriers* provide us with the most foundational tool for sharing the Gospel. We see Jesus work through each of these sound barriers with the woman at the well (John 4:7-26), and we see the disciples work through these sound barriers at several points (consider Acts 8:30-38 and 17:22-34 for a few). Any good Gospel tract or resource will help you walk through each of these sound barriers as well. This isn’t a new tool, by any means, but by understanding *The Four Sound Barriers* we are able to better transition every conversation to the Gospel!

SOUND BARRIER #1: INITIATING CONVERSATION

We cannot share the Gospel if we never talk to anyone, so we must initiate conversations! For many, this is the most challenging barrier to break through. This is often where we fall prey to believing the *10 Common Lies about Evangelism*. Starting a conversation with someone—especially someone new—may seem daunting, but it doesn’t need to be. In fact, the best way to initiate a conversation with someone is to ask a question. Jesus started His conversation with the woman at the well by asking for some water (John 4:7). Philip starts off his conversation asking if the man he is talking to understands the Scripture he is reading (Acts 8:30). Consider also the *One-Minute Witness*, as it uses questions to start up conversations with strangers. We thankfully don’t need much to break through this barrier, and once we are in conversation, it is only a matter of transitioning through the remaining sound barriers.

→ **List 3 topics you find yourself talking about often. For each topic, write out a question you could ask someone about that topic to start a conversation.**

1. Topic:

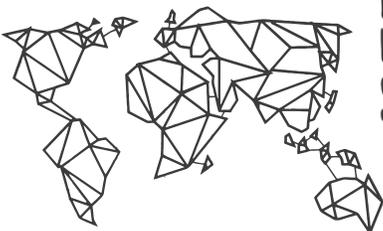
Question:

2. Topic:

Question:

3. Topic:

Question:



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SOUND BARRIER #2:

TRANSITIONING TO A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

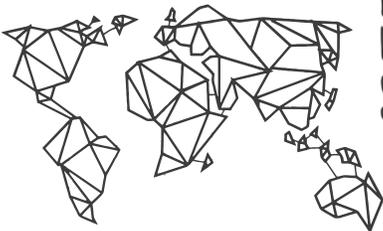
Once a conversation is up and going, the next sound barrier is transitioning to a spiritual conversation. Sometimes this transition is made when we intentionally ask a question or make a statement, so we need to be ready to be intentional with this transition. However, there are also times that the person we are talking with will transition the conversation for us. In Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well, we see that it is a mixture of both parties involved in the conversation that are responsible for the transition. The Samaritan woman brings up a deeper, racial tension between Jews and Samaritans (John 4:9), and Jesus ties his initial request for water into a statement about what He has to offer—living water (v.10). Similarly, it is the eunuch who asks Philip the question that transitions the conversation from a generic conversation to a deeper, spiritual conversation (Acts 8:31). However the transition is made, the objective is still the same—we must move beyond surface-level conversations in order to share the Gospel with someone.

Asking good, thought-provoking questions is good for getting through any of the sound barriers, and growing in this skill in particular will help you transition to spiritual conversations more easily. In a conversation about the news, this transition could be a question about the root of whichever news issue. You could even ask reciprocating questions—questions that, once answered, are likely to be asked in return. A question like, "How was your weekend?" can provide an opportunity to talk about church or another Christian activity that you participated in over the weekend. When transitioning to a spiritual conversation, remember to use questions that are open-ended. If you do end up using a question that could be answered "yes" or "no," be intentional to dig deeper (asking follow-up questions—like "Why?" or "How so?"—in order to learn more). Be a student of the person you are talking with. As we are intentional with getting to know those we are reaching out to, we demonstrate the love of Jesus to them in a tangible way!

→ **Look back at your conversation starter questions from the first sound barrier. For each topic, write one transition question you could use to transition the conversation to a spiritual conversation.**

1. Transition question:

2. Transition question:



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3. Transition question:

SOUND BARRIER #3:

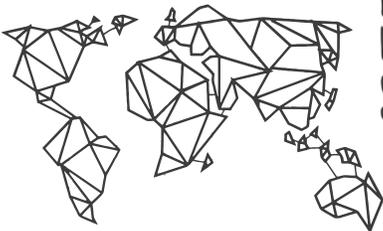
TRANSITIONING TO A GOSPEL CONVERSATION

Once you're discussing spiritual issues with someone it is very simple to transition to the gospel. To look back at Philip's conversation with the eunuch, we see that Philip is ready for this transition. The eunuch again is the one to ask the transition question (Acts 8:34), and that Philip, starting with the Scripture they were already discussing, "told him the good news about Jesus" (v. 35). Jesus, in His conversation with the woman at the well, builds the Gospel out of the conversation concerning place of worship, eventually sharing with her that He is the Messiah (John 4:21-26). Sometimes we will have the questions at the ready to ask, though many times the questions will be unique to the individual conversation. We need to be ready to ask God for wisdom in how to transition in a loving, respectful way to those we are sharing the Gospel with.

The important thing in this part of the conversation is remembering to share or clarify the main points of the Gospel: God's love, humanity's condition (our sin, the inability of our good works to save us, etc.), Jesus' provision, and our decision. One of the best questions to ask to transition the conversation to a Gospel conversation is, "What has been your experience with Christianity/Jesus?" Asking a question along these lines will typically bring up opportunities for you to clarify the gospel and share your experience as well.

→ **Write out some transition questions to get from the following spiritual topics to the Gospel:**

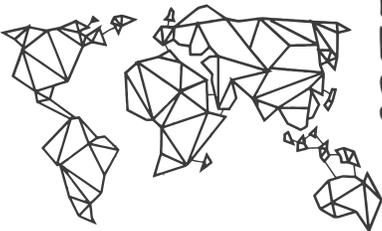
1. Transition question from a conversation about Hinduism:
2. Transition question from a conversation about Islam:
3. Transition question from a conversation about Buddhism:
4. Transition question from a conversation with someone who left the church because of Christian hypocrites:



⁴ Some evangelistic resources we recommend using:

- » Cru's *GodTools* App:
godtoolsapp.com or
knowgod.com
- » Cru's *Perspective Cards* App:
www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/outreach-strategies/perspectivecards
- » Cru's *Soularium* App:
www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/outreach-strategies/soularium
- » Great Commission Alliance's *Finding Jesus* and *BEST FACTS* tracts:
www.greatcommissionalliance.org/shop
- » The *GodTools* App:
godtoolsapp.com
- » Oasis World Ministries' *One-Minute Witness* tool:
www.oasisworldministries.org/one-minute-witness
- » *The Romans Road* (this is shared solely with Scripture):
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
Romans 5:8
Romans 10:9-10
Romans 10:13

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SOUND BARRIER #4:

INVITE THEM TO MAKE A DECISION

Finally, no gospel presentation is complete without crossing this last sound barrier; you must bring the person you are talking with to a point of decision. This is a decision they must make; one of repentance—choosing to turn from their old way of thinking and deciding instead to trust and follow Christ—and one of faith in Jesus—trusting Him alone for forgiveness and salvation. If they choose to put their faith and trust in Christ, help them walk them through that first step by verbalizing their decision in prayer. This prayer doesn't need to be anything fancy (remember some of the biblical examples in Lk. 18:13-14 and 23:42-43)—it can simply look like the following prayer:

Jesus, I know you are who you say you are and that you died on the cross for my sins. I believe you rose again to give me new life. I ask you to come into my life as my Savior and Lord. Please make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.

- **Describe a time where you invited someone to follow Christ. Is there anything that you would change or improve on? Why?**

THE ADVANTAGE OF GOSPEL RESOURCES

Good evangelism resources will help you cross each of the above sound barriers in non-awkward ways. We have listed these in the notes column to the left⁴. Good evangelism resources also help with transfer-ability; if you know a resource that has been effective to share the Gospel with, it can be easy to also use that same resource to train others to share their faith. The best Gospel resources start a conversation, provide transition points (some may not proceed from casual conversation to spiritual conversation to Gospel conversation, but may jump straight into spiritual or Gospel conversation and transition accordingly), share the Gospel clearly, and include an invitation for decision.

- **Choose one of the resources in the left column of this page. How does this resource help walk you through *The Four Sound Barriers*?**

⁵ Nate Herbst, *101 Easy, Effective and Exciting Evangelism Ideas* (Seattle, WA: CreateSpace, 2014).

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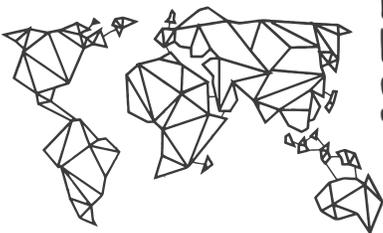
20 EASY EVANGELISM IDEAS

The following evangelism ideas are paraphrased from Nate Herbst's book, *101 Easy, Effective and Exciting Evangelism Ideas*⁵:

Transition a conversation about the news to the gospel. When discussing bad news or a seemingly hopeless situation, ask the person your talking with what their hope is. That will lead to a conversation about hope and an easy opportunity to share the only true hope. Look for any connections the story has to Christianity or Jesus. Are there Christians involved? Are the issues related to Scripture (does Scripture discuss these types of issues)? Once you find a connection, bring it up while you discuss the topic. Tell whoever you're talking to that you are praying for this topic or issue. Discuss the significance of prayer and how you've seen God answer prayer. Take a stand on an issue. So much of what is in the news is controversial. When you take a stand on an issue and then relate it to your faith, taking the time to explain why, you'll easily find opportunities to share the Good News as a result.

Transition a conversation about music to the gospel. Our society is addicted to music! So how can you get to the gospel from a conversation about music? Simple! If your favorite band or musician is Christian than share that in a conversation about music. It is a very simple way to bring Christ into the conversation. Back in college I was a huge punk rock fan and took every opportunity I could in conversations about music to bring up some of my favorite bands. This always opened up into a conversation about Christ! Do the artist or bands in the discussion have any lyrics that could get back to the gospel? Mention those, even if they're negative, and then work through the sound barriers. Do the artists or bands being discussed address any social, moral, or historical issues that you could bring a Christian perspective to? Look for opportunities to discuss your faith when talking about music with an important message.

Transition a conversation about sports to the gospel. If you're like me you probably often find yourself talking about sports. I am a die hard baseball and St. Louis Cardinals fan. Transitioning from a conversation about sports to a conversation about Christ is very easy if you'll follow this simple idea. Probably the easiest way to share the gospel in a conversation about sports is to bring up a Christian athlete in the conversation and then work through the sound barriers. There are quite a few Christian athletes out there so it shouldn't be difficult for you to find one you love! Just google a few names and bring them up in your next conversation about sports. Discuss how you appreciate their athletic



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abilities *and* their personal stories. Then share their testimony. From there, ask the person what they think about that and/or what their background with Christianity is and continue sharing the Good News!

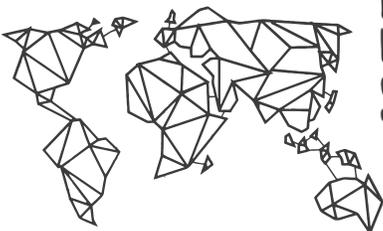
Transition any conversation to the gospel using someone's name. What's in a name? An opportunity to share the gospel!!! Seriously, every name presents an opportunity for the gospel. This evangelism idea is so easy and it is a great way to get started working through the sound barriers! Simply ask someone you meet what their name is. Then (quickly), try to think of someone that has influenced you for Christ with that same name. Tell your new friend you have a friend with their same name. Continue from there to share who that friend is and what their influence on you has been. This friend could be a pastor, mentor, encourager, or just a friend from church. The bottom line is that as soon as you tell them about this friend and their influence on you, you can begin transitioning into a conversation about Christ by asking what their experience has been with Christianity. I hope you enjoy applying this simple evangelism idea!

Transition any shopping experience to the gospel. When your total comes up, try to think of a verse with the same figure. For example, if your purchase totals \$3.16, mention how it reminds you of Jn. 3:16, if it totals \$2.89, mention Ephesians 2:8-9, etc. This should encourage you to commit more Scripture to memory. It's a simple way of bringing up Scripture and transitioning to the gospel anytime you shop.

While traveling, ask about local churches, then transition to the gospel. Next time you're out of town, ask someone (at a gas station, hotel, restaurant or wherever you happen to be) what the church scene is like in that city. whether they're a believer or not that will instantly begin a conversation about Christianity which can easily be transitioned back to the gospel.

Throw out a line. This is a simple idea that nearly always works. Ask someone a question that if reciprocated would give you an opportunity to mention something that could transition back to the gospel. For example, ask someone what books they've been reading. When they turn the question back to you, mention a Christian book you're reading. Then ask if they've had any experience with Christianity. You could ask someone about their weekend and then bring up church when they ask you. You could ask someone about a holiday and then mention how you celebrated the holiday. There is no limit to the possibilities with this idea.

Ask someone about their weekend. This is a classic example of throwing out a line. Ask people you see early in the week what they did this past



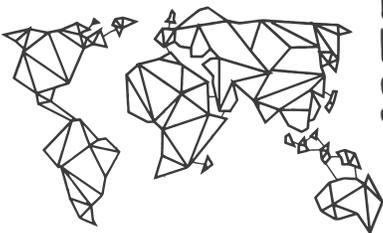
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weekend. Then listen. When they are done telling you about their weekend, they will probably ask you the same thing. When they do, tell them your weekend was great and mention that you had a great time at church. You could also mention something other than church as long as you can relate it to God (ex. a retreat, a Christian book you read, etc). Then ask them if they have any kind of background in Christianity or church. You will very likely find yourself in the middle of an interesting spiritual conversation. Look for opportunities to go through the gospel with them from there. No matter where they are at with Jesus, invite them to your church next week. This doesn't replace evangelism (you should never do this in stead of sharing the gospel with them) but it is a friendly gesture and you'll be surprised how often people will take you up on it.

Tell someone how God came through for you. Tell a non-Christian in your sphere of influence something amazing your Father has done in your life in the last couple of weeks. Brag on God. Praise Him (praise means declaring His character and acts). He's is your heavenly Father and the source of every good thing you have (James 1:17). Talk freely about what He's done for you and all you have to be thankful for. This will lead to an obvious opportunity for you to bring up the gospel.

Say you are sorry. We've all had disagreements with people in our spheres of influence. Sometimes we've even hurt non-Christian friends of ours. The natural tendency in those situations is to think we've ruined our opportunity to share Christ with them. Well, not necessarily! Sometimes telling a non-Christian friend or co-worker you've hurt that you're sorry can open up into an amazing opportunity to share with them. The world is full of pride, arrogance, gossip, slander, and running over each other to climb the social ladder. When you humble yourself and genuinely apologize, it will get peoples' attention and they're entire perspective will likely change. Your vulnerability, humility, and kindness will be very attractive. Almost every time I've done this they ask me why I did it. That always opens up an opportunity to share about Christ. Give it a shot, ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of any of your non-Christian friends you've wronged and then try this evangelism idea!

Write a letter to the editor. You get to be just like the Samaritan woman who shared with her whole town and saw many people believe in Jesus (Jn.4:39). Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Go to your local paper's website and go to the letters to the editor page—you'll most likely find the link there. Start your letter by briefly discussing some story in the news that seems hopeless. Then link that to the story of how Christ



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found you in a similarly hopeless state and saved you. Make sure to include the gospel and keep the whole thing concise. You will effectively be sharing your testimony and the gospel with your whole town (and it will only take a few minutes)!

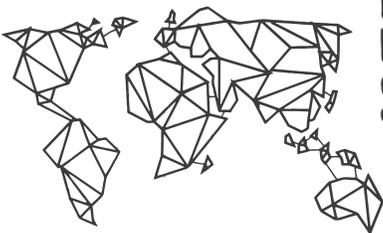
Leave a good tip. Unfortunately, Christians are known for being terrible tippers. Destroy that bad reputation and tip your servers more than they would ever expect. Then, always leave a short message on the tip telling them about Jesus! Every time you eat out you have an opportunity to leave a witness for Christ both through giving generously and by leaving a short message.

Invite someone to church. Invite non-Christian friends to church. If you ask them, they just might come, and it doesn't end there! After church, don't assume they're good. You will need to clarify the gospel. You could buy them lunch and over lunch ask good questions. "What stuck out most to you from the service today?" "What did you think when the pastor said ... " These questions will bring up a great conversation and if you are intentional you will be able to share the gospel with them.

Give someone a good book. We all have non-Christian friends and relatives we want to share the Good News with. One way to share with them is to give them a good book. Of course, the best book you could ever give them is the Bible. Even if they aren't a believer, you can buy them a high quality gift Bible that would look nice on any bookshelf and would be there the next time they became interested in investigating further. There are also great apologetic, evangelistic, and fictional books that will convey the gospel to your friends. After you give them a book, ask them about it and share the gospel with them.

Wear a Christian t-shirt. Wear a Christian t-shirt that friends and passersby will ask you about and then get ready for the conversations that will inevitably ensue.

Help bored people! Every time I enter a store or business that looks empty I wonder how bored these poor employees must be; stuck there for hours on end without any interaction, just waiting for the excitement of some actual work to do, or a person to talk to. If you sense the employee in front of you is bored, or if you just realize not much action is going on at the location simply ask something like, "It looks pretty slow in here; do you ever get bored waiting around?" Almost every time I ask that there is an enthusiastic response as if just bringing up the issue gives them a sense of relief. Usually they say, "yes," followed by descriptions of how unbearable the boredom can be. It is at that point that I say, "I always find



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a little reading material can help out a ton when bored. Here is a little booklet on how you can have a relationship with God. I hope you get a chance to read it next time you're waiting here with nothing to do. By the way, what is your background with God and/or spirituality?" So far no one has turned down the tract (I usually give them a *Finding Jesus* or *BEST FACTS* tract; make sure to have a good tract on you before doing this idea) and they are usually very happy to talk to you about their background and to engage in a spiritual conversation.

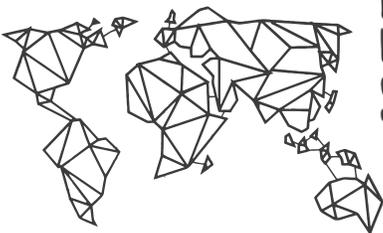
Tell someone that Jesus loves them. It might seem trite or even silly but it is not. You can't imagine how many people have been impacted by this. From there, be willing to talk more, if they want, but also be okay with leaving it there and letting God water that seed.

Share on social media. Your status updates and tweets are places you can frequently share the gospel. I know a lot of my Facebook friends are still looking for a relationship with God. Every time you take the initiative to intentionally share your faith on your wall or your status you are opening a door for Christ to work big in peoples' lives. This idea is simple: Tweet or post a short description of the gospel message for your status and leave it there for a while. You could also post videos and website links that convey the gospel.

Load up your mobile devices. The *GodTools* app is a great app! You should download it to your mobile devices. It has *The Four Spiritual Laws* and *Knowing God Personally* on it, as well as the *Soularium*. It also has a few other resources. This is a great way to have these awesome tools with you wherever you go and the best part about it—it is free! Also try the *Perspectives Cards* app! Great evangelism resources all in the palm of your hand!

Use a spiritual interest survey. Spiritual interest surveys are great tools for evangelistic conversations and they give you invaluable information about the target God has called you to reach for Him. There is a sample spiritual interest survey in the *Act Now* portion of this week's homework.

Every day is full of evangelism opportunities. Don't miss them. My dad has always demonstrated this for me. For example, whenever he would hear someone use God's name in vain, he would transition that to the gospel. That's just one example and there are countless others. Make the most of them (Col. 4:5).



⁶ Bill Bright, "Sharing with Confidence," <http://www.cru.org/training-and-growth/sharing-with-confidence.htm> (accessed January 3, 2013).

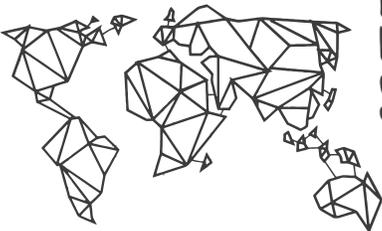
Notes:

REACHING YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

God put you in your sphere of influence, at this very time and in this very place so that people would come to know Him (Acts 17:26-27). He does not want a single person to be lost (2 Peter 3:9) but wants everyone to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4); you are His tool for accomplishing that goal in your area. The harvest is really very ripe and people have no other answers. Paul writes, in 1 Cor. 9:16, "if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel." We were made to witness and just like a fish can't live out of water, a Christ follower can't help but share the Good News. Similarly, evangelism will mature you in your walk with God. If you will commit to a lifestyle of evangelism you are guaranteed to impact people and eternity for Christ.

We must plant by treasuring Jesus (Mat. 12:34), by taking the initiative (Col. 4:4-6), by transitioning conversations (Jn. 4:4-26), and by telling people the Gospel (Jn. 3:16). As you go out to plant, remember, Bill Bright's encouragement, "Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. The only way we ever fail in our witness is if we fail to witness."⁶

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



Notes:

ACT NOW

SHARE YOUR FAITH

→ Review the evangelism ideas from this week's homework. Pick 4 you'll try this week. List the ideas you will try and then what happened when you tried them, in the section below. Also, write what you'll do next time and what you learned from this activity.

1. Evangelism idea:

What happened:

What might you do differently next time?

What did you learn from this activity?

2. Evangelism idea:

What happened:

What might you do differently next time?

What did you learn from this activity?

3. Evangelism idea:

What happened:

What might you do differently next time?

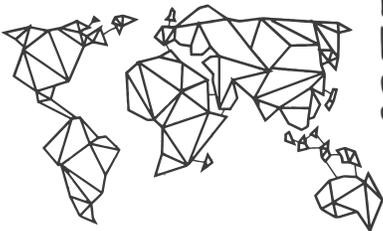
What did you learn from this activity?

4. Evangelism idea:

What happened:

What might you do differently next time?

What did you learn from this activity?



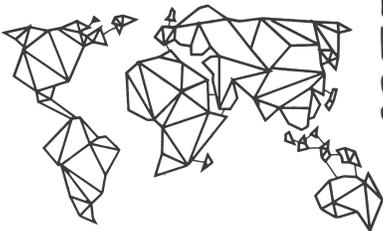
Notes:

SAMPLE SPIRITUAL INTEREST SURVEY

Spiritual interest surveys are a great way of acquiring demographic information that will help you better reach your target area for Christ. They are also a great way to get into spiritual conversations. You can use spiritual interest surveys as a tool to get through the sound barriers and share the gospel. Below is just a simple example of a survey that you can use to initiate evangelistic conversations and collect valuable information about those God has called you to reach.

[YOUR MINISTRY'S] SPIRITUAL INTEREST SURVEY

1. Name:
2. Where are you from?
3. Describe your family life.
4. What hobbies and interests do you have?
5. What is your spiritual or church background?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, (10 being positive) what do you think about Jesus?
① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, (10 being positive) how important is it to you to pursue spiritual things?
① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩
8. [Your ministry] is passionate about sharing Jesus' message of love, forgiveness, and life with [those you are reaching]. Which of the following options sounds best to you?
 - Talking more about Jesus with someone over coffee/tea.
 - Getting invites to outdoor fun, church, Bible studies, retreats, dinners, or other events.
 - All of the above.
 - None of the above.
9. If you want to be contacted, please share your preferred contact info:
 - › Phone:
 - Call Text
 - › Email:



⁷ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

→ Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

→ List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal⁷ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

→ How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

→ Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

→ How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

→ List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

